

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