

# 3. Recycling services

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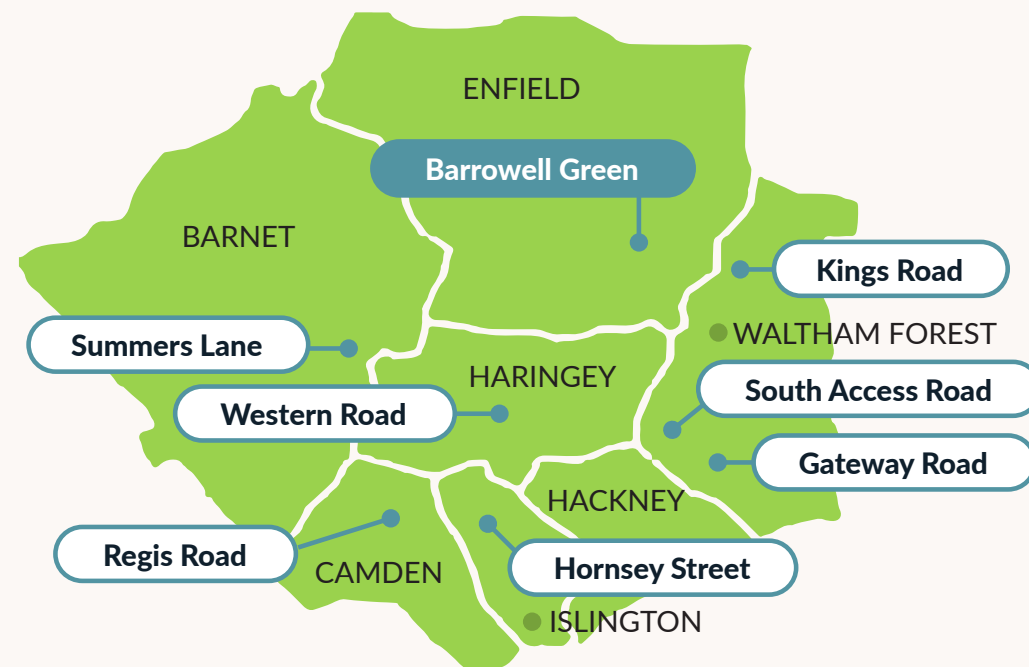
#### Summary of performance

	2021-22	2022-23
Residents receiving a door-to-door or communal recycling service	100%	100%
Household waste reused, recycled or composted	28.4%	30.7%
Municipal waste sent to landfill	3.6%	0.6%

**Table 1:** NLWA 2022-23 summary of waste and recycling services

The figures for 2022-23 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.

The increased recycling rate is partly due to an alteration in the methodology used to record fly-tipped waste. Boroughs previously had locally agreed methodologies for calculating residual waste collected per household, which excludes fly-tipped waste. NLWA and boroughs have now agreed a consistent methodology which brings us into line with how waste rates are reported across London.



#### 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



A waste collection operative at work

In 2022-23, we decided to review the booking system brought in during the COVID-19 pandemic to manage visitor numbers. A resident survey strongly indicated that the booking system was a barrier to using sites, so the booking system for cars was removed.

NLWA-managed sites dealt with 33,123 tonnes in 2022-23. This is a decrease of 5,484 tonnes compared to 2021-22. 76.1% of all materials were recycled, reused or composted in 2022-23 an increase from 73.8% in 2021-22.

This year we continued to expand the range of materials collected at our reuse and recycling centres. We continued to work with the British Plastic Federation to run the innovative polystyrene recycling service (EPS), which was introduced last year. We are the only authority in the UK to provide a recycling option for this notoriously difficult material. We also continue to run a mattress recycling service, which recycled 84,589 mattresses in 2022-23

### Organic waste

Organic waste comprises three categories: food waste, garden waste and BioK (garden and food waste combined). The heat wave of summer 2022 led to a reduction in garden waste collected across the UK.

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Food	9,110	10,586	12,931	11,854
BioK	15,062	14,901	14,512	11,976
Green	20,530	16,973	20,230	18,303
<b>Total Organics</b>	<b>44,702</b>	<b>42,460</b>	<b>47,673</b>	<b>42,133</b>

Table 2: Total tonnes collected from households.

### Dry mixed recycling

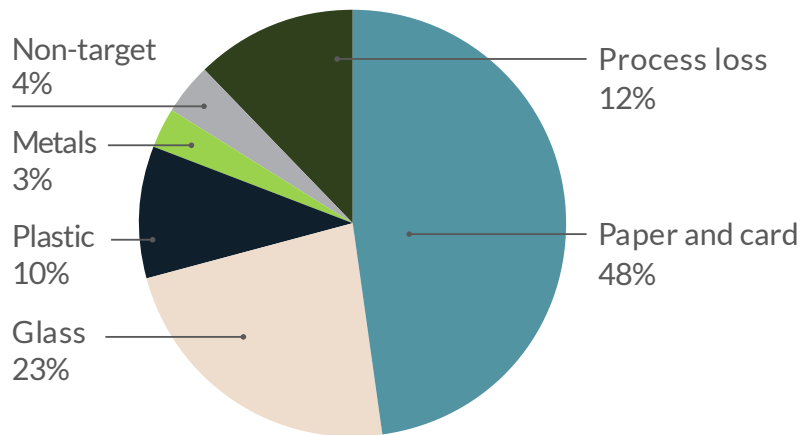
Dry mixed recycling (DMR) is a mix of plastics, paper and cardboard, metals, and glass which is sorted into component materials and recycled. NLWA manages a contract with Biffa to process the recycling collected by six of our seven constituent boroughs. From April 2023, Enfield Council's dry mixed recycling became part of the Biffa contract, so from 2023-24 NLWA will manage all seven boroughs' recycling.

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
<b>Total Tonnes</b>	<b>110,585</b>	<b>117,728</b>	<b>113,685</b>	<b>108,909</b>

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

The table above shows that we processed 4,776 tonnes less than the previous year. The reduction from 2021-22 and previous years could be due to residents returning to workplaces in greater numbers and changes to purchasing habits, potentially impacted by the increased cost of living.

#### DMR composition 2022-23



**Figure 1:** The composition of dry mixed recycling collected in 2022-23

Process loss is items which have been put in recycling bins but cannot be recycled, like nappies, or where recycling has been contaminated with materials like food. This year saw a 4% increase in process loss, which suggests that people may be putting more 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 significantly increased during 2022-23 with the quarter four value per tonne being £43.78.



**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 and plastics are processed in the UK. Since March 2020 we have reduced the percentage of our cardboard processed in the far east from 69% to just 7%.



*The recycling sorting process*

## Third party reuse and recycling credits

During 2022 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 2022-23 the value of the third-party credit was £83.67 per tonne.

Nine charities took advantage of the scheme this year receiving credits worth a total of £188,601. Between them, these charities collected 2,254 tonnes of furniture, textiles and books for subsequent recycling. This was an increase from 1,888 tonnes on the previous year.

## Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)

During 2021-22 NLWA provided a kerbside service for the collection of WEEE to five of our seven constituent boroughs (Hackney and Haringey opted out of the scheme). The service operated by Clearabee collected almost 78 tonnes of WEEE an increase of 26 tonnes on the previous year.

Residents delivered 2,502 tonnes of WEEE to our network of RRCs in 2022-23, an increase of 195 tonnes when compared to 2021-22.