

Michael Topham appointed as the new chairman of the Environmental Services Association

2 years ago



Michael Topham, Chief Executive Officer of [Biffa](#), has today (Friday 24th November) taken over chairmanship of the Environmental Services Association (ESA), succeeding Gavin Graveson, who steps down at the end of a three-year term.

The handover of chairmanship was recorded at the association's Annual General Meeting today ahead of the Annual Lunch in Mayfair, London.

The ESA is the trade association for the recycling and waste management industry in the United Kingdom. It represents nearly 70 of the country's largest waste management companies, who collectively employ a 50,000-strong workforce – providing essential frontline services to more than 17 million people every day.

Gavin Graveson, Senior Vice President, Northern Europe, for Veolia Group became ESA Chairman in December 2020 and has led the association through an eventful and busy three years for the sector and wider country.

In particular, Gavin's tenure saw the development and publication of the ESA's ambitious sectoral Net-Zero strategy; reports and guidance documents to support Biodiversity and Social Value; substantial work and pressure on policy-makers (including an independent report by Eunomia) to tackle waste crime, and ongoing policy development work around the Government's Resources and Waste Strategy – the main details of which have all now been announced.

Executive Director of the ESA, Jacob Hayler, said: "Gavin took over as Chairman in the midst of the global

pandemic, which was followed by ongoing economic and political volatility both at home and abroad. However, despite this challenging backdrop, the ESA has successfully delivered a comprehensive work programme on key issues for the sector during Gavin's tenure – particularly on setting an ambitious Net-Zero roadmap for the sector, tackling waste crime and ensuring the Resources and Waste Strategy will deliver on its intended outcomes. I would like to thank Gavin for his leadership and input over the last three turbulent years.

The ESA team and I look forward to working with Michael and welcome him to his new additional role as ESA Chairman, as the sector moves into a “delivery phase” of rolling out the changes required by Defra's resources and waste reforms.”