



environmental
services
association

ESA PRESS COMMENT

ESA calls for Chancellor to tackle irresponsible packaging

LONDON, 20 November 2017: The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, today has urged the Treasury to help create the right policy environment that will attract much-needed investment into the waste and recycling industry.

Without intervention to drive up recycling rates, the UK will be left with a shortfall of up to six million tonnes of waste without a home by 2030. Even with municipal recycling rates 15% higher than today, there remains a risk that we will not have the treatment facilities we need for the waste generated by our homes and businesses.

ESA is calling on HM Treasury to work with Defra to help boost UK recycling. We believe that stronger measures to address irresponsibly designed packaging and to encourage the use of recycled material by UK manufacturers would generate the green jobs and growth we need. Areas such as Green Public Procurement, lower VAT for recycled content, and eco-design rules should all be part of a suite of measures to help improve the quantity and quality of recycling. Furthermore, long-term certainty of Landfill Tax and continued funding to tackle waste crime are essential to creating a stable investment climate.

ESA's Executive Director, Jacob Hayler, said:

"The Chancellor has an opportunity in Wednesday's Budget to help boost the UK's resource productivity. Too many of our resources are wasted and we need much stronger action to improve packaging design and encourage the use of recycled materials in products.

Our industry has made huge strides in raising recycling and putting our discarded resources back into productive use. But without intervention, we are worried that decades of progress in

managing our resources will begin to reverse. However, with the right policy support, we can extract value from waste to safeguard our natural capital, boost resource productivity, and create thousands of jobs around the country.”

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