

**NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY**

**REPORT TITLE:** EDMONTON ECOPARK HOUSE TRANSITION INTO OPERATIONS

**REPORT OF:** DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

**FOR SUBMISSION TO:** AUTHORITY MEETING

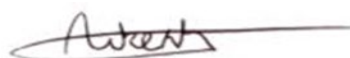
**DATE:** 13 FEBRUARY 2025

**SUMMARY OF REPORT:**

This report provides the Authority with an update on EcoPark House’s transition into regular operations, first visits from schools and the plans for measuring success in line with the strategic aims.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Authority is recommended to note the contents of the report



**SIGNED:** ..... Director of Corporate Services

**DATE:** 03 February 2025

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. EcoPark House, NLWA's new visitor and education centre, has welcomed its first school visit and received positive feedback from users. As a sustainably built community asset, an educational facility and new home of the Edmonton Sea Cadets, EcoPark House will provide events catering to our key target groups: schools, community groups and north London's residents.

## 2. UPDATE ON TRANSITION INTO OPERATION

### The Facility

- 2.1. Following handover of EcoPark House from Taylor Woodrow to NLWA and LEL in mid-September, the construction and transition phases have been successfully completed, with a plan in place to complete snagging works.
- 2.2. During the transition phase, several activities were delivered including first aid and fire safety training, implementation of a booking system, access and travel planning, a communications strategy, insurance and operations manuals. Officers have developed policies for safeguarding, health and safety and codes of conduct; and set up internal governance to drive continuous improvement to ensure that EcoPark House strives to be the best of a kind in the country.
- 2.3. NLWA and LondonEnergy Ltd (LEL) have fitted out EcoPark House with furniture and fittings to optimise the classrooms, lecture hall and office spaces. Officers will continue to monitor the fitout of the facility to facilitate the delivery of educational sessions and visits.
- 2.4. Staff have familiarised themselves with EcoPark House, with internal events hosted by NLWA and LEL. Operations and education staff have now started to work and operate out of the facility. These activities have been undertaken by reallocating existing team resources to this new task.

### Education offer

- 2.5. The EcoPark House education offer has commenced with visits from Ferry Lane Primary School of Haringey and Lubavitch Senior Girls School of Hackney, and a workshop for student ambassadors from a host of schools across north London. The education programme has been successfully implemented and is receiving great feedback. These classes are:
  - 2.5.1. **Beyond the Bin:** a session which introduces students to the process of waste management in north London and the importance of the circular economy.

- 2.5.2. **Reuse:** a session which looks at the impact of both single-use items and textile waste, empowering students to reuse items to make something new.
  - 2.5.3. **Waste City:** an introduction to the world of waste management, where students are tasked with creating innovative and sustainable solutions to a challenging scenario.
  - 2.5.4. **Repair:** a series of activities which explore the impact of textile waste and equips students with basic textile repair skills.
- 2.6. NLWA has successfully gained quality accreditation by the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom (CLOtC), supported by the Department for Education. Earning this demonstrates that the programme has effective risk management and provides high-quality educational resources. Within the assessment, it was noted that the programme had strengths in its commitment to cater for students with Special Educational Needs (SEN), and the provision of clear and detailed pre-visit information.



- 2.7. The North London Heat and Power Project (NLHPP) Schools Programme – which is delivered in a coordinated way with contractors on the project - has commenced delivering sessions from EcoPark House. The programme will also be inviting students from Special Educational Needs (SEN), and Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) schools. Sessions offered include:
- 2.7.1. **SHE Can Construct:** a session that engages young women and girls to consider career opportunities within the construction and engineering sectors, helping to address the industry gender imbalance.
  - 2.7.2. **Energy from Waste:** introduces students to the process of energy-from-waste production, compares other sources of energy, and highlights the environmental and climate benefits.
  - 2.7.3. **Guardians of the Earth:** a series of thought-provoking activities designed to explain the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and promotes practical ways in which student can contribute to them.

- 2.7.4. **Delivering a Large-Scale Construction Project:** introduces the project lifecycle of a nationally significant infrastructure construction project and its stages, as well as the professions involved in delivery.

### Sea Cadets

- 2.8. The Edmonton Sea Cadets are mobilising their return to the EcoPark in accordance with the Marine Society & Sea Cadets (MSSC) in February. This is with a view to running sessions from spring and working with NLWA and the Royal Navy to deliver an opening event in summer. Sea Cadets units from Clapton & Hackney, Waltham Forest, Cheshunt and Enfield have been engaged to book sessions at EcoPark House for their training and personal development.

## 3. FIRST VISITS

- 3.1. NLWA hosted the first school visit on 12 December 2024, part of the 'In The Know' schools outreach programme, for Ferry Lane Primary School Haringey. The day was well received, with feedback citing the session as "engaging and enjoyable. The education provider was informative, fun and exciting, and helped pupils to think out of the box". The students also found the tour of the Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) illuminating, putting real world context to the subject matter taught.



Figure 1: EcoPark House school visit from Ferry Lane Primary School

- 3.2. The NLHPP Schools Programme had its first session delivered from EcoPark House on 16 January 2025, to Lubavitch Senior Girls School of Hackney. The students found the session interesting and felt "it was so good to hear from different types of women in different jobs on this project".



Figure 2: EcoPark House visit from Lubavitch Senior Girls School of Hackney

#### **4. MEASURING SUCCESS**

##### **4.1. Key objectives:**

- 4.1.1. Deliver education programmes for schools that raise awareness about waste reduction, reducing carbon emissions, and the circular economy.
- 4.1.2. Involve local communities in sustainability initiatives and provide education on waste management and environmental responsibility.
- 4.1.3. Provide a home for Edmonton Sea Cadets.

##### **Success criteria**

##### **4.2. Over the course of 2025, officers are building the offer and pipeline of visitors, ramping up services to meet key targets after 12 months of regular operations, of:**

- 4.2.1. Hosting over 100 group visits per year.
- 4.2.2. Shifting attitudes towards recycling, waste reduction and reuse initiatives.
- 4.2.3. Contributing towards NLWA's waste reduction targets through workshops aimed to increase reuse and recycling across north London.
- 4.2.4. Engaging over 2,000 north London residents annually through our events.

- 4.3. Officers have engaged the local community and begun generating interest and bookings from key target groups across the seven boroughs of north London. A community event is also planned for early March, bringing together recipients of the North London Community Fund to facilitate networking between the groups and to host a public repair day.
- 4.4. As a part of ramping up engagement, NLWA have launched the [EcoPark House website](#)<sup>1</sup> signposting key target groups and external audiences to key information, and providing a route to booking visits. The website is supported with a launch video: [Welcome to EcoPark House](#)<sup>2</sup>.



Figure 3: Screenshot of launch video: Welcome to EcoPark House

## 5. 2025: NEXT STEPS

- 5.1. NLWA will build a pipeline of visits, capitalising on current relationships with the residents, community groups and Boroughs of north London. Through outreach programmes, such as the North London Community Fund, and direct involvement with community groups, officers will continue to drive the social value impacts and promote new waves of engagement and support for waste-consciousness, leaving lasting impacts for years to come for north London residents.
- 5.2. As 2025 progresses, activities will ramp up with demand to facilitate a wide range of activities for community groups, schools and colleges, and interested groups. Work is ongoing between NLWA and LEL to offer a seamless visitor experience at the EcoPark to increase awareness of the activities occurring on site and to encourage and educate on the importance of reducing waste.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nlwa.gov.uk/EcoParkHouse>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8IK1NhOaio>

- 5.3. NLWA will continue supporting the Edmonton Sea Cadets on their return to the EcoPark.
- 5.4. Operations at EcoPark House, delivered by LEL, will be managed through the EcoPark South contract. Mechanisms have been put in place to optimise the building and its accessibility, drive efficiencies and facilitate continuous improvement to provide the best possible services to the resident of north London.

## **6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. The Authority is working with the constituent boroughs via the Education Steering Group to ensure the education programme is inclusive and representative of all north London.

## **7. COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER**

- 7.1. The Legal Adviser has been consulted in the preparation of this report and comments have been incorporated.

## **8. COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER**

- 8.1. The Financial Adviser has been consulted in the preparation of this report and comments have been incorporated.

### **Contact officer:**

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