



environmental
services
association

ESA PRESS STATEMENT

EMBARGO: 09:00am, 01 AUGUST 2016

ESA OUTLINES VISION FOR UK WASTE & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

LONDON, 01 AUGUST 2016: The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, today has set out a vision for the UK's £11bn waste and resource management industry.

In a new strategy paper titled: *"Resourceful: Delivering a Strong and Competitive UK Resource Economy"*, the ESA has outlined policies that will ensure Britain has a world leading and sustainable waste and resource management network which can be competitive in what is now a global market.

In the paper, which has been prepared in response to Defra's challenge to put forward proposals for reform, the trade association identifies four main areas for action:

- Transferring resource ownership from the public sector to product supply chains
- Building resilient recycling and recovery markets
- Realising economies of scale
- Driving waste crime out of the sector

Commenting on the paper, ESA executive director Jacob Hayler said:

"The waste and resource management industry provides a critical service to Britain's economy. Each year, the industry turns over an estimated £11bn, employing around 100,000 people and ensuring that the huge volume of material discarded every day is collected and managed effectively."

“However, as the recent Brexit vote demonstrates, the world is changing and, as a result, the framework which governs the work we do must change with it. The proposed strategy will ensure that Britain has a world leading and sustainable waste and resource management network which can be competitive in what is now a global market and deliver efficiency, increase productivity and employment and, crucially, create economic growth.

“I believe that this policy paper, crafted by ESA in conjunction with the sector will deliver just that.”

The ESA predicts its proposed reforms will lead to five main benefits of the UK:

- A private sector-led package of investment in new waste infrastructure worth £10bn¹
- The creation of 15m tonnes of new processing capacity²
- Savings of between £1bn to £4bn to the public purse (dependent on the extent to which the proposals are implemented and further detailed analysis)³
- The creation of 50,000 jobs
- Potential savings equivalent to between £50 and £250 per household on council tax bills⁴

Mr Hayler added:

“Without action, we estimate that by 2020, waste could cost local authorities and businesses an extra £260 million to £485 million per annum. In addition, around 15% of the UK’s current recycling capacity will close during this timeframe, reducing household recycling rates by 5% and leading to the loss of 8,000 jobs. This will result in the UK missing its recycling targets.

Those issues will be compounded by population and economic growth given the expected 10 million increase in the population over the next 20 years, along with 2% economic growth per annum.”

¹ “Going for growth: a practical route to a circular economy”, ESA, 2013

² *ibid*

³ Lower end of range relates to reform of existing producer responsibility schemes, while upper end is full cost transfer of waste management away from the public sector

⁴ Assuming the full savings to the public sector are passed on to householders in the form of lower council tax bills

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

Press Contact

Michael Bennett

Pelican Communications

DD - 01457 820808,

Email - Michael.bennett@pelicomms.co.uk

Toni Waters – ESA Communications and Membership Officer

ESA Press Office - (0207) 591 3219 (DD - (0207) 591 3206)

Mobile - (07841) 572 834

Email - t-waters@esauk.org / press@esauk.org