



environmental
services
association

ESA PRESS STATEMENT

Report reveals stark contrasts in waste and recycling industry health & safety performance

LONDON, 21 November 2016: The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, today highlighted the variation in health and safety performance that persists within the industry.

Health and safety statistics published this month by HSE shows that injuries in the waste management industry have increased on the year before. A (provisional) 2015/16 RIDDOR injury rate of 1,854 represents a 6.3% increase on 2014/15. However, what is perhaps masked by HSE's headline data is the wide variation in performance that exists within the industry, with ESA Members achieving a 32% injury reduction.

A report published by ESA earlier in the year

(http://www.esauk.org/reports_press_releases/esa_reports/20160224_Aiming_for_Zero_Harm_in_the_Waste_and_Recycling_Industry.pdf) set out ESA's approach to reducing harm, and key sections of this report have been revised in a data update

(http://www.esauk.org/reports_press_releases/esa_reports/H_and_S_Briefing_Document_FINAL.pdf) to include ESA and HSE's most recent data. This shows that ESA's RIDDOR injury rate of 628 is nearly three times lower than that of the wider waste industry and that the 67.5% reduction in injuries achieved by ESA Members since 2009 has not been mirrored by the waste industry as a whole (a 17.5% reduction).

ESA's Policy Advisor, Stephen Freeland said:

“While there is certainly no room for one-upmanship when it comes to health and safety it is nonetheless important to help shed light on the variation in performance that exists within our industry.

We hope that our report and data update will allow for resources to be better targeted on those areas which can bring about most meaningful improvement in the industry's overall performance. Going forward, ESA will continue to work to ensure that "lessons learnt" and best practice is disseminated for the benefit of all".

ENDS

Notes to editors:

1. 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.
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 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 quintuple the UK's household recycling rates over the last decade.
4. **The sector at a glance**
 - Total turnover: **£11 billion**
 - Direct Employment: **106,000 people** (*including waste collection, treatment and materials recovery*)
 - Municipal waste handled each year: **27 million tonnes**
 - Energy generated (across landfill gas, anaerobic digestion and energy from waste) each year: **approximately 11,867 GWh**, which is 3.5% of the UK's electricity
 - **9,083 GWh of that was renewable electricity** (taking out non-biodegradable portion of EfW) which is **11%** of UK's 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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