

Waste reports

Released throughout 2017 – 2018

During 2017 – 18 the London Assembly Environment Committee published a number of reports on the subject of waste and waste services in London. Outputs included: three short findings, one long report with recommendations, blog posts and associated media coverage.

Stakeholder feedback

The Mayor of London welcomed the report in his response to the Committee: “I welcome the report and am keen to continue working with the Environment Committee to effectively implement the key findings and recommendations where I am best placed to influence”.

UK Without Incineration Network (UKWIN) endorsed the report: “We hope London’s Mayor follows the Assembly’s advice and does everything he can to prevent more incinerators being built in London”.

Environmental Services Association (ESA) expressed disappointment in reading the Energy from Waste (EfW) short report: “EfW has a vital role to play as the UK transitions into a circular economy, and that the increased quantity of London’s waste sent to EfW is a ‘success story’ as it is the left over after recycling that would be sent to landfill otherwise”.

Media coverage

The report received good media coverage, with print, radio and television news items. The EfW received a significant amount of media attention and response from national and trade magazines, including The Times and Daily Mail. The Evening Standard published two articles by Léonie Cooper, then Chair of the committee, on the subject of household recycling. Two blog posts written by Léonie were also published in trade magazines.

The Chair was interviewed on London Live on Wasting London’s Future. Coverage also included China Daily USA and China.org.cn. There was coverage in trade titles including Plastics In Packaging, Materials Recycling Week, Recycling Waste World and International Environmental Technology.

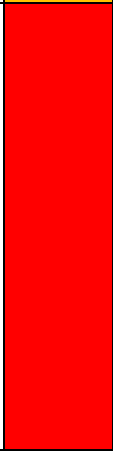
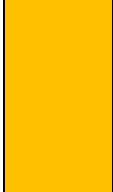
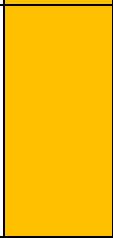
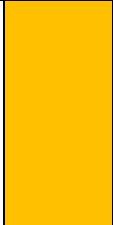
The individual reports also received coverage. The Household Recycling component was featured in the Evening Standard. As well as national titles mentioned, EfW featured in trade titles including Carbon Emission News, Recycling and Waste World and Bioenergy Insight while the Circular Economy report received broadcast coverage from London Live and LBC News. The report featured in 21 online outlets in all.



Response to recommendations

The Mayor provided his response to the report’s recommendation in June. The response in summarised below.

Committee’s recommendation	RAG rating	Mayoral response
The Mayor should set specific targets for circular economy procurement within GLA group.		The Mayor updated the GLA Responsible Procurement Policy to include reference to the circular economy in 2017. The Environment Strategy includes a commitment to trialling the circular economy and has a full chapter on the GLA group leading by example.
The Mayor should ensure that the LWARB route map to the circular economy is widely promoted and adopted, including funding circular economy entrepreneurs.		The Mayor has embedded the circular economy across a number of strategies and has committed to working with partners to implement the Circular Economy Routemap and continue investment and support through the Advance London programme and Mayor’s Entrepreneur programme.
The Mayor should lobby Government to further increase producer responsibility for packaging and to reduce plastic waste.		The Mayor will call on Government to set minimum standards of design (including labelling) for reuse and recyclability, and strengthen Extended Producer Responsibility requirements for packaging materials, namely plastic. The Mayor will also ask government to introduce a tax relief on materials innovation which reduces waste and reliance on virgin materials, and boosts materials reuse and recycling.
Partnerships between circular economy operatives, such as charity shops and municipal waste services, should be strengthened by Mayoral involvement. The Mayor should aim to improve connections so that residents can easily choose to participate in the circular economy when disposing of household waste.		The Environment Strategy requires waste authorities to develop a reduction and recycling plan. The Mayor will work with LWARB to ensure that opportunities allowing residents to reduce and reuse materials are considered in these plans.
The Mayor should include flats within the standard recycling provision offer, as stated in the drafts Environment Strategy (including separate waste collections).		The Environment Strategy strives for a consistent recycling service across London. For flats, efforts to improve consistency will be considered where practicable and cost effective.

<p>The London Plan should include the wording – “dwellings must be designed with adequate and easily accessible storage space that supported the separate collection of dry recyclables”.</p>		<p>The Mayor is considering the recommendation to propose to the panel of independent planning inspectors conducting the Examination in Public, part of the ‘early suggested changes’. As well as this, there will be further opportunities for the Mayor to suggest changes.</p>
<p>The Mayor should publish a required trajectory for each borough’s recycling rates to ensure that future targets are met – if these rates are not successfully met at the time of contract renewal, the Mayor should step in. In directing the services, the Mayor should ensure recommendations included in the report are taken up by the service provider.</p>		<p>The Mayor will monitor efforts to increase the recycling rate through waste authorities Reduction and Recycling Plans (2020 deadline).</p>
<p>The Mayor should explore the funding options that he and others could provide to ensure implementation of consistent harmonised recycling service that would maximise recycling in London.</p>		<p>The Mayor acknowledges that significant cost savings could be made by boroughs combining collection services. The Mayor has written to the Government calling on them to invest in local collections and suggests that a one-off contribution of Landfill Tax receipts of £100m, combined with existing resources, could enable London boroughs to meet its recycling targets.</p>
<p>When providing recycling and food waste collections, boroughs should consider reducing the frequency of residual waste collections.</p>		<p>The Mayor states that it will be for the boroughs, through the Reduction and Recycling Plans, to demonstrate that service configurations have the capability of achieving recycling targets.</p>
<p>The Mayor should facilitate the use, and if necessary, the construction of Anaerobic Digestion facilities.</p>		<p>By 2030 the Mayor aims to reduce food waste to 50 per cent per capita. Targets for no biodegradable or recyclable waste to go to landfill by 2026, along with the requirement for the separate collection of food waste, will help drive the development of new AD capacity by putting more material on the market.</p>
<p>The Mayor should lobby the Government to make it easier for boroughs to fine serial offenders who fail to comply with recycling regulations including landlords.</p>		<p>The Mayor will support a review of enforcement powers should London boroughs consider that strengthening them would be effective in driving higher recycling performance.</p>

<p>The Mayor should set targets to reduce the total amount of biodegradable and recyclable waste sent to landfill and incineration by 2026 – and set targets to further reduce the amount of later dates.</p>		<p>The Mayor reiterates his plans to send no recyclable or biodegradable waste to landfill by 2026, a zero waste city by 2050 and 100 per cent net waste self-sufficiency by 2026.</p>
<p>The Mayor should strongly support the construction and use of facilities within London’s borders for the most sustainable management of its own waste.</p>		<p>In the London Plan, the Mayor has set out how waste sites in London will be identified and safeguarded. The Mayor has also set proposals to ensure that waste authorities, maximise the use of local waste facilities and identified sites for waste.</p>
<p>The Mayor should aim for London to become a zero-waste export city, conducting research on the feasibility of this, and then set a policy to achieve as close to zero as feasible, subject to overall environmental objectives.</p>		<p>The Mayor acknowledges that waste contracts do not recognise administrative boundaries and that waste flows across borders. Consequently, the aim of waste policies in the London Plan is to achieve net self-sufficiency for household and commercial waste by 2026. If achieved, this would mean enough sites are identified within London to deal with the equivalent of 100 per cent of the waste apportioned to boroughs.</p>