



environmental
services
association

ESA PRESS STATEMENT

New ESA Chairman outlines his priorities for the Association

LONDON, 25 November 2016: The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, today hosted its Annual Lunch for ESA Members and key industry stakeholders.

This year saw the inauguration of a new ESA Chairman, Dr. Stewart Davies, Chief Executive of hazardous waste treatment company, Augean Plc.

Outgoing ESA Chairman, Mr. Peter Gerstrom, in his closing speech, outlined the drivers affecting the waste and recycling industry:

- Technology and innovation continuing to drive new approaches in managing our resources
- The Government integrating resource efficiency into its industrial strategy
- The impact of Brexit on policy drivers and ongoing uncertainty
- The role of Extended Producer Responsibility in driving resource efficiency

In closing, Mr. Gerstrom thanked the ESA and its Members for their support over the last two years, and asked them to extend this courtesy to Dr. Stewart as he takes over.

In his speech Dr. Stewart thanked Mr. Gerstrom for his tireless work over the last two years in championing the work of ESA. He went on to state that ESA's main concern would be to promote the industry's priorities with Government, while ensuring relevant and timely support to ESA members, specifically in maintaining the fight against waste crime. Dr Davies highlighted the opportunity that ESA has to set a strong strategic direction for the industry, and to work to lobby and provide evidence how both the Governments *25 Year Environmental Plan* and *Industrial Strategy* should both be integrated with Circular Economy thinking, as well as promoting markets for recycled materials to create a stronger 'pull factor' in the recycling market. He reiterated ESA's strong position to ensure that technical

regulations are made to work better for operators, while continuing to protect the environment, and helping to realise economies of scale with greater efficiencies. Finally, he highlighted the increased role of extended producer responsibility, and its potential to ease financial burdens on local authorities, and drive resource efficiency.

In closing his inaugural speech at the lunch, Dr. Davies said:

“At the start of the year there appeared to be a strategy vacuum facing our industry in England. As we now approach the end of the year there are multiple opportunities to feed into governmental strategic thinking. All of these provide us with a platform to set out the role for making better use of waste as a resource, strengthening the economy whilst improving environmental outcomes.”

I am delighted to be taking over the Chairmanship of the ESA at such an important time for our industry. The ESA has a vital role to play in helping the Government join up its thinking on waste and resources, so that our member companies have a clear post-Brexit framework in which to bring forward a private sector-led package of investment in new waste infrastructure worth £10bn.”

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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