

IMPACT

REPORT

2024-2025

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1. INTRODUCTION

“Each year, £250,000 is dedicated to the North London Community Fund to support grassroots organisations across north London. The fund provides small grants of up to £5,000, medium grants of up to £15,000, and large grants of up to £100,000. Alongside the funding, we work closely with organisations to facilitate collaboration, events, and upskilling support.

In 2024/2025, we awarded grants to 16 organisations delivering innovative projects that reflect the diversity of north London while strengthening community cohesion. These initiatives have made a significant impact, not only on waste prevention but also on the wellbeing of residents. The social value created by these projects is as important as their environmental outcomes, providing safe and inclusive spaces for people to connect, learn, and live more sustainably.

Beyond grant giving, we strengthened support through collaborative initiatives enabling partnerships between current and past recipients. We also hosted networking events that brought together recipients, residents, borough officers, and councillors to share knowledge and build lasting connections. Complementing these activities, we launched a series of organisational development sessions designed to help groups grow their capacity and amplify their achievements.

This report showcases the positive outcomes of every project supported throughout the year and demonstrates how our additional programmes have enriched impact beyond grant giving. Through community-led action we are preserving resources and the environment for future generations. Thank you to all organisations and individuals involved in making this funding year a success.”

**Councillor Clyde Loakes MBE, Chair,
North London Waste Authority (NLWA)**

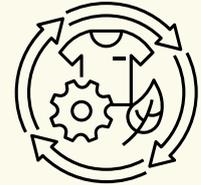


2. IMPACTS

In the 2024/25 funding cycle, **£223,000 of grants** were awarded to **16 organisations**. Small and medium grants supported 14 organisations to a total value of £123,000, whilst a further two organisations received a grant of £100,000 each to deliver large projects over two years, starting in 2025. Empowering a diverse array of local projects, this work **engaged 3,570 residents**, driving community cohesion and education around sustainability and waste prevention.



£223,000



16 organisations

With the support provided, these projects delivered an impressive **349 workshops and events** across the seven north London boroughs. Activities ranged from upcycling and clothes mending sessions with vulnerable adults to working with foodbank users to develop cookery skills. All the projects were community-led in design and equipped residents with the knowledge and confidence to reduce waste and make a positive impact on the environment.



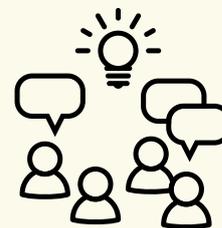
3,570 residents

Additionally, the projects provided valuable employment and volunteering opportunities. Some participants went from being attendees/users to volunteers, whilst others gained valuable experience through learning employability skills: **resulting in 47 employment and volunteer opportunities**.



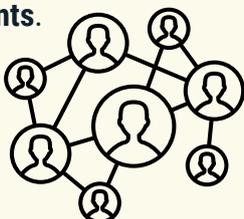
349 workshops & events

Each project created a lasting legacy for north London; residents were offered safe and creative spaces to express themselves whilst supporting a greener future for all through waste prevention activity.



47 employment & volunteer opportunities

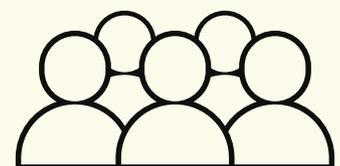
Along with grants, in 2024/25 the North London Community Fund expanded its support like never before: strengthening **collaboration between five** past and current recipients, delivering **35 capacity-building workshops**, and hosted **two dynamic networking events**.



5 collaborations



35 community workshops



2 networking events

3. SMALL & MEDIUM PROJECTS

ABBEY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Abbey Community Centre supports local residents in Kilburn to lead better connected, healthier and happier lives. Through craft workshops using plastic and textiles waste, the group educated attendees on best practices around recycling and reusing items, as well as facilitating creative upskilling sessions. The group held weekly craft classes using normally wasted materials such as plastic bottles and old cardboard, to create milk bottle planters to bottle-cap jewellery amongst other things.



Key outcomes:

- 45 workshops
- 54 attendees
- 100% report a reduction in waste at home
- 100% report an improvement in mental wellbeing
- 100% report development of arts and crafts skills
- 2 project displays of the artwork



AGE UK ENFIELD

Age UK Enfield is a charity supporting and enhancing the lives of older people. The project 'Men in Sheds' received funding to deliver upskilling carpentry sessions using recycled wood and sustainable materials. In addition, the sessions also provided a social environment for those who attended. A core philosophy of Men in Sheds is centered around combatting social isolation, by providing a space for men to gather and have open discussion around health and life in general.

Key outcomes:

- 48 sessions
- 34 residents upskilled to use carpentry equipment
- 55 attendees
- 36 items created

ARACHNE GREEK CYPRIOT WOMEN'S GROUP

Arachne is a community-based charity in Islington empowering women through free welfare advice, health awareness and information, employment advice and training, and volunteering opportunities. Arachne received funding to produce and deliver a sustainable textiles course, focussing on upcycling clothing and sustainable fashion. Attendees were shown how to use home sewing machines, learnt repairing techniques and repurposed clothing.



Key outcomes:

- 24 workshops
- 30 attendees
- 90% participants gained proficiency in sewing skills
- 90% improved their knowledge of waste prevention
- 100% improved wellbeing and less isolated
- 100% empowered to access other services and support
- Improved organisational social media outputs



BREAD N BUTTER

Bread n Butter are food educators teaching cookery life-skills whilst addressing health and social inequalities and barriers to healthy living. Bread n Butter delivered a series of community cookery workshops on how to use unfamiliar foods often wasted. Through connections with local food banks and schools, the workshops were attended by residents in Barnet, Enfield and Haringey.

Key outcomes:

- 4 foodbanks engaged
- 5 schools engaged
- 45 workshops
- 280 attendees
- Recipe cards created and shared
- 65% cooking confidence increased
- 88% learnt new food waste tips
- 100% learnt to cook with vegetables not used before

CLAPTON COMMON BOYS CLUB

Clapton Common Boys Club runs workshops and activities for children and young people in the Jewish community. The group received funding to develop and deliver a series of environmental workshops focussing on how to protect and respect the environment. Through activities such as food redistribution and nature-based engagement, the project has educated young people on waste prevention and it's importance for the environment.

Key outcomes:

- 330 young people engaged
- 48 sessions
- 20 volunteers
- 4 different sustainability topics covered
- Redistributed food to local soup kitchens in Stamford Hill



COMMUNITY FOCUS INCLUSIVE ARTS

Community Focus Inclusive Arts is a creative arts centre dedicated to adults and children with disabilities. Using the funding, the group delivered a series of dynamic textiles workshops that built sewing and design skills. Beyond creativity, these sessions also incorporated employability training, empowering participants with practical skills for the future.



Key outcomes:

- Taught disabled young adults employable skills (e-commerce, design, textiles skills)
- Opened an online shop to sell items created in sessions
- Partnered with Philanthropy, preloved vintage shop, to sell items

FOREST RECYCLING PROJECT

Forest Recycling Project (FRP) engages with organisations and communities in London through a range of practical initiatives to reduce, re-use and recycle waste, helping people live sustainably. FRP received funding to create a break even model for the Walthamstow Tool Library, supporting local residents to adopt a borrowing rather than buying mentality. In addition to this, FRP shared learning with other community groups and councils across north London.

Key outcomes:

- 153 new members to the tool library
- 96 low-income members
- 19 volunteering opportunities
- 1 employment opportunity
- 3,960 tool loans
- 44.3 tonnes of CO2 diverted
- Supported Enfield Council to establish a tool library
- Shared learning with community organisations



KILBURN STATE OF MIND - KILBURN REPAIR CLUB



Kilburn State of Mind, a supportive hub offering free access to learning facilities for residents in Camden, secured funding for Kilburn Repair Club. Based in Camden, Kilburn Repair Club is a community repair organisation that delivers regular repair events for residents. Using the funding, Kilburn Repair Club held repair cafes throughout the year and more focused workshops on textiles upcycling and electrical waste prevention through Restart Parties.

Key outcomes:

- 17 community repair events
- 2 specialised textile events
- 1 Restart Party with 17 items fixed
- 118 volunteer hours
- 87% of attendees increased environmental behaviours
- 292kg of CO2 diverted

LIFEAFTERHUMMUS

Lifeafterhummus received funding to invest in the development of their community kitchen space. The group will use the space to deliver food waste prevention workshops to local residents in the community of Somers Town. In addition to this, Lifeafterhummus set up a waste cafe at 5 St Pancras Square where the meals and snacks created in the workshops are sold.

Key outcomes:

- Refurbished kitchen space at community centre
- Set up waste cafe at 5 Pancras Square
- Employed community chef



LONDON CYCLING CLUB

London Cycling Club provides cycle training sessions, bike maintenance workshops and community bike rides to residents in Enfield and Haringey. London Cycling Club focuses on supporting residents from Turkish, Kurdish and Cypriot communities. The fund allowed the team to continue their work refurbishing and donating bicycles to low-income families in need. They also ran workshops upskilling residents with the required skills to fix and maintain their bikes.

Key outcomes:

- Refurbished 173 bikes
- Donated bikes to 6 organisations
- 14 bike maintenance workshops
- 46 attendees
- 5 pieces of upcycled bike art

MARKETS N22 - BOWES & BOUNDS REPAIR CAFE

Market N22, a monthly community market in Haringey, secured funding for Bowes & Bounds Repair Cafe. The focus of Bowes & Bounds Repair Cafe is to promote sustainability, community engagement and the reduction of waste through monthly repair events. The group offered free repairs of household and electrical items to members of the local community, not only supporting a reduction of waste, but also helping residents with the cost-of-living crisis.



Key outcomes:

- 185 visitors to the repair cafes
- 100 items repaired
- 1,088 kg of CO2 avoided
- 11 events
- Established repair cafe in Muswell Hill



OUR HOME OUR PLANET

Our Home Our Planet creates community networks focussing on behaviour change in relation to climate action. Using the funding, Our Home Our Planet delivered sustainability fairs in Barnet, collaborating with community groups and local activists. Alongside the sustainability fairs, the group delivered a series of eco leader workshops to community members, building a network of relationships between communities and local organisations in the borough dedicated to waste prevention.

Key outcomes:

- 2 sustainability fairs
- 6 eco leader training sessions
- 238 attendees

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

St Andrew's is a parish church in the heart of Islington, serving the community through worship and community-inspired events. St Andrew's Church has a well established weekly clothing swap partnering with various local and national charities. The clothes swaps are open to all residents, but the group particularly focuses on supporting those residing in hostels, children in need and homeless individuals. The group used the funding for equipment and promotional materials to support the events.

Key outcomes:

- 1,280kg of donated clothing
- 1,040kg of clothing to 5 local charities
- 240kg of clothing swapped / taken
- 33 swap events
- 1,342 attendees
- Loanhood partnership
- Replicability report produced for council
- 5 volunteering opportunities
- Improved the ease and display of clothing



THE MILL- FOREST FIXERS

The Mill, a welcoming community space in Waltham Forest, secured funding on behalf of Forest Fixers, a local group dedicated to repair and sustainability. Forest Fixers runs a hands-on repair club where residents can learn practical skills and bring household items to be fixed. Throughout 2024/25, the group hosted regular events to inspire the community, reduce electrical waste, and promote a culture of reuse. In addition to repair sessions, Forest Fixers delivered workshops that empowered participants to develop their own repair skills, helping them fix more items at home and extend the life of everyday products.

Key outcomes:

- 32 repair cafes with 318 attendees
- 22 repair clubs with 139 attendees
- 130 appliances fixed
- Upskilled 2 volunteers

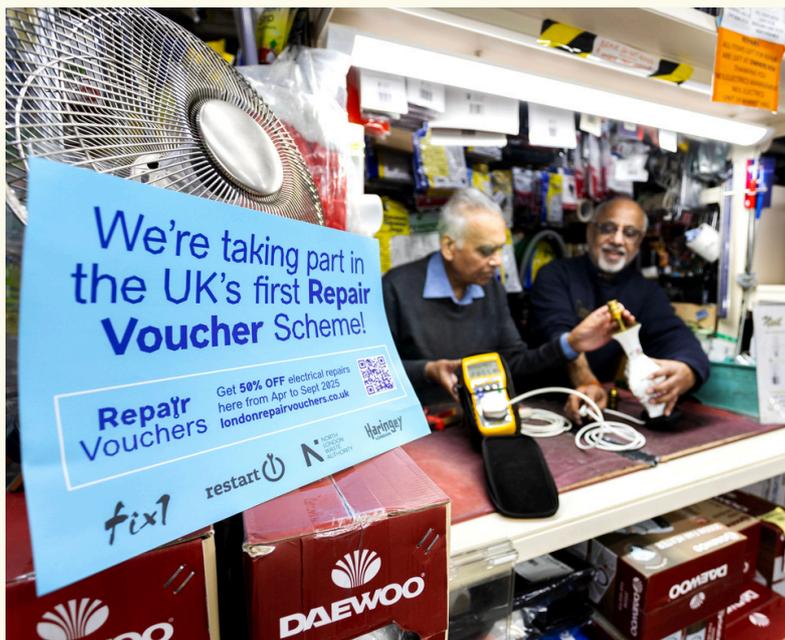
4. LARGE PROJECTS

OCTOPUS COMMUNITY NETWORK & MILD MAY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Octopus Community Network (Octopus) and Mildmay Community Centre (Mildmay) received funding to deliver a two-year, community-powered composting scheme. The project commenced in January 2025, with initial activity focused on establishing two community composting sites in Islington, enabling residents to recycle food waste locally and retain this valuable resource within their communities. Residents are being invited to take part in interactive workshops, building understanding of soil health and the science of composting. To encourage participation, a reward scheme will offer incentives such as seeds or produce grown in the community market garden. The organisations will also share learning and support other groups across north London to develop community composting hubs.



THE RESTART PROJECT & RELONDON



The Restart Project (Restart) and ReLondon received funding to trial a repair voucher scheme designed to reduce barriers residents face to repairing electrical items. The project kicked off in January 2025, with initial activity focused on programme set-up. Working in partnership with 20 local repair businesses, the scheme aims to make repair more accessible and affordable for residents. Residents can receive up to £50 towards the cost of a repair at participating businesses in north London boroughs. By addressing cost as a key barrier, the project supports waste prevention by extending the lifespan of electrical items and reducing electronic waste, while generating learning to inform potential future scale-up.

5. COLLABORATIONS

Collaboration between organisations has been a key success for the 2024/25 North London Community Fund. By fostering partnerships between past and current recipients, organisations have been able to share expertise, resources, and networks, creating stronger and more sustainable community initiatives. These collaborations have not only enhanced project delivery but also amplified impact across local communities.

Age UK Enfield partnered with WoRD, a previous NLCF recipient, to explore new funding opportunities. Drawing on WoRD's experience in community fundraising, Age UK successfully launched a Crowdfunder campaign to support its work with older residents. This collaboration demonstrates how knowledge-sharing between organisations can unlock innovative funding streams and strengthen financial resilience.

Kilburn Repair Club (KRC) extended its reach by working with multiple community centres, including Abbey Community Centre, another 2024/25 recipient, and Somers Town Community Association. Abbey Community Centre hosted a Restart Party, enabling residents to repair household items and reduce waste. Somers Town offered free venue space for future repair events and committed to promoting KRC through its Camden-wide network. These partnerships address gaps in sustainability efforts, such as repair skills, while creating opportunities for residents to engage in practical climate action.

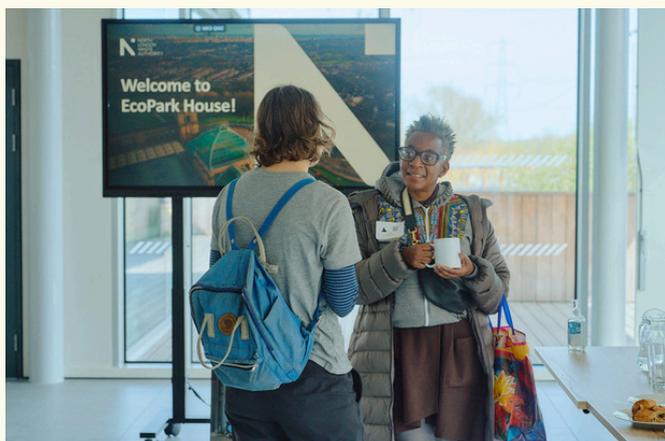
Beyond formal partnerships, informal connections have also played a vital role in fostering collaboration. London Cycling Club was linked with Bread n Butter to explore the possibility of bike donations through Bread n Butter's network. St Andrew's were introduced to Fashion For Future for guidance on the clothing displays at their weekly clothes swap. Octopus Community Network shared textiles learning materials with Arachne Greek Cypriot Women's Group, ensuring knowledge transfer continued even when capacity constraints prevented direct delivery. These examples highlight the value of networking and resource-sharing, even in challenging circumstances.



6. EVENTS

In the 2024/25 funding year, two flagship networking events, Connect & Grow and Repair & Connect, brought together North London Community Fund recipients and local residents. These events created meaningful opportunities for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and hands-on community action, while showcasing the innovative projects supported by the fund.

Connect & Grow, held in summer 2024, provided a dynamic platform for grant recipients to network and build relationships with stakeholders, borough officers, and fellow community-led organisations. The event focused on strengthening partnerships that enhance north London's communities through waste prevention and social value initiatives. A total of 27 attendees, representing 17 organisations participated in the event, alongside NLWA Members, and NLWA and Acciona officers. Keynote speakers included Farrah Rainfly from Lifeafterhummus, and Sonja Camara, Robert Thairu, and Russell King from Go Green Collective, who shared strategies and innovations driving their projects forward. The event also marked the launch of the community workshop, a series of capacity building workshops developed in collaboration with Acciona, aimed at supporting organisational development and amplifying community impact.

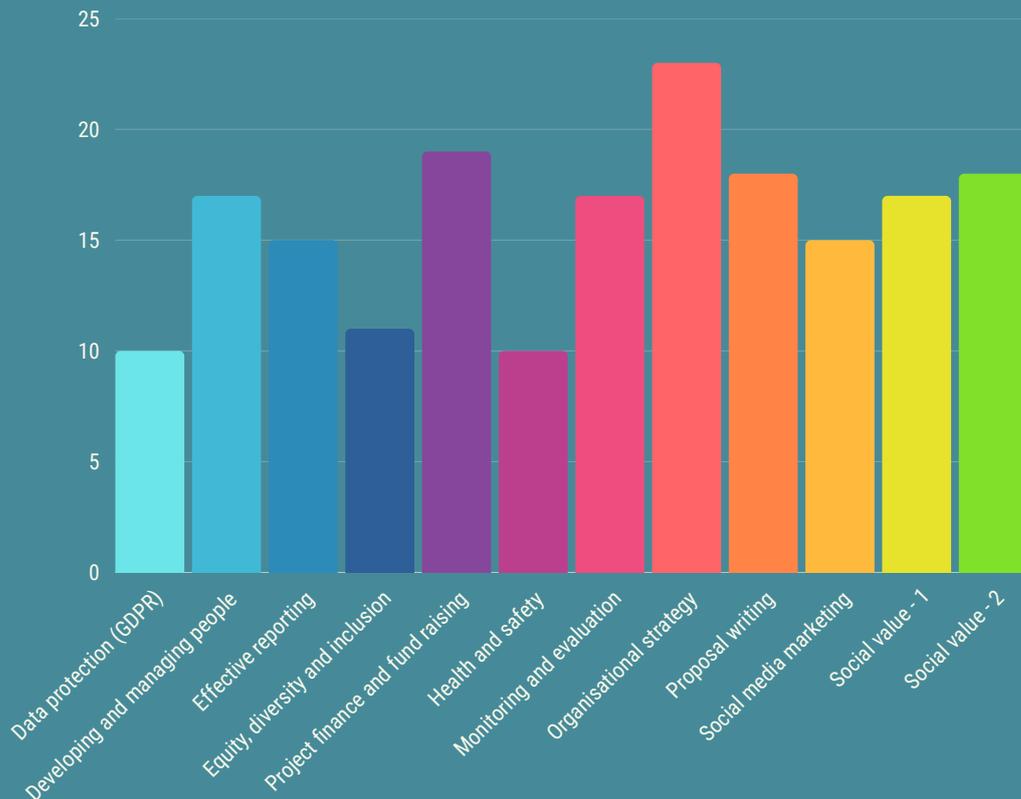


Repair & Connect, held in early spring 2025, combined networking with practical community action. The morning session welcomed fund recipients for networking and featured a presentation by Greg Dickenson from the Forest Recycling Project. Greg shared valuable insights into the Walthamstow Tool Library, highlighting how the initiative was established and the strategies used to sustain a successful community-led tool-lending service. The afternoon opened its doors to north London residents, who brought electrical and textile items to be repaired. Local community groups stepped in as skilled fixers, showcasing their expertise and promoting their work. The event attracted 28 attendees, including 15 organisations and 13 residents.

7. COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

The community workshops were established to support volunteer, charity, and social enterprise groups across north London. The sessions aimed to assist both current and prospective applicants to the North London Community Fund and RE-Power Communities schemes. The core objective of the workshops was to support community groups in north London by delivering practical and engaging sessions, strengthening their organisational capacity. Delivered through a collaboration of NLWA, Acciona, and local community representatives.

Figure 1. Session attendance



The workshops covered a wide range of topics. As shown in Figure 1, organisational strategy, project finance and fundraising, and proposal writing were the most popular, drawing 23, 19, and 18 attendees respectively. All sessions were offered both online and in person to ensure accessibility and inclusivity. Over the course of the year, the community workshop programme delivered 35 sessions. The session saw 190 attendees from 34 unique organisations. Charities formed the largest attendee group, accounting for 32.4% of participants. Beyond providing practical training, the sessions created valuable networking opportunities and encouraged collaboration among organisations.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with an average rating of 4.4 out of 5. An impressive 93% of respondents confirmed the training was relevant to their organisation, and comments frequently described the sessions as “interactive,” “insightful,” and “practical.” Trainers were praised for their expertise and ability to foster meaningful discussion, reinforcing the programme’s role in equipping community groups with the skills and confidence to deliver lasting impact.

The workshops provided valuable support to grassroots organisations and strengthening community networks. NLWA and Acciona’s partnership enabled knowledge sharing and capacity building, contributing to waste prevention efforts across north London. Recorded sessions remain available online:

Applications to the North London Community Fund open annually. Visit our website to find out more about future funding rounds and how to apply: nlwa.gov.uk/nlcf

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT