



environmental
services
association

ESA PRESS STATEMENT

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New ESA Chairperson outlines his priorities for the Association

LONDON, 30 November 2018: The Environmental Services Association (ESA), the voice for the UK's resource and waste management industry, today announced Phil Piddington, Managing Director of Viridor, as its incoming chairperson.

The announcement was made at the Annual Lunch for ESA Members and key industry stakeholders.

In his speech, Mr Piddington outlined the Association's priorities:

- stronger producer responsibility which encourages better product and packaging design, and that properly funds the collection, separation and processing of materials
- clear measures to encourage the use of increasing proportions of recycled content
- tackling waste crime

During his speech, Mr. Piddington thanked his predecessor Dr. Stewart Davies for the achievements of his term as Chairperson and highlighted the need for ESA to continue to work closely with the Government and regulators and take advantage of the opportunity of the new Government Resources and Waste Strategy to drive up recycling performance and resource productivity.

"We need stronger producer responsibility which encourages better product and packaging design, and which properly funds the collection, separation and processing of materials.

“To achieve real resource efficiency, we must ensure there are viable end markets but for this, we need, and hope to welcome, clear measures to encourage the use of increased proportions of recycled content. This could be achieved by using variable charges under the new producer responsibility scheme, or through the Treasury’s new plastics tax if rates are high enough. But, if these measures aren’t enough to encourage retailers and manufacturers to change their behaviour and use recycled content, then the Government should go further and make it mandatory.”

Mr Piddington said the ESA would also be prioritising the need to work with Government on developing effective measures to stop criminals entering the waste sector and welcomed the recommendations of the recent serious and organised waste crime review, which shows that flytipping alone costs our economy £219 million each year in clean-up costs and lost revenues, and that fraud and misclassification of waste costs a similar amount.

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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

For further details please visit www.esauk.org

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