

MAYOR OF LONDON

Zack Polanski AM

Chair of the London Assembly Environment
Committee

C/o Matthew.Honeyman@london.gov.uk

Our ref: MGLA080224-6222

Date: 22 August 2024

Dear Zack,

I would like to thank the Environment Committee and your predecessor, Assembly Member Leonie Cooper, for the letter regarding capacity in anaerobic digesters following the Committee's meeting on 15 November 2023 and the subsequent investigation into waste and recycling in London. My response to the questions raised are below, and I am sorry for the delay in responding.

Are you, or your Deputy Mayor responsible for Planning, aware of any plans to introduce new Anaerobic Digestors (beyond the Cory Riverside site) or expand current ones in London?

My officers are currently reviewing a planning application for a new anaerobic digestion facility in Sutton that would bring up to 100,000 tonnes per annum in additional food waste treatment capacity. Any future planning applications for new incineration capacity that are of sufficient scale to be referable to me will be managed by my Planning Team. My Waste and Circular Economy Team will be consulted for their technical expertise where appropriate.

Has there been any recent assessment in London (by the GLA or any of its partners) of the Anaerobic Digester capacity that may be needed? If so, could you share this assessment with the Committee?

Has there been any recent assessment of strategies that could be put in place to phase out Anaerobic Digester capacity if, and when, overall food waste declines?

An assessment of anaerobic digester capacity in London has not been undertaken. This work has been impacted by uncertainty relating to new food waste collection requirements as part of the Government's Simpler Recycling reforms.

Waste capacity is dealt with in Policy SI8 of my London Plan. Under the 'Planning for London' programme, evidence is being gathered to identify issues and options that a future review of the London Plan could consider, including waste capacity assessments. The programme has just completed a series of deliberative events bringing together representative groups to discuss London's challenges and future. Waste was discussed at the infrastructure and utilities event in December 2023, and the outcomes will be shared in due course.

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I would like to thank you for your interest, and I look forward to continuing to work with the Committee to achieve a zero-waste city.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a small '2' written below the 'h'.

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London