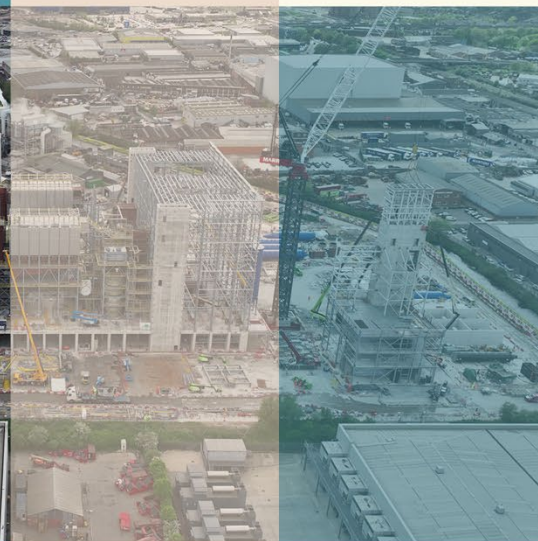


Annual Report

2025–26



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Introduction and summary

Introduction and summary

This Annual Report presents the North London Waste Authority's (NLWA) performance, progress and impact from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. It was a year of continued delivery against our statutory responsibilities, combined with significant strategic development and major infrastructure investment to support north London's long-term environmental goals.

As the statutory waste disposal authority for seven boroughs, NLWA plays a central role in managing waste safely, efficiently and sustainably, while working in partnership with boroughs, residents, government and industry to drive systemic change. This report brings together our operational performance, strategic progress, and wider impact across communities.

A defining achievement was the adoption of the North London Joint Waste Strategy 2025–2040, which builds on the vision we share with our boroughs to reduce waste, increase reuse and recycling, and minimise environmental impact.

Alongside this, significant progress was made across our core services, including improvements in recycling performance, reductions in residual waste, growth in food waste, and expansion of reuse initiatives.

The North London Heat and Power Project is central to the future of waste management in north London, representing one of the UK's most significant waste infrastructure projects. Construction progress continued, and delivery challenges were actively managed through robust governance and engagement with partners.

NLWA and councils help residents reduce waste and recycle through services and initiatives, but wider change requires action across the whole system, including government. NLWA delivered strong public affairs, education, communications and engagement across all seven boroughs to ensure consistent messaging and value for money.

Underpinning all activity was a strong governance framework ensuring transparency, accountability and effective risk management.

Overall, this report demonstrates a year of resilience, progress and delivery, providing a strong foundation for the next phase of work towards a low-waste north London.

Strategic progress

A major milestone was the adoption of the North London Joint Waste Strategy 2025–2040, which sets out a vision, approved by all seven boroughs and the Authority to:

- Reduce waste and prioritise prevention, repair and reuse
- Improve recycling rates and material quality
- Minimise the environmental impact of waste disposal
- Deliver collaborative, community-focused and value-for-money services

The strategy provides high level objectives to enable system-wide change across north London.

Service delivery and performance

NLWA continued to manage substantial volumes of household and non-household waste across seven boroughs, maintaining strong performance and improving key metrics:

- Household residual waste reduced to 500.7 kg per household
- The household recycling rate increased to 29.7%
- Zero waste was sent to landfill
- Most recycling was processed in the UK
- 83% of household materials taken to our reuse and recycling centres were diverted from incineration
- There was significant growth in specialist recycling streams



Food waste collections in north London

Infrastructure and major projects

The North London Heat and Power Project is replacing Europe's oldest energy from waste plant with a new facility featuring the UK's best emissions controls, whilst generating heat and electricity for local homes.

Key developments in 2025–26 included:

- Continued construction of the new Energy Recovery Facility, with major structural milestones completed
- Commencing installation of operational systems and specialist equipment
- The official opening of EcoPark House and the first full year of operation for the Resource Recovery Facility and public recycling centre

While construction progress was significant, the project experienced delays due to supply chain and programme management challenges. In response, NLWA commissioned an audit and independent review and progressed discussions with the contractor to agree a way forward.



Family Day events at EcoPark House

Communities, engagement and behaviour change

To support systemic change, key policy issues were set out in a Call to Action aligned with the Joint Waste Strategy, which will be updated annually. In 2025–26, NLWA engaged decision-makers 100+ times on policy issues like infrastructure, battery fires, the Emissions Trading Scheme and nappy waste.

Encouraging individual behaviour depends on clear information and motivation. In 2025-26, extensive communications and engagement activity by NLWA and with partners supported residents to reduce waste and recycle more:

- EcoPark House was established as a flagship education centre, supporting schools and community engagement across north London
- A recycling taskforce launched in January and engaged 30,000 residents in the first three months, improving recycling quality
- Campaigns achieved millions of views on a range of issues including food waste prevention, re-useable nappies and period products and reducing single use plastics
- The NLWA website received 731,000+ visits, supported by a new AI chatbot to provide clear recycling and waste prevention advice



NLWA strengthened its focus on social value and equality across all areas of activity. Through the North London Community Fund, NLWA awarded £168,000 to 20 projects in 2025–26 and launched a new four-year £1m grants programme. The NLHPP also delivered significant social value, with 66 apprenticeships for north London residents, 242 training placements and £57.6m spent with local suppliers.

North London community groups SHAK and Screen Share received NLWA funding for their projects

Finance and governance

In February 2025, the Authority agreed a £98.5m budget for 2025–26, with final outturn expenditure of £93.9m. The resulting in-year saving will be used to offset future costs. This improvement was mainly due to lower residual waste volumes, reduced administration costs and higher interest income from cash balances.

In February 2026, a £101.6m budget was approved for 2026–27, with the levy for boroughs reduced to £83.3m through the use of income and reserves. A further £4.6m from the previous year—reflecting a 5.2% drop in residual waste and a 2.8% rise in recycling—will also be used to lower service costs.

NLWA's role and operation

NLWA's role and operation

North London Waste Authority (NLWA) is the statutory waste disposal authority responsible for Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest councils.

The Authority is mainly funded by a levy paid by the councils proportionate to the amount of waste and recycling generated in each borough.

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.

At the Annual General Meeting in June 2025, Cllr Clyde Loakes (Waltham Forest) was appointed as Chair and Cllrs Rowena Champion (Islington) and Mike Hakata (Haringey) as Vice Chairs for 2025-26.

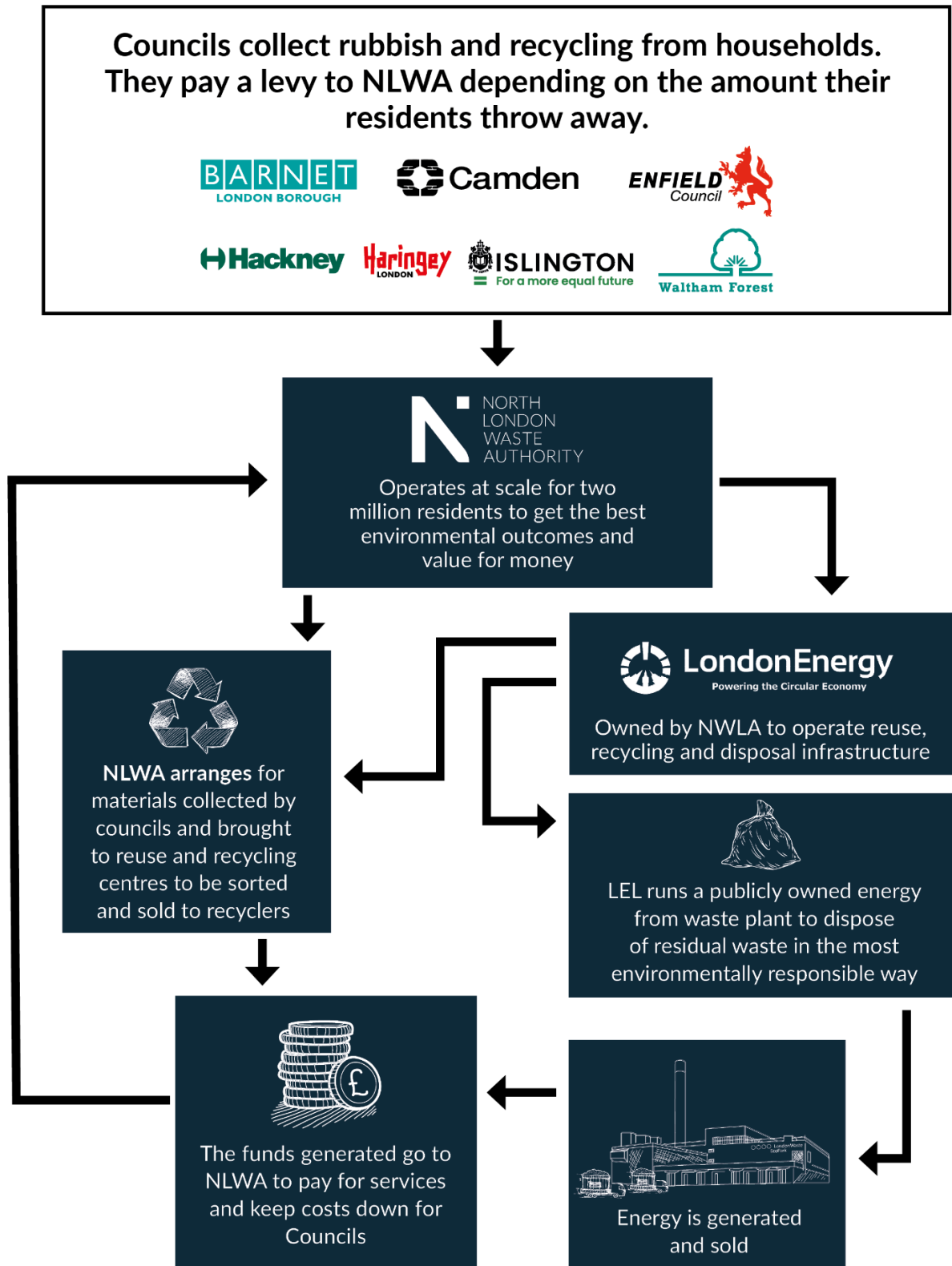
LondonEnergy Ltd



The Authority is the sole shareholder of LondonEnergy Ltd (LEL). LEL operates the energy from waste plant at the Edmonton EcoPark as well as public reuse and recycling centres and waste transfer stations. LEL and the Authority work closely together to provide a coordinated service, which ensures boroughs benefit from the public ownership of the company. The LEL Board includes the NLWA Chair and Vice-Chairs, alongside the NLWA Managing Director and borough officers, to ensure public accountability and direct oversight.

London Energy Ltd headquarters

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. LEL is preparing for the energy from waste facility to remain in service well past its planned lifespan - it will have been in near continuous operation for some 60 years. The LEL budget for 2025 included £5.7m of capital projects to support the resilience of the plant, and work commenced to identify what additional activities and related costs will be required to protect the asset so it can continue to safely serve our community while delivering significant value for money.



Infographic explaining the relationships between the north London boroughs, NLWA and its contractors

Towards a low waste north London

A major milestone in 2025-26 was the approval and adoption of the [North London Joint Waste Strategy 2025–2040](#) by NLWA and all seven boroughs.

The strategy sets out a shared vision:

“Towards a low waste north London, reducing the impact of waste to meet the challenges of the Climate Emergency.”

The strategy was developed through detailed analysis and extensive engagement with residents to ensure that it reflects local priorities and the diversity of north London. More than 5,000 residents contributed through surveys, focus groups, pop-up events and meetings.

There are four overarching priorities, which build on years of previous initiatives to improve recycling, reduce rubbish and manage unavoidable waste as sustainably as possible:

- Support the reduction in waste, by promoting prevention, repair and reuse.
- Improve and maximise recycling.
- Reduce the environmental impact of disposal, where there is no option to prevent or reuse waste.
- Deliver collaborative, community-focused services which provide value for money and maximise social value.

The strategy is clear that NLWA and the boroughs cannot deliver the vision alone. Central government sits at the top of a hierarchy of influence and can drive the systemic changes needed to determine success. This makes NLWA's public affairs and lobbying work a critical component of strategy delivery.

Ambitious targets are also set out, including:

- Halving avoidable food waste in the residual waste
- Doubling the proportion of material reused at reuse and recycling centres
- Processing 100% of recycling in the UK
- Zero local authority waste to landfill

NLWA and the boroughs committed to publishing regular delivery plans setting out the activity that will work towards delivering on the aims of the strategy.

Social Value

As a public body, NLWA has a duty to consider social value as an integral part of procurement processes. As set out in the Joint Waste Strategy, in 2025-26 NLWA took important steps to embed social value more consistently across operations.

Social value is the positive impact an organisation creates within its local community beyond financial returns. For public bodies reliant on public money, it means making decisions that deliver the greatest benefit to people and places.

Officers strengthened understanding of social value through staff consultation, a shared framework and an internal Social Value Statement setting out NLWA's priorities.

An internal Social Value Working Group was established to drive delivery, bringing together officers to identify opportunities, baseline activity and maximise social, environmental and economic benefits alongside statutory duties.

In 2026-27 this work will be further developed, building on the established baseline to support benchmarking, identifying areas to improve social value delivery and establishing clear, measurable objectives for reporting.

Social value priorities:

- Green Skills and Fair Work
- Empowered and Connected Communities
- Local and Circular Economies
- Inspiring and Supporting Young People
- Equity, Wellbeing and Inclusion



NLWA staff volunteering at Hackney Food Bank



NLWA supported a Haringey neighbourhood community group to improve their local area

Awards

NLWA received or was named a finalist for the following awards:

- **Social Infrastructure Project** for EcoPark House at the British Construction Industry Award
- **National Civic Trust Award** for delivery of the Resource Recovery Facility and EcoPark House
- **Sir John Armitt Prize** for EcoPark South at the British Construction and Infrastructure Awards
- **Apprentice of the Year** Camden Apprentice Awards
- **Bronze Award** for upgrades at Edmonton EcoPark by Galldris Service Ltd
- **Social Value Award** *Other Organisations* at the GO Awards
- **Social Value Initiative of the Year** for the North London Heat and Power Project, North London Waste Authority Social Value team at the Institute of Economic Development Annual Awards 2025
- **UK Organisation Transformation Award** from the Institute of Asset Management
- **Local Authority Success** for the In The Know education programme at the National Recycling Awards
- **HWRC of the Year** for EcoPark Reuse and Recycling Centre at the LARAC Awards



NLHPP is recognised at the National Civic Trust Award for delivery of the Resource Recovery Facility and EcoPark House

Services and performance

Services and performance

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

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 before it is processed and sent for recycling or disposal. The figures are provisional and will be fully validated with the constituent boroughs through the national WasteDataFlow tonnage reporting system later in the year.

Reuse and recycling centres

NLWA manages seven reuse and recycling centres (RRCs) through a contract with LondonEnergy Ltd. In 2025-26, 34,600 tonnes of material were collected for recycling and reuse and 13,077 tonnes of residual waste were captured.



Eco Park Reuse and Recycling Centre

The table below shows an increase in the RRC recycling and reuse rate in 2025-26 compared to the previous year, driven by more electrical equipment, garden waste, textiles, bikes and paint. The rate has been aligned with national methodology by using number plate recognition data

to identify and exclude waste which is delivered to RRCs by trade or commercial customers. NLWA does not currently accept non-household residual waste at the RRCs and is working with LEL to minimise abuse of the service by commercial operators. Applying the same methodology to the 2024-25 number, the average RRC recycling rate has increased by 2%.

	2024-25	2025-26
RRC household recycling and reuse rate	81%*	83%
Reuse as a proportion of total RRC waste	3.0%	3.5%

*2024-25 RRC recycling rate has been revised from the previous annual report to reflect the updated methodology explained above. The previously reported figure for 2024-25 was 74%.

RRC improvements



The ReUse Shop sells household items and furniture collected from NLWA reuse and recycling centre

For many years, Members have challenged officers to ensure as many materials as possible brought to RRCs are saved from disposal. This has led to innovative recycling and reuse solutions for items like mattresses, carpets, polystyrene and DIY materials.

To support more reuse, NLWA worked with LEL to increase the opening hours of the ReUse Shop at Kings Road RRC, increased the scope of goods sold and created a dedicated eBay page to sell items donated by residents. The ReUse Shop sold 142 tonnes worth of reusable items in 2025-26, generating an income of over £225,000.

In 2025–26, NLWA supported two bike reuse initiatives, diverting a total of 3,392 bikes from disposal. This included a partnership with The Bike Project, which repaired bikes for refugees and asylum seekers, and ongoing reuse through the Kings Road ReUse Shop, where bikes were refurbished and sold, supporting waste prevention and sustainable travel.

In 2025-26, we also installed dedicated toy banks for residents to reuse unwanted toys that will be donated to children in socially deprived areas across London and low-income countries.

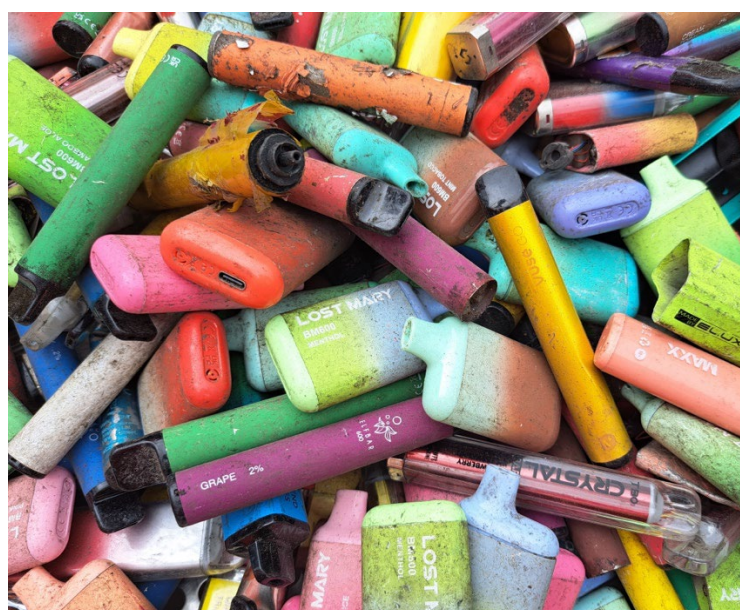
Specialist recycling

In 2025-26, we continued to divert difficult-to-recycle materials from the residual waste bin.

Commodity	2024-25 tonnes	2025-26 tonnes	2024-25 quantity	2025-26 quantity
Expanded polystyrene	10.74	7.00		
Carpet	213	318		
Mattresses			102,149	109,306
DIY reuse	104	122.00		
Vapes	0.83	6.04	39,500	287,619
Toy reuse	-	5.20		
The Bike Project bike reuse			-	347

317.7 tonnes of carpet were recycled, an increase of 50% compared to 2024-25. This is enough material to carpet 22 football pitches. 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.

Vapes pose a significant fire risk if put in rubbish or litter bins. The government banned disposable vapes in 2025, but because they are so cheap, many people still treat “reusable” vapes as disposable. In the second year of collecting vapes at RRCs, we collected 6 tonnes of vapes - equivalent to 287,619 individual vapes.



Single use vapes collected for recycling

Organic waste

Organic waste comprises food waste and garden waste.

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Food waste	11,854	18,781	18,781	27,786
Mixed food and garden waste	11,976	12,394	5,698	0
Garden waste	18,303	26,286	25,983	28,536
RRC garden waste	3,834	4,641	5,891	6,002
Total organics	45,967	62,102	60,472	62,324

In 2024, Waltham Forest started collecting food waste and garden waste separately instead of mixed together, which is the main reason there was a big increase in food waste. Most boroughs saw a small increase in food waste in 2025-26 as separate collections were expanded to flats and businesses under Simpler Recycling legislative requirements.

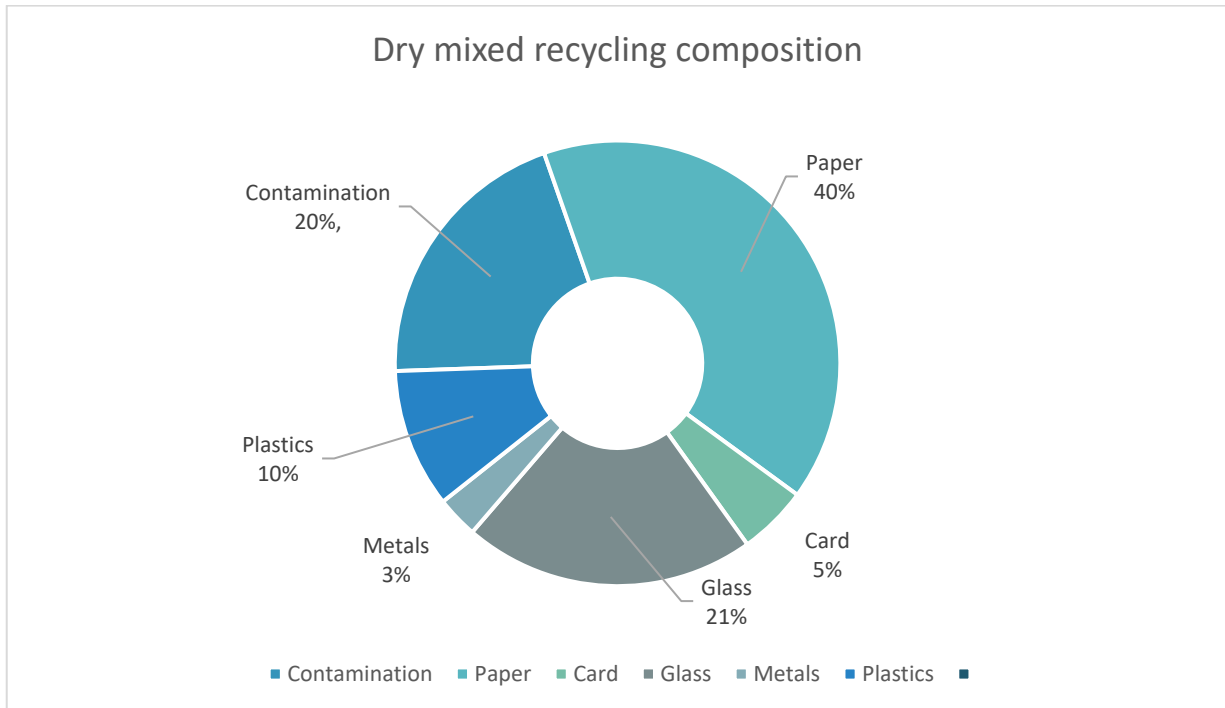
Excluding Waltham Forest, garden waste across the remaining six boroughs was lower in 2025-26 than in 2024-25 due to poor growing conditions.

Dry mixed recycling

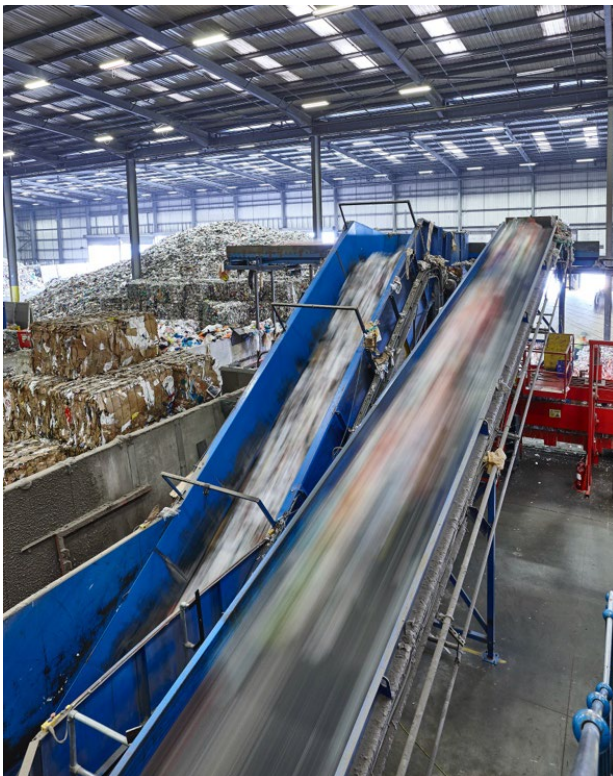
Dry mixed recycling is a mix of plastics, paper and cardboard, metals, and glass. NLWA manages a contract with Biffa to sort and process the recycling collected by the seven constituent boroughs. In 2023-24, Enfield council joined the Biffa contract, accounting for the sharp tonnage increase that year.

Most boroughs saw a small increase in dry mixed recycling in 2025-26. Local authorities that reduce the frequency of residual waste collections typically see an increase in the amount of material recycled. In 2025-26 Waltham Forest changed from weekly residual waste collections to fortnightly, so most of the recycling increase in 2025-26 can largely be attributed to Waltham Forest's service change.

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Dry mixed recycling tonnes	108,909	124,414	123,021	125,135



Graph showing proportion of different materials in dry mixed recycling



The proportion of plastics and metals remained the same as last year. There was a 2% increase in glass and a 1% decrease in both paper and card.

Contamination is items put in recycling bins which cannot be recycled, like nappies, or where recyclable materials are too dirty to recycle. In January 2026, NLWA recruited a taskforce to help reduce contamination - see the [Communications, outreach and engagement chapter](#) for details. This work may have contributed towards a 1% decrease in contamination compared to 2024-25.

Recycling is sorted at Biffa's Materials Recycling Facility in Edmonton

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 one quarter in arrears. The average net basket price value for 2025-26 was £39.75.

The table below indicates an increase in the net basket price in quarter two, driven by higher market values across all materials. However, a combination of economic, policy, and supply-demand pressures led to a subsequent decline in market values. As a result, prices fell below those recorded at the start of the year, with the net basket price decreasing to £34.69 per tonne in quarter four.

2025-26	Net basket price
Q1	£40.26
Q2	£48.79
Q3	£35.24
Q4	£34.69

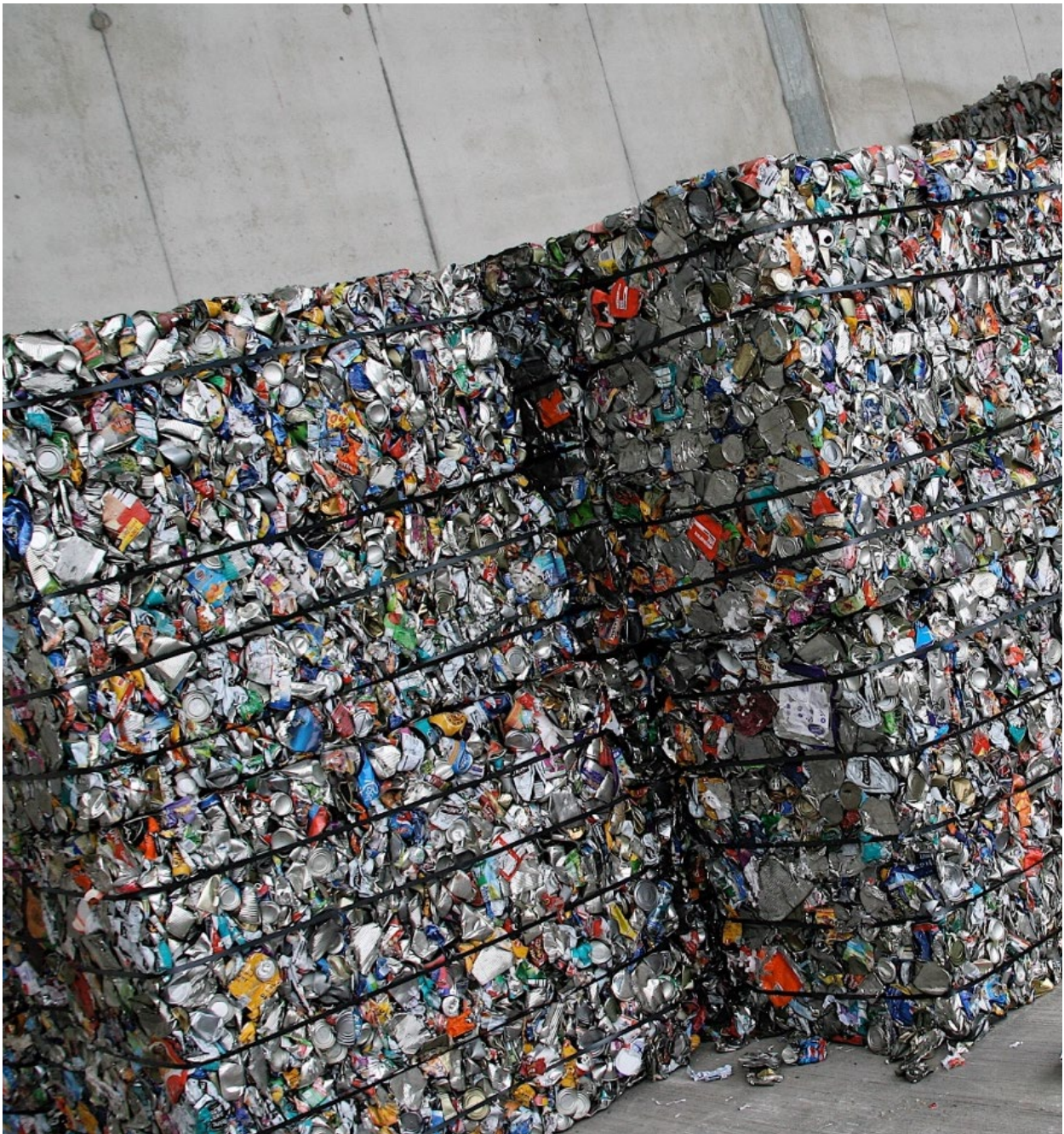
Recycling destinations

NLWA recognises the importance of the proximity principle - dealing with our waste and materials as closely as possible to the point where they are collected. 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.

Material	March 2020			2025-26		
	UK	Europe	Far East	UK	Europe	Far East
Cardboard			100%	16%	30%	54%
Mixed paper	43%	19%	38%	17%	84%	0%
Glass	68%	32%		97%	3%	0%
Aluminium cans	100%			100%	0%	0%
Steel cans	100%			100%	0%	0%
Plastic bottles	100%			98%	2%	0%
Other plastics	100%			100%	0%	0%

In 2025-26, we continued to process 100% of our metals, plastics and glass in the UK. Domestic reprocessing capacity for mixed paper and cardboard remained insufficient, so the UK and European countries remain reliant on markets in the Far East, particularly for cardboard reprocessing.

Despite these pressures, in 2025-26, NLWA and Biffa achieved 100% reprocessing of mixed paper within Europe and the UK. This represents an improvement on 2024-25 and a significant shift from the 2020 baseline, when 100% of cardboard was reprocessed in the Far East.



Aluminium cans are baled, ready to be send for further processing and recycling

Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)



New on-street collection bank for small waste electrical items

For many years, NLWA provided kerbside WEEE collections in five of its seven constituent boroughs, excluding Hackney and Haringey. In 2025-26, the kerbside service, operated by European Recycling Platform (ERP), was expanded to all seven boroughs, with the scope extended to include small electrical items, disposable vapes, and household batteries. This makes it easier for residents to recycle and helps to reduce recycling contamination and the risk of fires. In 2025-26, the service collected 164 tonnes from homes, an increase of 21 tonnes.

NLWA also provides a network of collection banks which in 2025-26 collected twice the amount of material than in 2024-25. To reduce misuse and contamination, a refresh of the WEEE bank network commenced towards the end of the year with 33 banks being refurbished and 29 being replaced.

Residents delivered 2,920 tonnes to RRCs, an increase of 382 tonnes, and 811 tonnes were captured from additional sites, including depots managed by the boroughs. In total, NLWA captured 3,937 tonnes of WEEE in 2025-26 – almost 250 tonnes more than the previous year.

	2024-25 tonnes	2025-26 tonnes
Household collections	143	164
Bring banks	20	42
RRCs	2,538	2,920
Other collection facilities	992	811
Total	3,693	3,937

Residual waste

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.

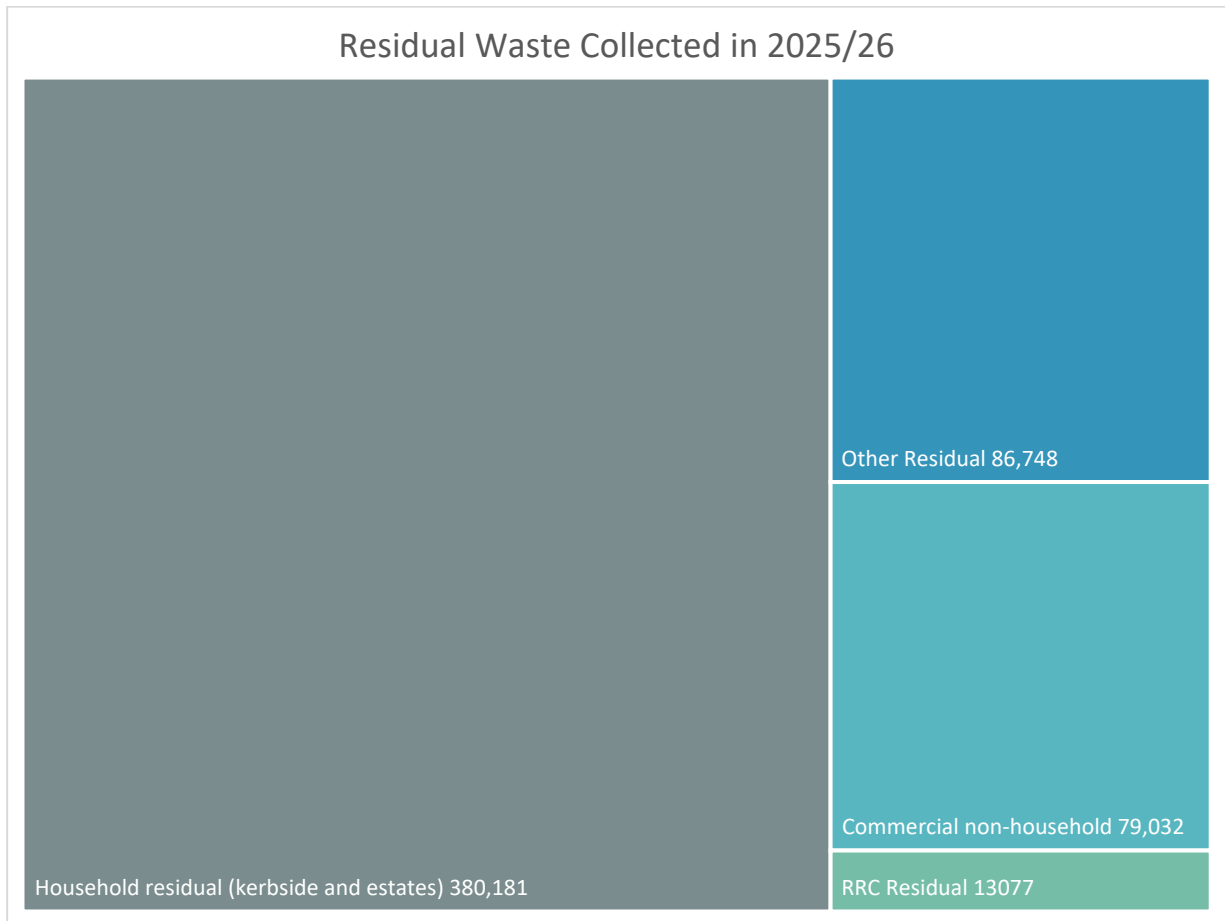
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Total residual tonnage	553,063	567,089	581,504	559,038

Residual waste fell by 22,466 tonnes in 2025-26 compared to 2024-25, mainly due to one borough ending a large commercial waste contract and Waltham Forest moving to fortnightly residual collections and separate weekly food waste collections. About one third of residual waste is food, so separate food collections can contribute to lower residual waste tonnages.



Waste bunkers at the EcoPark energy from waste facility

The tree map below shows the amount of residual waste collected in 2025-26 (559,038 tonnes) split by household and non-household waste types. Commercial non-household is waste produced by businesses that is collected under contract by the north London boroughs. Other residual waste includes clinical waste, waste from litter bins, bulky waste collections and clinical waste.



Graph showing tonnage of waste collected through different north London services

Residual waste to third parties

The current Edmonton Energy from Waste facility does not have capacity to manage all residual waste produced by the north London boroughs and at RRCs. A proportion of north London residual waste is managed by third parties in other areas of London and the Home Counties.

In 2025-26 NLWA exported 75,895 tonnes to other energy recovery facilities within the UK and did not send any residual waste to landfill.

Performance measures

The North London Joint Waste Strategy committed to reporting on several performance measures and measuring progress towards targets. The table below sets out these performance measures, comparing 2025-26 performance to the prior year.

The measures below show improvements across all areas, with less waste produced per person, and an increased proportion of that waste being reused or recycled.

Performance measure	2024-25	2025-26
Household residual waste, kg per household	515.1	500.7
Household residual waste, kg per person	223.8	217.6
Total household waste, kg per household	720.8	711.9
Total household waste, kg per person	313.2	309.4
Recycling and reuse rate	28.5%	29.7%
Landfill rate	0%	0%

The 2025-26 calculation uses 2024-25 property and population numbers and will be adjusted through the national WasteDataFlow tonnage reporting system later in the year.

The North London Joint Waste Strategy sets out targets to reduce recyclable waste types in the residual waste stream. The table below sets out these targets and baseline performance. This data will be monitored through waste compositional analyses every few years.

Performance measure	Target	Baseline
Proportion of avoidable food waste in household residual waste*	50% reduction against baseline by 2040	24.6%
Proportion of dry recyclables in household residual waste	50% reduction against baseline by 2040	20.2%

**Avoidable food waste is food and drink thrown away that was, at some point prior to disposal, edible. In contrast to inedible items such as banana peel, eggshells etc which can be classified as 'unavoidable'.*



Communications, outreach and education

Communications, outreach and education

NLWA and councils provide services and initiatives to enable residents to reduce waste and recycle more. But systemic change depends on action across the chain of influence, including from government.

And individual behaviour change relies on providing people with the knowledge, information and motivation to prevent waste and recycle more. NLWA runs public affairs, education, communications and engagement activities across all seven boroughs to ensure consistent messages and provide value for money.

Our activity is also central to how we create social value. By engaging diverse audiences, including residents, schools and community groups, we promote understanding of waste reduction, encourage reuse and recycling, and support informed behaviour change. These efforts translate our statutory role into positive economic, social and environmental outcomes, driving social impact and contributing to stronger, more resilient communities.

Public affairs and campaigning



Information Leaflet for the Call to Action initiative.

Our public affairs and campaigning efforts allow us to engage with decision-making and influence political outcomes in line with our vision. This year, the key policy issues we work on were set out in a [Call to Action](#). This is closely linked to the aims of the Joint Waste Strategy as well as emerging risks faced by the Authority and will be revised annually. In 2025-26, NLWA engaged with decision makers on over 100 occasions - through letters, at meetings and events - focusing particular on policy relating to infrastructure, waste battery fires, the Emissions Trading Scheme and nappy waste.



North London MPs visit the North London Heat and Power Project construction site

Throughout 2025-26 NLWA officers continued to foster relationships with others across the sector to create consensus and strengthen our asks of Government. Officers are members of the National Association of Waste Disposal Officers (NAWDO) and serve as Vice-Chair and members of the Policy and Advisory Committee. Membership of the association demonstrates the Authority's position as a leading body that speaks collectively for councils and represents their interests to government. The Authority is also a member of two All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) and has worked in partnership with the APPG for Sustainable Resource to raise awareness of the challenges posed by nappy waste among parliamentarians.

NLWA acts as a trusted voice, using the expertise and knowledge in the organisation to inform debates, discussions and consultations. NLWA is frequently approached to participate at roundtables and speaking events and take opportunities to brief MPs ahead of debates. Over the past year, representatives from NLWA - including the Chair, Members and officers - spoke at 10 industry events and conferences. NLWA also hosted three events on the Parliamentary estate, providing parliamentarians with ready opportunities to meet Members and officers and discuss priority areas of policy.



NLWA hosted a parliamentary event about absorbent hygiene products

NLWA also submitted responses to consultations on, or made representations to, the London Plan, the Autumn Budget, the curriculum review and the Local Government Outcomes Framework. You can see [a full list of consultation responses on the NLWA website](#). Our efforts have contributed to notable policy changes, including revisions to policy relating to the Emissions Trading Scheme, additions to the Industrial Strategy relating to waste and inclusion of circularity following the curriculum review.

North London Community Fund

The North London Community Fund supports grass roots organisations to run waste prevention projects in their communities. It is the largest grants programme of its kind in the UK.

In 2025-26 NLWA supported 20 groups with small and medium grants to the value of £168,257. [See full details of all awarded projects on the NLWA website](#). Two large scale projects each awarded £100,000 over two years from the 2024-25 round of funding commenced delivery: the UK's first electrical repair voucher scheme and a composting project on two housing estates in Islington. Evaluation of completed projects was published in the [North London Community Fund impact report](#).



Recipients of the North London Community Fund meet at NLWA's welcome event

Throughout 2025, NLWA officers worked with community groups and borough officers to co-design a new approach to the fund and align it with the North London Joint Waste Strategy. Focus groups and workshops explored experiences of waste in communities, barriers to accessing the fund and practical ideas for improvement. Along with significant changes to the materials and communications approach used to launch the applications, new evaluation criteria, grant values and delivery timeframes were agreed to make it more meaningful and realistic to the types of projects the fund seeks to support. Members reviewed these outcomes whilst considering the yearly growing interest in the fund, and in December 2025 agreed a four-year, £1m programme of grants. The first round of these was launched in March 2026, with £1,500 micro grants, £5,000 small grants and £20,000 medium grants.

EcoPark House



Opening ceremony for EcoPark House

In June 2025, a formal opening ceremony took place at EcoPark House – a new education and community building for north London. This occasion provided an important opportunity to celebrate the collective effort that brought the building to life. It also marked the return of the Edmonton Sea Cadets, who were provided a new and upgraded home on the River Lee Navigation as part of the EcoPark redevelopment.

Throughout the year, EcoPark House welcomed almost 700 students, reflecting strong and growing demand for the learning opportunities. Engagement spanned across 51 schools and youth organisations, demonstrating a broad reach across educational sectors. This included 22 primary schools, six secondary schools, two independent schools, and four special schools, alongside 35 school visits delivered in partnership with youth organisations. Officers also delivered the first ever North London Student Sustainability Conference, bringing together secondary schools in north London to debate on environmental issues. The diversity of visiting groups highlights the building's flexibility and its ability to support learners with a wide range of ages, needs, and backgrounds.



Student practise debating skills at the Student Sustainability Conference at EcoPark House

A particularly significant milestone was reached with the arrival of the 1,000th pupil to use EcoPark House since it opened for delivery in January 2025. Reaching this figure within the building's first year of operation demonstrates the level of interest from schools and the value placed on the experiences provided. Collectively, these achievements position EcoPark House as a flagship facility for north London, with a strong foundation to build further growth and impact in the coming years.

Behaviour change campaigns and research

In January 2025 a new recycling taskforce was launched to engage residents in areas with lower recycling levels in all seven boroughs. Advisors speak to residents on their doorsteps about the main contaminants to remove from recycling bins, emphasise the materials to be recycled and gather insights into services. From launch up to 31 March, the advisors spoke to 30,000 residents with 48% positively engaging with the taskforce and 20% providing insights by completing a survey. The initial results show a 1.3% average contamination reduction and an average of 400kg increase in the recycling yield from the targeted areas.



Recycling advisors speak with residents about the benefits of recycling

Six community groups were each awarded £2,000, in-person training and resources to deliver three food waste prevention workshops with their networks. Workshop materials are freely available on the [Bin Less Save More](#) page of the NLWA website.



Through the [‘Bring It’](#) video and social media campaign, north London business owners actively invited residents to bring their reusable containers, bottles, cups or bags with them, helping to normalise and reduce the stigma around reuse. The campaign engaged over 54,000 people, delivering 67,911 impressions and driving 4,517 visits to the campaign web page.

North London Business, Nourished Communities, encouraged customers to bring reusable containers through the ‘Bring It’ campaign

For a third year running, [‘Together We Recycle’](#) shone a light on the work of real north London recycling staff. In two separate phases, [food waste recycling](#) and [reuse and recycling centre staff](#) shared tips and explained why recycling really does make a positive difference. The food waste phase generated 1.7 million impressions, 13,000 website visits and 614 new requests for food waste caddies. The RRC phase achieved over 800,000 video views, with RRC visits, tonnage volumes and website views all increasing by more than 25%.



A north London food waste recycling crew feature in a ‘Together We Recycle’ campaign video

Residents were supported to reduce nappy waste through practical advice and provision of a £70 voucher towards reusable nappies or nappy laundry service. 835 people signed up to the voucher scheme. There is an assumption that whilst a person has redeemed a voucher their baby will continue to use reusable nappies for at least two years; therefore, the benefit of disposable nappy waste is experienced for more than one year. It is estimated that in 2025-26,

670 tonnes of disposable nappy waste was avoided. In addition to the voucher scheme, a survey was carried out to understand the barriers that north London nurseries face in switching to using reusable nappies. Nursery staff responses provided valuable insight for developing a future intervention to engage nurseries and their family communities in the use of reusable nappies.



Members of the public attend a nature connection workshop

Nature-based activities were delivered with residents to connect them to nature and provide the motivation to adopt pro-environmental and pro-nature behaviours. Feedback results indicated that more than half of participants wanted to take action to protect the environment following the activities, with many planning to reduce their waste. Participants reported significant positive increases in future intentions to buy used household items; compost or recycle household food waste; take steps to reduce household food waste, and recycle household waste items.



The **Lead the Charge** campaign highlighted the dangers of incorrect disposal of lithium-ion batteries. If damaged, the batteries can explode and cause fires, putting staff at risk and causing costly damage to equipment and vehicles. Eye-catching designs were developed for outdoor ads and social media. Over two million people were reached on social media and estimated impressions for outdoor ads were 20 million people. Several press releases resulted in positive media coverage of the campaign in local and trade press.

Outdoor advertising raises awareness of the dangers of incorrect disposal of lithium-ion batteries

Our [Reduce, Reuse, Your Cycle](#) project raised awareness of reusable period products. Our website performed well, getting 15,000 users in 2025-26. Top visited pages were our [savings calculator](#) and [testimonials from users of reusables](#). Paid ads attracted 577,370 views and 17,506 link clicks.

Schools programme



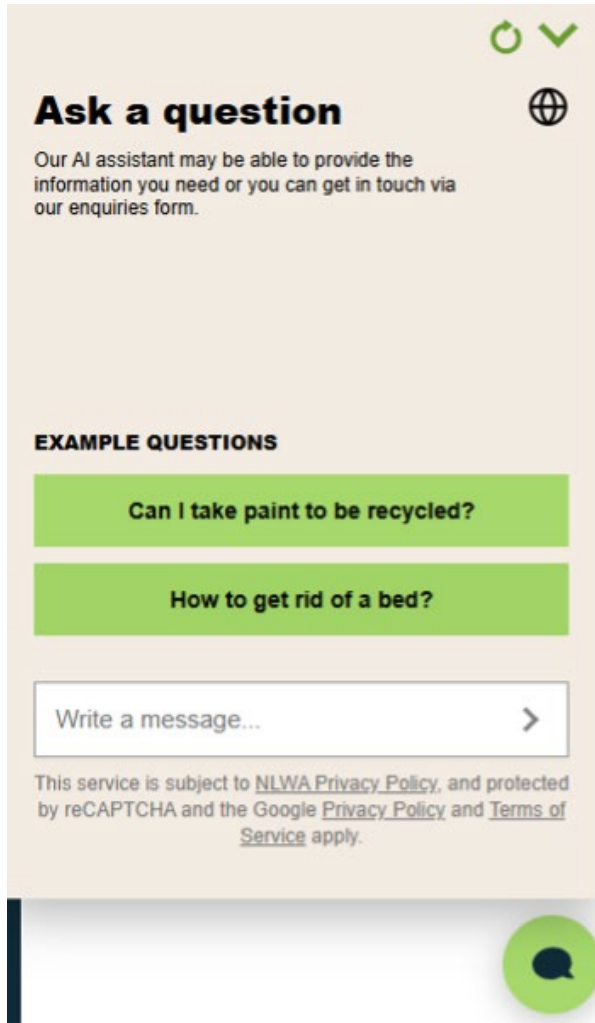
[In the Know](#) is our in-school programme to educate young people about waste prevention and enable schools to reduce their own waste. The programme runs across the academic year, so the 2024-25 cohort completed in August 2025, achieving an estimated 124-tonne annual reduction in waste and engaging almost 3,000 pupils, staff, and families in seven schools.

School pupils carry out a waste audit as part of the In The Know education programme

The 2025-26 cohort expanded to 14 schools, reaching over 5,000 students and staff as of 31 March 2026. Highlights so far have included repurposing more than 4,000 plastic bags and a partnership with Chefs in Schools to reduce food waste. We also hosted our first Teacher Development Day at EcoPark House. Demand remains high with applications for the next cohort to start in September 2026.

This year, we also strengthened the [NLWA Education Hub](#), expanding circular economy teaching resources and showcasing community projects through videos that reached over 100,000 views.

Communications activities



NLWA’s website was visited by over 731,000 people in 2025-26. The most popular pages were reuse and recycling centres and the [A-Z search function](#), which provides reuse, repair, recycling and disposal advice for all kinds of items.

In November 2025, an [AI chatbot](#) was introduced to the NLWA website. It answered 2,410 questions relating to services and disposal, reuse and recycling advice. The chatbot has seen routine email enquiries reduce by half, freeing up staff time to focus on waste prevention projects and campaigns.

NLWA’s chatbot responds to residents’ waste, recycling and reuse queries

Press coverage of NLWA’s work and news received 222 million impressions. Impressions are the total number of times an article is displayed to an audience.

NLWA sends regular email newsletters about its work and services to 7,354 subscribers, an increase of 2,300 over the course of the year. Additionally, 15,939 people follow NLWA social media accounts on Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, TikTok, LinkedIn and X/Twitter.

Activity	People reached/engaged
NLWA websites	731,789 visits
Social media reach	12,176,995 impressions of all posts
Social media engagement	112,560 engagements of all posts
Press coverage	222,412,265 impressions

North London Heat and Power Project

North London Heat and Power Project

The North London Heat and Power Project is replacing a 56-year-old energy from waste facility at the Edmonton EcoPark with a new Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) to process up to 700,000 tonnes of waste each year. It will also provide electricity to the national grid and heat for a district heat network.

The Project in previous years delivered a Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) to maximise recycling, a new public Reuse and Recycling Centre (RRC), and EcoPark House - a new education and community centre.

In 2025-26, construction of the ERF progressed, and work continued to develop a programme to overcome delivery challenges.

Energy Recovery Facility construction progress

In 2025-26 construction continued to make progress despite challenges to securing skilled labour for mechanical and electrical installations. The site was very active and made visible progress. By April 2026, the concrete and steel exterior of the facility were largely complete, and work had begun to install the core process equipment.



Aerial view of ERF construction progress as of April 2025



Aerial view of ERF construction progress as of April 2026

Several key structural milestones were completed in 2025-26, including the tipping hall floor, installation of the waste chutes, placement of the generator step-up transformer (the link between the ERF and the electricity transmission network) and significant progress on the turbine hall walls ahead of the steam turbine generator's arrival. The administration building steelwork and concrete floors were completed. Almost 70% of the specialist equipment needed to process waste and clean emissions was manufactured and ready for installation, ensuring momentum for progress in 2026-27.



A major transition from civil construction to operational systems was achieved in 2025-26 with installation of critical process equipment beginning. This included the assembly of the economiser for one of the two boilers and the bag filters within the Flue Gas Treatment structure.

Baghouse filters are part of the emissions cleaning system and where fine particles are removed

Despite extensive progress on site, the schedule continued to slip against the contract end date. To understand progress in detail, NLWA commissioned an audit beginning in March 2025 to review the contractor's performance. This identified a number of areas requiring improvement, particularly in relation to programme management and delivery confidence. While construction activity was progressing, delays to critical path activities were leading to ongoing programme slippage.

Delivery options were reviewed in 2025-26 and NLWA continued to apply the contractual controls available. In addition, meeting sequencing with NLWA Officers, Members and borough officers was strengthened. This included enhanced engagement with borough Directors of Finance and Directors of Environment to review progress, risks and potential financial impacts.

Although the programme remained behind plan, visible construction progress continued across key elements of the facility. By spring 2026, a Memorandum of Understanding had been agreed with Acciona, setting out the basis for further negotiations to improve delivery certainty and secure a robust programme for completion of the facility.

Separately officers worked with LondonEnergy Ltd (LEL) to understand and plan for the consequences of the delay, and how the current plant can be kept operational for longer than originally intended.

Health, safety, and environment

The Project team remained committed to prevention harm to the workforce and the surrounding community with health, safety and wellbeing embedded to guide decision-making. This was supported by strong reporting culture characterised by openness, transparency and active leadership engagement, ensuring confidence in data integrity and the effectiveness of organisational learning.

To reinforce this approach, a workforce health, safety and wellbeing (HSW) culture survey provided a clear insight into behavioural and cultural maturity, enabling targeted interventions to reinforce safety as a core organisational value.

Accident Frequency Rate (AFR)-3 and AFR-7 represent the number of work-related injuries per 100,000 hours worked resulting in over 3 and 7 days lost time respectively, providing a measure of incident frequency and severity.

The project maintained an AFR-3 of zero throughout the year, indicating continued effective management of day-to-day safety risks.

Three RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations) reportable injuries were recorded, resulting in an AFR-7 of 0.32. While none of these incidents led to life-changing outcomes, all incidents were fully investigated, with findings used to inform

corrective actions and shared learning across the project. This reflects a mature approach to incident management, focused on prevention and continuous improvement.

In response, ACCIONA implemented an improvement programme, based on a comprehensive review of health and safety data. The programme strengthens risk identification, control and monitoring through trend analysis and root cause learning, supported by enhanced governance, leadership oversight and clear accountability at all levels, driving a shift to proactive risk prevention.

The project maintained a strong focus on inclusion, health and wellbeing, with a range of targeted initiatives. Health and wellbeing activities included financial wellbeing support, seasonal health campaigns, suicide prevention awareness, and enhanced mental health engagement. The women’s network ensured that women have access to a safe space to be able to connect and share experiences. These initiatives were delivered collaboratively with delivery partners and achieved high levels of workforce participation.



NLHPP women gather to network and set goals

Social value

In 2025–26 the project continued delivering social value for local communities. Contractors supported residents across the seven boroughs through apprenticeships, jobs, training, local procurement, community projects and schools engagement.

The project created 66 apprenticeships for north London residents, with a further 21 from outside the area. Training placements focused on under-represented groups, including work with Enfield Bootcamp, reaching 242 placements by March 2026.

Local employment remains a priority, with 19.6% of workers from the seven boroughs. However, attracting local workers is challenging due to the specialist skills required at this stage. To maximise opportunities, roles were shared through employment networks and borough councils.

Local supply chain spend exceeded £57.6 million.

The third round of RE-Power Communities launched, awarding £40,000 (funded by Byrne Bros) to four projects promoting sustainability and community improvement:

- Little Angel Theatre – puppet video on plastic recycling
- Stonebridge Lock Coalition – debris boom on the River Lee
- Wood Street Walls – recycled-plastic football kit
- The Alevi Centre – redesigned outdoor space

The project also strengthened its partnership with Unitas Youth Zone in Barnet. Volunteers refreshed activity spaces, and a charity football match raised over £10,000 for a new pitch.



NLHPP volunteering at Unitas Youth Zone

Community engagement and communications

As a public authority, it is essential that residents and stakeholder groups are kept accurately informed about the project. During 2025-26, NLWA continued to deliver a programme of communications and community engagement as construction progressed.

The project website, northlondonheatandpower.london, remained a key source of information, providing regular updates on project activity and major milestones. The website received 21,000 visitors during the year. Following the transition of EcoPark House to business-as-usual in 2025, the relevant webpage was updated to direct visitors to NLWA's website for ongoing information.

We continued to issue updates on social media, with project-related content accounting for four of the top five highest performing posts on NLWA's LinkedIn page, receiving a combined 4,950 engagements. Posts were mainly focused on site visits, construction updates and key project milestones. Five press announcements were issued to local and regional media, alongside 12 website updates. Responses to six formal enquiries about the project were published, similar to the previous year.

Two newsletters were printed and delivered to 103,000 homes and businesses within a 1.5-mile radius of the EcoPark. There were 31 site visits to the EcoPark for 221 visitors to see progress on the construction site and have a tour of the new recycling facilities.



NLHPP charity football match

Governance

The background features a teal vertical bar on the left side. The rest of the page is a light beige color with several overlapping, semi-transparent white geometric shapes, including a large diagonal band and a smaller square in the upper right.

Governance

NLWA has a robust governance framework, with Standing Orders specifying how decisions are made by elected members and officers, and how financial duties are segregated to reduce the possibility of fraud.

Member decisions are made in meetings open to the public based on publicly available reports which are cleared by our Monitoring Officer to ensure compliance with relevant legislation. The Audit Committee considers the Authority's accounts with the support of an independent member.

NLWA has strong systems of financial control, which includes adopting Camden Council's Treasury Management Policy, a solid annual budget setting process and a periodically updated Medium Term Financial Strategy. All procurements are carried out in accordance with the Contract Standing Orders and, where applicable, the Procurement Act 2023.

These systems are supported by a comprehensive mandatory induction programme for all staff, which covers data security and fraud prevention, and by an internal audit. Risks are dynamically managed through a risk register, which is reported to and reviewed by Members at Authority Meetings. The register includes risks from NLWA's day-to-day operations, the North London Heat and Power Project and LondonEnergy Ltd.

NLWA has a responsibility to comply with all relevant aspects of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), including releasing details of any personal data held about an individual if they request it. The Data Protection Officer has overall responsibility for ensuring compliance with the UK GDPR and reports directly to the Authority's Managing Director.

Declarations of interests, gifts and hospitality

We report on related third-party transactions by officers and Members in our statutory accounts each year to demonstrate accountability, transparency and impartiality to taxpayers. Staff must also declare any relevant interests and offers of gifts or hospitality for our records. In 2025-26 one offer of hospitality was declared, which was not accepted.

Declarations of interest by Authority Members which are relevant to items of business on the agenda of any formal meeting are recorded in the minutes of that meeting.

Transparency and information requests

NLWA publishes information in accordance with the Information Transparency Code 2015 on its website. Details can be found at nlwa.gov.uk/ourauthority/information-we-publish.

NLWA receives formal information requests about its activities under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004. To promote transparency, we choose to publish the responses to all requests on our website at nlwa.gov.uk/ourauthority/responses-information-requests

While the deadline to respond can be extended for complex requests, we aim to respond within 20 working days in line with the regulatory requirements. In 2025-26 we received 26 requests, responding to 22 within 20 working days and four in more than 20 working days.

There were no complaints referred to the Information Commissioner's Office, and there were no appeals to the First-tier Tribunal (General Regulatory Chamber) during the reporting period.

Equality objectives

In compliance with the Equalities Act 2010, which requires equality objectives to be set and reviewed every four years, NLWA's equality objectives were last reviewed in 2022. We will ensure that due regard is given to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, in delivering the objectives and outcomes.

Our equality objectives

- We aim to ensure that we provide a waste disposal and waste prevention service that is fair, accessible to all and promotes equality of opportunity.
- We aim to ensure that we implement the North London Heat and Power Project in a way that is fair and accessible to all and promotes equality of opportunity.

Our activities and outcomes

Provide waste disposal and recycling services through contracts with operators:

We will audit the operating procedures and policies of our contractors to ensure they discharge their responsibilities in accordance with equality legislation and our policies.

Provide public-facing services through reuse and recycling centres:

We will ensure our facilities are staffed adequately and those staff are trained to ensure those that are less physically able are supported to dispose of their items in the most sustainable way.

Plan and coordinate services with boroughs for waste management from the current time to the long term:

We will consider, with boroughs and through wider community-focused consultation (including with those groups that represent the interest of residents with specific protected characteristics), the impacts of our services and ensure appropriate adjustments are built in that provide equality of opportunity.

Promote positive behaviour by residents through outreach and campaigns which reduce residual waste:

We will carry out research to provide audience insight into communities across north London to identify the most effective routes to resident engagement and messaging that will motivate actions to prevent waste. We research and identify community groups which could take advantage of community grants but are not currently engaged with NLWA. We will increase spend in marketing community grants to reach more people and provide support with applications, to reduce barriers to participation.

Provide information to the public on the Authority's activities:

We will ensure accessibility and inclusion are part of the communications planning process and campaign templates.

We follow communications planning best practice and ensure communications are tailored to different audiences. We use the Government [Communications Service guidance on accessible communications](#) to evaluate and inform our activities. We will work with borough communications teams to amplify messaging and maximise the reach of our communications.

Deliver world class new facilities through the NLHPP:

We officially opened EcoPark House in June 2025, and it has welcomed over 1000 visitors, establishing itself as a model community facility also accessible to people with disabilities. We achieve participation in apprenticeships and on-site skills training from under-represented groups in the construction workforce, specifically people from ethnic minority backgrounds and women, in excess of current industry benchmarks. We monitor and verify the application of the London Living Wage as a uniformly applied minimum standard for on-site working across all contracts.

Activities which contribute towards meeting our equality objectives

The following activities or actions have contributed towards meeting the equality objectives:

- Contracts awarded by the Authority contain suitable equality obligations on contractors not to discriminate in relation to the provision of services to the public and to

employment practices in relation to their staff; where appropriate, procurement procedures also include a check of tenderers' equality policies.

- Waste prevention work continued to reach a wide range of audiences through the year. Outreach with residents was delivered through a mix of approaches including face to face events and digital information.
- All printed communications are made available online so that the size of the document is scalable, and we strive to use image titles in all imagery used in online communications and websites so that are understandable when used by screen readers.
- NLWA's Communications team ensures that online and printed communications material is fully accessible.
- NLWA incorporates accessibility requirements into the master plan for the NLHPP and the individual designs for the RRF, EcoPark House, and the ERF.
- The Authority also works to promote the inclusion of women and ethnic minorities in the NLHPP's on-site construction workforce, as well as in on-site skills training placements and apprenticeships.

Modern Slavery

The Authority works with Camden Council to meet the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. A link to its Modern Slavery statement is provided on the Authority's website and training on slavery and human trafficking provided by Camden Council is made available to our staff.

Gender pay gap

As NLWA does not employ staff directly, but through Camden Council, our staff are included in their gender pay gap reporting.

Finance and Resources

Finance and Resources

The net revenue budget for 2025-26 was primarily funded by a levy on constituent boroughs, covering household waste disposal, recycling, and organisational costs.

Separate charges apply for non-household waste and certain other household waste categories, with different prices for each type. The levy each borough pays depends on the amount of waste collected and also covers the costs of running reuse and recycling centres, based on the proportion of users from each borough.

In February 2025, the Authority agreed a budget of £98.5m for 2025-26 to be financed by a levy of £81.1m for household waste and recycling, £13m in charges to boroughs for other waste types and estimated revenue balances of £4.4m.

The North London Heat and Power Project (NLHPP) is being funded by borrowing during the construction period. In 2025-26, NLWA borrowed a further £140m from the Public Works Loan Board, bringing the total borrowing for the NLHPP to £1,250m for periods ranging from 4 years to 41 years. Total borrowing for the Authority stands at to £1,270m. £280m of the NLHPP borrowing was converted to Euros and placed in Euro Money Market Funds managed by Camden Council on our behalf. This is being drawn down to pay for the Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) construction work.

The 2025-26 final outturn indicates that NLWA's total expenditure for the year was £93.8m, and that charges for non-household and chargeable household waste were £10.5m and £1.9m. As the levy is fixed at the start of the year, this resulted in a revenue surplus, including balances brought forward, of £6.9m. This represents an in-year saving to the boroughs, which will be used to offset future costs. The in-year financial improvement arose mainly from lower residual tonnage received from boroughs, savings on administration costs and an increased income from cash balances held in interest-bearing accounts.

2025-26 Gross expenditure	£m
Waste disposal: <i>the cost of treating non-recyclable waste, including the cost of transport and transfer stations</i>	59.2
Recycling services: <i>the cost of treating dry mixed recycling, food and garden waste less any rebate from onward sale</i>	11.1

2025-26 Gross expenditure	£m
Reuse and recycling centres: <i>the cost of operating and maintaining these sites, and the cost of treatment</i>	6.3
Corporate and support services: <i>NLWA staffing and office costs</i>	5.7
Waste prevention and circular economy: <i>projects, campaigns and initiatives to promote recycling and waste reduction</i>	1.3
North London Heat and Power Project and Carbon Capture and Storage development costs	0.9
Revenue cost of funding the capital programme: <i>repayments for borrowing for our new facilities</i>	17.8
Expenditure	102.3
Extended Producer Responsibility, interest receivable and other income	(8.5)
Net Expenditure	93.8

Property

NLWA holds an interest in a 6.97-hectare site at Pinkham Way in Haringey and wholly owns LondonEnergy Ltd, which owns a 15-hectare site at Edmonton EcoPark in Enfield. To support the North London Heat and Power Project, the Authority has leased land at Lower Hall Lane and Hawley Road in Edmonton.

In December 2020, NLWA began a 999-year lease of 73% of the area of the EcoPark from LondonEnergy Ltd to facilitate construction of the North London Heat and Power Project.

The Authority has varying property interests at:

- Edmonton EcoPark
- Hornsey Street, Islington
- Hannah Close, Wembley
- Pickets Lock Lane (residual land)
- Pinkham Way - land at part of the former Friern Barnet Sewage Treatment Works
- Deephams Farm Road and land to the north of the Edmonton EcoPark
- Land beside Lower Hall Lane, Edmonton
- Land at Hawley Road, Edmonton
- Berol House, Tottenham Hale

