

1. Introduction and summary

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The North London Waste Authority (NLWA) is the statutory joint waste authority for north London, one of six such authorities in England. We are responsible for the disposal of waste collected by the seven north London Boroughs of Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest.

NLWA is the second largest waste disposal authority in the country by volume of waste managed and serves more than 2 million residents. We arrange the recycling and composting of waste collected by our borough councils and oversee reuse and recycling centres.



Refuse collection vehicle in action

NLWA is the owner of LondonEnergy Ltd (LEL), which operates an energy from waste facility and other waste facilities at the Edmonton EcoPark. LEL also operates transfer stations in Islington and Brent. We have a waste services contract with LEL as well as contracts with other companies for the treatment of mixed dry recyclable materials, waste electrical and electronic equipment, and tyre recycling and disposal.

NLWA does not employ any staff directly, but makes arrangements for support services with Camden, Enfield and Haringey Councils. We are mainly funded by a levy placed on constituent boroughs for waste services and by charges for the management of some types of waste.

Performance in 2022-23

NLWA manages waste in line with the waste hierarchy to protect the environment and preserve resources for future generations. In January 2023 we published [Preserving Resources, Driving Change](#) - our plan for behaviour change, communications, engagement and policy work to encourage a reduction in waste. This included increasing our funds to community groups for grassroots waste prevention initiatives to £250,000 - to our knowledge the biggest such scheme in the country.

In 2022-23 we processed 108,909 tonnes of mixed dry recycling from households. This is slightly lower than the 113,685 tonnes processed in 2020-21. The provisional household recycling rate is 30.7%, which is an increase on the previous year's 28.4%.

2022-23 saw a reduction in organic waste, as seen across the country due to the heatwave of summer 2022. Given the relatively low proportion of homes with gardens and the high proportion of flats, volumes of organic waste in north London are lower than many other authorities.

At our reuse and recycling centres, the booking system introduced to manage the number of visitors during the COVID-19 pandemic was removed. 33,123 tonnes of material were collected, of which 76% was reused, recycled or composted. We continued our trial to recycle polystyrene and expanded our mattress recycling scheme, saving tonnes. We launched a DIY materials reuse service and trialled recycling hard plastics like garden furniture and toys. Both of these schemes are due to be expanded to more sites in 2023-24.

We dealt with 557,094 tonnes of residual waste, a decrease on the previous year's 573,359.



Mattresses waiting to be processed

North London Heat and Power Project

To help tackle the climate emergency and to prevent rubbish going to landfill we are delivering the largest project in our history. The 50-year-old energy from waste plant, which is reaching the end of its operational life, is being replaced by the greenest energy recovery facility in the country.



NLHPP logo

We are building a resource recovery facility (RRF) to maximise recycling from bulky waste and a new public reuse and recycling centre. The new EcoPark House will provide a visitor centre and community space for local residents and home for the Edmonton Sea Cadets. Significant progress was made on these facilities this year.

In September 2022, Acciona SA started construction on site of the new energy recovery facility.

Building the Energy Recovery Facility is creating hundreds of skilled jobs, including 180 training placements and 90 apprenticeships, bringing life-changing career opportunities for local people. These new positions are in addition to the hundreds of jobs, apprenticeships and training placement already created to take the project to this point Acciona also started its RePower Communities initiative, which provides funding for local community projects.



One of our many apprentices on site

Governance and finance

NLWA held five Authority and one Programme Committee meeting. All meetings were livestreamed and recorded so that they were available to be viewed by members of the public.

The total expenditure for 2022-23 was £60.244m compared to a budget of £76.712m. This left the Authority with a surplus at 31 March 2023 to help lower the levy for 2023-24.

The Authority owns the Edmonton energy from waste facility and its operator, LondonEnergy Ltd, which saw an increase in income due to high electricity prices. As the facility is publicly owned, the Authority was able to pass a £4.75m windfall saving to our constituent councils in 2022-23, by waiving the November 2022 levy. The Authority agreed that a further £10.2m windfall will be used to reduce the levy paid by councils in 2023-24.



EcoPark