



environmental
services
association

ESA PRESS COMMENT

ESA welcomes House of Lords report on impacts of Brexit on UK environment and climate change

LONDON, 14 February 2017: The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, today commented on the House of Lords EU Energy & Environment Sub-Committee's report, *Brexit: environment and climate change*.

ESA's European Policy Adviser, Roy Hathaway, said:

"We welcome the Sub-Committee's report on the potential impact of Brexit on the environment and climate change.

Until now, most of the policy direction for the UK resource and waste management industry has been set by the European Union. If our withdrawal from the EU means that the Circular Economy Package will not apply to the UK, it will be vital that a long-term strategy is developed here in the UK to put in its place, to drive future investment in the sector. Much will depend on how the Government takes forward its Industrial Strategy and 25 Year Environmental Plan."

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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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