



Parks

Natural health service. Writing in the Mail, Chair of NHS England Sir Malcolm Grant said ^{Mail}:

"I recently completing the Capital Ring, 78 miles around London. The route passes through lots of London's parks and green spaces but, sadly, many were largely empty. We seem to have fallen out of love with our parks."

This is a worry for the NHS as parks are our 'natural health service' offering endless opportunities for us to live longer, happier, healthier lives."

Health Minister Matt Hancock spoke on similar lines when he set out the government's priorities for a preventative health agenda ^{Gov}. Fields in Trust welcomed the agenda ^{FT}:

"We are pleased to hear the government make a clear and bold statement about a preventative health approach. We know that parks and green spaces have an important role in society and can help to transform lives where communities can come together, tackling social isolation and loneliness, as well as contribute to improved mental and physical health and help to tackle the childhood obesity crisis."

Go Parks. CPRE London will be running a 'Walk in the Park' challenge in January to encourage people to get out and discover London's parks and green spaces. This follows the 2018 *GoParksLondon* which was judged one of the best digital campaigns of the year ^{CPRE}.

Good parks. The boroughs of Lewisham, Southwark and Lambeth topped the league table in the Good Parks for London Report 2018, as they did in 2017 ^{Gov} ^{Gov}.

Charging for parks. Nearly three quarters of respondents to a government consultation opposed charging Parkrun. Ministers said that they remain very firmly of the view that the use of public parks by members of the public must remain free for reasonable everyday use and it is not appropriate for a local authority to charge volunteer community groups ^{Gov}.

Parks petition. The government has responded to an 18,000 signature Save Our Parks parliamentary petition. It said it is committed safeguarding parks and green spaces but it could not tell local authorities how to spend their money. The government rejected a new legal duty for all green space to be managed to a good standard. It said it favours working collaboratively with local authorities within existing legislation to identify and share the best practice delivered at a local level ^{Gov}.

Open and Green

Eating the green belt. The Assembly environment committee said farms in the metropolitan green belt not only provide a source of local and sustainable food, they also give the capital a break by absorbing carbon dioxide, heat and rainwater and providing a vital connection to the natural world ^{LON}. Its report, *Farming in London's Green Belt*, the committee calls on the mayor to:

- Work with other local authorities to provide tools to help farmers secure and retain land tenure.
- Support a "Grown in London" brand to raise awareness of sustainable food cultivated locally.
- Lobby central government for greater protections for agricultural quality land in the green belt.
- Lobby for improvements to the Agriculture Bill to support a strong, sustainable food economy.


Allotments saved. The Duke of Northumberland has lost two appeals to build flats on allotments near Syon House. A public inquiry was held after Hounslow Council rejected the application to build 119 flats and eight houses on Park Road allotments. The allotments were to be relocated to a site adjacent to the historic house. Historic England said that would harm the registered park and garden and the setting of the gate. The first appeal was against the refusal to permit building of 119 flats on the Park Road allotments. The inspector rejected this appeal on the grounds of loss of Local Open Space and adverse effects on the Isleworth Riverside Conservation Area. The second appeal sought to relocate allotment holders to Syon Park. It was rejected on the grounds of damage to the Grade 1 listed house, gardens, Lion Gate and lodges. The Duke was promoting the scheme to raise £13 million for repairs to Syon House but the inspector said the money could be raised in other ways ^{Appeal} ^{Appeal} ^{Even} ^{NYL} ^P ^{BREN} ^{FORD} ^{THE} ^{DO}.

Trees. As London prepares to become a National Park City in July 2019, the mayor funded planting of 80,000 trees in the capital during National Tree Week ^{LON} ^{DO}.


Awards. The High Walk and Beech Gardens on the Barbican Estate won the Landscape Institute Fellows' Award for Creating Healthy Places. South Gardens in Elephant Park, part of the Heygate regeneration, won the President's Award for the Best Landscape Scheme of the Year ^{Land} ^{Insti} ^{ter} ^{ter}. The London Festival of Architecture in partnership with the City of London Corporation and the Illuminated River Foundation, has revealed the shortlisted designs in a competition to encourage greater public interaction with the River Thames ^{LFA}.



London Festival of Architecture candidate

Bromley. Sadiq Khan approved scheme to build a new football ground for Cray Wanderers along with 42 homes at Flamingo Park in the green belt. He had refused the scheme in 2016 but said that exceptional circumstances now apply  **P** 853



























City councillors are to get a stronger voice in planning decisions after the corporation agreed to change rules restricting members from speaking on applications in their wards CITY A.M. Plans for No 1 Leadenhall for a tower that will dominate the historic market and other heritage sites have been approved **bd**. London City Airport is seeking assurances that the proposed Tulip tower will not interfere with its radar systems. Historic England has lodged an objection to the tower describing it as a 'vertical cliff edge' for the City. It said: "In our view, this sharp contrast, combined with the unusual eye-catching form of the proposed building, reduces the visual dominance of the Tower of London and harms... its outstanding universal value" **bd bd**  CITY A.M.



Croydon. Housing secretary James Brokenshire has thrown out plans for a 17-storey tower block in Purley, overturning the decisions of Croydon councillors and his planning inspector. Brokenshire criticised with the design of the tower and its height

Enfield local plan. The council is consulting on issues and options for its local plan until 28 February 2019. The council needs to plan for 1,876 to 3,500 homes a year as set out in the draft new London Plan and government's targets. That's well above the current delivery rate of 550 dwellings a year. One third of the borough is green belt and the council is planning a review of green belt boundaries. It promises to integrate heritage and culture into all its policies but says it is not suggesting "new development should be located far away from natural and historic assets." The council envisions taller buildings and higher densities. The consultation asks whether the borough should continue to push for 40-50% affordable housing on development sites or settle for the 35% in the new London Plan . Challenged in the London Assembly, Sadiq Khan said he could object to the plan as it involves building in the green belt . Commenting on the draft plan, CPRE London said: "We been mapping alternative sites which could be used to show there is no need to build on green belt. Enfield has some big industrial and retail sites with large areas of surface car park and one storey buildings making very poor use of land" .



Enfield. A row over the North London Waste Plan led to a member of the council cabinet being suspended for opposing a waste facility at Pinkham Way ^{enfield} ^{enfield} IND. IND. Plans are being drawn up for a £40m Wave Pool in Lee Valley Regional Park within the green belt. If the scheme goes ahead, Lee Valley Golf Course and Lee Valley Camping and Caravan Park will close                        



2

Planning and Environmental News from CPRE London

Greenwich. Sadiq Khan has approved a 272-home scheme up to 17-storeys high in Abbey Wood. Councillors had rejected the scheme as too high and unaffordable for local people. At least 37% of the dwellings will be affordable ^{News Shop}. Mr Khan has issued revised plans for 771 new homes off Anchor and Hope Lanes ^{Star}. Councillors rejected plans for a 27-storey residential tower in Woolwich due to insufficient affordable housing ^P ^{Evening Star}. The developer planning to demolish east Greenwich's historic gasholder hopes to retain parts of the 130-year-old structure in the public realm ⁸⁵³. Plans for a cruise ship terminal on the Thames at Enderby Wharf have been withdrawn by the developers. Permission for the scheme was granted in 2015 but Greenwich council later withdrew its backing over pollution concerns ^{PLUS} ^f ⁸⁵³ ^{Evening Star}. Laura Evers from campaign group No Toxic Cruise Port said:

"We are all absolutely dancing with joy now that confirmation has come through from Morgan Stanley that they are set to shelve the plans for the cruise terminal."

"People and families living on both sides of the river, in Greenwich and Tower Hamlets, will be heaving a sigh of relief now that they do not have to face the prospect of inhaling heavily polluted fumes from cruise ships moored at Enderby Wharf."

Hackney council's controversial plans to rebuild the Britannia leisure centre along with a new school building and residential blocks, have been approved ^{HACK} ^{Evening Star}. Just 81 (17%) of the 481 new homes will be affordable. CPRE London was among the groups protesting at the entrance of the town hall. Alice Roberts said:

"This is one of the worst cases I've seen in a long time. Shoreditch Park is one of the only green spaces in a very wide area, and it is contrary to local, London and national policy to build on a local park."

In 2014, residents the New Era Estate in Hoxton protested about rent hikes. Now, after a charity took over the estate, they are concerned about plans to bulldoze the estate and rebuild it ^{Ga}. The UK's first postcode gardener began work in Homerton in a Friends of the Earth project that aims to help people plant with nature and wildlife in mind ^{hack}.

Hammersmith and Fulham. Plans to rebuild Olympia as a cultural venue have been published ^{Evening Star} ^{AJ} ^{Evening Star}. Sadiq Khan has criticised plans to demolish the West Kensington and Gibbs Green estates to build 7,500 new homes ^{Evening Star}. The bitterly fought proposals plan to build 6,000 luxury apartments along with 1,500 (20%) affordable homes, half of which will replacement homes for the 2,000 displaced residents. Mr Khan said:

"I have long had serious concerns about the direction of the Earl's Court scheme, particularly its inclusion of the West Kensington and Gibbs Green estates."

"A positive way forward would involve new plans that exclude the estates, and offer more housing, particularly more social rented and other genuinely affordable homes."

Hammersmith and Fulham council is threatening legal action after plans were announced by developer Capco to sell the entire development to a Hong Kong billionaire ^{SW6} ^{COM}.

Haringey. The Pinkham Way Alliance has sent a second open letter to the leader of the Haringey council challenging the inclusion of the site, which is a nature reserve, in the North London Waste Plan ^{IND} ^P. The council has approved more than 1,000 homes in Tottenham Hale. Six buildings will be built west and north of the train, Tube and bus stations. They will contain 1,030 homes, 25% affordable, along with offices, shops, restaurants, a cinema and a health centre. The developer, Argent which was behind the King's Cross redevelopment, promises a "welcoming, pedestrian-friendly heart, greened with around 70 new trees." There are fears that the development could "further entrench social inequality" in the area ^{bd} ^{IND} ^P.



Approved scheme for Tottenham Hale

Havering council has won an appeal against mobile homes built in the green belt without planning permission. Residents of Lakeview Caravan Park now face their homes being demolished. Enforcement proceedings have taken five years ^{Re} ^{Star}. A derelict site is to be redeveloped for 56 flats and three houses after a planning inspector accepted an increase in affordable housing provision to 22% ^{Appeal} ^{Case} ^{Portal}.

Hounslow council has an Article 4 Direction in place but this did not stop a high court judge overturning its refusal to consider an application to convert an office block into more than 200 homes under permitted development rights. The judge ruled that the Article 4 direction did not cover permitted development rights in progress at the time it was introduced ^{IND}.

Islington council is consulting on its draft local plan until 14 January ^{IND} ^P.

Kensington & Chelsea council has approved a luxury retirement complex of 132 homes, just 5 of which will be affordable (4%) ^g.




Plans for Riverside, Lambeth (see next page)


Planning and Environmental News from CPRE London

Lambeth. Tenants have approved regeneration of housing estates owned by Riverside housing **24**. Lambeth council gave full planning consent for the redevelopment of the existing Tesco store at Kennington Lane. The 17-storey replacement will include a new store, offices and and 571 homes, 35% affordable **P**. New plans have been drawn up for replacing the brutalist Elizabeth House outside Waterloo Station. They include a new exit from the station through which passengers would emerge into public gardens, as well as a new public space called Victory Arch Square **Evening Standard**. **Built ding.** Sadiq Khan declined to call in the redevelopment of the Elephant & Castle shopping centre and the London College of Communications site. The 3.6-hectare scheme on two sites will include 979 homes, 35% affordable, a new building for the University of the Arts London, leisure and office space, and a new station. Historic England has issued a certification of immunity blocking the 1960s buildings being listed. Local businesses in the shopping centre fear they will be squeezed out by lack of space and higher rents in the new development. Residents have been fundraising for a legal challenge against Sadiq Khan's approval of the scheme **bd south London send**   




Plans for Elephant & Castle

Lewisham. Developers behind at 400-home tower scheme Creekside Village East in Deptford are offering just 10% affordable housing ^{even} ^{Stan}. Lewisham councillors were critical of the government's new housing delivery test which will force the council to allocate more land for development if delivery targets are not met. The cabinet member for housing, councillor Paul Bell said: "The reality is that we are not going to achieve the government's targets" .




Old Oak Common. A Community Review Group has been formed to represent local people on planning matters. The group is expected to review development proposals from the perspective of those living, working and spending time in the area 

Queen Elizabeth Park. The London Legacy Development Corporation has submitted a planning application for the cultural quarter on Stratford Waterfront. It will be home to the V&A, Sadler's Wells, University of the Arts' London College of Fashion and the BBC, along with housing **bd**.

Richmond. CPRE London has met with Richmond councillors as part of its campaign for the former **Stag Brewery site** in Mortlake to be redeveloped as a car free scheme .

Southwark council's planning committee refused an application for the demolition and redevelopment of Burgess Business Park in Camberwell. The scheme included 499 homes but councillors threw it out against officers' advice due to the lack of amenity space and the small size of the dwellings **P**. James Brokenshire confirmed a Southwark council compulsory purchase order on the Aylesbury Estate ending a battle against residents **INS HO**. Plans for redevelopment of Old Kent Road continue. A scheme has been submitted for a 39-storey brick-clad residential tower. Three buildings will include a total of 372 homes, retail, workspace and café, with include roof gardens on the lower levels **bd**. A 48-storey residential tower has been approved **CN**. The **LONDON** took a historical look at the district **LONDON**.

Tower Hamlets. The Victorian Society is opposing the demolition of several 19th century buildings in the Whitechapel High Street Conservation Area. The facades will be retained to front a large-scale redevelopment up to 19 storeys high ^{THE VICT SOCIETY}. A planning inspector has approved two towers, 30-storey and 26-storeys high, at Millharbour near Canary Wharf. The plans had previously been rejected by Tower Hamlets councillors as excessively high for the local context. The scheme will deliver 319 homes, 16% affordable, with around 1,700sq m of non-residential floorspace ^{bd Apple Canyon Portal}.

Bishopsgate Goodsyard. A consultation is underway on revised plans for the site. The original plans for a cluster of six towers included a 46-storey building. This has been reduced in height to 29 storeys. The number of dwellings have been reduced from 1,356 to 250. The new proposals have been broadly welcomed by critics of the scheme, including the mayors of Hackney and Tower Hamlets  . The East London Garden Society has called for an urban forest to be planted on railway arches as part of the development  **Ad**



The latest iteration of plans for the Goodsyard

Waltham Forest council has approved development of a TfL car park to provide 350 homes, 50% affordable, in a scheme to be called Blackhorse Point  

Wandsworth. Wimbledon Park Golf Club members have voted to sell the golf course for expansion of the All England Club's tennis facilities [g](#).

Westminster. Westminster council has seen a 42% drop in major planning applications this year **bd bd**. Toned down proposals for King's College London's Strand campus have won the backing of Westminster planners, three years after a controversial version of the scheme was withdrawn. The earlier scheme involved the loss of three of historic buildings, all of which will now be retained **bd**.

Planning and Housing

London Plan. CPRE London is crowdfunding its costs of fighting for green spaces to be given strong protection in the new London Plan ^{London Plan}. There will be more on the examination in public, including CPRE London's submissions, in the next eBulletin.

Biodiversity consultation. Michael Gove has launched a consultation on how to improve the planning system in England to protect the environment through requiring a biodiversity net gain for developments ^{London Plan} ^{Evening Standard} ^{ecle}.

Out of thin air. Engineering company WSP said that using 10% of space above London's rail and tube lines for housing could allow 280,000 dwellings in 12-storey apartment blocks ^{Evening Standard} ^{WSP}.

Housing. The Assembly housing committee published a new annual 'Affordable Housing Monitor' to track the mayor's record in delivering affordable homes. It says there were 41,371 net additions to London housing stock in 2016-17, against a need of 66,000 dwellings. Less than 5,500 affordable homes were completed ^{London Plan}. The Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) has launched a campaign for higher national housing standards, calling permitted development one of the biggest mistakes in post war history ^{Evening Standard} ^{bd}.

Design. The housing ministry is recruiting a hire a head of architecture ^{bd}. Architects designing the public realm should be able to take risks according to a panel convened by Building Design. The panel also said small scale schemes often wasted public space provision ^{bd}.

Raynsford Review. Former housing minister Nick Raynsford warned that planning has been reduced to a "chaotic patchwork" of responsibilities that is not compatible with promoting the health, wellbeing and civil rights of communities. His review, commissioned by the TCPA, recommends redefining the purpose of planning system and reforming it to ensure the planning system is centred around people and their communities. Raynsford said that permitted development rights, which enable developers to convert offices to homes without a full planning application, have led to "extremely poor living conditions" and should be abolished ^{Evening Standard} ^{bd}.

Sustainability. London has been named the most sustainable city in the world in the Arcadis 2018 Sustainable Cities Index. Warning that this position could be threatened by population growth, Arcadis is calling for greater financial autonomy to plan for future growth and a commitment to vital infrastructure like Crossrail 2 and further tube upgrades ^{Evening Standard} ^{II}.

Transport and Environment

"Climate emergency". After a unanimous call from the Assembly, Sadiq Khan has declared a climate emergency. He has urged the government to do more to avert an ecological breakdown that would pose a threat to future generations. Speaking as City Hall outlined its new climate change plan, Khan accused central government of "dragging its feet" on dealing with climate issues ^{Evening Standard} ^{London Plan}. Climate activists are calling for more decisive action in London ^{Climate}.

Recycling and waste. As this eBulletin goes to press, the government has published its Resources and Waste Strategy. It includes a deposit return scheme on drinks containers after CPRE's campaign to promote recycling of single use bottles ^{Evening Standard}. Friends of the Earth found that the five waste authorities in London do not accept compostable packaging for recycling ^{Evening Standard}.

Rail. The Assembly transport committee issued a report, *Broken Rails: A rail service fit for passengers* ^{London Plan}. Committee chair Caroline Pidgeon said;

"Our recommendations set out priorities including investment to allow more frequent and longer trains to run on London's suburban rail network – a metro style service that we have long been promised; and better accessibility to stations."

Network Rail has announced the winner and runner-up in its competition to design a new concept for footbridges over the railway ^{Evening Standard} ^{Network Rail}.



Winning footbridge design

Crossrail is now predicted to cost at least £17.6bn after ministers and Sadiq Khan have agreed an additional £1.4bn financing package ^{Evening Standard} ^{London Plan} ^{trans}. Sadiq Khan has raised questions on the governance of the rail scheme ^{City A.M.}. Sir Terry Morgan, the under-pressure chair of Crossrail and HS2, has resigned ^{Evening Standard} ^{City A.M.}.

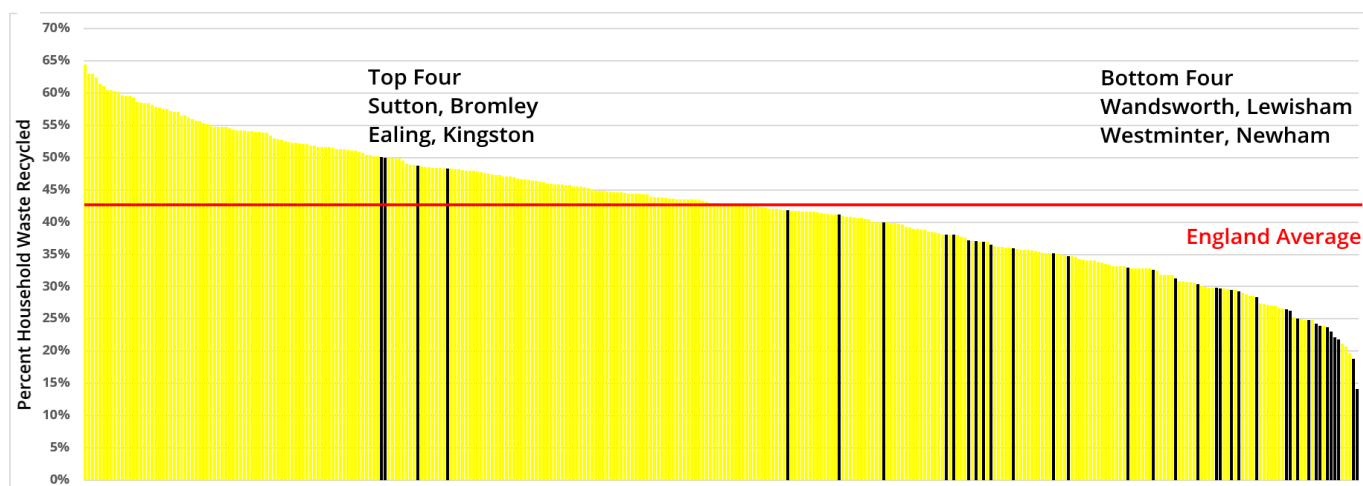
Finance. The capital's transport system could suffer a £2.7 billion shortfall because of declining passenger numbers and the delay to Crossrail. The Assembly is investigating TfL's finances ^{Evening Standard} ^{trans} ^{City A.M.}. Several transport projects are to be delayed. Money intended for the mayor's now abandoned Oxford Street scheme is to be used to support cycle superhighways ^{Evening Standard} ^{City A.M.}.

Oxford Street. Westminster council's consultation into improving the public realm has ended. Sadiq Khan said plans to keep Oxford Street open to traffic will leave shoppers at risk of a "hostile vehicle attack". He also described the proposals as "underwhelming" ^{Evening Standard} ^{trans}.

Buses. The Assembly transport committee has criticised TfL's review of central bus services. It said there is no mention of orbital and express routes and an extra 36,000 people a day would need to change buses, including those with disabilities, ^{London Plan}. TfL is to withdraw the historic 1960s Routemaster from its last regular service between Trafalgar Square and Tower Bridge ^{Evening Standard}.

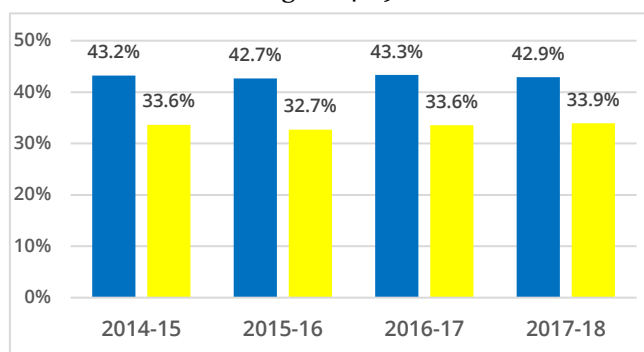
Heathrow. Wandsworth Council leader Ravi Govindia said the "sheer folly" of building a third runway has been highlighted by a proposal for Gatwick to use its emergency runway as a second runway ^{Gu}. Heathrow published plans to achieve carbon neutral growth once its third runway is built ^{Heat} ^{Evening Standard} ^{New} ^G.

What a Waste! Recycling and Waste Management in London



Each vertical bar is a council or waste authority in England. London boroughs and waste authorities are black

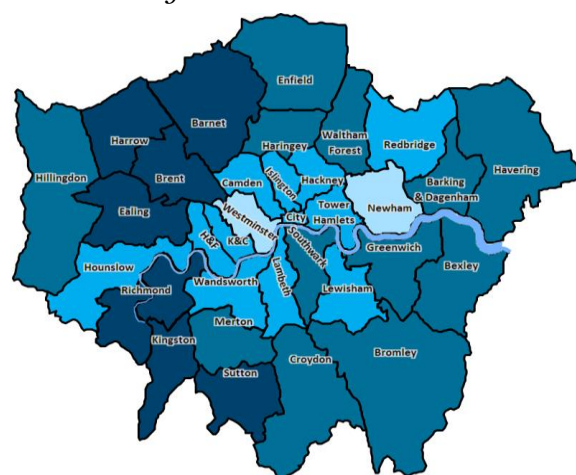
Low recycling. The annual waste and recycling statistics released by Defra show that 15 out of 33 boroughs London boroughs reported lower recycling rates last year. London has the lowest household recycling rates of any English region. At 33%, the capital's recycling rate is way behind the South West where 49% of household waste is recycled. Over the last five years, there has been little improvement in the capital's recycling rates. Consequently, London continues to recycle less collected household waste than the national average of 42.9%.



England recycling rates (blue). London (yellow)

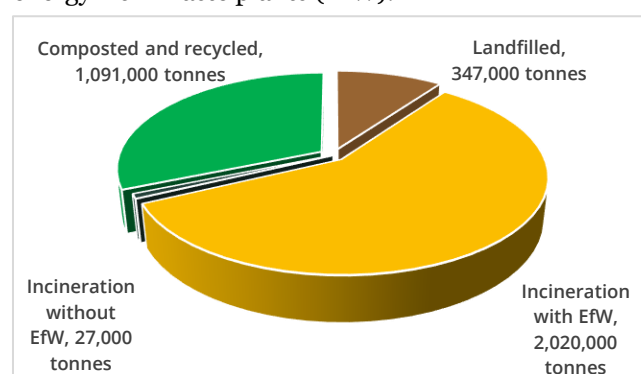
Borough recycling. The average recycling rate for waste collected from households across all London boroughs and waste authorities is 33.1%. Recycling rates in the capital range from a high of 50.0% in Sutton and Bromley to a low of 18.8% in Winchester, with in Newham at just 14.1% ^{Gu News Shop}. Newham council identifies several reasons for its low recycling rate ^{Even Stan}:

“Newham is a densely populated borough with a large number of flats, high levels of diversity, transience and relative deprivation, all of which are recognised factors in adversely affecting recycling rates. The borough also collects a relatively small amount of garden waste, which is a major contributor towards recycling in high-performing areas. Contamination continues to be a problem.”



Boroughs with darker colours have higher recycling rates

Destination. Just 9.6% of London's waste is sent to landfill, compared to 12.7% nationally. This still amounts to 347,000 tonnes a year. The majority of waste is incinerated (49%) and the bulk of that in energy from waste plants (EfW).



London waste destinations in 2017-18

Data in this article relate to household waste, not other waste collected by councils.

The CPRE London eBulletin

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