

MEDIA STATEMENT

27th September 2023 – for immediate release

ESA clarifies position on RDF exports in ETS Strategy

Executive Director of the Environmental Services Association, Jacob Hayler, said: “In line with our Net Zero strategy and objective to become a net-zero recycling and waste management sector by 2040, the ESA supports the inclusion of energy recovery operations in the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), but this approach is not without its potential pitfalls if not implemented correctly.

The ESA’s Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) Strategy document, released earlier this month, makes a number of policy recommendations setting out a range of pre-conditions that should be met to ensure the ETS delivers on its ambitions to cut carbon emissions associated with residual waste treatment, while also avoiding unintended consequences which could see waste material fall down the waste hierarchy, or for the carbon emissions associated with processing the UK’s waste to shift offshore to other countries.

To ensure a level playing field between exports and domestic treatment, among the recommendations in our ETS strategy, was the proposal that waste exports should be subject to additional controls from 2028 to ensure parity with our EU neighbours and to prevent waste from simply being exported at lower cost. This could be achieved through various mechanisms and the ESA welcomes discussion with stakeholders to agree the best way forward.

The inclusion of energy recovery within the ETS is a significant regulatory intervention for our sector and we want to work with all stakeholders across industry, both from across our membership and beyond, to ensure that it is designed and implemented correctly and fairly, which is why we set out our position for discussion with our peers well ahead of a formal consultation by Government.”

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.
- B. The ESA’s Emissions Trading Scheme Strategy is available **here**. The original published version of this document included reference to “prevention” of RDF exports [that are not subject to other controls]. This has since been clarified in an updated version to refer to “controls for” RDF exports [to ensure a level playing field].

For further details please visit www.esauk.org

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