



Annual Report 2024/25



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Introduction and summary

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North London Waste Authority (NLWA) is the statutory joint waste authority for the seven boroughs of Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest. NLWA manages waste in line with the waste hierarchy to protect the environment and preserve resources for future generations. By working on behalf of seven boroughs, we operate at scale to provide the best environmental outcomes and value for our councils.

2024/25 was a year of notable achievement for NLWA. From the launch of major new facilities – including the Resource Recovery Facility, the Edmonton EcoPark Reuse and Recycling Centre and EcoPark House – to ongoing efforts in boosting recycling and reuse, preventing waste, and deepening community engagement, the year was defined by meaningful progress and delivery across north London.

NLWA is the owner of LondonEnergy Ltd (LEL), which operates an energy from waste plant and a new Resource Recovery Facility at the Edmonton EcoPark. LEL also operates two transfer stations and a network of reuse and recycling centres.

We have a waste services contract with LEL as well as contracts with other companies for the treatment of recycling, organic waste, electrical equipment and other materials.

NLWA staff are employed by Camden Council and we use additional support services from Camden, Enfield and Haringey Councils. We are mainly funded by a levy placed on constituent boroughs for waste services and by charges for the management of some types of waste.

In 2024/25, significant progress on the North London Heat and Power Project (NLHPP) – London's largest investment in waste and recycling facilities – was made. Our new Resource Recovery Facility (RRF), which was designed to maximise recycling from bulky waste and other material, went into full operation in April 2024. In its first year of full operation, around 170,000 tonnes were processed through the facility. The RRF is also equipped with a large solar panel

array on its roof allowing the facility to substitute power from the national grid with a sustainable energy source.



Aerial shot of RRF

We also opened a new public reuse and recycling centre (RRC) at the Edmonton EcoPark in July 2024. This state-of-the-art facility allows residents to bring their recycling directly to the EcoPark 12 hours a day, seven days a week and accepts more than 25 types of waste for recycling or reuse. Many of the features have been selected to enhance the safety of residents in the building. In its first nine months, the centre welcomed over 16,000 visitors and processed 1,700 tonnes of materials.

In December 2024 our first visitors set foot in EcoPark House, our new educational outreach and community hub. The two-storey building facing the River Lea serves as an educational facility and the home for the Edmonton Sea Cadets. It aims to be a leading education and visitor centre hosting school visits and community events. We were pleased to be awarded a quality badge from the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom in January 2025 for our education programme there and look forward to the strong community activity and engagement EcoPark House will continue to enable for years to come.

The North London Heat and Power Project is also replacing the existing 53-year-old energy from waste plant at the Edmonton EcoPark, which is reaching the end of its operational life, with a new Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) designed to be the greenest in the country. The new

ERF will be able to treat up to 700,000 tonnes of residual waste annually, converting it into electricity and heat, thereby reducing landfill use and supporting local energy needs.

In 2024/25 good progress was made on the ERF site, with the first phase of the construction programme nearing completion. However, there were challenges and delays. Significant concerns were raised with ACCIONA, the principal contractor responsible for constructing the facility. Actions have been taken with ACCIONA to review the robustness of the programme and plans for appointing sub-contractors, in order to give increased confidence in the programme of future work on the facility.

We are proud of the project's work delivering a range of high-quality social value initiatives such as apprenticeships and local work opportunities. Our contribution in this area was recognised by winning the Municipal Journal (MJ) Achievement Award for Innovation in Delivering Sustainability and Social Value. This award acknowledges the project's commitment to creating opportunities for local communities, including employment, training, and procurement with local businesses.



Our reuse and recycling centres saw considerable activity in 2024/25. NLWA-managed RRCs captured 48,874 tonnes of material, an increase of 7,326 tonnes compared to 2023/24. 74% of all RRC material was recycled, reused or composted. With our specialist recycling services being an important focus, we captured even more difficult-to-recycle materials during the year.

Below is a snapshot of the 2024/25 increases in tonnages for specialist recycling materials:

- The number of mattresses collected for recycling across RRCs and waste transfer stations increased by 7% compared to 2023/24, with an average of 8,512 mattresses collected monthly. In total, 102,149 mattresses were collected, up from 95,483 in 2023/24.
- Our hard plastics recycling service expanded to four RRCs, capturing almost 170 tonnes for recycling, an increase from 107.54 tonnes in 2023/24, despite challenges in securing destinations to reprocess this material.
- Our carpet recycling service extended to two more recycling centres and captured 213 tonnes of material, a significant increase from 26.85 tonnes in the previous year.
- The amount of Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) collected for recycling increased by 56%.

- The DIY reuse service saw an increase in the volume of materials diverted for reuse, from 91.79 tonnes to 104.22 tonnes.
- A dedicated disposable vape recycling service was launched across RRCs, capturing 830kg of material in its first year.

The total organic waste managed (including RRC garden waste) was 60,472 tonnes in 2024/25. This included 22,900 tonnes of food waste, 5,698 tonnes of BioK, 25,983 tonnes of garden waste, and 5,891 tonnes of RRC garden waste. The increase in food waste and decrease in BioK reflects changes in borough collection services. Total dry mixed recycling (DMR) processed was 123,021 tonnes, a decrease of 1,393 tonnes compared to 2023/24. The recycling rate for 2024/25 was 28.2%.

All residual waste delivered by boroughs continued to be sent to energy recovery, maintaining a 0% landfill rate. Thanks to our long-standing commitment to recycling as many materials in the UK as possible, we processed 100% of our metals, plastics, and glass in the UK, while mixed paper and cardboard were processed 100% in Europe and the UK (93% and 7% respectively).

In 2024/25, NLWA had a strong focus on education, outreach, and communications, delivering high-profile behaviour change projects and campaigns as part of the Waste Prevention Plan.



NLWA's dedication to educating residents around the environmental impacts of waste has led to much progress in this area. We rolled out a new outreach programme for primary schools which engaged over 2,600 pupils and staff, and developed our Education Hub – an online resource for primary and secondary schools.

Another key initiative was the North London Community Fund, which supports grassroots waste prevention activity. In 2024/25, we awarded £122,567.33 to 14 small and medium projects. For the first time, we also launched a larger strategic fund, awarding £100,000 to organisations for two-year waste prevention projects.

Other campaigns which drove positive waste related behaviours included:

- Reduce, Reuse, Your Cycle to encourage reusable period product take-up
- Our nappy voucher scheme to support families to switch to reusable nappies
- Bring it – a campaign to tackle the single-use plastic problem and encourage people to switch to reusable cups, bottles, bags, and containers.
- The pan-London food waste prevention campaign Eat Like a Londoner.

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NLWA's role and operation

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NLWA (the Authority) is the statutory joint waste disposal authority for north London and is responsible for the disposal of waste collected by Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest councils.

The Authority has a membership of 14 councillors, with each borough appointing two councillors. Meetings are normally held five times a year, with extraordinary meetings if required. A Programme Committee oversees the North London Heat and Power Project and meets as needed in addition to Authority meetings.

At the Annual General Meeting in June 2024, Cllr Clyde Loakes (Waltham Forest) was elected as Chair and Cllrs Rowena Champion (Islington) and Mete Coban (Hackney) as Vice Chairs for 2024/25. Cllr Coban was appointed as Deputy Mayor of London for Environment and Energy and resigned from the Authority in July 2024. Cllr Mike Hakata (Haringey) was elected as Vice Chair for the remainder of 2024/25.

NLWA is mainly funded by a levy it places on its constituent boroughs for waste services. The Authority does not employ any staff directly, but makes cross-borough arrangements for support services, involving Camden, Barnet and Haringey Councils. The principal officer support and managers in post, as of 31 March 2025, were:

- Clerk – Jenny Rowlands (part-time NLWA)
- Financial Adviser – Jon Rowney (part-time NLWA)
- Legal Adviser – Andrew Maughan (part-time NLWA)
- Environment Adviser – Craig Miller (part-time NLWA)
- Managing Director and Deputy Clerk – Martin Capstick
- Director of Corporate Services – Nikesh Shah
- Head of Strategy and Services – Michael Clarke
- Head of Strategic Communications – Joe Sheeran

LondonEnergy Ltd

NLWA is the sole shareholder of LondonEnergy Ltd (LEL). LEL operates reuse and recycling centres and waste reception facilities across north London, with its main operation at the Edmonton EcoPark. LEL and NLWA officers work closely together to provide a coordinated service, which ensures boroughs benefit from the public ownership of the company.



Energy from waste facility at Edmonton EcoPark

The energy from waste facility at Edmonton manages most of north London's residual waste and produces over 200,000 Megawatt Hours of electricity in a year. This secures income and provides an environmental benefit from treating non-recyclable waste. In 2023, LEL considered the results of a condition survey on the existing energy from waste plant. The survey was intended to assist in identifying and prioritising investment needed to secure the operation of the plant until it reaches the end of its operational life. Taking account of the condition survey, the LEL Board approved an increased investment of some £8 million in 2024 on elements of the facility, with £6 million planned in 2025. This is funded by increased payments from the Authority to the company.

In 2024/25 LEL and NLWA successfully coordinated plans for the full operation and management of new assets created through the North London Heat and Power Project. These include a new resource recovery facility which can receive 300,000 tonnes of material per year and a new public reuse and recycling centre which has received very positive feedback from users. In addition to these waste management facilities, EcoPark House has opened as a home for the Edmonton Sea Cadets and centre for educational and community visits.

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Services and performance

Services and performance

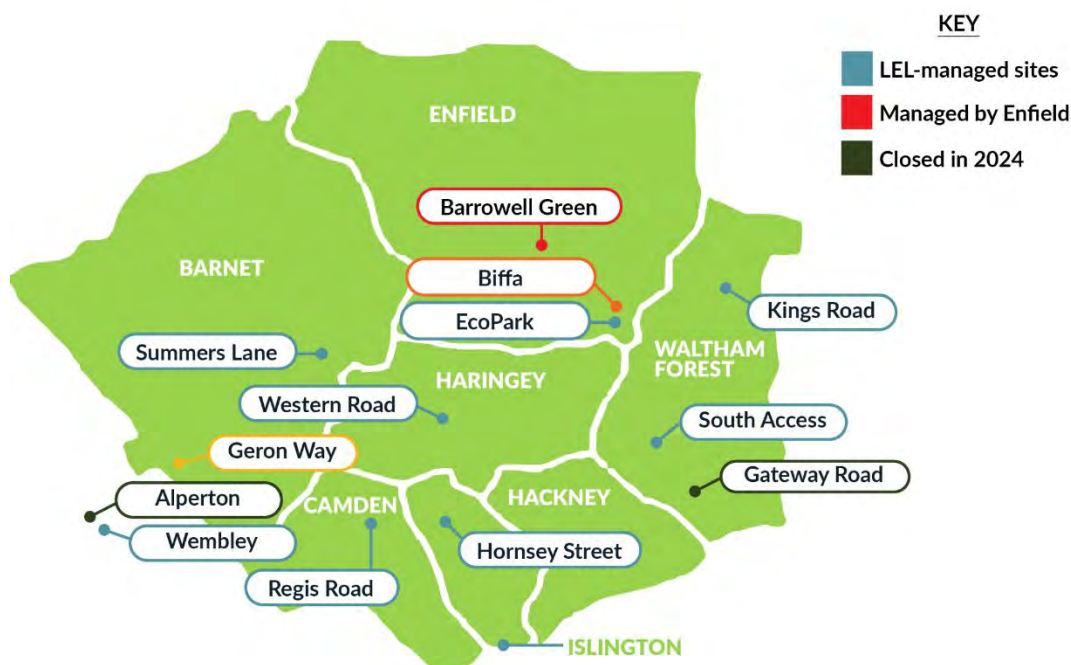
NLWA manages household and non-household waste collected by the seven north London boroughs.

Household waste includes waste collected from houses, flats and communal properties. Non-household waste is often collected from boroughs through commercial arrangements with local businesses and includes fly-tipped waste.

The tonnages reported in this document refer to total waste received by NLWA, including non-household and household waste, before it is processed and sent for recycling or final treatment. The figures used in this document are provisional and will be fully validated (or adjusted) with the constituent boroughs through the national WasteDataFlow tonnage reporting system later in the year.

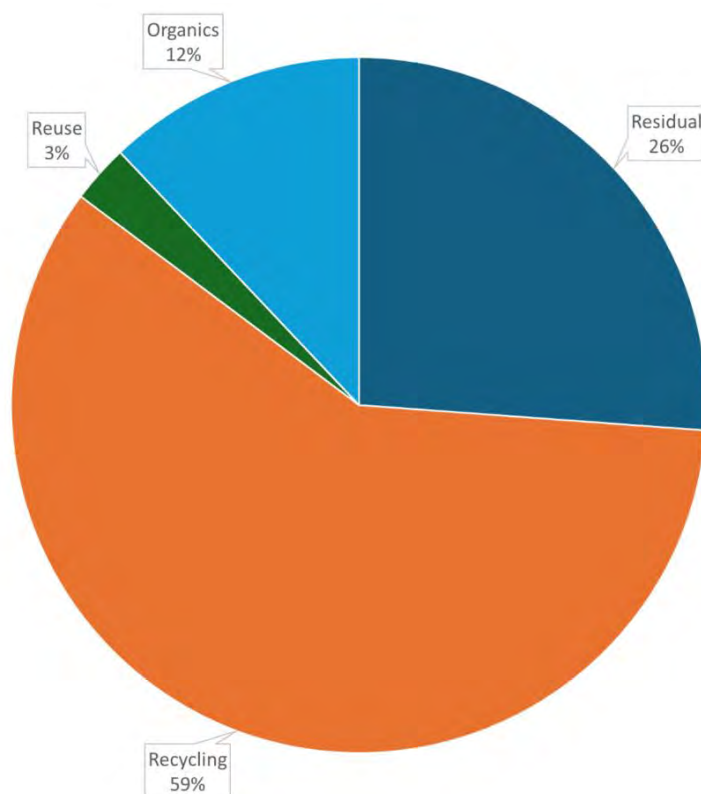
Reuse and recycling centres

London Energy Limited (LEL) operates seven reuse and recycling centres (RRCs) on behalf of NLWA. In 2024/25, NLWA opened a new RRC at the Edmonton EcoPark in Enfield and closed one of three RRCs in Waltham Forest, Gateway Road RRC which was operated by Bywaters Ltd.



Map of RRCs

NLWA-managed RRCs captured 48,874 tonnes of material in 2024/25, an increase of 7,326 tonnes compared to 2023/24. Some of this increase is likely to arise in garden waste in several sites because of borough service changes discussed later in this section. 74% of all RRC material was recycled, reused or composted.



Graph – RRC tonnage breakdown by waste stream

We aim to maximise recycling and reuse opportunities at our RRCs to make better use of the materials we handle. In 2024/25, we continued to divert difficult-to-recycle materials from the residual waste bin, capturing even more material than in previous years.

Opening of Edmonton EcoPark RRC

Following the opening of the Resource Recovery Facility in March 2024, the EcoPark Reuse and Recycling Centre was opened to the public in July 2024. Edmonton EcoPark RRC allows residents to bring their recycling directly to the EcoPark from 8am to 8pm 362 days a year. The RRC accepts more than 25 types of waste for recycling or reuse and is equipped with a pedestrian and cyclist zone near the entrance of the site, providing accessibility for different users. This new flagship recycling facility is an investment in north London's future and forms part of NLWA's wider waste management strategy to support the circular economy.

In its first nine months of its opening, more than 16,000 vehicles visited the centre and approximately 1,700 tonnes of materials were processed.



The Edmonton EcoPark public RRC opened in July 2024

Improvements to other RRCs

Several improvement works were completed at South Access Road RRC in July 2024 including updated signage, rearranging containers to increase the capacity of several materials and a dedicated parking zone for cyclists. These improvements will help more residents safely access the RRC, supporting better navigation around the site and increasing access to containers for the secure deposit and storage of materials. The new layout maximises the space available, allowing flexibility to introduce new material streams and containers. It also gives site staff a clearer view of the site, reducing the double-handling of materials, which in turn allows them to better assist residents to recycle correctly.

In 2024/25, working with the London Borough of Islington and LEL, NLWA opened a dedicated pedestrian and cycling zone at the entrance to Hornsey Street RRC. As 67% of Islington households do not own a car or van, this upgrade makes it easier for Islington residents to bring small recyclable materials to the centre and supports the use of low-carbon modes of transport to access our sites. The new dedicated zone enables pedestrians to recycle nine different material streams and bring books, textiles and bric-a-brac for reuse.



Hornsey Street Recycling

Mattresses

In 2024/25, we saw a 7% increase in the number of mattresses recycled across our RRCs and waste transfer stations compared to 2023/24, collecting an average of 8,512 mattresses for recycling each month. Mattresses are made of up to 17 different materials, making them hard to recycle. Our service recovers valuable components including metal springs.

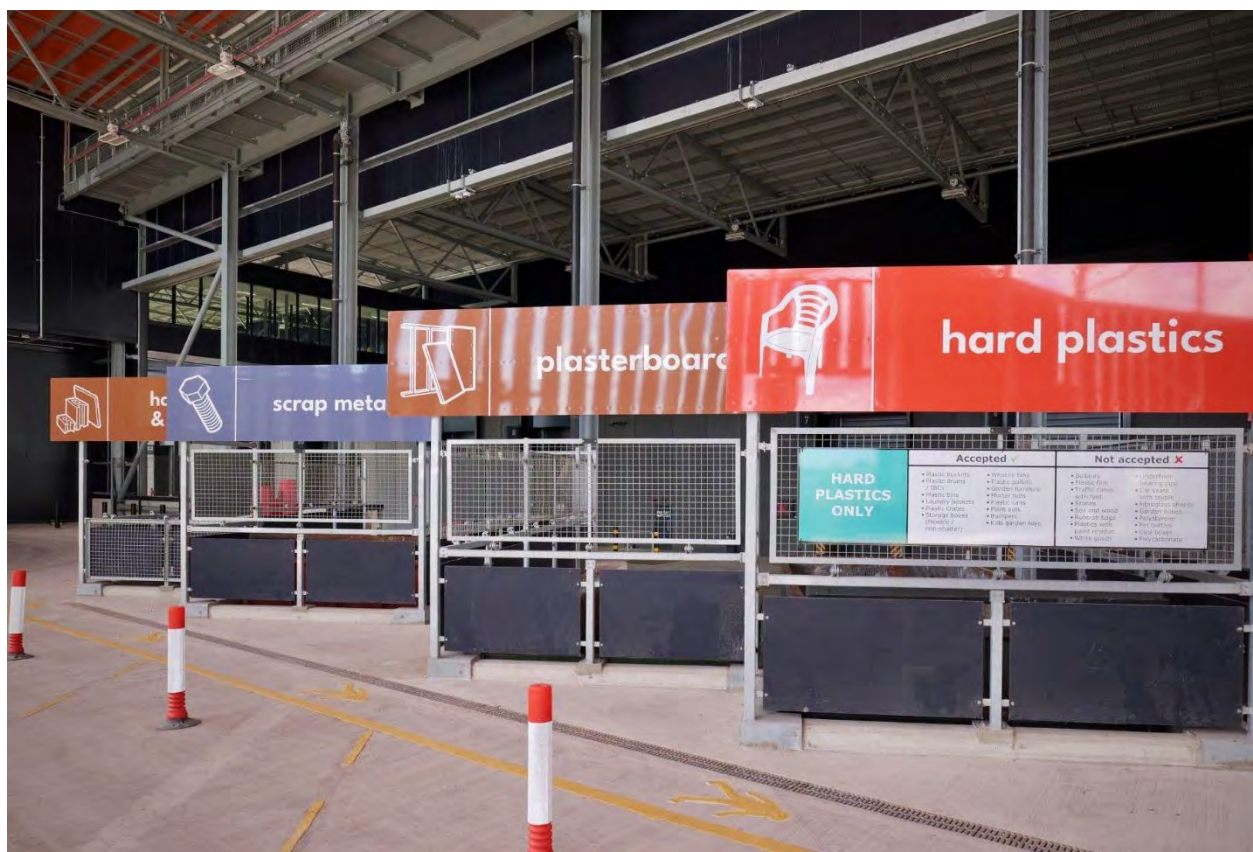
Material type	2023/24	2024/25
Number of mattresses collected	95,483	102,149

Specialist recycling services

We continued to promote our existing specialist recycling services and expanded our offer to additional RRCs, providing more residents with opportunities to recycle a wider range of materials.

Following a trial period in 2023, hard plastics recycling, for items like toys and garden furniture, was expanded to four RRCs. This led to an increase in the amount of material captured for recycling to almost 170 tonnes in 2024/25.

A number of hard plastic reprocessors ceased activity in 2024, reflecting the limited end-markets for hard plastics due to their complex composition. LEL successfully secured an alternative arrangement to enable residents to continue recycling hard plastics. They also confirmed their commitment to working with industry to explore options for managing the material further up the waste hierarchy.



Hard plastics at EcoPark RRC

The carpet recycling service, originally operating as a trial at South Access Road RRC, was introduced at two more RRCs and captured 213 tonnes of material in 2024/25. Wool and nylon carpets can be turned into insulation, padding for mattresses, sleeping bags, backpacks and

even coats. Polyester and polypropylene carpets can be used for plant pots, plastic bags, garden furniture or wheelie bins.

We saw a 56% increase in the amount of Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) collected for recycling across our RRCs in 2024/25 compared to the previous year. EPS is a lightweight but bulky and difficult-to-recycle material that creates unnecessary single-use plastic waste. Our recycling service makes better use of unwanted polystyrene turning it into insulation panels for the housing and construction industries.

We continued to operate a DIY reuse service at two RRCs in Waltham Forest and Barnet. The scheme encourages residents to reuse DIY materials, free of charge, and take-up depends on the type and quantity of material recovered from the RRCs and what is useful for residents to take. We saw an increase in the volume of DIY materials diverted for reuse in 2024/25.

Material type	2023/24	2024/25
Tonnes of hard plastic	107.54	169.24
Tonnes of expanded polystyrene (EPS)	6.87	10.74
Tonnes of carpet	26.85	212.50
Tonnes of DIY reuse	91.79	104.22

Disposable vapes and e-cigarettes

Fires in the waste stream caused by lithium-ion batteries are a growing and urgent problem, with associated financial, health and safety, and environmental risks. The rapidly expanding vapes and e-cigarettes market and their improper disposal in household bins have contributed to this problem. Between 2023 and 2024, NLWA saw a 300% increase in fires caused by batteries.

The ban on disposable vapes, which comes into force in June 2025, is expected to have some impact, in 2024/25; and this is a development which NLWA argued for and welcomes. In the interim we launched a dedicated disposable vape recycling service across our RRCs to promote the safe disposal of these products.

The scheme captured a total of 830kg of material in its first year of operation. This is equivalent to around 39,500 individual disposable vapes diverted from litter, street and kerbside bins.

Organic waste

Organic waste comprises food waste, garden waste and BioK (garden and food waste combined).

In 2024/25, Islington and Waltham Forest councils introduced separate food and garden waste collections in preparation for new legislation that requires local authorities to collect food waste separately on a weekly basis by April 2026 (Simpler Recycling regulations).

As a result, from October 2024, NLWA was no longer required to manage BioK waste. The table below shows that the termination of BioK led to a corresponding increase in food waste tonnages in 2024/25 (4,119 tonnes).

Less favourable garden growing conditions in 2024/25 resulted in a lower volume of garden waste despite boroughs introducing separate collections.

Islington and Hackney councils introduced a subscription service for garden waste collections which may have affected the amount of garden waste collected and diverted material to RRCs where disposal of garden waste is free of charge. This is shown as a 1,250 tonne increase in RRC garden waste below.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Food waste	12,931	11,854	18,781	22,900
BioK	14,512	11,976	12,394	5,698
Garden waste	20,230	18,303	26,286	25,983
RRC garden waste	4,487	3,834	4,641	5,891
Total organics (incl. RRC)	52,160	45,967	62,102	60,472



Islington food waste recycling

Dry mixed recycling

Dry mixed recycling (DMR) is a mix of plastics, paper and cardboard, metals, and glass which is sorted into component materials and recycled. NLWA manages a contract with Biffa to process the recycling collected by our seven constituent boroughs. In 2023/24, Enfield council joined the Biffa contract, explaining the sharp tonnage increase in that year.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Total tonnes	113,685	108,909	124,414	123,021

DMR delivered by our boroughs reduced by 1,393 tonnes compared to 2023/24. This follows the trend of declining dry recycling tonnages experienced over the past few years and likely reflects how producers continue to favour lighter packaging materials because of consumer pressure and new legislation, such as Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging (pEPR).

Dry mixed recycling composition

Process rejects encompass items which have been put in the recycling bin but cannot be recycled, like nappies, or where recycling has been contaminated with materials like food. This year saw a 3.5% increase in process rejects, which suggests that residents may be putting more dirty or unrecyclable items in the recycling. There has also been a 3% decrease in glass. The occurrence of other material streams in the dry mixed recycling was similar to 2023/24 levels.



Recycling conveyor belt

Recycling income

NLWA receives an income per tonne of material recycled through Biffa. A “net basket price” is calculated based on tonnages received and the market values of different materials. The average net basket price value for 2024/25 was £44.34.

The table below shows an increase in the net basket price in quarters two and three driven by rises in the value of fibre and some types of plastic. However, such values returned to levels similar to those seen at the start of the year and the net basket came back down to £35.78 per tonne in quarter four.

2024/25	Net basket price for DMR
Q1	£36.17
Q2	£56.04
Q3	£49.38
Q4	£35.78

Despite a steady increase in the value of metals (15%), the net basket price impact was dwarfed by the 80% decrease in the weighted average price for plastics. Glass prices also saw an 11% decrease in over the same period.

Recycling destinations

NLWA recognises the importance of dealing with our waste and materials as closely as possible to the point where they are collected (the Proximity Principle). Since March 2020 we have worked with Biffa to reduce the amount of recycling processed overseas, with a commitment of 100% UK destinations by 2030.

In 2024/25, we continued to process 100% of our metals, plastics and glass in the UK. Domestic reprocessing capacity for mixed paper and cardboard (fibres) remained insufficient to handle the volume being produced in the UK. As a result, the UK and European countries remain reliant on markets in the Far East, particularly for cardboard reprocessing.

NLWA and Biffa achieved 100% reprocessing of mixed papers in Europe and the UK in 2024/25 (93% and 7% respectively). This is a significant achievement compared to the 2020 baseline of 100% of mixed paper being processed in the Far East.

Third party reuse and recycling credits

NLWA offers reuse and recycling credits to third party organisations that remove items from the residual waste stream that would otherwise have been sent for disposal at our expense. In 2024/25 the value of the third-party credit was £86.15 per tonne.

Eight charities benefitted from the scheme this year, receiving credits worth £171,114. These charities collected 2,130 tonnes of furniture, textiles and books for subsequent recycling in 2024/25. This was a decrease from 2,180 tonnes in the previous year.

The numbers for 2024/25 are provisional as some of the charities have not yet submitted data for quarter four. Where data is unavailable, the fourth quarter has been estimated using an average of the first three quarters.

Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)

NLWA provides kerbside collections of WEEE in five of our seven constituent boroughs (excluding Hackney and Haringey) as well as collections from a network of bring banks. In 2024/25, the service, operated by European Recycling Platform (ERP), collected 143 tonnes of WEEE from kerbside properties, an increase of 58 tonnes on the previous year. The scheme also collected 20 tonnes of WEEE from the bring bank network.

Residents delivered 3,527 tonnes of WEEE to our network of RRCs during 2024/25, an increase of 585 tonnes compared to 2023/24.

Residual waste services

Residual waste includes black bag waste collected from homes, non-recyclable waste from RRCs, rubbish from litter bins, and fly-tipped and other non-household waste. In 2024/25, NLWA continued to send all residual waste delivered by the boroughs to energy recovery, maintaining a 0% landfill rate.

NLWA continues to focus on waste reduction as the most effective way to reduce the environmental impact of waste. Existing performance indicators in WasteDataFlow look at the average amount of household residual waste produced per household within an area.

The table below shows an increase in the residual waste produced per household in north London in 2024/25 compared to the previous year. This is in part due to an increase in dry recycling process rejects (DMR contamination) and a slight increase in residual waste captured at RRCs. Property numbers from the WasteDataFlow system are not currently available for 2024/25. This calculation uses 2023/24 property numbers and applies an increase of 5,000 dwellings based on average annual property growth over the past few years.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Household residual waste per household (kg)	581.8	497.6	507.0	512.2

In 2024/25, we managed 581,504 tonnes of residual waste, an increase of 14,415 tonnes compared to 2023/24. This increase is primarily due to one borough expanding their commercial (non-household) waste portfolio to accept residual waste from outside of north London. Excluding this additional waste, residual tonnages are slightly lower than in 2023/24.

Residual waste tonnages are sensitive to a number of factors including economic growth and housing type.

Due to recent upgrades to our internal data management reporting system and better coordination of the WasteDataFlow reporting process, residual tonnages for the years preceding 2024/25 have been revised.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Total tonnes (including RRC residual)	570,751	553,063	567,089	581,504

The recycling rate is the proportion of total household waste by weight which is recycled, reused or composted. For 2024/25 NLWA's recycling rate is 28.2%. This is in line with national trends of stagnating recycling rates, a trend that is likely to continue as legislative changes, such as the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), take recyclable materials out of local authority managed waste and producers move to lighter materials in preparation for packaging Extended Producer Responsibility legislation.