



environmental
services
association

ESA PRESS COMMENT

Eunomia report highlights lack of transparency in current system says ESA

LONDON, 06 March 2018: The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, today highlighted the lack of transparency in the current system when it comes to measuring recycling figures.

ESA's Recycling Policy Advisor, Jakob Rindegren said:

“Ensuring accurate figures underpin the PRN system is unfortunately an area not given enough attention in the reform debate. And Eunomia’s report is also helpful in putting spotlight on how we measure and report on recycling. As we seek to ensure that more of our waste is recycled in the UK this clearly needs to be informed by robust data, both for the industry and for policy makers thinking about supportive policies as part of the Resources & Waste Strategy.

However, the figures in the report are just another estimate, for example the compositional figures from 2010/11 need updating. And unsubstantiated claims about the average amount of contamination in exported plastics are unhelpful and don’t meet the objective of ensuring that the recycling debate is based on robust data.”

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

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