



environmental
services
association

ESA PRESS STATEMENT

ESA calls for longer term support for recycling from the Autumn Statement

LONDON, 22 November 2016: The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, today has called on the government to show strong leadership and policy support that would help drive resource efficiency and the long-term competitiveness of the UK economy.

The UK resource and waste management industry has achieved great success over the past 20 years in diverting waste from landfill into recycling and energy recovery. However, the sector currently faces a number of increasingly urgent challenges: waste volumes are rising, commodity prices have slumped, the waste treatment capacity gap is widening and criminal activity is undermining the legitimate industry.

To help the UK meet its environmental ambitions at minimum cost and develop resilience to external market pressures and drivers, there are five areas in particular that the government should focus on:

- HM Treasury should explore reforming and extending current Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes to make producers of goods and packaging responsible for the environmental damage their products cause. This should begin by funding collection schemes for recycling and recovery.
- HM Treasury could help the resource and waste management industry attract much-needed investment in new facilities through the introduction of new Green Infrastructure Investment Allowances.
- HM Treasury should consider introducing Green Public Procurement rules in favour of recycled materials to boost recycling in the UK.
- HM Treasury should provide long term certainty that landfill tax will remain at current real levels to help the industry plan and build for the future.

- HM Treasury should continue to support the Environment Agency and HMRC to tackle waste crime.

ESA's Executive Director, Jacob Hayler, said:

“We believe that these measures will unlock the investment needed in our industry to enable us to deliver economic growth, thousands of new jobs and a greener, cleaner Britain.

We look forward to hearing what the government has in mind when the Autumn Statement is announced on 23 November.”

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 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 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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