

# PRESS RELEASE

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## EfW inclusion in ETS marks significant policy intervention for the recycling and waste sector

The UK Government has today published its response to a Call for Evidence over Developing the UK's Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), which includes expansion of the ETS to cover Energy-from-Waste.

In its response, Government announced that it is minded to include all waste incineration technologies within the ETS from 2028, with a two-year phase-in period from 2026. Much of the implementation detail will be subject to further consultation later this year. The full response can be accessed [here](#).

**Responding to the announcement, ESA Climate and Energy Advisor, Charlotte Rule, said:**

“The expansion of the UK Emission Trading Scheme to Energy from Waste represents the most significant regulatory intervention to the UK waste industry in a generation. It will fundamentally change the economics of the sector, and impact all stakeholders across the value chain, including local government, waste producers and the general public.

Following the announcement today, the ESA supports the Government's proposal to extend carbon pricing to Energy from Waste by 2028. We believe that this is a practical timeline that could provide the industry and local authorities sufficient lead-in time, provided other complementary decarbonisation and waste reduction policies are also implemented by Government – reducing the already significant burden on waste producers.

Any implementation by 2028 must align with supporting policies. These must include the immediate implementation of key packaging and recycling reforms as well as increasing the minimum recycled content threshold for the plastic tax to fifty per cent, which will help to reduce plastic content in the residual waste stream. Additionally, this must work alongside policy to nearly eliminate biogenic waste to landfill as well as the development of other regulatory drivers to minimise exports and waste crime.

ESA looks forward to working with the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero & other government departments to ensure the detailed regulations needed for inclusion in the Emissions Trading Scheme - such as transition arrangements, allowances, monitoring reporting and verification, and financial aspects of cost pass-through to waste producers and local authorities - are fair, transparent, and practical.

The ESA is committed to continuing to work closely with Government, and stakeholders across the value chain, to ensure this policy can be implemented effectively and that it successfully minimises waste, increases recycling, and reduces emissions.”

**ENDS**

Notes to editors:

A. The **Environmental Services Association** (ESA) is the trade association 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. The ESA works with all levels of government, regulators and the public in pursuit of a more circular economy across the UK. You can find out more about us and our members in our **Annual report** for 2022.

For further details please visit [www.esauk.org](http://www.esauk.org)

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