



The North London Joint Waste Strategy

Final • Adopted February 2009

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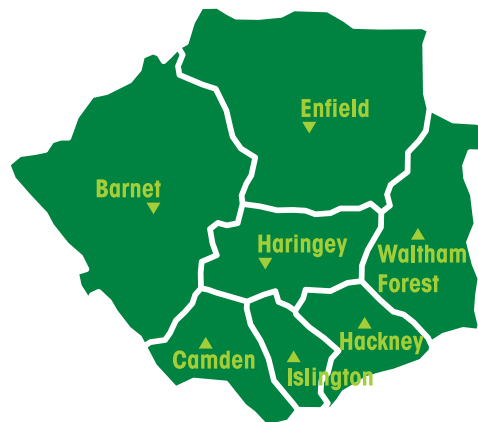
This document has been produced to provide you with a summary of the North London Joint Waste Strategy. It gives a brief overview of the strategy content which covers what we are doing now to manage waste in North London and how we plan to manage it in the future.



Background to the Strategy

The North London Joint Waste Strategy (the Strategy) is a 16 year strategy for managing the waste which is produced in North London and collected by seven local councils - **Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest.**

The Strategy was first published in draft form in September 2004. It was updated in 2008 as a result of a new 'strategic environmental assessment' which identified what effect implementing the Strategy might have upon the local environment. It also needed to be updated to respond to changing national requirements and targets in relation to managing waste. The new requirements mean that more of the waste has to be recycled or composted than in the past and that climate change impacts are fully considered.



What is included in the Strategy

The Strategy outlines how we plan to manage approximately 1 million tonnes of waste that is produced each year by nearly 1.7 million North London residents and some, mainly small, businesses.

It has been prepared by the London boroughs of Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest, the waste collection authorities, in partnership with the North London Waste Authority who arrange the treatment and disposal of the waste.

The Strategy sets out why a 16 year strategy is needed for waste management; the legal requirements relating to waste, the options available for managing waste, how to deal with 'other' wastes not included within the plan and how the best option for managing waste in North London can be determined and implemented. It also identifies the need for partnership working to deliver the Strategy now and in the future.

Strategy aims and objectives

Aims:

- To promote and implement sustainable municipal wastes management policies in North London
- To minimise the overall environmental impacts of wastes management
- To engage residents, community groups, local business and any other interested parties in the development and implementation of the above policies
- To provide customer-focused, best value services

Objectives:

- To minimise the amount of municipal wastes arising
- To maximise recycling and composting rates
- To reduce greenhouse gases by disposing of less organic waste in landfill sites
- To co-ordinate and continuously improve municipal wastes minimisation and management policies in North London
- To manage municipal wastes in the most environmentally benign and economically efficient ways possible through the provision and co-ordination of appropriate wastes management facilities and services
- To ensure that services and information are fully accessible to all members of the community
- To maximise all opportunities for local regeneration
- To ensure an equitable distribution of costs, so that those who produce or manage the waste pay for it



Waste growth in North London

The amount of waste that we generate in North London has been increasing. The reasons for this growth are varied but as more houses and flats are built in the area and more businesses locate here, the amount of rubbish that we create has grown.

When the Strategy was first drafted the amount of waste being produced in North London had been increasing by about 2.5% per year. However, this has more recently reduced to about 2% per year and in 2007/08 the amount of household waste that was handled by the North London Waste Authority's main contractor was similar to the amount they handled in 2006/07. (775,073 tonnes in 2007/08 compared to 776,728 tonnes in 2006/07)

Because we are unsure if the amount of waste will continue to increase as it has in the past, or if growth rates will slow or even stay static in the future, the Strategy looks at alternatives for managing the different quantities of waste.



The basic modelling used in the Strategy assumes:

- That waste will continue to grow at 3% per annum until 2010/11.
- That growth in waste will slow down to grow at 2.5% per annum from 2011/12 onwards until 2020.

However the Strategy also shows what would happen if we managed to reduce the amount of waste that we produce and models the following options:

- If the growth in waste was reduced to 2% per annum over the lifetime of the Strategy
- If the growth in waste was reduced to 1% per annum over the lifetime of the Strategy
- If the growth in waste was reduced to just 0.5% per annum over the lifetime of the Strategy

If growth rates slow to 2% per annum the North London authorities would only be managing 1.261 million tonnes of rubbish in 2020 compared to the 1.376 million tonnes that we anticipate currently. Ultimately the less rubbish we produce the lower the costs for local tax payers of transporting, processing and disposing of waste.

The rate of waste growth is one of the indicators that will be kept under review as the implementation of the Strategy progresses; indeed, the economic downturn since the Strategy was prepared (and the corresponding reduction in the amount of rubbish produced as people buy and consume less) is a factor now being taken into account.

Current arrangements for managing waste in North London

A number of the chapters in the North London Joint Waste Strategy cover how waste collection and disposal is currently managed in North London.

These have been summarised into the information below:

Waste collection

Each borough is responsible for organising the collection of waste and recyclable material in their areas.

Collection of rubbish from households is usually on a weekly basis, but in some areas rubbish is collected twice weekly (sometimes more for flats). Local businesses can choose to pay their Council to collect their rubbish, so this waste also has to be dealt with.

Recycling and composting collections

Recycling collection services from households are organised by the seven North London boroughs, who decide the method of collection and range of materials collected. Combined recycling and composting rates in North London have risen from an overall rate of 12% in 2003/2004 when the Strategy was first drafted to 24% in 2007/2008.

The Strategy sets a target to reach a combined recycling and composting rate of 50% of household waste by 2020.

Reuse and recycling centres

Reuse and recycling centres (the local "dump" or "tip"), where residents can bring rubbish for either recycling or disposal, are operated by the seven boroughs (listed above). There are nine reuse and recycling centres across North London. The boroughs arrange nearly all of the reuse and recycling from the centres and the North London Waste Authority arranges the rest of the recycling and all the disposal of the mixed rubbish.

Waste disposal

The disposal of waste is managed by the North London Waste Authority, which has a single 20-year contract (which ends in December 2014) with LondonWaste Ltd. The main element of this contract is for the recovery of energy from waste that isn't recycled or composted. This waste (approximately 36%) is burnt at LondonWaste's incinerator at Edmonton. The energy which is recovered from the waste as it is incinerated is used to generate electricity which is fed into the National Grid for use by businesses and homes.

The North London Waste Authority's contract with LondonWaste Ltd does not set any minimum levels of waste to be delivered for disposal. This means the seven North London boroughs and the North London Waste Authority are free to reduce, reuse, recycle and compost as much rubbish as they wish with no financial penalty.

Managing other wastes

The NLWA also manages the treatment and disposal of wastes such as abandoned vehicles, asbestos, electronic equipment, waste batteries, bulky and clinical waste. A small amount of hazardous waste is also produced by North London households (this includes fluorescent tubes, fridges, some paints and batteries). In addition waste from activities such as special events like festivals and concerts also has to be planned for and managed by the Authority.

In addition to the above the Strategy outlines arrangements for handling construction and demolition waste, liquid wastes such as cesspool wastes and fly-tipped wastes and litter.

Waste prevention, recycling and composting

The strategy covers the arrangements in place for preventing, recycling and composting waste:

Prevention

The best option is not to produce waste in the first place and the Strategy includes details of how the Partners (the NLWA and seven constituent boroughs) will work together to reduce the current increases in waste that we have been historically witnessing in North London. The Strategy includes details of activities to prevent and reduce waste as well as plans for encouraging greater amounts of reuse.

Recycling

Approximately 24% of North London's waste was recycled and composted in 2007/08. Some recyclable material is taken to Edmonton in recycling trucks and then transferred into larger vehicles to be transported to 'materials recycling facilities' or MRFs.

Within the MRFs the recyclables are sorted into separate materials such as paper, aluminium, plastic etc. The paper, aluminium, and plastic is then taken onwards to paper mills, aluminium smelters and plastics processing plants to be recycled into new products. Recyclable material that is already separated by the borough as it collects it doesn't need to go to a MRF for sorting and is taken to a

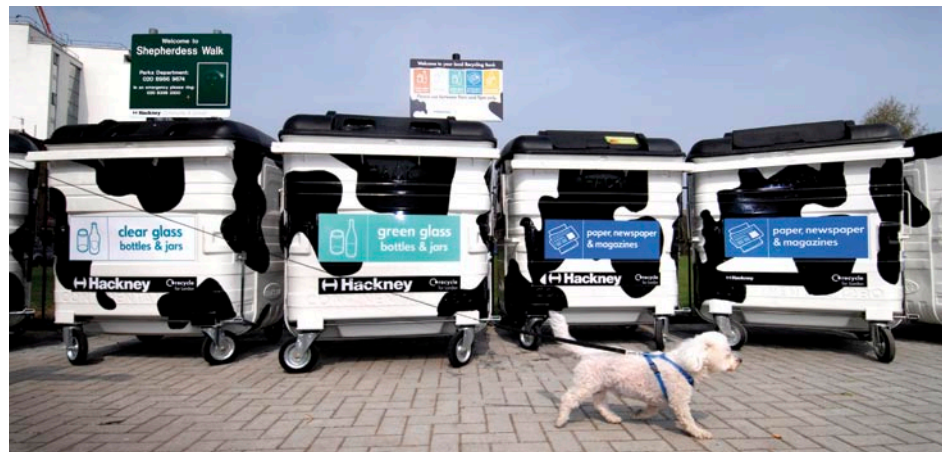
simple local bulking facility, from which it goes directly to the paper mills, aluminium smelters and plastics processing plants in larger vehicles more appropriate for long journeys.

The MRF services above are provided currently through the contract with LondonWaste Ltd; other services are arranged by individual boroughs.

Composting

Home composting is promoted as the best environmental option, but many people living in flats don't have any outdoor space so cannot do this. Separate garden waste from Reuse and Recycling Centres is taken to large open-air agricultural composting facilities. Mixed garden and food waste is taken either to the large enclosed composting facility at Edmonton, or is transferred to other similar commercial facilities elsewhere, currently through the main contract with LondonWaste Ltd.

As recycling and composting levels increase more capacity is needed each year, as a result the North London Waste Authority is procuring this extra capacity to support progress towards our high targets.



Future options for managing waste

Chapter 6 of the Strategy provides details of some alternative ways in which the seven North London boroughs and the NLWA could manage all the waste that is produced in the area up to 2020.

Five alternative options or 'scenarios' as they have been referred to are outlined in the Strategy. Each scenario shows the Partners building a range of new waste facilities and compares the cost, the environmental impact and performance of each combination of facilities.

The scenarios are theoretical, they are not firm proposals for new facilities, but are included in the Strategy to show potential combinations of facilities for North London that would be able to effectively deal with the waste that is created.

All five options include a mix of new facilities including recycling and composting plants and different types of 'thermal treatment', such as incineration and gasification, as alternatives to

landfill. (Information on different types of waste facility can be found at www.nlwa.gov.uk).

From 2014, when the NLWA's current waste management contract expires with LondonWaste Ltd., it will be necessary to tender for new waste services and facilities.

The Strategy concludes that this should be done in a way that is neutral in regards to different types of waste facility.

During the tendering process the NLWA will receive a variety of proposals from waste companies which will be considered in detail and in line with the aims and objectives of the Strategy.

Implementing the Strategy

Chapter 7 of the Strategy outlines how the Strategy will be implemented and describes the collection, disposal, facility, transport and financial implications of the implementation process.

Waste collection

The Strategy requires an increase in waste collected for recycling and a decrease in the amount collected for disposal than is the case at the moment.

The aim is to increase recycling and composting from 24% to 50% and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill to 35% (of 1995 amounts) by 2020.

The Strategy suggests that this requires a continuous improvement in the network of 'on-street' recycling banks and improvements in Reuse and Recycling Centres so that a minimum of 60% of the material that is brought to them is recycled (a significant increase on current performance).

The evaluation work carried out for the purposes of the Strategy suggests that to achieve the recycling targets set out, a minimum of 95% of households in North London will need to be provided with a recycling collection service from their house or block of flats and that public participation in those recycling services will need to be high enough to collect approximately two thirds of the material that we want to recycle.

Separate and comprehensive collections of garden and kitchen waste will also be required.

We currently have two main ways of collecting recyclable material in North London as noted above. The evaluation that has been used for the Strategy assumes that the current recycling collection systems used in each borough will stay the same into the future. However, it is recognised that there is some flexibility for change up to the point where the NLWA requires contract specifications to be approved for services after 2014.

Waste disposal

Currently there are 6 recycling/bulking facilities and 1 incinerator in North London that are used by the North London Partners as well as 3 waste transfer stations that are used to either prepare and take waste to the incinerator or to landfill sites outside of London. Whilst a new composting facility was built at Edmonton a few years ago the Strategy recognises that a range of additional new facilities will need to be built in North London over the forthcoming years to help us meet the targets set out in the Strategy.

The Partners' preferred approach is that the method selected for treating the 'residual waste' that isn't recycled or composted:

"will be determined through a technology neutral procurement process, evaluating each proposal on its own merit in order to deliver against the Strategy's objectives and implementation actions".

The environmental evaluation report of the Strategy that was produced in 2008 also recommended that sustainable design and construction of the new waste facilities also needs to be taken into account and that using previously developed land and locating more than one waste facility on a single site should be considered in order to reduce the overall amount of land that is used for waste purposes.



Transporting waste

Most of North London's waste is currently transported by road, but a significant proportion of what is landfilled is taken there by rail. It should be noted that 93% of our mixed garden and food waste is composted locally, and 52% of the residual waste after recycling is incinerated to generate electricity locally too.

Reducing the environmental impact of waste transport is a key part of the Strategy, and it is noted that this might be achieved using waterways too.

Financial implications of delivering the Strategy

Chapter 7 of the Strategy outlines the cost of delivering it. Compared to the costs of waste management in 2006 the Strategy shows how much the costs are projected to increase in 2010, 2014 and 2020.

Example costs are included in the strategy for different types of waste treatment facilities and estimates are that with the predicted increases in the total amount of waste produced in North London and the capital costs of the new facilities that need to be built that waste management costs in 2020/21 could rise to £156 to £157 million per annum at 2006 prices. Therefore, the Strategy identifies a need to deliver a range of activities to reduce the amount of waste that is collected and requires treatment.



Photograph courtesy of British Waterways London



Working in partnership

The last chapter of the Strategy recognises the fact that the NLWA and the seven North London boroughs cannot implement the Strategy alone.

This chapter initially outlines the process undertaken to involve people in developing the Strategy – both in 2004 and then for the update in 2008. The Partners also recognise that engaging the public effectively to take action will also be absolutely crucial to achieving the Strategy’s objectives, which will require on-going awareness and educational campaigns.

The Strategy sees a key role for the community sector in implementing it, as well as a need to work with the wider commercial and industrial sectors and national and regional agencies.

As the amount of material collected for recycling increases, the Strategy recognises that there is a need for Partners to work with London Remade which was initially established to develop end markets for recycled materials in London, and with the national Waste & Resources Action Programme.

Monitoring and review

In order to ensure that the targets within the Strategy are being met, and that this is being done in the best way, a range of performance indicators have been developed. Some of these will apply across North London and others, particularly many environmental indicators, will apply to specific waste management sites, although the whole-system effect of these will be monitored.

More information

A copy of the Strategy is available for free download on the NLWA website at www.nlwa.gov.uk together with all the supporting documents.

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