



environmental
services
association

ESA PRESS STATEMENT

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Local Authorities could save £300million each year in litter clean up costs, says ESA report

LONDON, 11 October 2016: The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, today launched its new policy paper examining how Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) could be used to fund litter clean up.

ESA's policy paper *"The Role of Extended Producer Responsibility in Tackling Litter in the UK"* considers the merits of the manufacturers of cigarettes, chewing gum and fast food contributing to the multi-million pound clean-up costs associated with the littering of their products.

ESA's Executive Director, Jacob Hayler said:

"Cigarette butts and chewing gum are some of the most littered items in the UK. Transferring the cost of preventing and clearing up these items from the public to the private purse could save Local Authorities in the region of £300 million each year"

"ESA's policy paper recommends the introduction of producer responsibility levies on the manufacturers of some of the most frequently littered items. This money would be used by Local Authorities to cover litter clean up costs or to help fund anti litter campaigns"

"We are also calling on the Government to consider the role that Extended Producer Responsibility could play in its forthcoming litter strategy."

ENDS

Notes to editors:

Headline Statistics

1. Smoking material is one of the most common types of litter. It is found on 73% of UK streets and costs Local Authorities an estimated £140 million per year to clear up.
2. Whilst it only costs 3 pence to produce, each piece of littered chewing gum is costing Local Authorities £1.50 to clear up – a total of £60 million each year.
3. Littering of fast food, food and drinks packaging is costing Local Authorities around £100 million each year to clear up.

Environmental Services Association

4. The Environmental Services Association (ESA) is the trade association representing the UK's resource and waste management industry, which is leading the transformation of how the UK's waste is managed.
5. 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](#).
6. 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 quintuple the UK's household recycling rates over the last decade.

The sector at a glance

- Total turnover: **£11 billion**
- Direct Employment: **80,000 people**
- Municipal waste handled each year: **over 26 million tones**
- 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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