



# Annual Report 2023/24

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# Introduction and summary

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## Introduction and summary

North London Waste Authority (NLWA) is the statutory waste disposal authority (WDA) for the seven north London boroughs of Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest. NLWA manages waste in line with the waste hierarchy to protect the environment and preserve resources for future generations. By working on behalf of seven boroughs, we operate at scale to provide the best environmental outcomes and value for our councils.

NLWA is the owner of LondonEnergy Ltd (LEL), which operates an energy from waste plant and a new Resource Recovery Facility and at the Edmonton EcoPark. LEL also operates two transfer stations and a network of reuse and recycling centres across north London.

We have a waste services contract with LEL as well as contracts with other companies for the treatment of mixed dry recyclable materials, organic waste, waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), and other materials.

NLWA staff are Camden Council employees and we 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.

In June 2023 the outcome of a Local Government Association (LGA) corporate peer challenge was published. The report highlighted areas of significant strength and made recommendations to further improve and build on those strengths. The report says that NLWA “works collaboratively and with purpose” with the seven north London boroughs it serves. The LGA peer review team observed among staff and Members “a passion for the work they do to reduce waste and inform, educate, and influence recycling and reuse behaviours.” The team also found NLWA is strong on political leadership, that finances are well managed, and that the relationship between NLWA and its boroughs is collegial and robust.

The review made ten recommendations to further enhance NLWA's performance and delivery, including greater collaboration with the seven constituent boroughs, increased engagement with communities and wider oversight and scrutiny. A follow up in January 2024 found that NLWA had made excellent progress against their recommendations. This is reflected in the performance outlined in this 2023/24 annual report.

## North London Heat and Power Project



To help tackle the climate emergency and to prevent rubbish going to landfill, we are delivering the largest infrastructure project in our history. The energy from waste plant on the Edmonton EcoPark, which is reaching the end of its operational life, is being replaced by the greenest Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) in the country. We have completed construction of a new Resource Recovery Facility (RRF)

that provides additional capacity to manage recyclates and organics. We expect to welcome a new public reuse and recycling centre (RRC) and a community and education building called EcoPark House in 2024.

In 2023/24 NLWA signed a new contract with LEL for the operation and maintenance of the RRF, RRC and EcoPark House. The RRF went into operation on 15 March 2024, has capacity to manage 374,000 tonnes of waste per year and is designed to bulk recycling and organic waste for onward transport to processors, extract recyclables from residual waste and prepare bulky waste for energy recovery.

The principal contractor on the ERF, Acciona, was given full possession of the northern area of the EcoPark and the adjacent construction laydown area. They made good progress on civil and structural works including installing over 1,600 foundation piles and building the reinforced concrete bunkers.

### Reuse and recycling centres



The authority is committed to leading the way for recycling innovation and in 2023/24, we continued to expand the range of materials collected at our RRCs. We offer residents one of the most extensive ranges of recycling services available in London, enabling residents to manage their waste more sustainably and helping to support the circular economy. This year saw an increase in the number of mattresses collected, with around 9,000

mattresses being processed per month. We launched a new trial service to encourage reuse at two of our RRCs in Waltham Forest and Barnet to offer a place for residents to deposit unwanted DIY materials and take them free of charge. Our Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) recycling service continued to grow this year, and we introduced trials for recycling hard plastics and carpets at several of our sites. In total, our RRCs dealt with 39,402 tonnes and 72% this was recycled, reused or composted.



## Household waste and recycling performance

In 2023/24 we accepted responsibility for managing the organic waste and dry mixed recycling collected by Enfield Council (this material was previously managed by Enfield). In total, on behalf of the seven boroughs, we processed 57,000 tonnes of food and garden waste and 124,414 tonnes of dry mixed recycling – significant increases on the previous year, reflecting this service change.

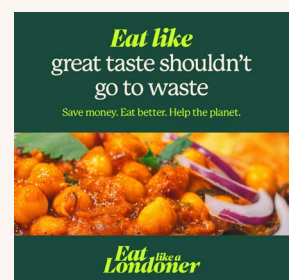
We continued our commitment to recycling as many materials in the UK as possible – achieving 100% for metals, plastic and glass. However, a fall in paper and card recycling capacity in the UK and Europe led to more of these materials being processed in Asia.

In 2023/24 we dealt with 563,508 tonnes of residual waste. This is an increase of 6,414 tonnes on 2022/23, but lower than 2020/21 and 2021/22.

## Education, outreach and communications

In 2023/24 NLWA ran a number of high profile behaviour change projects and campaigns, following the publication of the Waste Prevention Plan in January 2023. This included:

- Launching *Reduce, Reuse, Your Cycle* to encourage reusable period product take-up
- Awarding more than £200,000 of grants to grass roots organisations to run waste prevention projects in their communities
- Increasing reusable nappy voucher take-up by 31%
- Trialling a new approach to encourage residents and businesses to reduce use plastics
- Developing a high profile recycling communications campaign with borough councils
- Taking a lead role in *Eat Like a Londoner* – a pan-London food waste prevention campaign
- Creating a new education programme for schools
- We also ran a high profile listening exercise to hear about residents' priorities and inform the development of the next Joint Waste Strategy.



## Finance and governance

The 2023/24 final outturn indicates that NLWA's total expenditure for the year was £69.6m, and that charges for non-household and chargeable household waste were £9.0m and £1.8m. As the levy is fixed at the start of the year, this resulted in a revenue surplus, including balances brought forward, of £9.8m. This is £1.0m better than previously forecast. The in-year financial improvement arose mainly from lower residual tonnage received from boroughs, savings on administration costs and an increased income from cash balances held in interest-bearing accounts.