



environmental
services
association

ESA PRESS STATEMENT

Political parties must commit to building a strong and competitive resource economy

LONDON, 04 May 2017: The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, today called on UK political parties to commit to building a strong and competitive resource economy in their manifestos.

ESA's Executive Director, Jacob Hayler said:

“Rising costs, endemic waste crime and a policy vacuum has placed immense pressure on the UK waste and resources sector in recent years. Without action, we estimate that by 2020 waste could cost local authorities and businesses up to an extra £485 million per annum.

This is not inevitable. The next Government has an opportunity to put in place a bold strategy that will help create a world leading sustainable waste and resources management sector which builds UK competitiveness. This will, in turn, help to realise the UK economy's resource efficiency potential and raise future productivity and growth prospects.

ESA's manifesto for waste and resources, [Resourceful](#), makes four key recommendations that we would like to see adopted by the political parties.

- 1. Transfer resource ownership from the public to sector to product supply chains by reforming Extended Producer Responsibility.*
- 2. Build resilient recycling and recovery markets by stimulating demand for secondary raw materials.*
- 3. Realise economies of scale through greater joint working.*
- 4. Drive waste crime out of the sector. ESA and ESA Educational Trust's latest report [Rethinking Waste Crime](#) makes a series of recommendations for tackling this issue.*

By addressing these areas, the next Government will not only avert a crisis, but help deliver economic growth, thousands of new green jobs, and a healthier environment.”

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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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