

2. NLWA's role and operation

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NLWA (the Authority) is the statutory joint waste disposal authority for north London and is responsible for the disposal of waste collected by seven north London local authorities: Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest councils.

The Authority has a membership of 14 councillors, with each borough council appointing two councillors. Meetings are normally held five times a year, with extraordinary meetings if required. The Programme Committee oversees the North London Heat and Power Project (NLHPP). In addition, briefings have been provided to ensure Members are able to keep up to date with key NLHPP issues. The Authority also has Member finance and recycling working groups.

At the Annual General Meeting in June 2022, Cllr Clyde Loakes (Waltham Forest) was appointed as Chair and Cllrs Rowena Champion (Islington) and Mete Coban (Hackney) as Vice Chairs for 2022-23.

The Authority is mainly funded by a levy it places on its constituent boroughs for waste services and by specific charges for the management of some types of waste.



Clyde Loakes

The Authority does not employ any staff directly, but makes cross-borough arrangements for support services, involving Camden, Enfield and Haringey Councils. The principal officer support and managers in post as of 31 March 2023 are:

Clerk – Jenny Rowlands (part-time NLWA)

Financial Adviser – Jon Rowney (part-time NLWA)

Legal Adviser – Andrew Maughan (part-time NLWA)

Environment Adviser – Doug Wilkinson (part-time NLWA)

Managing Director and Deputy Clerk – Martin Capstick

Programme Director, North London Heat and Power Project – David Cullen

Director of Corporate Services – Nikesh Shah

Head of Strategy and Services – Michael Clarke

Head of Strategic Communications – Joe Sheeran

LondonEnergy Ltd

The Authority is the sole shareholder of LondonEnergy Ltd (LEL). LEL and the Authority continued to work closely together to provide a coordinated service which ensured boroughs benefited from the public ownership of the Company.

As operator, LEL managed the delivery of new initiatives to recycle mattresses and expanded polystyrene. These require specialist processing and are not covered in the vast majority of waste contracts across the country. However, arrangements with LEL allowed the Authority to introduce new services, which were successfully managed by LEL, to increase the range of materials that can be recycled in north London.

LEL operates the energy from waste facility at Edmonton, which manages most of north London's residual waste and produces over 200,000 Megawatt Hours of electricity in a year. As electricity prices were at record levels over winter 2022-23, the company gained unexpectedly high income from selling electricity to the National Grid. As LEL is publicly owned, this enabled the Authority to make a windfall payment to constituent boroughs of £4.75m in November 2022 and further windfall payments of £10.2m in 2023-24.

In March 2022 LEL installed new switchgear to replace the outdated equipment in the existing facility. Switchgear allows onward transmission of the electricity generated from burning waste. Transmission takes place both to the Grid and also to facilities on the EcoPark. As a result of the new switchgear, power has successfully been supplied to the new resource recovery facility which will be completed in 2023. Associated with the switchgear installation were some unplanned outages of the energy from waste plant, which reflect the challenge of managing the interface between new pieces of equipment and a facility in which assets are over 50 years old.



LondonEnergy Ltd offices at Edmonton

A further important development was the installation of a spare turbine. The Edmonton facility had four turbines but capacity to treat waste and generate electricity was restricted when any turbine was out of operation. The spare turbine allows full operation to continue when maintenance is underway. After careful testing the spare turbine was fully operational in January 2023.

Preparatory work has moved forward on coordinated plans between LEL and NLWA for successful asset management. This covers new facilities being provided under the North London Heat and Power Project and the transition of services into new buildings when they are complete.