



environmental  
services  
association

## ESA PRESS STATEMENT

# ESA welcomes momentum for reducing waste and boosting recycling

**LONDON, 23 July 2019:** The UK's waste and recycling sector has today responded to the publication of the summary of responses to the Resources and Waste Strategy consultations.

The Environmental Services Association (ESA), which represents the resources and waste industry, has welcomed the strong support for measures to reduce waste and boost recycling, and urged the incoming Prime Minister to show bold leadership in delivering change.

ESA's Executive Director, Jacob Hayler said:

***"Today's publication of responses to the Resources and Waste Strategy consultations show that momentum is building around the circular economy, and sends a clear message to the incoming Prime Minister that he must be bold in implementing and where possible accelerating the proposals.***

***"It is crucial that the quality as well as quantity of the materials we send for recycling is improved. To that end, producer responsibility reform must place strong incentives on producers to design their packaging for recycling. Consistent collections should also be fast-tracked as quickly as possible to eliminate consumer confusion and reduce contamination. However, there is no point collecting more material if there is no demand for it. The plastics tax is therefore a positive first step in helping us close the loop and stimulate domestic reprocessing. A deposit return scheme has the potential to complement these measures in capturing commonly littered and unrecycled materials, so it is important that whatever form it takes, the whole system can work together.***

***"These early indications on the detail Resources and Waste Strategy are promising. Clearly further work is needed to ensure the proposals are cost-effective and deliver the right outcomes. We look forward to continuing our work with Defra and the Treasury to design a system that ensures resources are properly stewarded whilst boosting the economy and providing green jobs."***

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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](http://www.esauk.org)

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