



# **North London Waste Authority**

## **Progress Update**

**20 February 2023**  
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# NLWA - Context

Over two million people live in the seven boroughs of **Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest** - a quarter of the population of London, and 3% of the UK.

In 2021/22 we managed around 800,000 tonnes of waste. Islington generated **74,146 tonnes of residual waste, 15,245 tonnes of mixed dry recycling and 4567 tonnes of organic waste (food and garden)**. **Around three quarters of this total is from households**

Borough councils are responsible for collecting waste and recycling. NLWA then deals with it. We also:

- promote **waste minimisation** and encourage **recycling**
- arrange materials **collected for recycling** to be recycled
- **transport and dispose** of all “residual waste” collected by our boroughs
- arrange for **7 reuse and recycling centres** to operate incl. **Hornsey Street RRC**
- plan for the infrastructure and contracts needed to provide **long-term high quality recycling and waste services**



NLWA is the UK's second largest waste authority, responsible for managing the transportation and disposal of rubbish on behalf of seven London boroughs



# Waste reduction and recycling in Islington, 2022-23

NLWA's activities follow the waste hierarchy. Our first priority is to **reduce waste**, which saves money for councils and preserves resources for future generations. Highlights from last year include:

## North London Community Fund

Funding provided for:

- Dragon Hall Trust to deliver electrical repair training for young people.
- Octopus Community Network for textile upcycling workshops.

## Repair and upcycling events

- Event took place at Islington the Angel Shopping Centre on 10 September.
- 172 residents attended, hearing from repair and upcycling experts and business owners, with demos and hands-on activities.

## Food waste recycling trial

- Partnership with Islington Council to trial a food waste collection service for flats above shops on Holloway Road.
- Doorstep engagement and surveying was undertaken to launch the trial in October. Evaluation is now underway.



Repair and upcycling event, Islington



Food waste recycling trial launch



# Waste Prevention Plan 2022-25

The plan was informed by stakeholder engagement sessions attended by representatives of a wide range of interest groups from across the Authority's area. 10 Islington-based community groups participated

Activities over the next two years include:

- North London Community Fund doubled to £250,000.
- Promotion of repair, sharing and reuse activities with aim of creating a community-based hub network.
- High profile communications campaigns encouraging residents to recycle more/better, reduce food waste, and use out of home recycling schemes.
- Following recommendations from research with north London primary schools, creation of a resource hub enabling teachers to embed waste prevention into their lessons.
- Reusable nappy subsidy and investigation of an alternative scheme for reusable period products.
- Expand the range of hard-to-recycle items accepted at reuse and recycling centres, such as carpets and hard plastics.
- Behaviour change intervention working with business to encourage their customers to use reusable alternatives to single-use plastics.



Islington North London Community Fund project



Example of high profile waste prevention campaign



# Planning for the future

- NLWA has been clear with Government that driving a truly circular economy needs a strong national and local integrated policy framework.
- We regularly call on the Government to bring forward policies to include:



- **Banning single use plastic** products which aren't recyclable - including coffee cups, stirrers, cutlery.



- Making producers responsible for the cost of disposing of the waste they cause (known as **extended producer responsibility**).



- More coordinated national action to promote a **reduction in food waste**.



- Establishing a **deposit return scheme** covering glass and plastic bottles.



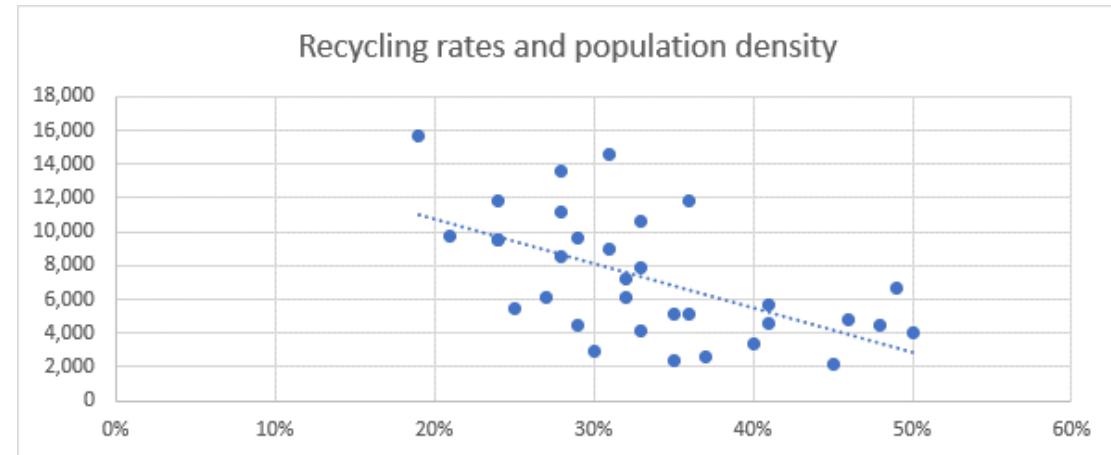
- **Supporting industries** to establish in the UK, using recycled products so there is a market for the materials we collect.

- Government has announced progress on some of these issues but with significant limitations. NLWA will continue to argue for greater ambition
- NLWA worked with social enterprise Everyday Plastic to survey residents. We've been working to raise awareness that our survey found **46 million pieces of plastic** are used every week by north London residents.



# Waste and recycling targets

- Recycling percentage targets are known to reflect unfairly on authorities with high population density.
- However total waste volumes are also lower. East Suffolk has the same population as Islington and generates around 110,000 tonnes of household waste. Islington generates under 70,000 tonnes.
- Under the Environment Act 2021, the Government has set a target to reduce residual waste per capita by 50% by 2042 from 2019 levels. This covers all waste (not just local authority waste). Data are not collected comprehensively at present.
- The target is to reduce residual waste from 560kg per person to 280kg per person. The Islington local authority component is currently between 160kg and 170kg per person



# Windfall payments for north London councils

- The Edmonton energy from waste facility is 100% publicly owned saving councils considerable money for residual waste disposal. The income from energy generation is offset against the cost of disposal for council taxpayers.
- The hardship caused by high energy prices can be devastating
- NLWA Members have voted to pay windfall gains back to boroughs. In total £14.95m will be paid in 2022 and 2023, of which **Islington's share is £1.828m (£0.566m in 2022 and £1.262m in 2023)**
- While we all want to minimise residual waste, it is not practicable to eliminate it. It is positive to ensure it is treated in the best environmental way and for the public benefit



# North London Heat and Power Project

We are building the best solution for dealing with north London's waste....

April 2022: Completion of the  
Temporary Bulky Waste Recycling  
Facility



April 2021: Construction of a northern site access complete



March 2021: Construction of the  
Laydown Area offices



Sept 2021: Completion of the Sewer  
Diversion



Nov 2020: Completion of  
relocation of the Transport Yard  
to Hawley Road



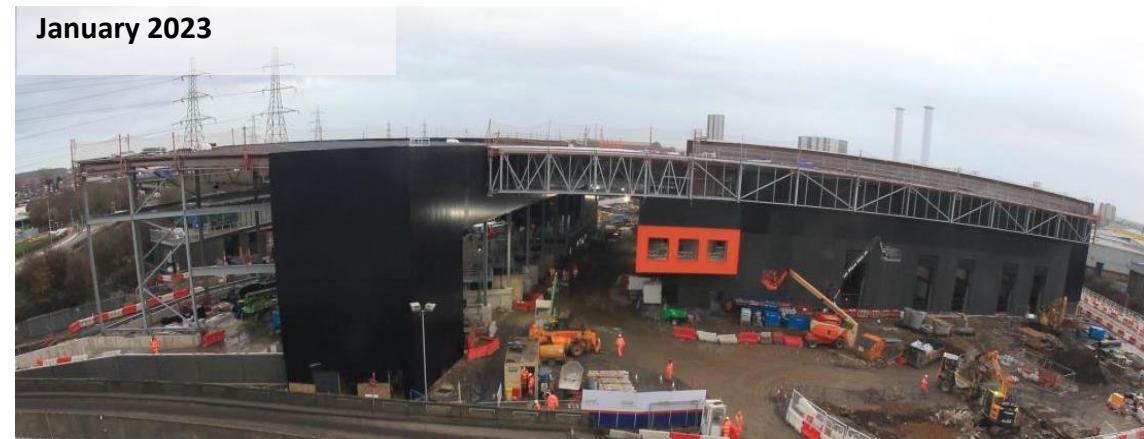
# Progress on waste handling/recycling facilities

January 2021

New facilities

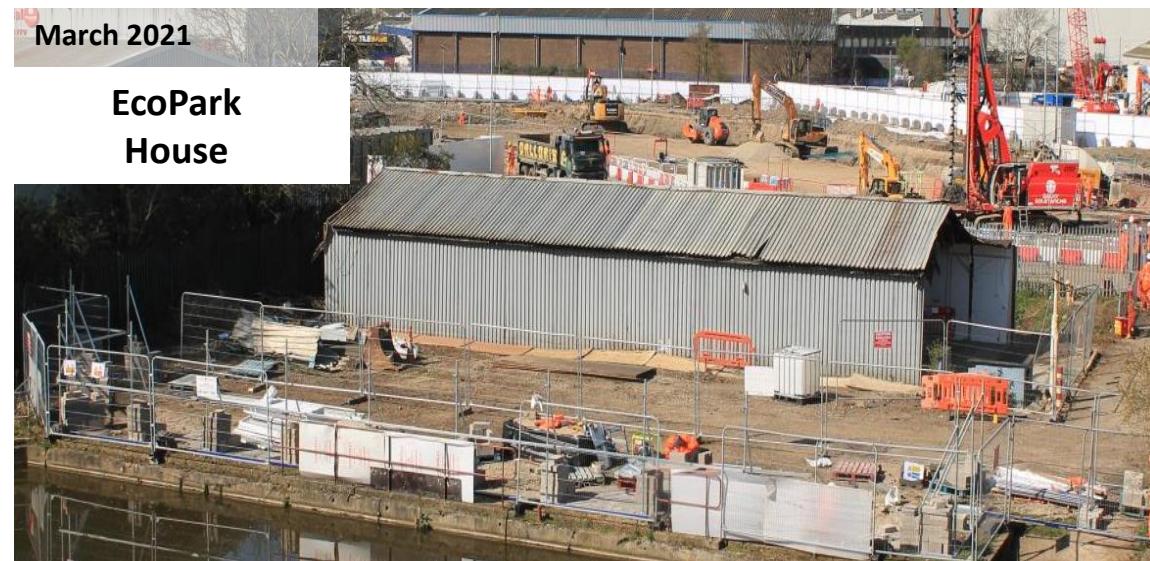


January 2023



March 2021

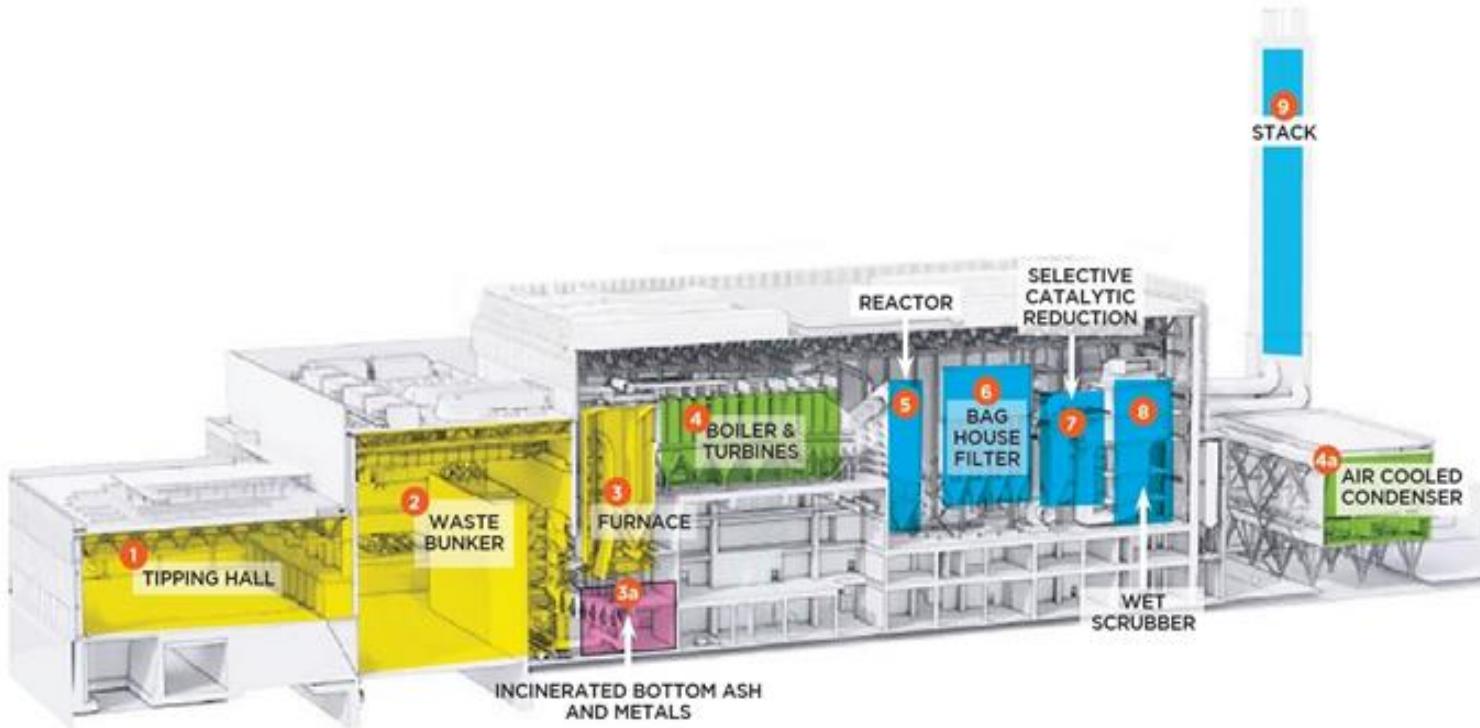
EcoPark  
House



January 2023



# The Energy Recovery Facility

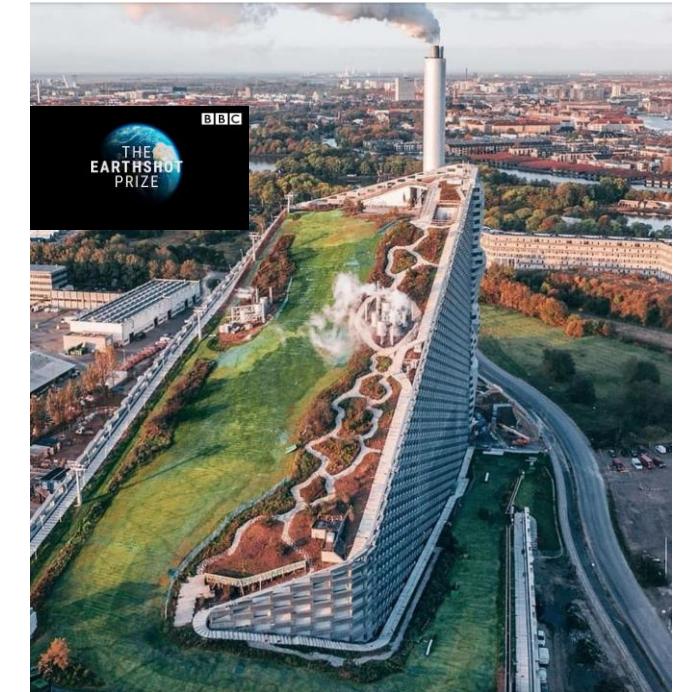


Ongoing works at the Energy Recovery Facility site:



The Copenhill facility in Denmark  
*"is so clean that you almost have fresh mountain air on top of it".*

Quote from Bjarke Ingels, architect in Sir David Attenborough's BBC Earthshot Prize programme



# Community Benefit

- We are committed to delivering social and economic benefits to the local community.
- The project is committed to delivering **100 apprentices, 225 skills training opportunities, Community Project support and schools programmes**.
- We are prioritising local employment. To date **23%** of the on-site workforce have been from all NLWA boroughs.
- All our contractors **pay the London Living Wage**. Our ERF contractor is adopting “Blue Book” arrangements – to guarantee worker terms, conditions and procedures. **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion** training is encouraged with contractors.
- We’re prioritising opportunities for local businesses by using north London suppliers. To date, **£22 million** has been spent employing local businesses.



Local people working, learning new skills at the EcoPark and donating to community organisations.





## **Further information:**

- **EcoPark site visits**
- **Contact us at [post@nlwa.gov.uk](mailto:post@nlwa.gov.uk)**