



environmental  
services  
association

## ESA PRESS STATEMENT

# ESA welcomes the National Infrastructure Assessment recommendations for resources and waste policy

**LONDON, 10 July 2018:** The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, today welcomed the publication of the National Infrastructure Assessment (NIA) which has made a series of recommendations to help put in place the right infrastructure for the transition to a more circular economy.

ESA's Executive Director Jacob Hayler said:

*"We are pleased to see a high level of ambition in the NIA's recommendations on resources and waste policy which even exceeds that of the EU Circular Economy Package. ESA has long called for greater consistency, more food waste collections, and better eco-design to boost recycling, all of which are reflected in the NIA.*

*"The key to all this though is funding. The Government will need to ensure that Extended Producer Responsibility works for all parts of the waste stream to make it a reality. We also feel there is an opportunity that is not recognised by the NIA to move away from blunt municipal recycling targets towards something which more effectively targets environmental outcomes and value. ESA has commissioned forthcoming research which will examine this further."*

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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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