

Rory Stewart OBE MP
Minister for Resource and Environmental Management
DEFRA
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
LONDON
SW1P 3JR

4 June 2015

Dear Minister,

Improving waste & resource management in England

The signatories to this letter represent the key private [and public] sector organisations working to improve the way waste is turned into useful resources, providing jobs and growth for the UK economy. Over the past few years our organisations have worked together to articulate a unified voice for the waste and resource management sector and this has proved effective - notably in working with your predecessor to secure additional funding for the Environment Agency to combat waste crime.

We are writing to you now to welcome you to your new role as Minister in Defra responsible for resource management, and to seek an early meeting with you to discuss the future direction of policy in this important area.

Waste is a valuable source of materials, energy and nutrients. The industry has grown strongly over recent years despite the adverse economic climate and has the potential to make a further important contribution to growth and job creation. However, we are concerned that progress in improving resource management in England has stalled and we would like to offer to work with you and your officials at Defra to help turn this situation around.

There a number of key areas we would like to discuss with you:

- **Recycling.** The rate of increase in household waste recycling and composting in England has levelled off and it is not certain that the EU target of 50% by 2020 will be reached. The markets for recycled materials are currently very weak and prices are making a reduced contribution to the cost of collection and sorting. More needs to be done to prevent food waste and to recover it when it can't be prevented. We would like to work with you to see what can and should be done to address these issues.
- **Investment in new waste treatment, recycling and reprocessing facilities.** The industry would like to invest but in order to do so it not only needs viable markets but also leadership from Government and a policy framework for the next 10 or 15 years, as has been put in place by the Scottish and Welsh Governments. The European Union is about to bring forward fresh proposals in this area and we would like to discuss this with you and help you to formulate the UK government's position.

- **Waste crime.** This costs the UK economy over £500 million a year and blights local communities and the environment. We hope that cracking down on waste crime will remain a priority for the Government, and that sufficient resources will be allocated to the Environment Agency and local authorities for tackling this issue. Your department has recently consulted on possible additional measures to tackle waste crime and we would like to discuss next steps with you and with Treasury Ministers, given the implications of waste crime-related tax evasion for the Exchequer.

We look forward to hearing from you.

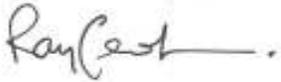
Yours sincerely



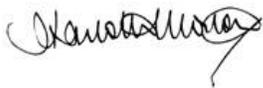
Jacob Hayler, Executive Director - *Environmental Services Association*



Steve Lee, Chief Executive - *Chartered Institution of Wastes Management*



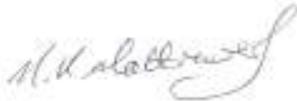
Ray Georgeson, Chief Executive - *Resource Association*



Charlotte Morton, Chief Executive - *Anaerobic Digestion & Bioresources Association*



Jeremy Jacobs, Technical Director - *Renewable Energy Association*



Nigel Mattravers, Chair of ICE Resource Management Expert Panel - *Institution of Civil Engineers*



Lyn Carpenter, Chair – *Local Authorities Waste Network Coordinators (WNC)*