



environmental
services
association

MEMBERSHIP INFO

ESA WORKING GROUPS



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ESA and its members are active across all areas of the waste and resources sector. Our working groups reflect the wide diversity and variation of our industry, and will typically meet on a quarterly basis.

We also on occasion set up task and finish groups to engage with members on significant issues such as Government consultations and campaigns. A complete list of ESA Working Groups can be found below:

- **Biodiversity**
- **Biotreatment**
- **Climate Change/Net Zero**
- **Communications Strategy Group (CSG)**
- **Dry Recyclables**
- **Energy from Waste (EfW)**
- **Financial Issues**
- **Hazardous Waste**
- **Health & Safety Committee**
- **Health & Safety Strategy Group with oversees the work of the following subgroups:**
 - **H&S vehicle spec**
 - **Management of change**
 - **Vehicle and pedestrian safety**
 - **Situational awareness**
 - **Bioaerosols**
- **Planning**
- **Regulation**
- **Resources and Waste Strategy**
- **Scottish ESA Committee (SESA)**
- **Social Value**
- **Tax**
- **Waste Oil**
- **Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment (WEEE)**
- **Welsh ESA (WESA)**

Minutes, agendas and supporting documents can be found in the Members area of the ESA's website. We ask that they do remain within the member company and are not circulated to the wider industry, as some discussions may be sensitive.

Full ESA Members are able to join and participate in these working groups; Associate Members can request to join specific working groups, following a conversation with ESA Policy Leads who administer the groups.

Scope and objectives of the ESA working groups are set out below.

Biodiversity

- Develop a common understanding of the industry's role in protecting, restoring, and enhancing biodiversity and how to become nature positive (including a common method of measurement, reporting and use of metrics).
- Raise awareness amongst members regarding relevant policy, legislation and best practices, as well as engaging with external stakeholders to influence the biodiversity agenda.

Biotreatment

- ESA's Biotreatment group is made up of members with a special interest in organic waste collection and processing. It largely operates as an information sharing group, but on occasion does meet to tackle specific subjects as and when required.

Climate Change/Net Zero

- To lead and implement industry-wide solutions for issues relating to climate change and emissions from waste management processes, technologies, and other activities.
- Monitor and promote the implementation of the Net Zero Strategy among ESA and non-ESA members.
- Act as a focal point for lobbying government and other relevant bodies on the ability of ESA Members to enhance UK environmental performance in relation to climate change.
- Promote a positive and supportive regulatory framework that incentivises and encourages the sector's efforts and investments in supporting the transition towards a zero carbon and more circular economy.
- Provide expert input to other ESA Committees on the potential role of climate change and emission within their respective remits.
- Form a view of the evolving policy framework that will drive future behavioural change relating to climate change.
- Discuss climate change adaptations strategies for the industry.

Communications Strategy

- Identify communication priorities.
- Develop an effective communications plan
- Review and develop current membership benefits and offer.
- Develop growth in membership.

Dry Recyclables

- To be the industry's repository of expertise, provide an expert forum for discussion on issues relating to the collection, sorting and recycling of dry recyclables, and collating industry best practice.
- Promote a constructive, effective, and transparent relationship with central Government, regulators and other stakeholders.
- Inform ESA's responses to relevant public consultations and calls for evidence.

Energy from Waste

- To be the industry's repository of expertise in Energy from Waste (EfW) providing an expert forum for discussion on issues relating to EfW plant operators, IBA processors consultants, UK Waste Incineration BREF and permit compliance.
- Active liaison with regulators regarding permitting, compliance, operation and monitoring of EfW plants, and treatment, management, and recycling of residues.
- Advise relevant ESA committees on responses to public policy initiatives relevant to EfW.

Financial Issues

- ESA's Financial Issue WG is mainly a correspondence group but also meets periodically when required. Financial Issues are important areas for discussions for ESA members in the current financial climate and to consider when investing in infrastructure.

Hazardous Waste

- To be the industry's repository of expertise in hazardous waste policy and regulation.
- Work with Defra, devolved administrations and regulators to develop, implement and enforce policies, regulations and guidance that will facilitate future investment in high class hazardous waste treatment facilities in the UK.
- Provide a multiway channel for information and communication between ESA, its members and regulators on technical issues concerning hazardous waste.
- Promote raising standards and wider dissemination of best practice regarding hazardous waste management.
- Inform ESA's responses to relevant public consultations and calls for evidence.

Health and Safety Committee

- Allow for an exchange of information, best practice and development of class leading industry-wide guidance.
- Actively engage with HSE, WISH and others to ensure that experience and learning points from ESA Members' significant reduction in injuries is disseminated widely across the industry as a whole.
- Compile and monitor injury statistics to allow resources to be targeted accordingly to areas of highest risk.
- Ensure that the industry remains alive to emerging threats and risk of harm.

Health and Safety Strategy Group

- Identify ESA's key H&S priorities based on areas of (emerging) risk and incorporate into a lobbying strategy to take to HSE (and others) with the aim of influencing policy and regulation.
- Help raise H&S standards across the industry.
- Within a H&S strategy and work plan set the long-term direction of travel for ESA H&S, with the aim of sharing best practice through the publication of H&S guidance and resources.
- Monitor performance against ESA's H&S performance targets.
- Liaise with ESA's H&S committee, help inform its work programme and draw on expertise from this group in taking forward projects which arise from ESA's H&S workplan.

Planning

- ESA's Planning group operates mainly on a correspondence and information sharing basis between members.

Regulation

- Monitor, incentivise and influence good regulation, policy and best practice across the sector.
- Be the industry's repository of expertise in matters relevant to regulation relevant to the sector.
- Promote a constructive, effective, and transparent relationship with regulators across the UK.
- Promote smarter risk-based regulation based environmental outcomes rather than operational prescription.
- Promote and enable the development of policy, regulation, and best practice to tackle waste crime and poor performance in the sector.
- Promote best practice and consider best practice in other sectors and its potential relevance to this industry to promote better smarter regulation and higher standards.
- Inform ESA's responses to relevant public consultations and calls for evidence.

Resources and Waste Strategy

- To co-ordinate the industry's response to the Government's Resources and Waste Strategy and the implementation of the associated Collection and Packaging Reforms.
- Inform and engage Government of the practical challenges industry face in implementing the reforms to assist in better evidence-based policies and regulation.
- Inform Government of the conditions industry require to invest in the infrastructure necessary for the roll-out of the reforms on the ground.
- Lobby Government to shape the reforms to work in the best interests of the members and wider industry.

SESA

- Engage constructively with a range of key Scottish stakeholders to ensure that the industry's position is taken fully into account in the development of policy and regulation.
- Key areas of interest include:
 - implementation of Scotland's 2025 BMW landfill ban;
 - implementation of a Scotland's deposit return scheme;
 - raising awareness of the industry's plans to decarbonise and the industry's role in helping meet Scotland's net zero target;
 - working with SEPA to stamp out waste crime;
 - helping to protect Members' interests under the devolved landfill tax regime.
- Respond to consultations and calls for evidence.

Social Value

- To lead and implement industry-wide insight in to delivering Social Value across the waste and resource management sector.
- To develop a unified approach and benchmark minimum expectations for social value across the sector.
- To identify and showcase best practice from across the ESA membership, to highlight the ESA member presence as a leader in Social Value.
- To improve knowledge and understanding of social value in the sector.

Tax

- Taxation has increasingly become an important factor in incentivising the right behaviours in the management of waste and resources. ESA's Tax Group operates mainly as a correspondence group but also meets on an ad-hoc basis as required.

Waste Oil

- Be the industry's repository of expertise in matters relevant to the management and regulation of waste oil and provide an expert industry forum for discussion of key issues relating to waste oil management.
- Promote a constructive, effective, and transparent relationship with Defra and regulators to inform the development, implementation and enforcement of policies, regulations and guidance affecting the management of waste oil.
- Inform ESA's responses to relevant public consultations and calls for evidence.

WEEE

The WEEE working group has been re-structured ahead of the consultation on the reforms for WEEE regulations.

- The group will be focused on collating views from across the sector on the potential impact of the reform as well as provide insight on the areas of the industry that need improvement.
- The group will look at how the revised system will support collections and the potential impacts of a mandatory kerbside collection, as well as explore other options to improve WEEE capture rates.
- The group will explore different ways to ease and encourage disposal of WEEE (e.g., in-store takeback, kerbside, DRS, others).

WESA

- To be the leading waste management expert group in Wales representing the industry on a range of policy and regulatory matters.
- Set out the positive case for a vibrant and competitive private waste & resource management sector in Wales, offering value for money services, customer focus and investment in infrastructure and service quality. It will seek to proactively tackle barriers to these outcomes.
- Engage constructively with key Welsh stakeholders to ensure that the sector's expertise and perspective is properly considered in policies and regulations in Wales.

If you are an ESA member, and would like to know more about the working groups, please do get in touch with Toni Waters (t-waters@esauk.org), and she will be able to direct you to the correct Policy Lead.

If you are not an ESA member and would like to discuss ESA Membership and how to get involved with the working groups, please fill in an [online enquiry form](#) and a member of the team will get back to you.