



environmental
services
association

ESA PRESS COMMENT

ESA calls for policy stability in party manifestos

LONDON, 19 April 2017: The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, today commented on the approval by MPs of a snap election on 8 June 2017.

ESA's Executive Director, Jacob Hayler said:

"As many within our industry have noted, there has been a policy vacuum for waste and resources in recent years. This has left us in a state of uncertainty for the future of our sector, which has been compounded by Brexit. As the political parties set out their visions for what the next five years would look like under their government, there are three key things we would like to see appear in their manifestos.

- 1. Policy stability to underpin investment in waste treatment facilities. A coherent, long-term strategy for waste and resources will enable the sector to plan and attract the investment for much-needed infrastructure development.*
- 2. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) to make supply chains more circular. Making producers more fully responsible for the end of life of their products will help fund collections and recycling infrastructure whilst incentivising design for waste minimisation and greater recyclability.*
- 3. Continued action to stamp out waste crime. The environmental regulators and tax authorities must be supported to tackle criminal activity from fly-tipping to illegal waste sites which blight communities and undermine the legitimate industry.*

By addressing these three areas, the next Government will help boost resource productivity, create thousands of green jobs, and safeguard the environment."

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

Press Contact

Toni Waters – Communications and Membership Officer

ESA Press Office - (0207) 591 3219 (DD - (0207) 591 3206)

Mobile - (07841) 572 834

Email - t-waters@esauk.org / press@esauk.org