



environmental
services
association

ESA PRESS STATEMENT

Defra's 3xWAC decision won't help investment in hazardous waste treatment says ESA

LONDON, 07 February 2017: The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, today reacted to Defra Ministers' decision not to withdraw the derogation which allows air pollution control residues which do not meet Waste Acceptance Criteria to go to hazardous waste landfill (known as "the 3xWAC derogation").

Commenting on Defra's decision, ESA's Executive Director Jacob Hayler said:

"ESA is disappointed that Defra Ministers have decided against withdrawing the 3xWAC derogation which currently allows air pollution control residues (APCR) to be disposed of to hazardous waste landfill.

Withdrawal of this derogation was first mooted in Defra's 2010 Hazardous Waste Strategy. Since that time, ESA and its members have worked with Defra and Environment Agency officials to reach workable proposals for an orderly phasing out of the derogation and a gradual transition to new techniques for the recovery of APCR into useful products. While it is useful finally to have some clarity after this lengthy period, it is disappointing that Ministers have decided not to phase it out after all.

This decision won't help investment in alternative treatment technologies for APCR which would deal with the waste further up the waste hierarchy, and potentially brings into question the government's commitment to the waste hierarchy more generally."

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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
 - Waste & recycling is the **most highly rated of all council services** by the public (2016 survey)

For further details please visit www.esauk.org

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