

3. Recycling services

Summary of performance

	2021/22	2020/21
Waste collected per household	566kg	580kg
Residents receiving a door-to-door or communal recycling service	100%	100%
Household waste reused, recycled or composted	28.7%	28.5%
Municipal waste sent to landfill	5.14%	4.5%

Table 1: NLWA 2021/22 summary of waste and recycling services

These figures are provisional and based upon three quarters of actual tonnage and an estimated fourth quarter's data using an average of the first three quarters. This preliminary data will be adjusted once the numbers are finalised with the constituent boroughs for reporting to the national WasteDataFlow system.

Reuse and Recycling Centres

Managed by NLWA and operated by LondonEnergy Ltd

Summers Lane, Barnet
 Regis Road, Camden
 Western Road, Haringey
 Hornsey Street, Islington
 Kings Road, Waltham Forest
 South Access Road, Waltham Forest,

Managed by NLWA and operated by Bywaters Ltd

Gateway Road, Waltham Forest

Managed by Enfield Council

Barrowell Green, Enfield

Although COVID-19 restrictions eased during 2021 we decided to retain the booking system, which reduces queuing by limiting the number of visitors at any one time. Booking also provides greater control against commercial waste being taken to the sites.

Visitor numbers are lower than pre-pandemic, and we are reviewing the booking system in 2022/23 to ensure the booking system is not deterring residents from accessing the service.

The NLWA-managed sites dealt with 38,607 tonnes. This is an increase of 12,612 tonnes compared to 2020/21, which was heavily impacted by the forced closure of sites during the first lockdown. 72.1% of all materials were recycled, reused or composted in 2021/22. A small increase on the previous year's 71.6%.

This year we continued to expand the range of materials collected at our reuse and recycling centres. We worked with the British Plastic Federation to introduce an innovative polystyrene recycling service this year. We are the only Authority in the UK to provide a recycling option for this notoriously difficult material. We also started a mattress recycling service, which recycled 67,000 mattresses from its launch in June 2021 to 31 March 2022.



A waste collection operative at work



Organic waste

Organic waste comprises three categories: food waste, garden waste and BioK (garden and food waste combined). This year saw our highest ever tonnage of organic waste. This is due to positive changes in borough collections and communications and outreach initiatives to increase participation in food waste recycling services.

	FY18/19	FY19/20	FY20/21	FY21/22 Actual
Food	10,364	9,110	10,586	12,931
BioK	15,869	15,062	14,901	14,512
Green	19,834	20,530	16,973	20,230
Total Organics	46,067	44,702	42,460	47,672

Table 2: Total tonnes delivered to NLWA. This excludes 4,685t of Garden Waste collected at our Reuse and Recycling Centres

The reduced tonnage in 2019/20 and 2020/21 were due to organic waste collections being reduced by some boroughs due to COVID-19 service pressures.

Dry Mixed Recycling

Dry mixed recycling is a mix of plastics, paper and cardboard, metals, and glass which is sorted into component materials and recycled. NLWA manages a contract with Biffa to process the recycling collected by six of our seven constituent boroughs (Enfield has separate arrangements).

	FY18/19	FY19/20	FY20/21	FY21/22 Actual
Total Tonnes	110,096	110,585	117,728	113,685

Table 3: Total tonnage of dry mixed recycling per financial year

The table above shows that we processed about 4,000 tonnes less than the previous year, but around 3,000 tonnes more than each of the two years before that. The reduction from the high of 2020/21 is due to residents returning to workplaces in greater numbers and the hospitality sector reopening following the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions.

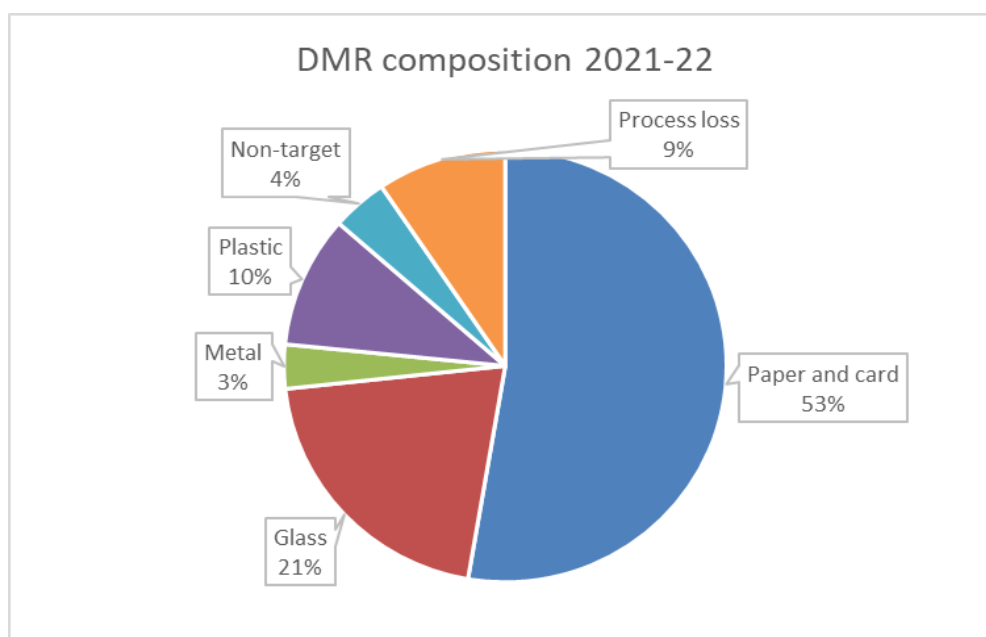


Figure 1: The composition of dry mixed recycling collected in 2021/22

Figure 1 shows the most notable change to previous years is a 5% increase in paper and card. This is due to an increase in online deliveries which has continued throughout the pandemic.

Process loss is items which have been put in recycling bins but cannot be recycled because they are not recyclable (nappies for example) or they are contaminated with materials like food. This year saw a 2% reduction in process loss, which suggests that people are putting less dirty or unrecyclable items in their recycling.



A lorry offloading dry, mixed recycling (DMR)

Recycling income

NLWA receives an income per tonne of materials recycled. The value of this increased significantly during 2021/22 with the quarter four value per tonne being £45.30 higher than expected. The volatility in the market is believed to be COVID-19 related with an increased demand for quality resources as economies across the globe start to recover.

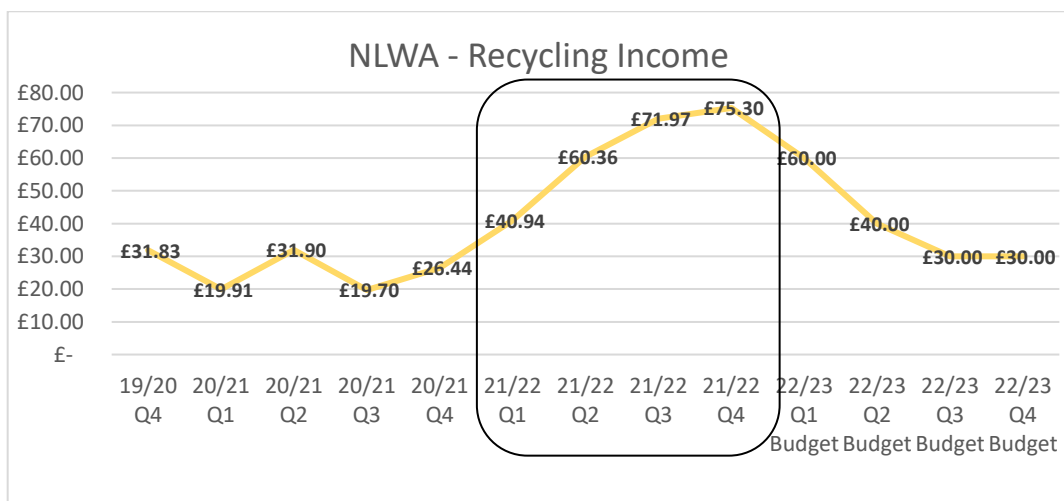


Figure 2: Income from dry mixed recycling per tonne

Recycling destinations

Since March 2020 we have been working with Biffa to reduce the amount of recycling processed overseas, with a commitment of 100% UK destinations by 2030. Currently, 100% of our metals, plastics and glass is processed in the UK. Since March 2020 we have reduced the percentage of our cardboard processed in the far east from 100% to just 10%.



The recycling sorting process

Third party reuse and recycling credits

During 2021 the NLWA offered third party reuse and recycling credits to organisations that remove items from the municipal residual waste stream which would otherwise have been sent for disposal at our expense. In 2021/22 the value of the third-party credit was £81.21 per tonne.

Ten charities took advantage of the scheme this year, diverting 1,888 tonnes to reuse or recycling. An increase from 1,511 tonnes the previous year.

Waste Electrical, Electronic Equipment (WEEE)

During 2021/22 the NLWA provided a kerbside Service for the Collection of WEEE to 5 of our 7 constituent Boroughs (Hackney and Haringey opted out of the Scheme). The service operated by Clearabee collected almost 52t of WEEE a reduction of 26t on the previous year.

Residents have delivered 2,307t of WEEE to our network of RRC’s in 2021/22 an increase of 496t when compared to 2020/21, which was so heavily impacted by Covid-19.



Waste Electronic Equipment

4. Residual waste services

In 2021/22, we dealt with 573,359 tonnes of residual waste, an increase of 2,965 tonnes on the previous year. The increase in total residual waste is being driven by a recovery in commercial and chargeable waste, which increased by 12,261t, from 77,665t in 2020/21 to 89,926t in 2021/22 however this was offset by a reduction of 9,296t of household generated residual waste, a result of residents returning to work in greater numbers.

	FY18/19	FY19/20	FY20/21	FY21/22 Actual
Total Tonnes	582,785	586,589	570,394	573,359

Table 4: Total tonnage of residual waste inc. clinical, asbestos, RRC’s and rejects per financial year

5.14% (29,491t) of residual waste was sent to landfill during 2021/22 with the remaining 94.86% sent for energy recovery. This compares to 4.5% of residual waste being landfilled in 2020/21. The increase in waste going to landfill is a direct result of the unreliability of the oldest operating energy from waste facility in the UK and a lack of energy from waste capacity in the south of England.

Contract management and service resilience

One of the NLWA’s key responsibilities is to ensure that waste and recycling services are maintained, so residents’ collections are not disrupted. During 2021/22 the NLWA worked

with Biffa and LEL to find solutions to significant operational challenges and maintain a continuous service to boroughs.

A fire at the Biffa material recovery facility (MRF) in Edmonton in August 2021 shut the facility for six days. We stored materials at our network of transfer stations and found alternative facilities to process some materials, so all the materials collected for recycling were recycled and not sent to an energy from waste facility or landfill.

The energy from waste facility in Edmonton is the oldest in Europe and requires scheduled and unscheduled maintenance to keep it operating. In June 2021 the planned maintenance programme found faults with one of the turbines, which meant that it was unable to return to service until early December. As a result of the extended outage of the turbine, more waste had to be disposed of via third parties and, due to a shortage of energy from waste capacity in the south of England, it was necessary to send 29,491 tonnes to landfill.