



Annual Report 2024/25





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 2025/25. 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.

