

Environment Scrutiny Review Committee – recycling scrutiny

Matthew Homer
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DRAFT

Household recycling in Islington

- Policy and strategy context
- Services
- Performance
- NLWA
- Better recycling sites
- Tackling contamination and fly-tipping
- Private rented sector
- Food waste
- Technology
- Summary

Islington Council's waste strategy

- Annual Waste Minimisation and Recycling Action Plan agreed by Executive Committee
- Last report 29 September 2016

Waste Minimisation and Recycling Action Plan 2016-17

- **Aim**
 - To provide quality recycling services that meet the needs of residents and to reduce the amounts of municipal waste sent for disposal via landfill or incineration.
- **Objectives**
 - To build awareness for the need to recycle/re-use through effective communication
 - To identify opportunities to implement better quality and more cost effective methods of recycling
 - To seek to achieve a 2016/17 recycling rate for waste from households of 35.2% and that supports the NLWA recycling target of 50% by 2020
 - To achieve a household waste (not recycled) rate of no more than 413kg during 2016/17
 - To support the NLWA partnership and the implementation of its waste strategy

About Islington's recycling targets

- Executive committee agreed in 2010 to 'work towards a recycling target in line with that agreed in the NLWA IAA agreement with appropriate interim targets to ensure sufficient progress is made towards that target.
- IAA included waste flow models for each Borough, setting out recycling targets
- Interim targets included in 2012-13 executive committee report
- IAA finally approved in 2014 following cessation of NLWA procurement for new facilities
- Waste flow models removed, but includes a commitment to 'work towards the prevailing North London Joint Waste Strategy and the Waste Framework Directive target of recycling 50% of waste from households by 2020, or any jointly agreed successor targets

Compulsory recycling policy

- Mustn't throw away anything that can be recycled using the service provided to you at home
- Applies to all homes
- Applies to all recycling streams (i.e. mixed dry recycling, food, garden, where service provided)
- Enforcement only practical for street properties, rather than homes with communal bins
- Legislation change makes enforcement much harder
- Currently, no active enforcement

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North London Waste Authority


- Statutory waste disposal authority for
 - Islington
 - Six other north London Boroughs
- Funded through levy
- Menu pricing - different prices per tonne for different waste streams
 - Residual £85.32
 - Mixed Organics £60.85
 - Commingled £48.16
- Recycling in 2016/17 reduced disposal costs by ~ £650k



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NLWA Joint waste Strategy

- 2004-2020, last updated 2009
- 50% recycling target by 2020
- Will be updated in the context of the NLHPP and the Mayor's new Environment Strategy



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Mayor of London's draft Environment Strategy

- Make London a 'zero waste city'
- no biodegradable or recyclable waste sent to landfill by 2025
- 65% of London's municipal waste recycled by 2030
 - ("municipal waste" household waste or business waste that is similar in composition irrespective of who collects or disposes of it)
- 50% recycling by 2025, 60% by 2030 for Local Authority collected waste

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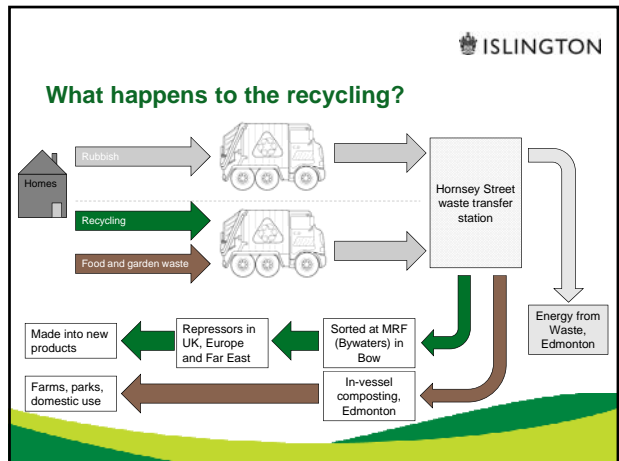
Islington Council recycling services for residents

- Collection of mixed dry recycling **offered** to all residents
- Minimum weekly recycling and refuse collections
- All street properties have food and garden waste collections
- Communal recycling bins for estates
- Nightly collections for flats above shops

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Recycling and residual waste collections from homes

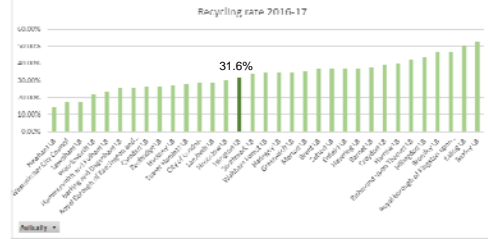
Housing type	Residual waste	Mixed dry recycling	Food waste	Garden waste	Frequency
Street houses, HMOs and small blocks (<7 properties)	No container provided	Green box Clear sacks (collect from libraries)	Kitchen waste caddie and box Biobag liners (collect from libraries)	Reusable bag	Weekly, same day, same vehicle
Street houses etc with no frontage	No container provided	Clear sacks (delivered and collect from libraries)	Kitchen waste caddie and box Biobag liners (collect from libraries)	Reusable bag	Weekly, same day, same vehicle
Blocks of flats (> 6 properties)	Communal wheeled bins (rented or purchased)	Communal recycling sites	Communal recycling sites (some)	None	Weekly or more
Flats above shops	No container provided	Clear recycling sites (delivered and collect from libraries)	None	None	Daily, same time, same vehicle



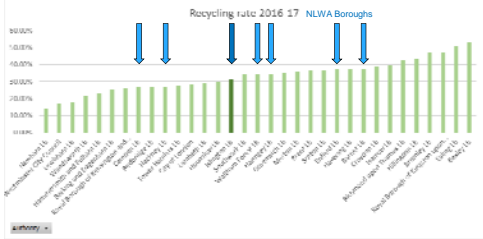
Street property container options

	Green box with lid	Wheeled bins	Clear sacks
Pros	Current system Can request extra Low delivery cost Low risk of contamination	Increases recycling capacity for householder Can displace multiple boxes - tidy Popular with some	Limitless capacity See-through - low risk of contamination No container present following collection - tidy High collection productivity Supply of sacks is good comms tool
Cons	Limited capacity Boxes always present - untidy Misuse of boxes	Expensive Unpopular with many households Not-practical for many households No container provided for rubbish - high risk of contamination Low collection productivity	Supply and delivery cost

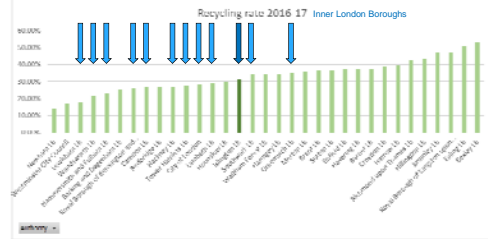
Recycling performance



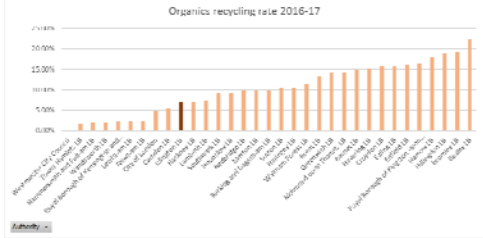
Recycling performance



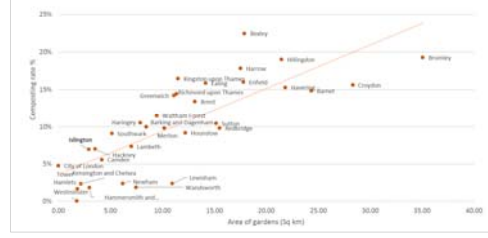
Recycling performance

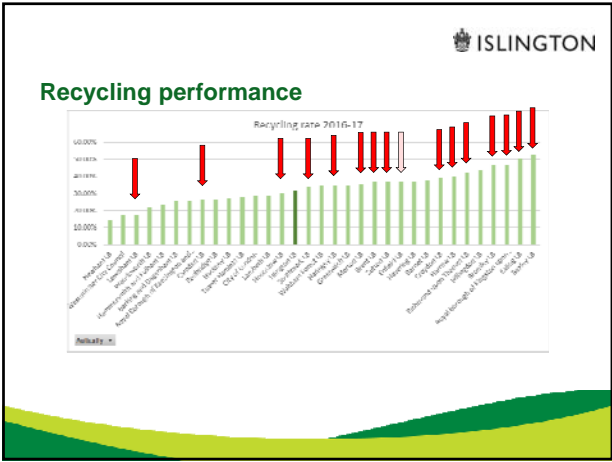
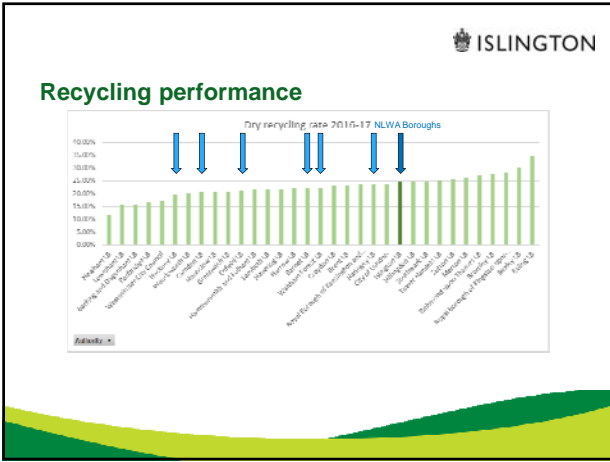


Recycling performance



Composting rate vs area of gardens





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NLWA partnership working



- Waste prevention
- Recycling communications

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NLWA joint Waste Prevention Plan



- Outreach activities to promote food waste reduction and recycling through face-to-face conversations with residents
- Community exchange events entitled 'Give and Take' days
- Clothing repair and upcycling events
- Annual Waste Prevention Exchange
- Schools waste education programme

Budget of £461k in 2016-17.

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NLWA Communications Campaign on Household Recycling



"Save Our Stuff" - three year recycling NLWA campaign
Three year budget totalling £915k

Aims:

- Inspire, motivate and re-energise 18-34 (Millennials) to make recycling the right thing to do.
- Deliver a high level, non instructional campaign
- Used variety of digital advertising and social media
- Over 6 million impressions, 49k visits to campaign website



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Education and engagement

- i-recycle centre
 - Interactive classroom facility at RRC, curriculum linked education programme
 - Resource cut
- Door knocking
 - Door knocking effective way of engaging with residents
 - Green Team / 'Recycling Champions'
- No identified communications budget or resource
- Website (1,000 visits per day)
- Social media (facebook, twitter)
- Communications to support individual projects or service changes
- Heavily dependant on NLWA for outreach



Recycling on estates

- Focus on
 - Improving recycling sites
 - Reducing contamination and fly-tipping
- Communications
 - Door knocking during recycling week
 - Clear recycling sack pilot
 - Electronic screens on estates
- Performance
 - Difficult to gauge
 - Bin sensors / bin weighing may provide performance info



Better recycling sites

- A three year project for improving communal recycling sites
- Capital fund budget of £250K for each year agreed as part of the 2016/17 budget
- Enclosures for recycling containers, improved signage and containers, and communications
- Aim
 - to improve existing communal and estate recycling sites
 - to reduce contamination and fly-tipping

Better recycling sites

Year 1 improvements 2015/16

- 20 x separate recycling sites on housing and street sites
- 46 x separate recycling bins housed
- Variety of enclosures used depending on the site/surrounding environment
- 300 new recycling site signs
- 50 food waste bin housing units
- 5 new CCTV camera systems
- 90 recycling bins replaced with new
- Lid locks

Better recycling sites - examples



Andover Estate



Bath Street



Cottenham House



Food bin enclosures

Better recycling sites - year 2 proposals

- Additional new enclosures for up to 100 recycling containers (approximately 25 locations)
- Additional new enclosures for up to 80 communal food waste containers
- New signs installed at 300 recycling sites
- New or as new refurbished containers to replace 300 old recycling containers
- New 'reverse lid' design if available
- Contributory / match funding

Tackling contamination and fly-tipping

Contamination – anything in the recycling stream that we cannot recycle, e.g.

- Food waste in recycling bins
- Nappies
- Large items
- Black refuse sacks

Impacts

- Rejected loads
- Affects recycling rate
- Costs more to empty and dispose of
- Affects public perception of recycling facilities



Tackling contamination - Communication

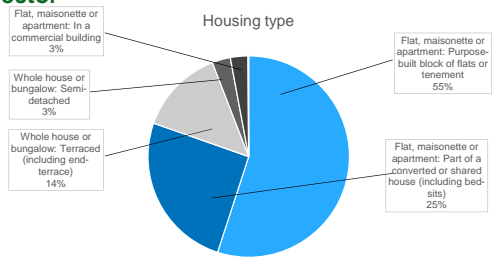
Work closely with crews and caretakers to identify 'contamination sites'
Range of actions taken...

- Clear, standard signage
- "No Black Bags or Rubbish" bin lid stickers
- New bins have green lids
- Stickers informing about consequences of fly-tipping and dumping at public recycling sites
- Communicate fly tipping enforcement actions
- Promote bulky waste collection service
- Letters and leaflets to local residents
- Direct engagement with residents, officers etc

Tackling contamination - operational measures

- Crews and caretakers check bins, remove contamination if safe
- Report contamination and sticker the bin
- Review with stakeholders
- Lock lids where necessary – prevents large items and bags being placed in bin
- Improve recycling bins, lids, enclosures, signage etc
- Review location / accessibility of recycling and refuse bins
- CCTV used to monitor bring sites worst for contamination and dumping
- Work closely with concierge CCTV team to gather evidence
- Enforcement action taken by Compliance Team

Improving recycling in domestic rented sector



Resource London report

- Domestic private rented sector is having a negative impact on recycling performance and street scene issues
- No silver bullet
- Range of locally relevant interventions delivered by number of stakeholders



Recommendations

- Series of recommendations focusing on relationship between
 - Local Authority and landlords
 - Local Authority and tenants
 - Landlords and tenants
- 'Educate and encourage'
 - Improved communications
 - Collaboration
 - Tenancy agreements
- 'Enact and enforce'
 - Clear waste management policies
 - Licensing schemes
 - Enforcement
- Reviewing report and developing an action plan

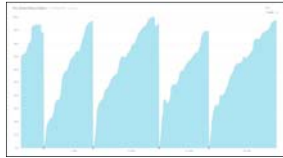
Food waste

- All door to door properties
- Approximately 20,000 estate properties
- Issues
 - Low participation
 - Contamination
 - Hygiene / 'yuck' factor
- Opportunities
 - Residents like the service
 - Potential for increasing usage
 - Improving sites with new enclosures
 - Extend to other estates
 - On street sites for flats above shops



Technology

- Bin sensors
 - Hourly volume fill levels
 - Predicts / alerts full bins
- Bin weighing
 - Weight of content when in emptied
- Performance information
 - Potential to provide estate level recycling info
 - Target comms at low performing estates
 - Monitor impact of comms
 - League tables?
 - Incentives?



Summary

- Comprehensive services provided to residents
- Participation in recycling could be higher
 - Food waste
 - Estates
- Improving perception by improving recycling sites
- Work to be done with landlords and tenants
- Alternative container options for street properties
- Technology may help target resources
- Lack of persistent communications and engagement

Environment Scrutiny Review Committee – recycling scrutiny

Thank you