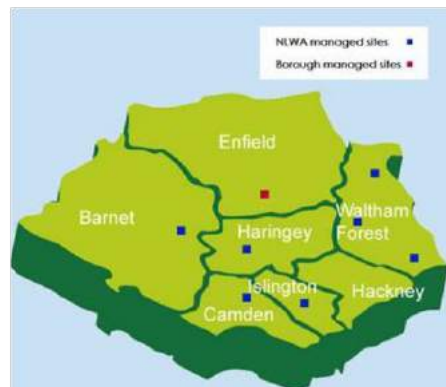


5. Recycling Services

- 5.1 NLWA manages a range of recycling services and contracts with provision for:
 - 5.1.1 processing more than 120,000 tonnes of mixed dry recyclables through one materials recycling facility (MRF) contract;
 - 5.1.2 seven reuse and recycling centres (RRCs);
 - 5.1.3 a Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) service.

Reuse and recycling centres

5.2 The Authority is responsible for seven reuse and recycling centres (RRCs) - Summers Lane in Barnet, Regis Road in Camden, Western Road in Haringey, Hornsey Street in Islington, Gateway Road in Waltham Forest, King's Road in Waltham Forest, and South Access Road in Waltham Forest.



Map 1: The Location of Reuse and Recycling Centres (RRCs) in north London

- 5.3 To protect members of the public and redeploy staff to other essential business areas during the COVID-19 pandemic, the RRCs were closed in March 2020. From May 2020, RRCs gradually reopened as government COVID-19 advice was updated. Initially the RRCs opened for receipt of residual waste only and there were also restrictions on the number of residents who could attend in each hourly time period, to enable social distancing. Restrictions on the waste types accepted and the number of visitors were gradually eased through the year.
- 5.4 There was a total of 25,995 tonnes received at Authority managed RRCs during the year, a reduction from 42,962 tonnes the previous year, shown in Chart 1 below. Despite the waste type restrictions caused by the pandemic, a recycling rate of 72% was achieved, just 1% less than the previous year.

IMPACT
72% of material taken to RRCs recycled

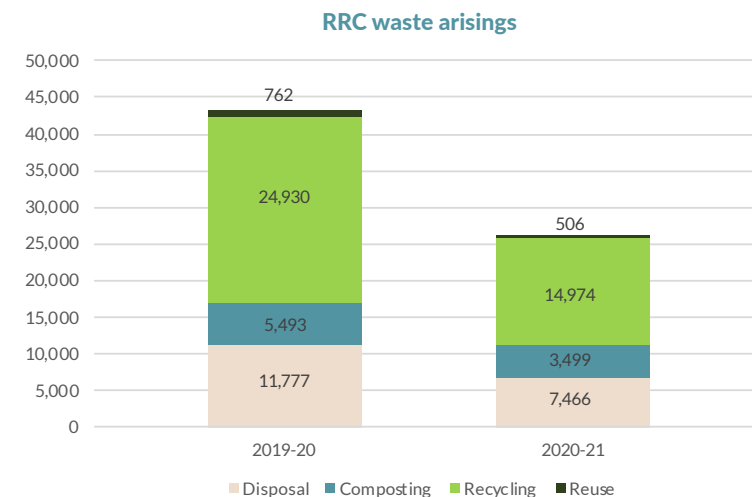


Chart 1: RRC Waste Arisings in 2019-20 compared to 2020-21

Organic wastes

5.5 The constituent boroughs delivered 45,642 tonnes of organic waste for treatment at the various facilities used by the Authority: open windrow composting for green waste, anaerobic digestion of food waste, and in-vessel composting of mixed food and green waste.

Organic wastes arising 2020-21

■ Mixed Organics ■ Food ■ Kerbside Green ■ RRC Green

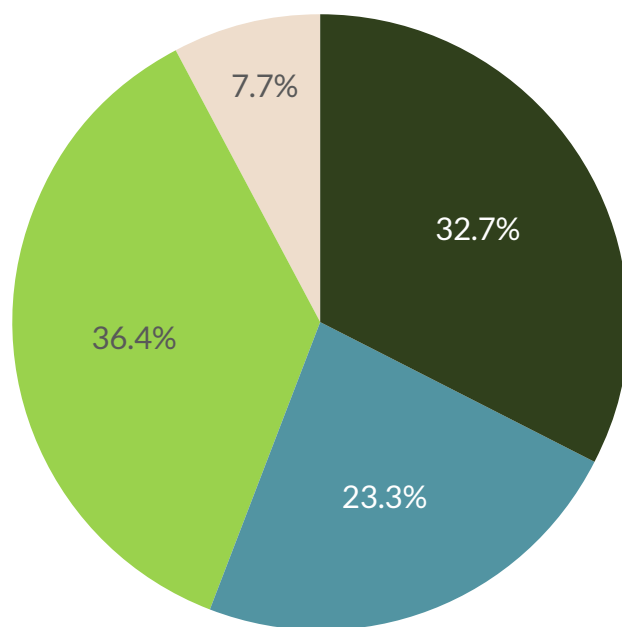


Chart 2: Sources of organic waste arising in north London 2020-21

Processing of mixed dry recyclables

5.6 The Authority arranges the recycling of mixed dry recyclables (MDR) on behalf of six of the north London boroughs (excluding LB Enfield). Table 2 indicates the tonnages of MDR arising during 2020-21.

MDR Tonnages	20/21 Actual Tonnage
NWLA	121,970
Barnet	30,046
Camden	15,718
Hackney	19,872
Haringey	20,167
Islington	16,339
Waltham Forest	19,827

Table 2: Tonnes of mixed dry recyclables arising by borough in 2020-21

5.7 There was a net increase of 6,626 tonnes compared to the previous year, which can be attributed to residents spending a higher proportion of their time at home due to COVID-19 government restrictions. All boroughs apart from Camden and Islington saw an increase in MDR (Camden and Islington saw a net reduction in MDR due to their trade collections being subdued by businesses closing during the pandemic).

5.8 Chart 3 below shows the composition of MDR in 2020-21, which is calculated by sorting through samples taken from delivered loads arriving at the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), as required under the MRF Code of Practice regulations.

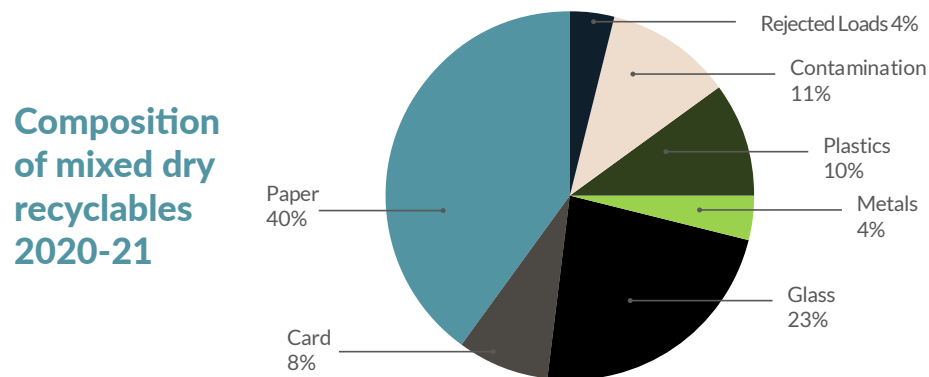


Chart 3: Composition of mixed dry recyclables

5.9 During the year, NLWA has worked closely with LEL to bring their load assessment processes of MDR received at their waste transfer stations closer in line with the processes at Biffa. Further work planned for early 2021/22 will enable composition data to be linked directly back to the source Borough of all MDR received at the MRF.

5.10 Contamination levels range between 11% and 24% for individual boroughs and sit at 15% overall for the Authority. Contamination is calculated as a combination of whole loads of MDR rejected prior to processing and non-recyclable residues remaining after recyclables have been extracted from MDR.



5.11 The Authority has launched a broad workstream during 2020-21 focused on tackling contamination. Key aspects of this work are shown in Table 3.

Action	Description
Borough Recycling Fund	Over £93,000 awarded to Boroughs to trial interventions aimed at combatting contamination and/or increasing the capture of dry recyclables
Contamination Communications Campaign	NLWA Communications Team have commissioned a high-profile contamination reduction campaign due to launch in 2021/22
Outreach Education	A series of contamination webinars for residents were conducted by the Waste Prevention Team
Officers' Recycling Working Group	A new partnership working group has been established, bringing together the Recycling Officers from the seven boroughs, along with the NLWA and Biffa. This offers a forum for reviewing performance information, sharing best practice, and designing partnership work to improve services.

Table 3: Work areas to tackle contamination from 2020-21



5.12 Markets for recyclable materials have fluctuated greatly throughout the year, as COVID-19 restrictions have been imposed and eased, both in the UK and further afield. Income passed to the Authority at the end of the year was £6.50 per tonne higher than at the start of the year.

5.13 There has been a focus on the destinations of recyclables. Whilst Biffa have successfully achieved 100% UK recycling of plastics and metals, and 100% European recycling of glass, there is currently a reliance on facilities outside of Europe to recycle much of the paper and cardboard, reflecting the demand for materials. Biffa have committed to ambitious targets to bring the remaining recycling into the UK and Europe by 2030, with significant progress being anticipated by 2023.

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) service

5.14 European Recycling Platform (ERP) are contracted by NLWA to arrange the collection and recycling of WEEE received from residents at the Reuse and Recycling Centres (RRCs) and collected by boroughs at Designated Collection Facilities (DCF).

5.15 ERP provide these services free-of-charge under their duties as a producer compliance scheme, in accordance with the WEEE Directive 2005.

5.16 ERP additionally provide bring banks for the receipt of small electrical items from residents, and provide a kerbside collection service for large WEEE, which is chargeable to NLWA but offered to residents as a free service.

5.17 A total of 2,355 tonnes of WEEE were recycled during the year, which is broken down by source in chart 4.

TONNES WEEE COLLECTED BY SOURCE

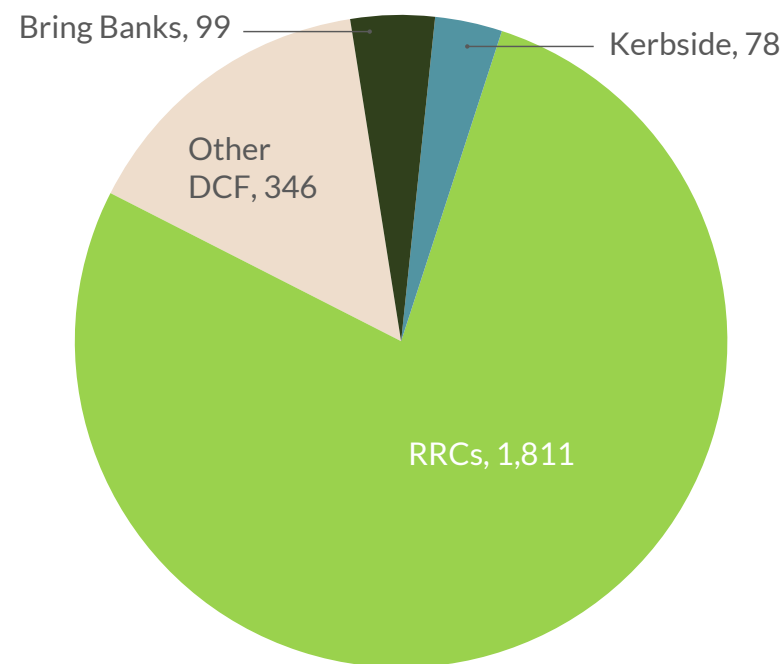


Chart 4: Tonnes WEEE collected by source

5.18 The total tonnage of WEEE arising was approximately 650 tonnes less than the previous year; however, it is anticipated that this is due to the restrictions on RRCs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

5.19 The kerbside WEEE service became increasingly popular through the year, as several boroughs suspended their bulky waste collection services during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, to redeploy staff to core waste collection services.

5.20 Chart 5 indicates the tonnage of kerbside WEEE collected by borough in 2020-21.

Kerbside WEEE Tonnes

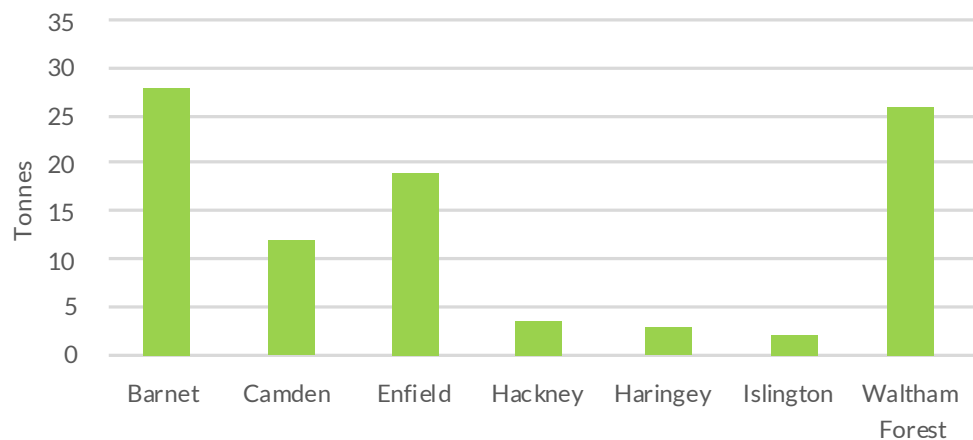


Chart 5: Tonnage kerbside WEEE collected by Borough 2020-21



Second Time Around reuse shop

5.21 The Second Time Around reuse shop is located at Kings Road RRC, where residents can purchase items which are reusable to prevent them going for waste disposal and to bring in some income.

5.22 Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Second Time Around shop was only open for three full months and part of two months, and the footfall dramatically reduced.

Third party reuse and recycling credits

- 5.23** NLWA offers third party reuse and recycling credits to organisations that remove items from the municipal waste stream, for reuse or recycling, which would otherwise have been sent for disposal at the Authority's expense. In 2020-21 the value of the third-party credit was £78.84 per tonne.
- 5.24** Ten organisations registered as potential claimants for an estimated 2,164 tonnes of material in 2020-21. A budget provision of £170,610 was made to cover the cost of these claims.
- 5.25** Due to national restrictions, the charity retailers were forced to cease trading for much of the year, resulting in fewer claims being received than usual and for less tonnage.
- 5.26** In 2020-21 the claims submitted were for 1,511 tonnes of material, which equates to a cost of £119,147. This is a decrease compared with the estimated tonnage (and budget).

Contract Management

- 5.27** The COVID-19 pandemic led to significant pressure on Authority services, contractors faced peaks of above average sickness levels, increasing tonnages of household waste, and a need to protect borough and contractor staff and residents from risks of catching COVID-19.

- 5.28** Authority officers established regular meetings with boroughs and contractors to discuss the fast-moving situation and developed a dashboard to inform Directors of Environment service levels and risks at all given times.

- 5.29** The most notable impact on services was the closure of the RRC service between March and May 2020 to prevent risks of infection being passed between residents. This also enabled RRC staff to be redeployed to core areas of LEL, such as operating Hendon and Hornsey Street Waste Transfer Stations (WTS). RRC Sites re-opened in May with a new online booking system in place to manage the number of residents attending at any one time, and with various other safety measures in place, such as social distancing, enhanced cleaning, and staff lateral flow testing.



- 5.30** The Authority has worked closely with Biffa to manage the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) service. This service came under significant pressure from increased tonnages arising, with some boroughs seeing sharp rises in volumes for a prolonged period.
- 5.31** The Authority has also worked closely with LB Islington throughout the year to monitor, plan and implement solutions that address the number of odour complaints received about the Hornsey Street RRC and WTS.
- 5.32** Looking forward, the Authority is working in close partnership with LB Islington to improve the existing odour management system to further reduce the impact on local residents and the environment. It is anticipated that these improvements will be implemented over the next 12 months.

Consultation responses

- 5.33** In March 2020, the Government published a consultation on the introduction of a plastic packaging tax, which would apply to plastic packaging manufactured in or imported into the UK containing less than 30% recycled plastic. The rate would be set at £200 per tonne and introduced in April 2022.
- 5.34** The consultation sought views on the detailed design, implementation, and administration of a Plastic Packaging Tax to ensure it best meets the government's environmental objectives while placing only proportionate burdens on business. It considered what specific parts of packaging the tax would be applied to, rules around importing and exporting plastics, the definition of plastic packaging and the exemptions and reporting methods to be applied.

- 5.35** The consultation was primarily aimed at plastics packaging producers rather than collection and disposal authorities, however, there were some implications for local authorities. These included how the funds generated from the tax will be used and how this aligns with the introduction of the deposit return scheme (potentially 2023) and consistent collections changes (potentially 2023).
- 5.36** NLWA responded to this consultation and it is available on the NLWA website

