



environmental  
services  
association

## **ESA PRESS STATEMENT**

# ***ESA calls for Budget to reverse recycling decline***

**LONDON, 07 March 2017:** The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, today has urged the Treasury to provide leadership in waste and resource policy to drive resource efficiency and boost UK productivity.

The UK has made great progress over the past 20 years in turning waste materials back into resources for the benefit of the economy and the environment. However, the waste and resource sector currently faces a number of urgent challenges: landfills are closing at a faster rate than alternative facilities are coming on stream, reprocessed materials are struggling to compete with primary resources, criminal activity is undermining the legitimate industry, and Brexit has cast a cloud of uncertainty over the future of UK waste policy.

To help the UK meet its environmental ambitions at minimum cost whilst boosting UK competitiveness, there are four areas in particular that the government should focus on:

- HM Treasury should explore reforming current Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes to make producers responsible for the end of life of their products, whilst relieving cash-strapped councils of the pressures of rising waste management costs.
- HM Treasury should continue to support the Environment Agency and HMRC to tackle waste crime.
- 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.

ESA's Executive Director, Jacob Hayler, said:

***"We hope the government recognises the potential of the waste and resource industry in tomorrow's Budget, as well as the urgent challenges we face. With recycling rates going backwards and investment in new treatment capacity insufficient to replace closing landfills, the industry needs the Budget to help set a clear direction for waste and resources that enables us to plan and invest for the future.***

***These measures will help unlock much-needed investment in our industry which will enable us to deliver green economic growth and thousands of new jobs across the country."***

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

For further details please visit [www.esauk.org](http://www.esauk.org)

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