



environmental
services
association

ESA PRESS COMMENT

ESA: Tackling waste crime starting to show a return on investment

LONDON, 22 September 2016: The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, has commented on today's Environment Agency Sustainable Business Report which includes details of the waste industry's environmental performance, pollution incidents and illegal waste.

ESA's Head of Regulation, Sam Corp, said:

“ESA is pleased that increased Government funding has enabled the Environment Agency to focus more efforts on tackling waste crime and that this is starting to show a return on investment, with 1000 sites closed in 2015.

We are particularly encouraged that the EA seems to be closing illegal sites down more quickly than previously, which can only help to minimise the misery caused by such sites to local communities and the financial impact on legitimate operators.”

He added:

“However, the fact that nearly 1000 new illegal sites are being found year on year shows the sheer scale of the problem and it is clear that now is not the time to take the foot off the gas. Tackling waste crime must remain a priority for Government and regulators as it does for ESA and its members.

We are also encouraged to see that the overall environmental performance of the regulated business in the waste sector has improved in 2015 and of course we will continue to work with the Environment Agency to look at ways to continue this improvement.”

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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