



environmental
services
association

ESA PRESS STATEMENT

ESA: Referendum result must be taken as an opportunity

LONDON, 24 June 2016: The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, today has responded to the result of the UK's EU Referendum.

ESA's Executive Director Jacob Hayler said:

"The referendum result will extend and intensify the uncertainty around both our industry and the UK more generally. The danger now is that the waste and recycling sector is placed at the bottom of the Government's in-tray. It is therefore vital for us to make the case for the circular economy within the UK and to highlight the advantages of a strong and competitive resource efficient economy.

Once the dust settles it will be absolutely critical for investment in our industry that the Government acts quickly to set out the terms of a UK exit and what it means for the waste sector. Regardless of our membership of the EU, there is huge scope for the waste and recycling sector to do things better and for the UK to improve its resource efficiency.

The public's vote has been cast and, while there may be threats, we must turn it into an opportunity and press the Government for the long-term framework that the waste and recycling industry now needs more than ever."

ENDS

Notes to editors:

1. The **Environmental Services Association** (ESA) is the trade association for the UK's resource and waste management sector. We work with our members to transform waste and resource management across the country. This work helps enable our members to turn Britain's waste into valuable resources, whilst continually protecting the environment.
2. We work with all levels of government, regulators and the public to deliver a more sustainable waste and resource management solution for the UK. ESA's recent Circular Economy report '*Going for Growth – A practical route to a circular economy*', which outlines how a Circular rather than a linear economy can help manage resources sustainably, can be downloaded [here](#).
3. ESA's Members manage waste on behalf of the whole of society and we are recovering more than ever before. For example, the industry has helped quadruple the UK's household recycling rates over the last 10 years.
4. **The sector at a glance**
 - Total turnover: **£11 billion**
 - Direct Employment: **95,000 people**
 - Municipal waste handled each year: **over 26 million tonnes**
 - Energy generated (from waste combustion and landfill gas) each year: **approximately 6,700 GWh**, 1.5% of the UK's total electricity supply and around 20% of our renewable electricity.
 - Greenhouse **gas emissions down by 70% since 1990**.
 - The **top seven companies account for approximately 40% of turnover**. Many hundreds of SMEs provide either localised or more specialised services

For further details please visit www.esauk.org

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