

# Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan 2018-2022







# Foreword

In Islington we are determined to make a difference for local people by making our borough a fairer place for all. We have a proud record of taking bold, decisive action to create a greener, more sustainable borough. Our comprehensive recycling services for our residents, our record of reducing waste and the opportunities for reuse in Islington are evidence of our commitment to taking such action.

However, we want, and must, go much further.

In June 2019, Islington Council declared an environment and climate emergency and pledged to work towards making Islington net zero carbon by 2030. Reducing, reusing and recycling waste is a key part in tackling this emergency.

We will play an active role in contributing to London being a zero-waste city. This means that by 2026 we will send no biodegradable or recyclable waste to landfill, and by 2030 65 per cent of London's municipal waste will be recycled.

To do this, we have developed an ambitious but realistic Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan. The plan focuses on reducing waste, increasing recycling, and reducing the environmental impact of our waste and recycling services. Achieving significant increases in levels of recycling in Islington is challenging and we can't do this alone.

In particular we will work with residents and landlords to improve recycling for residents in flats and on estates. We will continue our programme of improving recycling sites on estates and will look for other innovative ways to make it easier for residents in flats to recycle.

We will help families in Islington save money and reduce their environmental impact by reducing the amount of food waste we throw away and recycling more of the food waste that is left over. To support this, we want to extend food waste recycling to all residents in Islington and will launch a food waste campaign to encourage all our residents to reduce food waste and recycle more.

We will continue to act to reduce the amount of plastic that is used and disposed of in Islington.

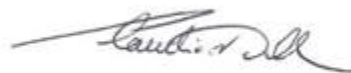
We will develop an action plan for moving towards a more circular economy, where resources are kept in

use for longer and the maximum value extracted from them before being recovered at the end of their lives.

And we will work with our partners at the North London Waste Authority to make sure we are using modern, state of the art facilities to manage the waste we produce.

We will continue to ensure every resident in Islington has a regular, reliable and convenient recycling and waste collection service, and that every business can come to us for the same excellent level of service.

We will lead by example, but we call on residents, businesses and partners to help us achieve our ambitious plans by making the most of the services we provide, to reduce waste and to recycle and reuse more.



**Councillor Claudia Webbe**

Executive Member for Environment and Transport





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# Glossary

## Acronyms

BWRF: Bulky waste recycling facility, at the Edmonton Ecopark

CO<sub>2</sub>: Carbon dioxide

DCO: Development consent order

dirty MRF: MRF for unsorted waste

EfW: Energy from waste

EPS: Emissions performance standard, as referenced in the London Environment Strategy

ERCV: Electric refuse collection vehicle

EV: Electric vehicle

FORS: Fleet operators recognition scheme

GHG: Greenhouse gas

HGV: Heavy goods vehicle

LACW: Local Authority Collected Waste

LEL: London Energy Limited

MRF: Materials Reclamation Facility for separately collected recyclables

NLJWS: North London Joint Waste Strategy

NLWA: North London Waste Authority

NLWP: North London Waste Plan

RCV: Refuse collection vehicle

RRC: Reuse and Recycling Centre

RRF: Resource Recovery Facility

RRP: Reduction and Recycling Plan

ULEZ: Ultra Low Emissions Zone

WEEE: Waste electrical and electronic equipment

## Definitions

**Anaerobic digestion:** Anaerobic digestion is the breakdown of organic material by micro-organisms in the absence of oxygen.

**Avoidable food waste:** food and drink thrown away that was, at some point prior to disposal, edible (e.g. slice of bread, apples, meat).

**Bright Sparks:** a Re-use and Repair project based in Islington

**Commercial waste:** waste from commercial premises

**Composting:** Composting is a natural biological process, carried out under controlled aerobic conditions (requires oxygen)

**Courthauld Commitment:** The Courthauld Commitment is a voluntary agreement aimed at improving resource efficiency and reducing waste within the UK grocery sector

**Euro VI:** Euro 4 and Euro 6 are vehicle emissions standards for new vehicles sold in Europe

**Household waste:** waste from households

**Houses of multi occupation:** A house in multiple occupation ( HMO ) is a property rented out by at least 3 people who are not from 1 'household' (for example a family) but share facilities like the bathroom and kitchen

**Recycling on the go:** points out and about in public areas where you can recycle when you're on the go, often in the form of litter recycling bins.

**Residual waste:** waste that is not recycled, composted or reused

**Single use packaging:** packaging that is intended for use only once before it is thrown away or recycled

**Single use plastic:** Single-use plastics, or disposable plastics, are intended for use only once before they are thrown away or recycled

**Unavoidable food waste:** waste arising from food or drink preparation that is not, and has not been, edible in normal circumstances (e.g. meat bones, egg shells, pineapple skin, tea bags).

**Upcycle:** the process of transforming by-products, waste materials, useless, or unwanted products into new materials or products of better quality and environmental value

**Vehicle to grid:** Vehicle to grid technology, also referred to as 'V2G' enables energy stored in electric vehicles to be fed back into the national electricity network (or 'grid') to help supply energy at times of peak demand.



# Introduction



# Introduction

Islington provides a wide range of recycling services to our residents and businesses and has a track record of reducing household waste. In 2005 our recycling rate was below 10%. It is now over 30%. But we are committed to going further. This Reduction and Recycling Plan (RRP) sets out what we are doing and plan to do to achieve our four policy objectives of reducing waste, recycling more, reducing the environmental impact of our waste services, and maximising the use of waste sites. The RRP supports our commitment of Islington becoming carbon neutral by 2030 in response to current climate emergency.

Our inhouse recycling and waste collection services deliver value for money and reliability, while our partnership with the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) and the other six constituent Boroughs provides for the efficient and reliable recycling, composting and disposal of the recycling and waste that we collect.

Islington's front-line services, including the collection of recycling, are managed directly by Islington Council. By delivering these services ourselves, we ensure all our staff are paid at least the London Living Wage, helping to achieve our vision of making Islington a fairer place. Direct delivery of our services means we retain direct control over how the services are run. We can reduce costs by not paying the private sector a profit. And we can be flexible, changing the services to meet our residents' needs without having to negotiate changes to contracts, or wait for contracts to end.

The recycling and disposal of the recycling and waste we collect is managed by the NLWA, the statutory waste disposal authority for seven north London Boroughs. The NLWA is a partnership with seven north London councils including Islington.

The NLWA works with local recycling companies to sort and recycle the material we collect. London Energy Limited (LEL) operates the energy from waste facility at the Edmonton Ecopark where Islington's waste is sent, as well as operating some other local facilities. LEL is wholly owned by the NLWA.

We have set out our policies and actions in previous annual Waste Minimisation and Recycling Action Plans, which support our core policy priority of delivering a fair Islington. This RRP builds on and replaces previous Waste Minimisation and Recycling Action Plans while our four policy objectives support and help to deliver the London wide objectives as set out in the London Environment Strategy.



ISLINGTON

**RECYCLES  
~~LATER~~  
~~TOMORROW~~**

**Now!**



**#RECYCLEWEEK** **23 — 29 SEPT**  
**#RECYCLEWEEK**

Visit [wiseuptowaste.org.uk/recycleweek](https://wiseuptowaste.org.uk/recycleweek) to make a difference this Recycle Week.  
Recycling. It's in our own hands.

 Islington recycles

# Our recycling and waste objectives

## **This RRP sets four recycling and waste objectives:**

Objective 1 - Reduce waste focusing on food waste and single use packaging

Objective 2 - Maximise recycling rates

Objective 3 - Reduce the environmental impact of waste activities (greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants)

Objective 4 - Maximise local waste sites and ensure London has sufficient infrastructure to manage all the waste it produces

**Islington Council will contribute to London being a zero-waste city.** This means that by 2026 no biodegradable or recyclable waste will be sent to landfill, and by 2030 65 per cent of London's municipal waste will be recycled.

## **To achieve this, Islington Council will:**

Take action to support the following **London wide targets:**

- To cut food waste and associated packaging waste by 50 per cent per person by 2030
- To achieve a 65 per cent municipal waste recycling rate by 2030, including
  - a 50 per cent recycling rate for local authority collected waste (LACW) by 2025
  - a 45 per cent household waste recycling rate by 2025
  - a 50 per cent household waste recycling rate by 2030
- To send zero biodegradable or recyclable waste to landfill by 2026
- For London to manage net 100 per cent of all the waste it produces by 2026

Ensure we exceed the following **minimum service level standards:**

- All properties with kerbside recycling collections to receive a separate weekly food waste collection service
- All properties to receive a collection of, at a minimum, the six main dry materials, glass, cans, paper, card, plastic bottles and mixed rigid plastics (pots, tubs and trays).

Commit to achieving the following **targets in relation to waste recycling and reduction** for 2022 and 2025:

- Household waste produced per head - 225 kg per head by 2022, 212 kg per head by 2025
- Household residual waste collected per household – 329 kg per head by 2022, 295 kg per head by 2025
- Total annual household avoidable food waste produced per head – 20.7 kg per head by 2022, 18.4 kg per head by 2025
- Household recycling target – 33% by 2022, 36% by 2025
- Local Authority collected waste recycling target – we will increase commercial waste recycling rates from current levels and set a LACW recycling target, including a commercial waste target by September 2020.

## **Reduce emissions from our fleet by:**

- taking action to ensure that our waste fleet becomes ULEZ compliant no later than October 2020
- working towards our overall ambition for:
  - All new cars and vans (less than 3.5 tonnes) used for waste activities being zero emission capable from 2025
  - All heavy vehicles (greater than 3.5 tonnes) being fossil fuel free from 2030
  - Zero emission fleets by 2030
- working towards London wide CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions performance standard (EPS) targets. These are set at:
  - -0.069 CO<sub>2</sub>eq/tonne waste by 2020/21
  - -0.085 CO<sub>2</sub>eq/tonne waste by 2024/25
  - -0.178 CO<sub>2</sub>eq/tonne waste by 2030/31

**Waste reduction and recycling  
policy and strategy**



# Waste reduction and recycling policy and strategy



## Islington

Islington Council has a robust **policy framework** setting out its commitment to waste reduction and recycling.

### Our Current local policies and strategies

Islington's Corporate Plan '**Building a Fairer Islington, Our Commitment 2018-22**'<sup>1</sup> sets out a clear vision to make Islington fairer and create a place where everyone, whatever their background, has the same opportunity to reach their potential and enjoy a good quality of life.

On 27 June, Islington formally declared an **environment and climate emergency**<sup>2</sup> and committed Islington to becoming carbon neutral by 2030. By reducing, reusing and recycling waste, we can reduce the carbon emissions involved in the extraction and transportation of raw resources, and the production of new materials. We can keep resources in good use for longer, retaining carbon within the product for longer and we can reduce the carbon

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.islington.gov.uk/~media/sharepoint-lists/public-records/communications/information/adviceandinformation/20182019/20180705islingtoncorporateplan2018221.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.islington.media/news/islington-declares-climate-emergency-and-makes-2030-net-zero-carbon-pledge>

emissions from the disposal of unwanted goods at the end of their life. Reducing food waste in particular has the potential to significantly reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.



*Figure 1 Our recycling and rubbish collection and street sweeping are all delivered directly by Islington Council*

Islington's **front-line services**, including the collection of recycling, are managed directly by Islington Council. By delivering these services ourselves, we ensure all our staff are paid at least the **London Living Wage**, helping to achieve our vision of building a fairer Islington. Direct delivery of our services means we retain direct control over how the services are run. We can reduce costs by not paying the private sector a profit. And we can be flexible, changing the services to meet our residents' needs without having to negotiate changes to contracts, or wait for contracts to end.

Islington has produced an annual **Waste Minimisation and Recycling Action Plan (RRP)** setting out our objectives and actions to reduce waste and increase recycling. This **Reduction and Recycling Plan** replaces previous Waste Minimisation and Recycling Action Plans.

Other council policies and strategies that support waste reduction and recycling include:

Islington's **Local Plan**, adopted in 2011, includes the Core Strategy with 19 objectives, one of which (No. 14) is 'promoting waste minimisation, re-use, recycling, composting and resource efficiency over landfill'.

Policy CS11 states the following in relation to **waste**:

The council will encourage sustainable waste management by:

- A. Promoting waste reduction, re-use, recycling, composting and resource efficiency over landfill.
- B. Requiring developments to provide waste and recycling facilities which fit current and future collection practices and targets and are accessible to all.
- C. Designating sites through the NLWP to meet an aggregated apportionment target across the seven North London boroughs. These sites will be the principal locations considered suitable for waste facilities.
- D. Protecting the Hornsey Street transfer and household recycling facility against change of use in line with policies set out in the NLWP.



The Local Plan's **Development Management Policies** require that 'waste storage and recycling facilities should be integrated into new developments, in locations within the site that are accessible to all'.

To support the Development Management Policies, we publish guidance for developers setting out how good recycling facilities should be designed and incorporated into building designs from an early stage.

### Our emerging policies and strategies

The new **draft Local Plan for Islington** supports the objectives of Islington's Corporate Plan.

Policy S10: Circular Economy and Adaptive Design commits the Council to ensuring that new developments adopt a circular economy approach to building design and construction. It also sets out policies that developers must adhere to, to ensure good recycling facilities are provided both inside the home and at communal collection points. Policy H4: Delivering High Quality Housing provides detail for developers of new properties to consider 'how recycling and waste arising from the occupation of the development will be stored, collected and managed, particularly for flatted residential development'.

The **draft Local Plan** also includes Policy ST2: Waste (replacing previous policy CS11) which sets out:

A. Development proposals must provide waste and recycling facilities which:

- (i) fit current and future collection practices and targets;
- (ii) are accessible to all;
- (iii) are designed to provide convenient access for all people, helping to support people to recycle; and
- (iv) provide high quality storage and collection systems in line with Council guidance.

The policy goes on to state that 'The Council will continue to work with the seven North London boroughs on the North London Waste Plan to provide sufficient land to meet waste management needs across the seven North London boroughs'<sup>3</sup>.

The draft Local Plan is expected to be adopted in late 2020 and will replace the current Core Strategy and Development Management Policy documents.

Islington's **draft Air Quality Strategy 2019-23**<sup>4</sup> sets out the actions we will take to protect the most vulnerable residents, reduce pollution from transport and improve air quality in Islington by lowering exposure to the main pollutants from 2019 to 2023. This includes improving our fleet and reducing overall fuel usage.

A net-zero carbon by 2030 action plan is being developed as part of the Council's **Energy Strategy** and is due out for consultation during November/December 2019 with a view to being adopted by the Council by February 2020.

As part of the path to becoming **carbon neutral by 2030** Islington will reduce, reuse and recycle waste to:

- a) reduce the carbon emissions involved in the extraction and transportation of raw resources and the production of new materials
- b) keep resources in good use for longer
- c) retain carbon in the product for longer
- d) reduce the carbon emissions from the disposal of unwanted goods at the end of their life
- e) reduce food waste, which has the particular potential to significantly reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.islington.gov.uk/~media/sharepoint-lists/public-records/planningandbuildingcontrol/publicity/publicnotices/20182019/20181119localplanstrategicanddmpoliciesdpdreg18nov2018reducedsize1.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.islington.gov.uk/~media/sharepoint-lists/public-records/environmentalprotection/information/adviceandinformation/20192020/20190529draftairqualitystrategy201923.pdf>

The Council recently undertook a **review and scrutiny of household recycling in Islington**<sup>5</sup>. This resulted in a detailed action plan being agreed by the Council<sup>6</sup> to improve household recycling.

In Islington it is **compulsory for residents to recycle** using the recycling service we provide. This includes household recycling (e.g. plastic, cans, glass bottles, cardboard), as well as food waste and garden waste if you have these services. This means you must not throw away anything in the rubbish bin which you can recycle at home using the services the we provide residents.

Our **fleet procurement strategy** is being updated and includes commitments to prioritise the cleanest options for vehicle procurement based on the following hierarchy:

- Electric
- Petrol-Electric Hybrid
- Compressed Natural Gas
- Petrol
- Diesel

## North London Waste Authority

The recycling and disposal of the recycling and waste we collect is managed by the North London Waste Authority (NLWA), the statutory waste disposal authority for seven north London Boroughs. The NLWA works in a partnership with seven north London councils including Islington.

The NLWA works with local recycling companies to sort and recycle the material we collect. London Energy Limited (LEL) operates the energy from waste facility at the Edmonton Ecopark where Islington's waste is sent, as well as operating some other local facilities. LEL is wholly owned by the North NLWA.

The **NLWA Waste Prevention Plan**<sup>7</sup> sets out what the NLWA, in partnership with the seven constituent Boroughs is doing to reduce waste across north London.

As a constituent borough of the NLWA the longer-term strategic direction has been set out in the **North London Joint Waste Strategy (NLJWS)**.

Its aims are:

- To minimise the amount of municipal wastes arising
- To maximise recycling and composting rates
- To reduce greenhouse gases by disposing of less organic waste in landfill sites
- To co-ordinate and continuously improve municipal wastes minimisation and management policies in North London
- To manage municipal wastes in the most environmentally benign and economically efficient ways possible through the provision and co-ordination of appropriate wastes management facilities and services
- To ensure that services and information are fully accessible to all members of the community
- To maximise all opportunities for local regeneration
- To ensure an equitable distribution of costs, so that those who produce or manage the waste pay for it

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<sup>5</sup>

<https://democracy.islington.gov.uk/documents/s15065/Final%20Report%20Household%20Recycling%2023%20April%202018.docx%20b.pdf>

<sup>6</sup>

<https://democracy.islington.gov.uk/documents/s16776/Executive%20Response%20to%20Household%20Recycling%20Scrutiny.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> [http://nlwa.gov.uk/media/2534/2565163-prevention-summary-2018\\_final\\_web.pdf](http://nlwa.gov.uk/media/2534/2565163-prevention-summary-2018_final_web.pdf)



**The North London Waste Plan (NLWP)** will ensure adequate provision of land for waste use in the area up to 2035 and provide policies against which waste planning applications will be assessed. The proposed submission NLWP has been consulted on with adoption scheduled for Autumn 2020. The NLWP highlights the seven North London boroughs' commitment to the waste sites apportionment targets as set out in S18 of the draft London Plan Policy. The NLWP is intended to achieve net self-sufficiency in the management of LACW and commercial and industrial waste by 2026 and Construction and Demolition Waste by 2035.

## Greater London Authority

In May 2018 the Mayor of London published his **London Environment Strategy**<sup>8</sup>. The Strategy sets out objectives, targets and policies for the effective management of London's municipal waste and to accelerate the transition to a circular economy. Waste authorities such as Islington Council need to show how they are acting in general conformity with the waste provisions of this strategy. The Mayor expects London local authorities to have developed waste Reduction and Recycling Plans to cover the period 2018 to 2022, which should include local reduction and recycling targets that contribute to the Mayor's London-wide targets.

## National

National waste and recycling policy is driven by the Government's **25 Year Environment Plan**<sup>9</sup>, published on 11 January 2018 with policy further developed in the **Resources and Waste Strategy for England**<sup>10</sup>.

Much of the change demanded by residents (such as a reduction in the packaging used by supermarkets) can really only be achieved at a national level. We will continue to encourage the government and industry to take firm action and will provide information to residents on what is being done via our website.

The government has proposed a series of policies aimed at achieving these objectives and Islington has responded fully and robustly to these proposals. **We will publish, where possible, the Council's responses to government waste reduction and recycling consultations, including updates and information for residents where available.**

In particular, the government has committed to the following proposals:

- An increase in the plastic bag levy from 5p to 10p and an extension of the scheme to include small retailers.
- The introduction of a plastic tax, which would be applied to plastic packaging containing less than 30% recycled plastic.
- The introduction of a Deposit Return Scheme which would see a returnable deposit applied at the point of sale to a wide range of drinks containers.
- Mandatory food waste collections from all households.
- A move towards greater consistency of the materials collected for recycling from Local Authorities. A minimum set of requirements has been proposed which Islington Council already meets.
- Extension of the Producer Responsibility Scheme, whereby producers of packaging material will pay the full collection and disposal costs of the recovery and recycling of the packaging they produce.
- A requirement for all businesses to separate and recycle their waste.

We broadly welcome the proposals and have encouraged the government to go further, for example to ensure producers pay the full cost of collecting and disposing of the goods they produce, to reduce litter and waste from takeaway hot drinks by introducing a point of sale charge for disposable coffee cups and by removing legislation that effectively prevents us from ensuring residents recycle in line with our compulsory recycling policy.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/london-environment-strategy>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/resources-and-waste-strategy-for-england>

**Objective 1: Reduce waste,  
focusing on food waste and  
single use packaging waste**

# Objective 1: Reduce waste, focusing on food waste and single use packaging waste

## Weekly bin collections

Islington's Corporate Plan '**Building a Fairer Islington, Our Commitment 2018-22**' commits us to providing our residents with **weekly bin collections**.

Islington is the most densely populated Borough in the country. Many residents have little space outside for storing two weeks' worth of rubbish and even less space indoors for separating out recycling and food waste.

Collecting rubbish less than weekly would likely require the use of wheelie bins which would be problematic in many areas given the lack of front yard storage space and high number of houses split into flats.

Islington recognises the impact that reducing the collection frequency of residual waste can have on increasing recycling rates. Nevertheless, we do not, at present, consider this to be a practical option for Islington properties.

Islington also provides a minimum weekly collection of mixed dry recycling for all properties, food and garden waste collections for all street properties and food waste collections for many residents in flats. This enables and encourages the reduction of residual household waste.

Islington Council is proud of its record of **reducing household waste** and undertakes a range of activities, both by itself and in partnership with other organisations, notably the NLWA, to encourage waste reduction and reuse. We have set and achieved year on year waste reduction targets in Islington for the last ten years.



*Figure 2 Our weekly same day recycling and rubbish collections*

## Reducing single use plastics

We're drowning in plastic. Every year, 8 million tonnes of plastic ends up in the sea. This plastic travels around the globe and can be found in Arctic ice and on Caribbean beaches. Animals are harmed when they mistake small pieces of plastic for food, while larger pieces can choke turtles and birds.

Lots of this plastic is 'single use' plastic, which is designed to be used only once before being disposed of. We can all take action to help reduce and recycle plastic waste.

We want to reduce waste from **single use plastic**.

**We will reduce the use of plastic water bottles by making drinking water more freely and easily available.**

We installed our first **drinking water fountain** on the public highway at Old Street in February 2019 and five more have since been installed in other high footfall public areas, adding to the existing ones already installed in parks. We also have drinking water available in many of our public libraries, parks and leisure centres and will continue to seek new opportunities to install more public water fountains and encourage more businesses and other organisations to offer free water fills for our residents.



Figure 3 Our first Low Plastic Zone launched in Cowcross Street



We promote the **Refill App**, which enables residents to find their nearest water refill station when they are out and about.

**We will make free drinking water more widely available** by enabling the installation of **new drinking water fountains** and ensuring that these locations are shared via our website and the Refill app.

Working in partnership with the North London Waste Authority, we are introducing **low plastic zones**, where businesses are encouraged to commit to reducing single-use plastic waste. **We will extend low plastic zones to other business areas in Islington.**

**We will eliminate our own use of single use plastic** where practical including making it a requirement in procurement and with businesses or contractors who deliver services on our behalf. For example, our internal catering service has replaced plastic cups with washable cups and glasses, plastic stirrers have been replaced with teaspoons and sachets have been eliminated where practical.

A significant source of marine plastic is single use products containing **plastic that is flushed** down the toilet. These include nappies, wet-wipes, period products and incontinence products. **We will take action to prevent these items from being flushed**, by promoting reusable alternatives and highlighting the issue through communications.

A range of resources are made available to schools on how to **reduce plastic waste within schools** and information and advice on how to reduce single use plastics is available on our website and through leaflets.

## Reducing food waste



Approximately one third of all food produced in the world is lost or wasted, while in the UK the average family throws away £810 worth of food each year<sup>11</sup>. As well as being a waste of money, the production, transport and disposal of this food waste is a significant contributor of global greenhouse gases<sup>12</sup>.

We want to **reduce avoidable food waste**. We support the London wide objective of reducing avoidable food waste per person by 2030 and reducing food waste by 20% by 2025 and we are taking measures to reduce food waste and increase food waste recycling.

Apart from our comprehensive food waste recycling service for residents and businesses, we are participating in a major campaign (**'Small Change Big Difference'**) to reduce food waste, promoting healthy and sustainable eating and recycling of unavoidable food waste.

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<sup>11</sup> <http://www.wrap.org.uk/food-drink>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bb144e.pdf>

We are working with the Government's **food waste tsar** to develop and support initiatives for tackling food waste.

**We will sign the Courthauld Commitment 2025**, a voluntary national agreement that brings together organisations across the food system to make food and drink production and consumption more sustainable. At its heart is a ten-year commitment to identify priorities, develop solutions and implement changes to cut the carbon, water and waste associated with food & drink by at least one-fifth in 10 years.

**We'll continue to explore ways to promote the reduction and recycling of food waste** through, for example, communications, Apps and food sharing initiatives, as well as continuing to work with the NLWA to support their extensive food waste reduction outreach and communications work and to promote the **Love Food Hate Waste** message.

**We will also take steps to help businesses and schools to reduce their food waste and recycle what's left.**

## Encourage reuse

Encouraging re-use means products stay in use longer, reducing their environmental impact. Reuse can save residents money and create economic opportunities.

We want to encourage **more reuse** of bulky waste and other household items.

Islington set up **Bright Sparks** in 2010 and it has grown to become a successful and independent reuse organisation. Islington continues to support Bright Sparks through facilities support, through its Resident Support Scheme partnership and through its furniture reuse collection service.

Islington charges for collecting household bulky waste. This has resulted in a large reduction in the amount of bulky waste disposed of. The **furniture reuse collection service** is priced at 50% of the bulky waste service, incentivising residents to reuse where possible.

Islington supports the use of reusable, washable '**Real nappies**' through its support of the Real Nappy Scheme. The scheme offers vouchers to parents of babies enabling them to save money on buying washable nappies. We aim to increase the numbers of vouchers used by parents year on year.

We have trialled **reuse projects on estates** and will continue to introduce new reuse initiatives on estates in Islington, starting with at least one new reuse project committed to during 2019.

**We will hold one Give and Take Day per ward** to encourage more reuse at a community level.

**Home composting** is actively encouraged in Islington for those residents with a garden, balcony or even space indoors. Compost bins and wormeries are available to residents at subsidised prices. We are also encouraging community composting on estates and in community gardens.

## Develop a circular economy

A circular economy is an alternative to a traditional linear economy (take, make, use, dispose) in which we keep resources in use for as long as possible, extract the maximum value from them whilst in use, then recover and regenerate products and materials at the end of each service life.

Islington is committed to supporting the transition to a **circular economy**.

A circular economy for Islington goes beyond managing waste in the most sustainable way possible, reducing, reusing, composting and recycling. It involves how we procure goods to maximise product lifespan, reuse and repair. It involves planning policy to encourage sustainable development. And it involves developing policies to encourage sustainable economic development. A carbon neutral Islington by 2030 will require this transition and will require our residents and businesses to join us on this transition.

**We will develop a Circular Economy Action Plan**, working with organisations such as the Ellen MacArthur Circular Economy Foundation, Resource London and North London Waste Authority. Circular economy actions could include:

- Encouraging use of sharing Apps and ‘lending libraries’ to help residents share goods or unwanted food
- Develop financial incentives and planning policies that encourage a circular economy and sustainable buildings
- Help residents to reuse and recycle locally, through services such as Bright Sparks
- Encourage and promote opportunities for ‘unpackaged shopping’
- Ensure Islington builds circular economy principles into its own purchasing policies

Islington is already implementing a range of **Circular Economy initiatives**, including:

- Islington’s new draft Local Plan includes robust Circular Economy design and build policy
- We work with Bright Sparks to encourage reuse
- We encourage other reuse through promoting washable nappies and clothes swaps
- We are reducing food waste by incentivising home composting, promoting community composting and taking part in campaigns to reduce the amount of avoidable food waste thrown away by households

## Working with the North London Waste Authority

Islington works in partnership with the **North London Waste Authority** to deliver waste minimisation and recycling communications campaigns across the region. These include:

**Food** - Activities include extensive outreach activity, Waste Less Lunch Free events, themed food waste events and broad promotion of food waste reduction messages.

**Bulky waste (Furniture and Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE))** - Activities include community exchange events, the London Upcycling Show, Repair Cafes and work with existing exchange networks and the third sector.

**Textiles (clothing and non-clothing)** - including reuse and repair events, working with local textile re-use organisations and promotion of the Authority’s textiles pack.

**Love Your Clothes** - we promote the Love Your Clothes website and share social media content from the campaign.

**North London Waste Prevention Exchange** – a conference with the purpose of sharing best practice on waste prevention across a wider area. This year’s Waste Prevention Exchange, held on 15 March, was titled ‘Re-imaging waste, moving away from single use towards a circular economy’.

**Waste Prevention Community Fund** – a fund for non-profit making community-based organisations in the NLWA area to develop new approaches to tackling waste reduction in north London.

**Save Our Stuff campaign** – one of a range of recycling campaigns delivered across the NLWA region.

It is estimated that across the NLWA region, approximately 10,000 tonnes per year of waste is diverted from disposal as a result of these actions, representing 1.2% of waste arisings<sup>13</sup>.

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<sup>13</sup> The evaluation of the programme is consistent with that outlined in ‘Pre-waste’, an EU-funded project designed to improve the effectiveness of waste prevention policies.

# Objective 1: Reduce waste - local targets

Islington proposes setting the following targets to drive reductions in waste arisings.

	Performance 2017/18	Target 2022	Target 2025
Total annual household waste (including recycling) generated per head of population (kgs/head)	242	225	212 (12% reduction based on 17/18 figure)
Total annual household residual waste collected per household (kgs/household)	375	329	295 (21% reduction based on 17/18 figure)
Estimated total annual household avoidable (edible) food waste produced (kgs/head)	26.9 <sup>14</sup>	24.2	21.5 (20% reduction based on 17/18 figure)



<sup>14</sup> Data from waste composition analysis carried out as part of the Trifocal project by Resource London.



# Objective 1: Summary

Key actions – policy	Key actions – core service provision	Key actions – behaviour change activities
<p><b>What we are doing</b></p> <p>Our policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Climate emergency declared, 27 June, committing Islington to being carbon neutral by 2030</li> <li>✓ Islington's Corporate Plan 'Building a Fairer Islington, Our Commitment 2018-22'</li> <li>✓ Annual Waste Minimisation and Recycling Action Plan, now replaced by the RRP</li> <li>✓ E&amp;R Scrutiny Committee review of household recycling in Islington with Exec Committee response</li> <li>✓ NLWA Waste Prevention Plan</li> <li>✓ NLWA Joint Waste Strategy</li> <li>✓ Respond to government consultations and publish our responses</li> </ul> <p><b>What we will do</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Reduce single use plastic</li> <li>✓ Reduce food waste</li> <li>✓ Encourage reuse</li> <li>✓ Promote Circular Economy</li> <li>✓ Draft new Local Plan including CE design and build policy</li> <li>✓ Draft new Air Quality Strategy</li> <li>✓ Draft new Energy Strategy</li> </ul>	<p><b>What we are doing</b></p> <p>Reduce food waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Food waste recycling service for residents and businesses</li> </ul> <p>Encourage reuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Set up and work with Bright Sparks</li> <li>✓ Bulky waste charge, reduced for reuse</li> <li>✓ Real Nappies scheme</li> <li>✓ Trail reuse scheme on estates</li> <li>✓ Offer subsidised home composting bins</li> </ul> <p>Promote Circular Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Bright Sparks and bulky reuse</li> <li>✓ Real nappies and clothes swaps</li> <li>✓ Food waste reduction initiatives</li> </ul> <p>Work with NLWA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Food waste reduction outreach programme</li> <li>✓ Bulky waste and WEEE – various actions</li> <li>✓ Textiles – various actions</li> <li>✓ NLWA Prevention Exchange event</li> <li>✓ Waste prevention community fund</li> <li>✓ Save Our Stuff campaign</li> </ul> <p><b>What we will do</b></p> <p>Encourage reuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Launch a new reuse scheme on an estate</li> <li>✓ Real nappies scheme year on year increase</li> <li>✓ Encourage community composting on estates and community gardens</li> <li>✓ Hold one Give and Take Day per ward</li> </ul> <p>Promote Circular Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Develop a Circular Economy action plan</li> </ul>	<p><b>What we are doing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Achieve annual waste reduction targets</li> </ul> <p>Reduce single use plastic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Install six water fountains</li> <li>✓ Drinking water available at some libraries and leisure centre</li> <li>✓ Promote Refill App</li> <li>✓ Reduce single use plastic in internal catering service</li> <li>✓ Provide advice through the website, leaflets and other comms channels</li> </ul> <p>Reduce food waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Work with NLWA to promote food waste reduction</li> </ul> <p><b>What we will do</b></p> <p>Reduce single use plastic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Make drinking water more freely available</li> <li>✓ Enable the installation of new water fountains</li> <li>✓ Promote public drinking water locations and the Refill App</li> <li>✓ Launch low plastic zones</li> <li>✓ Extend the low plastic zone initiative to other business areas</li> <li>✓ Eliminate single use plastic within the Council where practical</li> <li>✓ Promote reusable alternatives to flushable nappies, wet-wipes, period products and incontinence products containing plastic and promote the issue</li> <li>✓ Engage with schools and children to reduce plastic within schools</li> </ul> <p>Reduce food waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Small Change Big Difference food waste campaign</li> <li>✓ Sign the Courthauld Commitment 2025 (voluntary national agreement for orgs to reduce food waste)</li> <li>✓ Promote the reduction and recycling of food waste through sharing Apps and local services</li> <li>✓ Help businesses and schools to reduce their food waste</li> </ul>

**Objective 2: Maximise  
recycling rates**

## Objective 2: Maximise recycling rates



### Exceeding the minimum service requirements

The London Environment Strategy sets out minimum service requirements for household recycling services which require that all properties with kerbside recycling collections should receive a separate weekly food waste collection and that all properties should receive a collection of, at a minimum, the six main dry recycling materials, i.e. glass, cans, paper, card, plastic bottles and mixed.<sup>15</sup>

Islington Council provides a wide range of recycling services for its residents, organisations and businesses, which exceeds the minimum standards set for London Boroughs. **We will ensure all properties continue to receive a service that exceeds these minimum requirements.**

- All properties, including purpose-built flats and flats above shops, receive a collection of more than the six main dry recycling materials, i.e. glass, cans, paper, card, plastic bottles and mixed rigid plastics (tubs, pots and trays), as well as drinks cartons, plastic bags and foil.
- All properties with door to door recycling collections receive a separate weekly food waste collection.
- All properties receiving a door to door recycling service receive a free garden waste recycling service.
- Door to door collections of recycling, food waste, garden waste and residual waste are provided on the same day as each other.
- Over three hundred 'recycling on the go' litter recycling points have been installed.
- Separate collections for food waste are provided to approximately half all purpose-built flats.

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<sup>15</sup> [https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/london\\_environment\\_strategy\\_0.pdf](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/london_environment_strategy_0.pdf) P308

- All schools receive a collection of more than the six main dry recycling materials, as well as a separate collection of food waste.
- All charities are able to receive a free collection of more than the six main dry recycling materials and many also receive a separate collection of food waste.
- Council buildings, libraries, community centres, leisure centres and the Borough's prison all receive a collection of more than the six main dry recycling materials.
- A commercial waste collection of more than the six main dry recyclable materials and food waste is offered to businesses in Islington.
- Bring sites are located around the borough for the six main dry recyclable materials, as well as for other materials such as small electrical items, clothing and footwear. **We will also review opportunities for providing recycling sites for additional materials, such as clothing, for residents on estates.**
- If there are estates that need extra recycling sites or if recycling sites need to be moved to provide a better service, we will do this following consultation with residents and stakeholders.
- A door to door on request collection service for large electrical items is provided free of charge.
- Battery recycling points are provided at libraries around the Borough as well as the many shops that sell batteries and are required to provide battery recycling facilities.

## Service quality

It is not enough to simply provide a service. The service needs to be reliable and convenient. This is why Islington promises to **collect recycling, food waste, garden waste and rubbish from street properties all on the same day.**

We continually work with our collection crews to maintain high standards, minimising the number of missed collections and dropped litter, ensuring drivers are considerate and safe in their driving and returning containers properly. **We will make it easier to report missed collections** by improving the online reporting process and providing more reliable and up to date information on our collection services to residents.

We are also improving the way new or replacement recycling containers are requested, and how problems such as missed collections or fly tipping can be reported to the Council. **We will make it easier for residents to get recycling containers** by improving the online request service and improving delivery times.

## Recycling food waste



Figure 4 Food waste recycling on estates

Islington currently provides a separate food waste recycling service to approximately half of its **flats on estates**. We want to ensure all our residents can recycle their food waste. We want to expand the service to all of our estate properties and will support this with a food waste campaign to encourage all our residents to reduce food waste and recycle more.

Food waste recycling collections are not currently provided to **flats above shops**. Communal food waste containers in public areas accessible to residents in flats above shops could be subject to contamination problems. However, many of our residents in these properties have requested a food waste collection service, so **we will trial food waste recycling points for flats above shops.**

## Food waste campaign

Our food waste campaign (**'small change big difference'**) has specific commitments to achieve a 5% increase in avoidable food waste that is recycled. The project targets households, schools, community groups, hospitality and



food service businesses as well as large businesses in the boroughs through an integrated communications campaign. The target demographic is 18-34, focusing on healthy and sustainable food consumption, waste prevention and recycling of any food waste generated.

## Commercial waste recycling

We want our businesses to receive the same high quality recycling and rubbish collection that residents receive. However, businesses are not required to use Islington's service and may select any waste management company to collect and manage their recycling and rubbish. Furthermore, businesses are not currently required to separate out their recycling or food waste for separate collections.

Islington operates a substantial commercial waste and recycling business with an estimated annual value of over £3m. The service is delivered in conjunction with core household waste collections and has a roughly 33% market share.

We offer a fair commercial waste service to any business in Islington. We do not differentiate between business types or target businesses that are likely to have higher proportions of recyclable waste, or that are more likely to recycle what waste they have.

The commercial waste and recycling service operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week offering the same core recycling service as the household collections:

- Mixed dry recycling including the six key materials i.e. glass, cans, paper, card, plastic bottles and mixed rigid plastics (tubs, pots and trays).
- Separate food waste collections

As well as

- A separate cardboard recycling service
- Ad-hoc collections for businesses wishing to dispose of garden waste.

The mixed dry recycling service offers customers a range of waste storage options to ensure the recycling service suits their needs. This includes sack collections, tape collections for separate cardboard recycling and a range of bin sizes. The commercial recycling service is cheaper than our residual waste service to encourage businesses to improve their recycling rates.

The service is supported by sales staff and back-office staff who promote the recycling service to new and existing customers and assist by providing information, responding to enquiries and to service requests. Targets for staff reflect the priorities of the service.

The recycling service is promoted by highlighting the improved cost and environmental benefits and by evidencing the customer's own sustainability credentials. Sales staff are encouraged to promote recycling to residual waste customers and where a request is made just for residual waste commercial waste staff are encouraged to offer and promote the recycling service as well.

**We will launch a new improved commercial food waste recycling service** to provide an even more comprehensive service for our business customers.

Islington offers a comprehensive commercial waste and recycling service, but we need to do more to increase the proportion of commercial waste that is collected for recycling. **We will develop a new commercial waste business plan and communications plan** that will include the setting of recycling targets, and therefore a Local Authority Collected Waste target (LACW) by September 2020.

To help with promoting our commercial waste service and to increase the amount of commercial waste that is recycled, **we will use available communication and educational tools** currently being developed for businesses in London. These will include bin posters, training videos and duty of care advice sheets.

## Christmas tree recycling



**We will continue to provide a Christmas tree recycling service.** Islington provides a Christmas tree recycling service where residents can leave their tree out with their normal dry and organics recycling on their collection day and the tree is collected for recycling.

## Communicating effectively

The **recycling pages of the Council's website** receive more than 1,000 hits per day and provide a valuable source of information and access to services for residents. They are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Our pages are being reviewed and developed to ensure they encourage residents to reduce waste, reuse and recycle more effectively, make it easier to use, provide useful information on what we are doing to tackle issues such as plastic waste and make it easier to use the service by requesting recycling containers.

We actively use social media to engage with residents and get our messages across, and leaflets have been shown to be an effective method of letting our residents know what we're doing, for example if service or collection day changes are made in particular areas or streets.

## Communicating with our residents

We aim to communicate effectively with our residents to ensure they understand how to recycle and why to recycle. We are reviewing our **communications strategy**, which draws on best practice from other sites and our own experience and evidence. This will underpin our communications through the period of this RRP. We recognise the need to provide more information, on our website, through leaflets and other channels. This needs to provide better details of our recycling services (such as what can and can't be recycled, and what kind of containers are provided), the reasons why it is important to recycle, what happens to your recycling and what Islington is doing to lead the way. We also need to do more to provide information on reducing waste, particularly through our website.

However, there is also a responsibility on individuals to effectively use the services we provide. Recycling is compulsory in Islington. It's the right thing to do for the environment and for delivering cost effective services and our communications messages will reflect this.

## Communicating with our communities

There are many active and vibrant **community and resident groups** across Islington, including voluntary, faith based and cultural organisations and **we will engage with these groups to raise awareness of recycling** and encourage these groups to raise awareness of recycling among their communities. In the meantime, we are

ensuring all our community centres have good recycling facilities and ensure those who use the centres on a daily basis or for specific events, recycle effectively.

## Communicating through our staff

Many of **our staff** communicate with residents on a regular basis. These include caretakers, librarians, housing staff and councillors as well as the staff of partners such as landlords. We want to ensure our colleagues are able to talk to residents about recycling in an informed and enthusiastic way and are starting a **training programme for frontline and back office staff** to raise awareness of recycling.

We also want to get our **caretakers** more actively engaged in promoting recycling and actively involve caretakers in developing recycling facilities on estates and making improvements to these facilities.



## Recycling Champions

**We will launch a Recycling Champions** scheme to encourage residents to support recycling in Islington. Recycling Champions are members of our community who want to donate some of their time encouraging others to recycle and reduce waste. They might help at community events, spend some time talking to their neighbours about recycling, help manage a community composting site, or just deliver a few leaflets.

## Residents in new properties

When residents move into a **new property**, whether rented or privately owned, this is the best time to ensure that they have all the correct information they need to recycle effectively from day one. **We have improved our guide for new tenants in Islington's homes** and **we will also ensure we provide the right information on recycling** to them through our website, through landlords and lettings agencies, and when residents register for the Council tax.

## Landlords and housing managers

**We will continue to work with landlords and housing managers.** This will include:

- Ensuring that our own Housing department is leading by example and showing how a responsible landlord provides good quality recycling facilities, services these facilities well and provides correct information and guidance to residents on how to recycle.

- Working in partnership with Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) to ensure residents are aware of how and what to recycle and have good facilities
- Working with private landlords through the HMO licencing schemes and through lettings agencies ensuring residents have good facilities and are aware of how to recycle.

## Purpose-built flats and better recycling sites

We are committed to providing excellent recycling services for our residents in **purpose-built blocks of flats and all private and socially rented properties.**

For the last three years, we have been investing in improvements at communal public and estate recycling sites, including better bins, new enclosures and better signage. **We will continue this Recycling Sites improvement programme** through continued investment in improving communal recycling sites on estates and the public highway.



*Figure 5 New enclosures making better recycling sites*

## Resource London and Peabody Housing trial

Our partnership project with **Resource London and Peabody Housing Trust** aims to identify barriers to recycling behaviour within purpose-built blocks of flats. A range of different methods are being trialled on estates in five different Boroughs in London (including Islington) to identify effective ways to increase recycling rates. We aim to implement the findings of this trial on our own estates.

### Mini sack trial

This project and our own trial of offering smaller **single-use recycling sacks** for residents on estates has shown that for some residents, they are a convenient method of storing recycling in their property and depositing recycling into the communal recycling bin and are generally more convenient than larger clear recycling bags. We are extending the offer of these bags to other estates, making them available through caretakers and concierge services and continuing to monitor their uptake, their impact on recycling rates and their cost.

## Minimum standards for communal recycling sites

An early outcome of the Resource London and Peabody Housing Trust project mentioned above is the **‘minimum standards’ for communal recycling sites**. Islington is committed to meeting and exceeding this set of standards as set out below.

### Operational

- Take plastic carrier bags for recycling
- Appropriate aperture on the bins for residents’ needs
- Collect a full range of dry recyclables
- Clean, well maintained bins and bin area (residual & recycling)
- Appropriate collections to prevent overflows (residual & recycling)
- Appropriate recycling capacity
- Convenient bins (in high foot fall areas) located next to rubbish bins where possible



## Communications

- Clear and visible signage on recycling and residual bins and at bin storage area
- Posters highlighting recycling messages – in central internal location (e.g. notice board)
- Yearly recycling communication (leaflet) to residents
- Provide residents with information on bulky waste options
- Guidance to residents relating to putting the right things in the right bins (avoiding contamination)

## Using data smarter

Islington is getting **smarter about how it uses its data. We will use tonnage and schedule data to identify areas of the Borough that recycle more than others, to help us target our communications more effectively.** This will also help us to set up performance tables between, for example, schools or estates and to provide meaningful feedback to incentivise better recycling performance.

## Bin sensors

Islington has been using smart **bin sensors** that provide information on fill levels for recycling bins. **We will use this technology to monitor targeted recycling sites** to ensure the capacity and collection frequency is sufficient and to improve service quality.

## Accessible recycling bins

We want to ensure that all residents can use our recycling services. We are trialling **recycling bins** that enable better access for residents in wheelchairs or who find placing recycling into recycling bins difficult.

**We will also review planning guidance to ensure that bin areas in new properties are fully accessible,** reflecting the current 'Local Plan Review' policy, 'Delivering high quality housing', which states that 'recycling and refuse stores, bins... should be located conveniently within the development, to encourage uptake of recycling, and should be wheel chair accessible.'

## Reducing contamination

We want to increase the proportion of waste that is recycled, but also the quality of recycling that is collected. If there are significant amounts of non-recyclable material in a recycling bin, it could result in the contents of the bin being disposed of. We are tackling this in several ways.

Islington has led the development of a new design of recycling lid that reduces contamination at communal recycling sites. **We will continue to use these bins to improve the quality of recycling collected.**

Islington, with its NLWA partners, has launched a '**bin your nappy**' campaign, highlighting the problem of nappy waste in recycling bins, getting manufacturers to make the labelling on their product clearer and encourage residents to put nappy waste in the rubbish bin, not the recycling bin.

We are also tackling contamination through better communications and bin labelling, direct and targeted communications to householders where the problem occurs, and through working with caretakers and housing providers to help identify and address problems locally.

## Fly-tipping

We will not tolerate the illegal dumping of rubbish in Islington and will not hesitate to take robust enforcement action, aiming for the maximum level of fines, against anyone fly-tipping rubbish.

## Recycling and rubbish bin colours

Simple changes can make a big difference. We have changed the colour of our new household and commercial recycling and rubbish bin colours to make their use clearer and we have broadly welcomed government proposals that consistent container colours should be used by all Local Authorities.



## Compulsory recycling

Islington has a **compulsory recycling** policy, which means that it is compulsory for residents to recycle using the recycling service we provide. The policy emphasises the need for education and encouragement before enforcement. Legislative changes have made it harder for Islington to use this policy effectively in a fair and reasonable way and we will continue to encourage the government to reverse these damaging changes to legislation.

## Tenancy agreements

Islington is working hard to improve recycling facilities for its housing residents, but also expect those **residents to do their bit**. Recycling in Islington is compulsory and by April 2021, **we will consult on the introduction of a clause in our tenancy agreements requiring residents to recycle**. In the meantime, **we will help our new tenants to recycle by including information on recycling on their estates in new resident starter packs**.

## Containers for door to door recycling

We provide free green recycling boxes to residents in street properties receiving a weekly door to door recycling collection. For some properties with no storage space at the front of their property, we provide free clear recycling sacks. However, many residents prefer the recycling sacks and like to use them to provide additional capacity for storing their recycling before collection.

These recycling sacks are available free of charge in our libraries, but we want to make these sacks as easy to get as possible and will expand the number of outlets across the Borough.

## Litter

Islington has introduced over 300 new split litter bins for recyclable and non-recyclable litter. **We will also improve recycling of litter in parks and explore whether litter picked up by litter pickers, on pavements and on estates, can also be recycled.**



Figure 6 'Recycling on the go' litter bins

## Leading by example

Islington has comprehensive recycling services for mixed dry recycling and food waste in all its **offices** and expects its own staff to recycle and minimise their waste.

## Schools and children

We would like all our children to understand the importance of recycling and reducing waste and to use the services provided. **We will engage with schools and children to reduce plastic and food waste within schools.**

**We will use recycling tonnage information to provide feedback to schools,** in the form of a league table, to encourage better recycling performance.

**All schools in Islington have a recycling services** for at least the main six materials and we ask our schools to make an annual commitment to maintain these facilities and encourage recycling in their schools.

There are a range of activities taking place in schools and other settings with children and young people to promote recycling and waste reduction. These include the following:

Islington schools and early years settings are involved in the **Healthy Schools and Healthy Early Years programmes**, which have clear criteria relating to recycling whereby schools have to describe learning activities relating to environmental issues, including recycling. Early years settings need to ensure there are age appropriate opportunities for children to learn about how to look after the environment. There also need to be activities and information available for parents and carers to support sustainability, including active travel, recycling or energy saving in order for settings to achieve the silver award.

There are specific school led activities carried out by school staff which engage children with recycling.

Commissioned adventure playgrounds and youth providers all have recycling bins within their settings and actively encourage children and young people to use these. Planning and programming throughout the year in adventure play and youth provision has an eco-friendly focus including:

- Food growing on adventure playgrounds, with composting included in gardening activities
- Re-using materials for a range of projects, with many materials donated by the local community or acquired through membership with organisations such as the Children's Scrap Project
- Working with Greenspace to upcycle old play equipment and use wood chippings from felled/pruned trees
- Food waste reduction schemes (for example Fare Share) through local stores like Tesco, Waitrose and Budgets, so that fruit, vegetables and baked goods can be used for cooking sessions or redistributed to local families
- Adventure playgrounds and 'The Wilderness Project' at the Rose Bowl utilising a 'Forest OoSchool' approach: inclusive, hands-on learning in a woodland or natural environment, including opportunities to actively engage in the outdoors

The catering supplier for the majority of Islington schools is required to have initiatives in place to reduce food wastage not only for kitchen staff but pupils as well. For example, they run sessions to educate children on the importance of eating your school lunch, trying new foods and not wasting food, as well having schemes such as Food Ambassadors and the Clean Plate awards.

## Communicating our performance

Recycling data is publicly available through the Waste Data Flow website. However, we recognise that residents want better information more easily available. **We will publish data on our recycling performance on our website** including historical data for context.

## Objective 2: Increase recycling - local targets

Islington proposes setting the following targets to drive increases in recycling rates.

	Performance (2017/18)	Target 2022	Target 2025
Annual household waste recycling rate (% by weight)	29.5%	33%	36%
Annual Local Authority Collected Waste recycling rate (% by weight)	20%	To be confirmed by September 2020 once commercial element has been quantified.	To be confirmed by September 2020 once commercial element has been quantified.
The proportion of (residential) properties receiving the minimum level of service for household recycling	100%	100%	100%
% of properties served at the kerbside with collections of six main dry materials and separately collected food waste	100%	100%	100%
% of flats collecting six main dry materials	100%	100%	100%
% of flats collecting six main dry materials and separately collected food waste	~50%	100%	100%

### Household waste recycling rate (% by weight)

Islington is the most densely populated Borough in England with a high proportion of its properties being purpose-built blocks of flats or houses converted into flats. It is harder to achieve high levels of recycling for flats because of the relative inconvenience of separating out recycling and using communal recycling facilities. Furthermore, since Local Authority recycling rates include garden waste collected for recycling, Islington is not able to make the significant contribution towards its recycling rate that is made by other Boroughs with more properties with gardens.

Despite this, Islington is committed to providing excellent recycling services and to achieving the challenging recycling targets it has set.

A recent study commissioned by the GLA<sup>16</sup> suggests that with Islington's existing recycling services, a **recycling rate of 36% is achievable**. Islington's current recycling rate is around 30% and has remained static for a few years. An increase to 36% is only achievable with a significant increase in the use of recycling services by residents.

<sup>16</sup> [https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/les\\_appendix\\_2\\_-\\_evidence\\_base\\_0\\_0.pdf](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/les_appendix_2_-_evidence_base_0_0.pdf)



In particular, while around 80% of residents on street properties recycle dry material routinely, only around 30% recycle food waste. A significant amount of food waste is thrown away and we need to do more to reduce this and increase the proportion being recycled.

Furthermore, the proportion of waste recycled by residents in purpose-built flats is lower than for street properties. This is a common feature for all Local Authorities and the reasons for this are well understood. Nevertheless, there is potential to recycle more on estates and Islington is involved in several initiatives to help residents on estate recycle more.

Islington considers that it may be possible to achieve a **recycling rate of 36%** through a concerted effort of working with residents to help them make more of the recycling services provided to them, achievable by 2025 and with an interim target of 33% for 2022.

### **Local Authority Collected Waste recycling rates**

**We will work with LWARB to develop a new commercial waste business plan** and communications plan that will include the setting of recycling targets, and therefore a LACW target, by September 2020.

### **Reuse and recycling centre performance**

73% of the waste received at the NLWA operated RRC's, including Hornsey Street in Islington was recycled in 17/18. The receipt of waste from commercial and industrial sources at existing RRC's has been considered but the lack of weighbridges and other operational considerations prevent this.

## Objective 2: Increase recycling - summary

Key actions – policy	Key actions – core service provision	Key actions – behaviour change activities
<p><b>What we are doing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Engage in government consultations, encourage further action</li> <li>✓ Climate emergency declared</li> <li>✓ Islington's Corporate Plan</li> <li>✓ Annual WM&amp;RAP now replaced by the RRP</li> <li>✓ E&amp;R Scrutiny Committee review of household recycling in Islington with Exec Committee response</li> <li>✓ Local Plan, including guidance for developers</li> <li>✓ NLWA Joint Waste Strategy</li> <li>✓ Exceed 'minimum service requirements'</li> <li>✓ Improve service quality</li> </ul> <p><b>What we will do</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ New Local Plan for Islington</li> <li>✓ Maintain and improve recycling service quality standards</li> <li>✓ Improve communication</li> </ul>	<p><b>What we are doing</b></p> <p>Service quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Direct service delivery</li> <li>✓ Retain weekly bin collections</li> <li>✓ Same day collections</li> <li>✓ Continue to improve service quality</li> </ul> <p>Exceed minimum requirements, which are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ All properties with kerbside recycling collections to receive a separate weekly food waste collection</li> <li>✓ all properties to receive a collection of, at a minimum, the six main dry recycling materials, i.e. glass, cans, paper, card, plastic bottles and mixed</li> </ul> <p>as well as...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Door to door recycling, food waste, garden waste and residual waste on the same day</li> <li>✓ 300+ 'recycling on the go' litter bins</li> <li>✓ Separate collections for food waste for half all purpose-built flats</li> <li>✓ All schools receive a recycling and food waste collection</li> <li>✓ All charities able to receive a recycling and food waste collection</li> <li>✓ Council buildings, libraries, community centres, leisure centres and the Boroughs prisons all receive a recycling collection</li> <li>✓ Commercial waste recycling collection offered to businesses</li> <li>✓ Bring sites around the borough for recycling and other materials such as small electrical items, clothing and footwear</li> <li>✓ Review opportunities for sites for additional materials, such as clothing, for residents on estates</li> <li>✓ A door to door on request collection service for large electrical items</li> <li>✓ Battery recycling points around the Borough</li> </ul>	<p><b>What we are doing</b></p> <p>Communicating with our residents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Encourage the government and industry to take firm action</li> <li>✓ Review comms strategy</li> <li>✓ Provide information to residents on what is being done via our website</li> <li>✓ Review and improve website content</li> <li>✓ Training programme for frontline and back office staff to raise awareness of recycling</li> <li>✓ Ensure all our community centres have good recycling facilities and ensure those who use the centres on a daily basis or for specific events, recycle effectively</li> <li>✓ Improve our guide for new tenants in Islington's homes</li> <li>✓ Work with landlords and housing managers to improve recycling</li> <li>✓ Complete the estates recycling project with Resource London and Peabody Housing Trust</li> <li>✓ Use reverse lid bins to improve the quality of recycling collected</li> <li>✓ Reduce contamination through targeted communications and bin labelling</li> <li>✓ Changed the colour of new household and commercial recycling and rubbish bins to make their use clearer and broadly welcomed government proposals that consistent container colours should be used by all Local Authorities</li> <li>✓ A range of activities taking place in schools and other settings with children and young people to promote recycling and waste reduction</li> </ul> <p><b>What we will do</b></p> <p>Communicating with our residents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Food waste campaign to encourage all our residents to reduce food waste and recycle more</li> <li>✓ Use tonnage and schedule data to identify areas of the Borough that</li> </ul>

Key actions – policy	Key actions – core service provision	Key actions – behaviour change activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Provide a Christmas tree recycling service</li> <li>✓ Trial recycling bins that enable better access for residents in wheelchairs or who find placing recycling into recycling bins difficult</li> </ul> <p><b>What we will do</b></p> <p>Increase food waste recycling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Explore the feasibility of expanding the service to all our estate properties</li> <li>✓ Trial food waste recycling for flats above shops</li> <li>✓ Launch a new commercial food waste recycling service</li> </ul> <p>Improve service quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Make it easier to get recycling containers</li> <li>✓ Make it easier to report missed collections</li> <li>✓ Improve recycling of litter in parks</li> <li>✓ Trial recycling of litter picked on pavements and on estates</li> <li>✓ Meet and exceed minimum standards for communal recycling sites</li> <li>✓ Expand the number of recycling sack outlets across the Borough</li> <li>✓ Extend the offer of mini recycling bags to other estates, making them available through caretakers and concierge services</li> <li>✓ Review planning guidance to ensure that bin areas in new properties are fully accessible</li> </ul>	<p>recycle more than others, to help us target our communications more effectively</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Set up performance tables between, for example, schools or estates</li> <li>✓ Use bin sensor technology to monitor targeted recycling sites to ensure the capacity and collection frequency is sufficient and to improve service quality</li> <li>✓ Engage with voluntary, faith based and cultural organisations to raise awareness of recycling and encourage these groups to raise awareness of recycling among their communities</li> <li>✓ Launch a Recycling Champions scheme</li> <li>✓ Provide the right information on recycling to new residents through our website, through landlords and lettings agencies, and when residents register for the Council tax</li> <li>✓ Extend the Better Recycling Sites programme</li> <li>✓ Implement findings from the estates recycling project</li> <li>✓ Consult on the introduction of a clause in our tenancy agreements requiring residents to recycle by April 2021</li> <li>✓ Launch a ‘bin your nappy’ campaign, highlighting the problem of nappy waste in recycling bins</li> <li>✓ Continue to encourage the government to reverse damaging changes to legislation that prevent us from enforcing our Compulsory Recycling policy</li> <li>✓ Develop a new commercial waste business plan and communications plan that will include the setting of recycling targets, and therefore a LACW target, by September 2020</li> <li>✓ Publish data on our recycling performance on our website including historical data for context</li> </ul>

**Objective 3: Reduce the  
environmental impact of  
waste activities**



## Objective 3: Reduce the environmental impact of waste activities



### Air Quality Strategy

Air quality is an important issue for public health, the economy and the environment. Air pollutants have a significant impact on our health and poor air quality contributes to numerous diseases and conditions. Air pollution impacts the economy through medical costs and lost productivity, and the environment through impacts on the quality of water, soil and ecosystem health. The draft Islington Air Quality Strategy 2019-2023<sup>17</sup> incorporates an action plan which outlines the actions we will take to protect the most vulnerable residents, reduce pollution from transport and improve air quality in Islington by lowering exposure to the main pollutants from 2019 to 2023. This includes improving our fleet and reducing overall fuel usage.

### Islington's fleet

Islington operates a refuse and recycling fleet of 45 heavy goods vehicles, including spares, which are a mixture of designs and weight types to deliver core waste and recycling services.

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<sup>17</sup> <https://www.islington.gov.uk/~media/sharepoint-lists/public-records/environmentalprotection/information/adviceandinformation/20192020/20190529draftairqualitystrategy201923.pdf>

# Ultra Low Emissions Zone

The Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) was introduced to help improve the air we breathe in London and to reduce the risk of heart and lung disease and asthma. From 8 April 2019, vehicles including cars and vans need to meet tighter emissions standards before entering the zone or pay a daily charge. The zone includes an area of central London that includes the southern area of Islington and will be extended to include the whole of Islington from October 2021.

Islington has a fleet replacement programme to enable Islington to move to a **cleaner fleet** and **ULEZ compliance**. This programme will cover the entire fleet by October 2020 prior to the second expansion of the ULEZ area in 2021.

Islington will comply with the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) vehicle exhaust emissions standards by no later than October 2020 and work towards our overall ambition for:

- All new cars and vans (less than 3.5 tonnes) being zero emission capable from 2025
- All heavy goods vehicles (greater than 3.5 tonnes) being fossil fuel-free from 2030
- Zero emission fleet by 2050

Our fleet procurement strategy is being updated and includes commitments to prioritise the cleanest options for vehicle procurement based on the following hierarchy:

- Electric
- Petrol-Electric Hybrid
- Compressed Natural Gas
- Petrol
- Diesel



Figure 7 Split body vehicles collect recycling and organics in one vehicle to improve efficiency

## New technology

As well as ensuring the fleet is operating to the cleanest standard of diesel engine available, Islington has been reviewing the latest **clean vehicle technology**. Trials of **gas-to-liquid** and **compressed natural gas** vehicles are ongoing and preparatory work to scope the introduction of these fuels at Islington's central depot is complete.

As part of the vehicle replacement strategy we aim to adopt **EV charging technology** to support all council EVs and support the transition to electric or hydrogen as heavy vehicle technology becomes available for Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCVs).

Ultimately the fleet aims to be fully electric to achieve **zero tailpipe emissions** targets.

Islington already operates several Nissan ENV 200s and Peugeot Partners across different services. As part of the current fleet replacement programme the number of **Electric Vehicles** (EVs) will increase with new vehicles being procured throughout 2019.

**We will ensure that electrical infrastructure at key sites can support a wide-scale adoption of EVs** as well as **electric HGVs** that require a substantial power input. UK Power Networks (UKPN) have completed a site assessment of the Hornsey Road site and will be providing details on opportunities to introduce heavy-duty EV charging based on the current baseload of the site. A separate demonstrator project is underway to test a **vehicle to grid system** aimed to go live in the Summer of 2019. This technology is a key element in supporting the

borough's move to an electric fleet by helping to manage power input into EVs against the baseload power required at the charging site. The technology means we can reduce the council's power requirements or even return power to the supplier to generate revenue.

Subject to manufacturer's availability we are anticipating operating a fully electric RCV in the next 12 months. Subject to its practical operation we will aim to increase the number of these ERCVs in the next 24 months.

We will support our continuing electrification and carbon emission reduction to net-zero with wide-spread communication activity to show how Islington Council is leading the way on adopting zero-emission vehicles.

Our **commercial waste and household collections** are mostly carried out on the same vehicles to maximise route efficiency, avoiding duplicate journeys and reducing fuel use and emissions.

## Fleet Operators Recognition Scheme

As part of its commitment to improving air quality Islington has ensured that it has included behaviour change activities in relation to its waste fleet. Islington is accredited with a bronze Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS) and will work towards achieving a Gold standard or equivalent. A key part of the accreditation is ensuring drivers of our waste fleet have an up-to-date knowledge on emissions and fuelling policy and procedure set-out by the borough. FORS requires the borough to have procedures for ensuring our own staff are engaged in efforts to reduce emissions.

Low-emission vehicles and technology are routinely trialled before purchase and so our drivers are often given the opportunity to use the vehicle in everyday work and encouraged to feed back to the fleet and transport department on the benefits and downsides of the vehicles. Islington's low emissions vehicles have clear branding and messaging on them to demonstrate to the general public that they are operating as low-emissions vehicles when carrying out their usual work.

## NLWA's fleet

In addition to Islington's own fleet, we rely on the activities of **NLWA** to manage the waste and recycling that we collect.

The vehicle fleet of the NLWA's current main waste transfer, treatment and disposal contractor, **London Energy Ltd (LEL)**, and those of LEL's subcontractors are working to achieve ULEZ compliance. The use of ULEZ compliant vehicles is a condition of the NLWA's new commingled dry recycling processing contracts which are to begin in December 2019.

LEL have a vehicle replacement programme that ensures vehicles have Euro VI engines in compliance with the ULEZ. Also, LEL are now using some electric vehicles for members of staff and have vehicle charging points at Edmonton using energy generated from the Energy from Waste (EfW) plant.

The waste reception points available to the NLWA Boroughs reflect a good geographical spread within the NLWA area, helping to reduce vehicle miles. Islington's waste reception point at Hornsey Street is conveniently located in the middle of the Borough. The majority of residual waste hauled by road within the NLWA area is subject to thermal treatment at Edmonton EcoPark.

## Transfer of waste by rail and water

Residual Waste collected by the NLWA's constituent Boroughs and RRC's is received at one of three reception points – Hornsey Street in Islington, Hendon Rail Waste Transfer Facility in Barnet and Edmonton EcoPark in Enfield. Most of Islington's waste is delivered to Hornsey Street before being transferred by road to Edmonton EcoPark for incineration. The facility is highly constrained and, despite adjoining a railway line, there is no realistic prospect of building rail or water transfer at the facility.

Edmonton EcoPark is the subject of major redevelopment proposals which have been approved by a Development Consent Order (DCO) granted by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. As the site adjoins the River Lee Navigation the NLWA investigated the possibility of transporting a proportion of the total waste to and incineration bottom ash from the Edmonton EcoPark via water. The results of the investigation show transport via the waterways would not be cost effective or practical.

As the site does not adjoin a railway line and neither of the future transfer stations will be rail-connected, transferring waste by rail is also not possible.

## Emissions Performance Standard

The London Environment Strategy requires Boroughs to measure the environmental impact of waste services by measuring the carbon emissions, as well as the amount of waste produced and recycled:

“While the Mayor has a weight based target of 65 per cent of municipal waste being recycled overall by 2030, a carbon based EPS (Environmental Performance Standard) approach will also be retained that will sit alongside this target. Sending waste to landfill or incineration generates GHG emissions whereas recycling materials avoids GHG emissions that would have otherwise occurred in the manufacturing of products from virgin materials. A carbon based approach promotes recycling, particularly of high carbon and high value materials, such as plastic, metals and textiles.”<sup>18</sup>

In practice, this means that whilst a collection vehicle run on diesel emits carbon, recycling the collected material into a new product may result in less emissions than making the same items from virgin materials, reducing the overall emissions. The net carbon emission may be either positive or negative depending on the collection and disposal arrangements.

The EPS calculation takes account of all waste collection and disposal operations, from collection of waste and recycling at the doorstep, through to final disposal or recycling.

Islington will use the Mayor’s EPS model to calculate its EPS and will reduce its current EPS by:

- Reducing waste and increasing reuse (for example by driving down food and plastic waste and promoting furniture reuse)
- Increasing recycling rates (for example by extending the food waste collection service and encouraging greater use of our services by residents and businesses)
- Reducing emissions from our collection fleet (for example by moving to ULEZ compliant and zero tailpipe emissions vehicles)
- Maximising the route efficiency of our collection fleet (for example, by retaining the co-collection of mixed dry recycling, food waste and garden waste in single one pass vehicles)
- Making sure only truly non-recyclable waste is going for energy generation
- With our NLWA moving to a more efficient EfW facility incorporating Combined Heat and Power for more efficient energy production from residual waste, and
- Ensuring that the current small quantity of waste sent to landfill is reduced to zero

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<sup>18</sup> [https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/london\\_environment\\_strategy\\_0.pdf](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/london_environment_strategy_0.pdf)



## Objective 3: Reduce environmental impact - local targets

	Performance (2017/18)	Target 2022	Target 2025
<b>Proportion (%) of waste fleet heavy vehicles that are ULEZ compliant (Euro VI diesel)</b>	64%	100% (by 2020)	100%
<b>Performance of LACW activities against the Mayor's EPS (tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>eq per tonne of waste managed)</b>	0.33	0.044	-0.001

To set a meaningful Local Authority Collected Waste EPS target, we must set a Local Authority Collected Waste recycling target, which includes both household and business waste. We are committed to a 36% household waste recycling rate and we are committed to setting a commercial waste recycling rate as part of an overall business case. Once these are set, we will be able to set revised Local Authority Collected Waste EPS targets for 2022 and 2025.

In addition to the actions outlined above, the targets in the table above are based on the following specific assumptions and service changes:

### 2021/22

- 7.5% reduction in arisings from the baseline 2017/18 figures
- A 5% increase in dry recycling tonnages from the baseline 2017/18 figures
- An increase of 700 tonnes of food waste resulting from the expansion of the food waste recycling service

### 2025/26

- 13% reduction in arisings from the baseline 2017/18 figures
- A 10% increase in dry recycling tonnages from the baseline 2017/18 figures
- An increase of 700 tonnes of food waste resulting from the expansion of the food waste recycling service
- New Resource Recovery Facility in operation
- Material capture rate increases from baseline 2017/18 figures.
  - Paper / Card – 11%
  - Glass – 13%
  - Ferrous Metals – 9%
  - Non-Ferrous Metals – 7%
  - Plastics – 5%

## Objective 3: Reduce environmental impact - summary

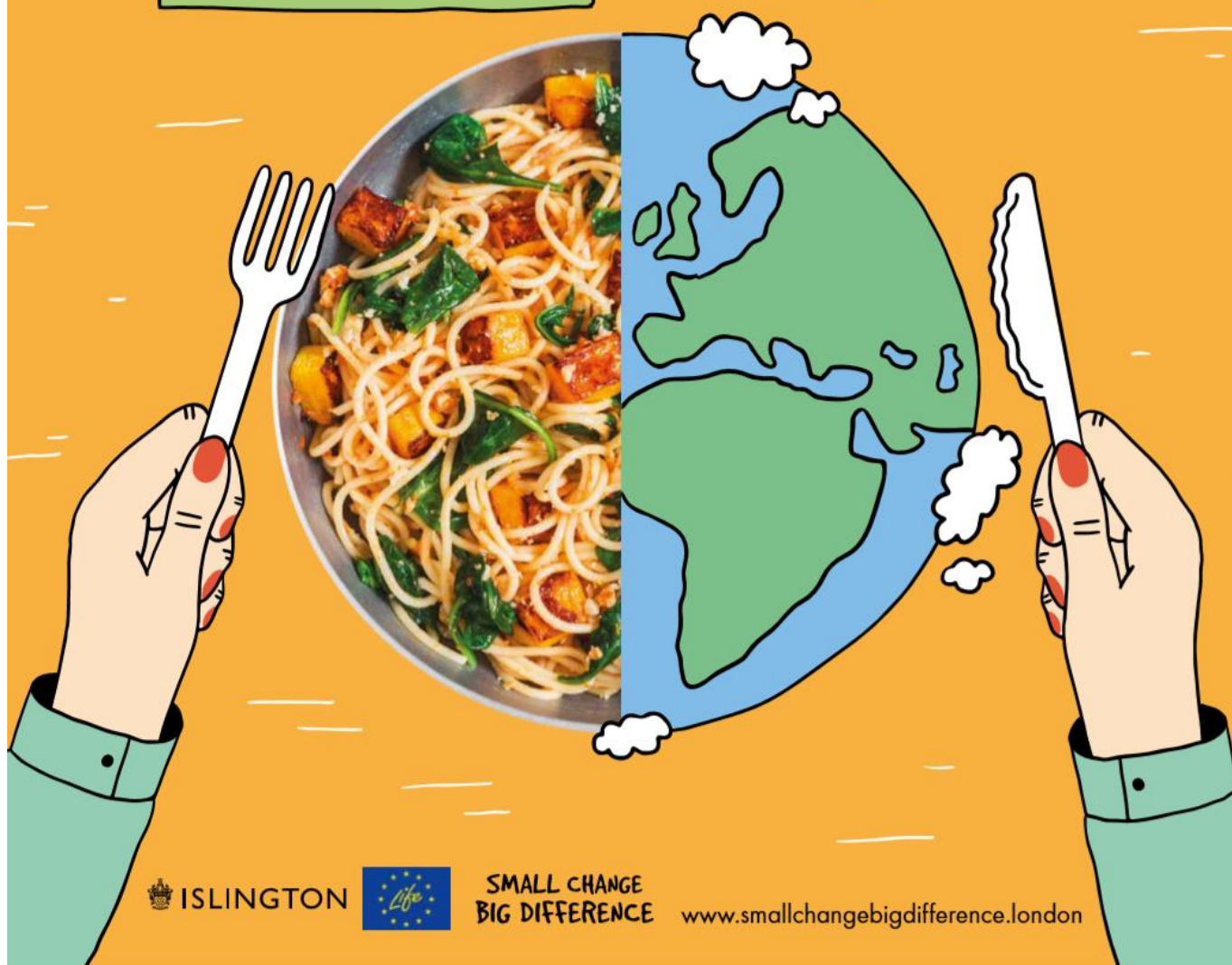
Key actions – policy	Key actions – core service provision	Key actions – behaviour change activities
<p><b>What we are doing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Comply with the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) vehicle exhaust emissions standards by no later than October 2020.</li> <li>✓ Update our fleet procurement strategy.</li> </ul>	<p><b>What we are doing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Fleet replacement programme to move to a cleaner fleet and Ultra Low Emissions Zone (ULEZ) compliance by October 2020.</li> <li>✓ Trials of gas-to-liquid and compressed natural gas vehicles.</li> <li>✓ Increasing number of electric vehicles in fleet.</li> <li>✓ Adopt the technology to support all council EVs and support the transition to electric as heavy vehicle technology becomes available for RCVs.</li> <li>✓ Commercial waste and household collections are mostly carried out on the same vehicles to maximise route efficiency, avoiding duplicate journeys and reducing fuel use and emissions</li> </ul> <p><b>What we will do</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Ensure that electrical infrastructure at key sites can support a wide-scale adoption of EVs and electric HGVs</li> <li>✓ Demonstrator project to test a vehicle to grid system.</li> <li>✓ Operate at least one fully electric RCV by April 2020</li> <li>✓ Review the cost and environmental impact of separate treatment of food waste at an anaerobic digestion treatment facility by September 2020</li> <li>✓ Use the Mayor's Environmental Performance Standard model to calculate its EPS and reduce current EPS</li> </ul>	<p><b>What we are doing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Bronze Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS) recognition.</li> </ul> <p><b>What we will do</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Work towards gold level FORS recognition or equivalent</li> </ul>

People of Islington

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**Objective 4: Maximise local waste sites and ensure London has sufficient infrastructure to manage all the waste it produces**



## Objective 4: Maximise local waste sites and ensure London has sufficient infrastructure to manage all the waste it produces



### Recycling responsibly

As the statutory waste disposal authority, the NLWA is responsible for managing the recycling that Islington collects. **We will continue to work with the NLWA to ensure that its Materials Reclamation Facility (MRF) contracts place a priority on processing recycling in or as close to the UK as possible.** We have a robust Duty of Care procedure in place to ensure that the MRF operator is dealing with the material received in a proper and legal fashion. This includes regular site visits and inspections of paperwork and records and consignments. The MRF operators are also regulated by the Environment Agency.

### Managing and disposing of our recycling and waste

The recycling and disposal of the recycling and waste we collect is managed by the NLWA, the statutory waste disposal authority for seven north London Boroughs. The NLWA is a partnership with seven north London councils including Islington.

The NLWA works with local recycling companies to sort and recycle the material we collect. London Energy Limited (LEL) operates the energy from waste facility at the Edmonton Ecopark where Islington's waste is sent, as well as operating some other local facilities. LEL is wholly owned by the NLWA.

## Transfer Stations

London Energy Ltd (LEL) operate three transfer stations on behalf of the NLWA – Hornsey Street in Islington, Hendon Rail Waste Transfer Facility in Barnet and Edmonton EcoPark in Enfield.

The redevelopment of the Edmonton EcoPark will include a new **Resource Recovery Facility (RRF)**. This will contain a new Reuse and Recycling Centre (RRC) for NLWA residents able to handle approximately 8,000 tonnes of waste per annum. It will also contain a new waste reception point and transfer station that will replace the Bulky Waste Recycling Facility (BWRF). This will be able to handle up to 380,000 tonnes of various waste streams and will include facilities for processing residual waste for recycling.

**Hornsey Street** household waste recycling centre in Islington receives most of Islington's mixed dry recycling, mixed food and garden waste and residual waste.

## Recycling

Mixed dry recycling is transported from Hornsey Street one of the NLWA contractor's MRFs. The current NLWA MRF contracts are due to expire in December 2019 and are being re-procured.

The acceptance criteria include the following materials, delivered as a single stream:

- Cardboard
- Newspaper and pamphlets
- Mixed paper
- Catalogues and Telephone directories
- Plastic carrier bags
- Aluminium Cans and Foil
- Steel Cans
- Plastic bottles (all colours and polymers)
- Glass bottles and jars (all colours)
- Cartons (e.g. milk and juice cartons)
- Plastic pots, tubs and trays
- Shredded paper

## Food and garden waste

Food waste and garden waste is collected along with mixed dry recycling on two-compartment vehicles maximising the efficiency of the collection rounds, reducing mileage and emissions. Given the population density of the borough this is important and allows us to provide both a garden and food waste collection service efficiently.

The food and garden waste are placed together in one compartment of a collection vehicle, while mixed dry recycling is placed in the other. The material is taken to the Hornsey Street depot before being bulked and transported on to a commercial composting facility.

The treatment of separate food and garden waste streams would require the use of either three compartment vehicles (for mixed dry recycling, food and garden waste), or separate collection vehicles for food waste. Either is likely to reduce the efficiency and increase the cost of, vehicle movements and emissions from the collection service.

Residents are asked to present their food and garden waste in separate containers. This arrangement maximises the amount presented by residents for recycling.

We are confident that Islington's collection system maximises efficiency whilst encouraging the broadest participation in recycling. Nevertheless, we recognise that processing food waste by anaerobic digestion is preferable, environmentally, to composting, and **we will carry out a review, to be completed by September 2020, into the cost and environmental impact of separate treatment of food waste at an anaerobic digestion treatment facility.**

## Other recycling

Bulky waste received at the Bulky Waste Recycling Facility (BWRF) at the Edmonton EcoPark is sorted in a 'dirty MRF' facility to remove mixed paper and card, mixed plastics, scrap metal, rubble, wood and other materials from residual waste for recycling prior to the incineration of the remaining residual waste. Around 35% of this material is recycled.

Some large items of recyclable material are removed from bulky waste by operatives at Hornsey Street. In total around 2,500 tonnes of material are removed from residual waste for recycling by these means annually.

## Reuse and recycling centres (RRC)

There are 8 Reuse and Recycling Centres (RRCs) in the NLWA area. All residents, including those from outside of the NLWA area, are free to use any of these 8 RRCs which accept a wide range of materials. A further covered RRC with the ability to receive waste from commercial and industrial sources will be developed at the Edmonton EcoPark.

### **We will continue to provide a Reuse and Recycling Centre at Hornsey Street**

Residents arriving as **pedestrians or on bicycle** are welcome to leave their items at the drop off facility at the Hornsey Street entrance and **we will investigate providing linked drop off facilities at local community centres or similar for small items.**

73% of the waste received at the NLWA operated RRC's was recycled in 17/18.

It is considered that best practice operates at NLWA's RRCs including the site in Islington, and that the current rate of reuse and recycling reflects this.

## Managing our waste within London

The percentage of LACW sent by the NLWA and its constituent Boroughs for treatment and disposal inside and outside of London in 2017/18 were as follows:

	Inside London	Outside London
<b>Commingled Dry Recycling</b>	100%	0%
<b>Green Garden Waste</b>	40%	60%
<b>Mixed Organics</b>	51%	49%
<b>Food Waste</b>	82%	18%
<b>Residual Waste</b>	92%	8%

Organics and residual waste are managed under the NLWA's Main Waste Contract with LEL which expires in December 2025. The new Energy Recovery Facility is due to be operational by 2026 and is anticipated to have sufficient capacity to process all of the NLWA's residual waste that is suitable for incineration.

## Wise up to Waste

The NLWA run website [www.wiseuptowaste.org](http://www.wiseuptowaste.org) provides bespoke information on all RRCs, and other disposal sites across the North London area to help engage and provide information to residents. This site also provides a broad range of behaviour change information around a wide range of waste issues. Islington will do more to promote this useful resource to its residents. **We will actively promote NLWA's 'Wise up to Waste' to our residents.**



## Site visits

Waste processing, recycling and composting sites can be fascinating places. Visitors to these facilities often comment on how their eyes have been opened to the complexity and effectiveness of the waste management process. We recognise the value of these site visits and will do more to arrange and promote such visits for members of the public.

Resource London and WRAP templates and resources are used in the promotion of these sites.



*Figure 8 Recycling being sorted*

## Objective 4: Waste sites - summary

Key actions – policy	Key actions – core service provision	Key actions – behaviour change activities
<p><b>What we are doing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Local Plan includes policy to 'continue to work with the seven North London boroughs on the North London Waste Plan to provide sufficient land to meet waste management needs across the seven North London boroughs</li> </ul> <p><b>What we will do</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ North London Waste Plan (the 'NLWP') will ensure adequate provision of land for waste use in the area up to 2035.</li> </ul>	<p><b>What we are doing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Hornsey Street household waste recycling centre in Islington receives most of Islington's mixed dry recycling, mixed food and garden waste and residual waste.</li> <li>✓ NLWA facilities and contracts for mixed dry recycling, organics and bulky waste</li> <li>✓ 8 RRCs in the NLWA area</li> <li>✓ robust Duty of Care procedure in place to ensure that the MRF operator is dealing with the material received in a proper and legal fashion</li> </ul> <p><b>What we will do</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Investigate providing linked drop off facilities at local community centres or similar for small items</li> <li>✓ Redevelopment of the Edmonton EcoPark to include a new Resource Recovery Facility (RRF).</li> <li>✓ New Reuse and Recycling Centre (RRC) at the EcoPark.</li> <li>✓ New MRF contracts from December 2019.</li> </ul>	<p><b>What we are doing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <a href="http://www.wiseuptowaste.org">www.wiseuptowaste.org</a> provides information on all RRCs, and other disposal sites across the North London area</li> </ul> <p><b>What we will do</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Arrange facility visits to members of the public</li> <li>✓ Actively promote NLWA's 'Wise up to Waste' to our residents</li> </ul>



## Detailed Action Plan

### Objective 1 - Drive resource efficiency to significantly reduce waste, focussing on food waste and single use plastic

Action	Action description	Date to be completed	Impact / benefit
<b>Weekly bin collections</b>	Retain weekly bin collections	Ongoing	n/a
<b>Reducing single use plastics</b>	Reduce the use of plastic water bottles by making drinking water more freely and easily available by enabling the installation of new drinking water fountains	Ongoing	Reduction in plastic waste
	Share locations of public water sources via our website and the Refill App	November 2019	Reduction in plastic waste
	Promote the Refill App	During National Refill Day annually	Reduction in plastic waste
	Introduce Low Plastic Zones (LPZ) where businesses commit to taking action to reducing single-use plastic waste when they are out and about	First LPZ by September 19	Reduction in plastic waste
	Extend low plastic zone and refill initiatives to other business areas	Ongoing	Reduction in plastic waste
	Eliminate single use plastic from Islington Council's own operations where practical, starting with internal catering	July 2019	Reduction in plastic waste
	Promote reusable alternatives to nappies, wet-wipes, period products and incontinence products containing plastic items and the issue of these items being flushed down the toilet	April 2020	Reduction in plastic waste

Action	Action description	Date to be completed	Impact / benefit
	Engage with schools and children to reduce plastic within schools	Ongoing	Reduction in plastic waste
	Continue to provide information and advice to our residents on how to reduce single use plastics.	Ongoing	Reduction in plastic waste
<b>Reducing food waste</b>	Deliver the 'small change big difference' food waste campaign	July 2019	Reduction in food waste
	Sign the Courthauld Commitment 2025	April 2020	Reduction in food waste
	Support food sharing communications campaigns, Apps and NLWA initiatives	Ongoing	Reduction in food waste
	Support businesses and schools to reduce and recycle their food waste	Ongoing	Reduction in food waste
	Work with the Government's food waste tsar to develop and support initiatives for tackling food waste	Ongoing	Reduction in food waste
<b>Reuse</b>	Working with Bright Sparks, set up a trial reuse service on at least one estate	October 2019	Reduction in bulky waste
	We will hold one Give and Take Day per ward	March 2022	Reduction in bulky waste
	Promote the real nappy scheme	Ongoing	Reduction in household waste
	Offer subsidised home compost bins and wormeries	Ongoing	Reduction in organic waste
	Encourage community composting on estates and in community gardens	Ongoing	Reduction in organic waste

Action	Action description	Date to be completed	Impact / benefit
	Continue to provide a financial incentive for residents to reuse their bulky waste.	Ongoing	Reduction in household waste
Circular economy	Develop a Circular Economy Action Plan	September 2020	Reduction in residual waste
	We will include a Circular Economy design and build policy in our New Local Plan.	September 2020	Reduction in waste
North London Waste Authority	Work in partnership with NLWA to deliver waste minimisation and recycling communications campaigns	Ongoing	Reduction in residual waste
National policy	Respond to government consultations on waste and recycling and publish our responses	Ongoing	Reduction in waste and increase in recycling

## Objective 2: Maximise recycling rates

Action	Action description	Date to be completed	Impact / benefit
<b>Exceeding the minimum requirements</b>	Ensure all properties receive a recycling service that exceeds the minimum service requirements	Ongoing	Increase recycling
<b>Food waste</b>	Explore the feasibility of expanding separate food waste collections to remaining estate properties	From April 2020 subject to resources	Increase recycling
	Trial separate food waste collections for flats above shops	From April 2020 subject to resources	Increase recycling
	Deliver a campaign to encourage residents to reduce food waste and recycle more	July 2019	Increase recycling
<b>Service quality</b>	Make it easier to get recycling containers	Ongoing	Increase recycling
	Make it easier to report missed collections	Ongoing	Increase recycling
<b>Commercial waste recycling</b>	Launch a new food waste recycling service for businesses	To be confirmed	Increase recycling
	Develop a new commercial waste business and communications plan including the setting of recycling targets	September 2020	Increase recycling
<b>Communication</b>	Review our communications strategy, which draws on best practice from others and our own experience and evidence	November 2019	Increase recycling
	Provide the right information on recycling to new residents through our website, through landlords and lettings agencies, and when residents register for the Council tax	Ongoing	Increase recycling
	Review content and structure of the recycling pages of the Councils website	Ongoing	Increase recycling, reduce waste
	Train caretakers and other frontline staff on recycling awareness	Ongoing, through to March 2020	Increase recycling

Action	Action description	Date to be completed	Impact / benefit
	Engage with voluntary, faith based and cultural organisations to raise awareness of recycling and encourage these groups to raise awareness of recycling among their communities	March 2020	Increase recycling
	Ensure all community centres have recycling facilities	June 2019	Increase recycling
	Launch a Recycling Champions scheme	Soft launch July 2019, at least 20 volunteers in first phase, formal launch October 2019	Increase recycling, reduce waste
	Provide information on recycling specifically for new residents via our website	April 2020	Increase recycling
<b>Recycling sites</b>	Extend the Better Recycling Sites programme	Ongoing	Increase recycling
	Continue our partnership project with Resource London and Peabody Housing Trust identifying barriers to recycling behaviour within purpose-built blocks of flats	Ongoing	Increase recycling
	Implement findings from the estates recycling project	Ongoing	Increase recycling
	Meet and exceed the minimum standards for communal recycling sites	Ongoing	Increase recycling
<b>Fly tipping</b>	We will take action to prevent fly tipping	Ongoing	Increase recycling
<b>Landlords and housing managers</b>	Continue our ongoing work with landlords and housing managers	Ongoing	Increase recycling
	Work with private landlords through the HMO licencing schemes and through lettings agencies ensuring residents have good facilities and are aware of how to recycle	Ongoing	Increase recycling
<b>Recycling sacks</b>	Expand the number of recycling sack outlets across the Borough	April 2021	Increase recycling
	Extend the offer of mini recycling bags to other estates	April 2021	Increase recycling



Action	Action description	Date to be completed	Impact / benefit
<b>Using data smarter</b>	Use tonnage and schedule data to help us target communications more effectively	April 2020	Increase recycling
	Set up performance tables between, for example, schools or estates	April 2020	Increase recycling
	Use bin sensors to improve the servicing of communal recycling sites	Ongoing	Increase recycling
<b>Accessible recycling sites</b>	Review planning guidance to ensure bin areas in new properties are fully accessible	April 2021	Increase recycling
	Continue to trial recycling bins that enable better access for residents in wheelchairs or who find placing recycling into recycling bins difficult	April 2020	Increase recycling
<b>Contamination</b>	Launch a 'bin your nappy' campaign, highlighting the problem of nappy waste in recycling bins	July 2019	Increase recycling
	Continue to roll out 'reverse lid' recycling containers to limit contamination	Ongoing	Increase recycling
<b>Compulsory recycling</b>	Consult on the introduction of a clause in our tenancy agreements requiring residents to recycle	April 2021	Increase recycling
	Continue to encourage the government to reverse damaging changes to legislation that prevent us from enforcing our Compulsory Recycling policy	Ongoing	Increase recycling
<b>Litter</b>	Improve recycling of litter in parks	April 2021	Increase recycling
	Trail recycling of litter picked on streets and estates	April 2020	Increase recycling
<b>Communication</b>	Publish data on our recycling performance on our website including historical data for context	April 2020	Increase recycling
<b>Leading by example</b>	Provide recycling facilities for mixed dry recycling and food waste in all our offices, and ensure Council staff have the opportunity and knowledge on how to recycle to increase the capture of recycling from council offices	Ongoing	Increase recycling
<b>Recycling in schools</b>	Ensure all schools have recycling and food waste collections	Ongoing	Increase recycling

## Objective 3: Reduce the environmental impact of waste activities

Action	Action description	Date to be completed	Impact / benefit
<b>Ultra low emission zone</b>	Comply with the ULEZ	October 2020	Reduce environmental impact
<b>Our fleet</b>	Work towards gold level FORS recognition or equivalent	Ongoing	Reduce environmental impact
<b>New technology</b>	Review and use, where practical and affordable, the latest clean vehicle technology	Ongoing	Reduce environmental impact
	Ensure that electrical infrastructure at key sites can support a wide-scale adoption of EVs and electric HGVs	Ongoing	Reduce environmental impact
	Aim to adopt EV charging technology to support all council EVs and support the transition to electric as heavy vehicle technology becomes available for RCV	Ongoing	Reduce environmental impact
	Demonstrator project to test a vehicle to grid system.	April 2020	Reduce environmental impact
	Operate at least one fully electric RCV	April 2020	Reduce environmental impact

## Objective 4: Maximise local waste sites and ensure London has sufficient infrastructure to manage all the waste it produces

Action	Action description	Date to be completed	Impact / benefit
<b>Waste facilities</b>	Redevelopment of the Edmonton EcoPark to include a new Resource Recovery Facility (RRF).	2026	Improve self sufficiency
<b>Reuse and recycling centres</b>	New Reuse and Recycling Centre (RRC) at the EcoPark.	2026	Increase recycling
	Investigate providing linked drop off facilities at local community centres or similar for small items	April 2021	Increase recycling
<b>Site visits</b>	Arrange facility visits to members of the public	Ongoing	Increase recycling
<b>Recycling contracts</b>	Implement new Materials Reclamation Facility (MRF) recycling sorting contracts	December 2019	Increase recycling
<b>Food waste processing</b>	Review options for the separate processing of food and garden waste	September 2020	Reduces environmental impact
<b>Recycling responsibly</b>	Arrange facility visits to members of the public	Ongoing	Increases recycling, reduces waste
	We will actively promote NLWA's 'Wise up to Waste' to our residents	Ongoing	Increases recycling, reduces waste

Do you need this information in another language or reading format such as Braille, large print, audio or Easy Read?

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