

PRESS RELEASE

10 May 2022 – for immediate release

Scottish incineration review offers “balanced perspective on EfW ”

The Scottish Environmental Services Association (SESA) has today (Tuesday 10 May 2022) described the findings of the **Independent Review of the Role of Incineration in the Waste Hierarchy in Scotland** as offering a “balanced perspective” on Energy-from-Waste (EfW).

The report finds that there is likely to be a residual waste treatment capacity gap when Scotland introduces its Landfill Ban in 2025 unless Scotland achieves ambitious recycling targets – requiring significant upstream policy interventions to help businesses and consumers recycle more and waste less.

The report also recommended efforts to improve and develop better waste management data and improve Scotland’s capacity to model future trends across the waste management system, which SESA believes is absolutely vital to enable adequate planning of both residual and recycling treatment capacity within the other constraints on residual waste treatment options suggested by the report.

Executive Director of the ESA, Jacob Hayler, said: *“Matching waste treatment capacity with waste volumes is a careful balancing act so we welcome this report, which offers a balanced perspective and recognises the role of generating energy from waste as part of a complex recycling and waste management system in Scotland. The review does note, however, in line with our own analysis, that Scotland currently faces the prospect of not having enough capacity to treat its residual waste once the landfill ban comes into effect in 2025 without hugely ambitious real-world improvements to recycling performance and waste avoidance.*

It is essential that we all work to drive more recyclable materials out of the residual waste stream by focusing on waste-avoidance, re-use and recycling, and on important up-stream interventions to stop wasteful packaging and products from being placed on the market but, in line with the report’s findings, energy-from-waste continues to perform a vital role as a back-stop for waste that cannot be recycled in Scotland for now. To that end, the recycling and waste management industry will continue to work alongside national and local government in Scotland to engage communities, and build trust, in all aspects of their recycling and waste management system.”

ENDS

Notes to editors:

- A. SESA represents operators of recycling and waste management services in Scotland and is part of the **Environmental Services Association (ESA)** - the trade body representing the UK’s resource and waste management industry. Our members are directly transforming the way the UK’s waste is managed in pursuit of a circular economy and are leading the sector in an effort to decarbonise recycling and waste management operations.
- B. Both SESA and ESA works with all levels of government, regulators and the public in their respective constituencies to deliver a more sustainable waste and resource management solution for the UK. You

can find out more about the ESA and its members in our **Annual report** for 2020/21.

For further details please visit www.esauk.org

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