



environmental
services
association

ESA PRESS STATEMENT

Use Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) to clean our streets of litter says ESA

LONDON, 07 September 2016: The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, has announced its intention to launch a new White Paper examining the role that extended producer responsibility (EPR) could play in tackling the significant cost to Local Authorities of clearing up litter.

The White Paper will show that 30 million tonnes of litter are collected in the UK each year costing Local Authorities £1 billion. It will consider the merits of applying EPR to some of the common components of UK litter to transfer the cost of preventing and clearing up litter from the public to the private purse.

Jacob Hayler, Executive Director of ESA said:

***“The introduction of EPR to help clean up the litter from Britain’s streets would save local Authorities significant resources at a time when council budgets are under increasing pressure. Chewing gum, cigarette butts and fast food packaging are some of the most commonly littered items which in total cost councils £1 billion each year to clear up, enough to pay for 33,000 nurses or pay for more than 300,000 pupils to attend primary school. ESA’s White Paper will consider the merits of manufacturers of littered items contributing to the multi-million pound clean-up costs associated with their products.*”**

“The introduction of EPR would also incentivise better recyclability and if we recycled just half of the volume littered in the UK each it would have an economic value of nearly £15 million”

ENDS

Notes to editors:

Background:

- 30 million tonnes of litter are collected in the UK every year
- Local Authorities spend £1billion per year clearing up litter including additional treatment /disposal of the associated waste ¹.
- 700,000 bags of rubbish are removed from England's road network every year.
- Around 122 tonnes of cigarette butts or matchsticks and other cigarette related litter are dropped every day across the UK
- It costs an estimated £342 million per year to clean up the 200 million cigarette butts thrown away every day by UK smokers.
- Fast food litter is increasing and affects 31% of sites surveyed
Source: Keep Britain Tidy.

- Chewing gum is costing Local Authorities in the region of £60 million to clear up each year, £1.50 for each piece of discarded gum.
Source: Local Government Association

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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