ReLondon

Estimates of London household waste composition

Version 1.0, December 2023

ReLondon

ReLondon is a partnership of the Mayor of London and the London boroughs to improve waste and resource management and transform the city into a leading low carbon circular economy. With the Mayor and London's boroughs, we run initiatives designed to reduce volumes of domestic and commercial waste in London. We encourage council teams to shift to more circular systems in their working practices and we improve recycling amongst residents and local businesses, helping to achieve the Mayor of London's recycling targets.

We believe we can catalyse transformational change in London by inspiring and empowering the action of others. We can mobilise our boroughs, businesses and citizens to change their policies, practices and behaviours, to revolutionise the way we use stuff.

You can find out more about our work at https://relondon.gov.uk/about-us

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Introduction

This report sets out the results of a project to bring together available household waste composition data for London. ReLondon has worked with Resource Futures, a specialist waste composition consultancy, to produce the information presented.

The aim of the project was to combine existing waste composition data to build as comprehensive a picture as possible of what Londoners put in their bins, how much is being recycled and how this differs between those who have a kerbside collection (their own bin), and those who have a communal collection (shared bins in flats). This work builds on data collected as part of two ReLondon projects on 'Making recycling work for people in flats' (Flats 1.0 and Flats 2.0), which provided a comprehensive dataset on waste composition from purpose-built flats with communal bins.

Thanks to collaboration between London's waste authorities and ReLondon, this data has been supplemented by kerbside waste data and additional communal waste data from waste composition studies commissioned by authorities between 2018 and 2022.

This has resulted in the synthesis of data from 22 London boroughs to provide indicative estimates of average household waste composition for London as a whole.

The data presented includes separate estimates for kerbside and communal household waste streams, and highlights the similarities in composition and differences in recycling capture between these two service models. The potential impacts of upcoming collection and packaging reforms are also estimated.

The information presented here is a summary of the available data, and requests for further information or detailed analysis should be directed to ReLondon.

Demographic information for London from other data sources is provided for context at the end of this report.

1. Methodology

1.1. What is waste composition analysis?

Waste composition analysis (WCA) involves collecting a representative sample of waste, sorting it into material types and weighing each one to produce an estimate of the overall composition of the mixed material stream.

Figure I outlines the standard WCA process:

Waste authorities may commission WCA studies regularly to help understand changes in composition and identify priorities for interventions to reduce waste and increase reuse and recycling.

1.2. Data selection and analysis

There are no recent London-wide waste composition studies, however London waste authorities carry out localised WCA analyses on a regular basis to aid service planning and prioritisation.

ReLondon approached all London waste authorities (unitary authorities, and collection authorities via their joint waste disposal authorities) in 2022 to ask if they had carried out waste composition analysis work since 2018, and if so, if they would be willing to share data and method statements with ReLondon and Resource Futures for collation. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between all parties with conditions that individual borough data would not be identified at any point in the analysis or publication.

Resource Futures analysed the available data (which comprised calculated arisings and composition data) to assess compatibility for inclusion in a combined dataset. This analysis comprised:

- Checking method statements for sampling and analysing data (for those studies carried out by other consultants) to ensure
- Categories used for sorting, including recording of target and non-target materials
- Determining the demographic profiling data used for sampling and aligning these with London Area Output Classification (LOAC) types where possible
- Flagging any concerns around robustness of data.

At the end of this review, all datasets shared were included in the synthesis of data. Some individual datapoints were excluded from analysis due to concerns over accuracy. Resource Futures combined the available data which resulted in the following outputs:

- A dataset of London kerbside waste composition estimates based on data from 22 boroughs from 2018-2022 (confidence interval of +- 2% at the 95% confidence level).

- A dataset of London communal waste composition estimates based on data from 22 boroughs from 2018-2022 (confidence interval of +- 1.8% at the 95% confidence level).

- A tool to estimate London waste arisings, potential and estimated recycling rates, based on waste arisings from the kerbside and communal dataset, and modifiable by relative proportion of kerbside and communal collections, and proportion of social/private rented communal properties.

The data presented in this report includes information from all three of these outputs.

1.3. Data assumptions

- No additional fieldwork has been carried out to inform this project. The data is taken from studies commissioned by waste authorities in London, using specialist consultancies. ReLondon have recently published a Waste Composition Protocol which authorities can refer to to ensure any future studies are conducted in line with best practice.

  All references to waste refer to household waste only. The terms "kerbside waste" and "communal waste" are used to denote waste collected from properties with a kerbside waste collection (individual household bins) and waste collected from properties with a communal waste collection (shared bins) respectively.

- The data used for this analysis includes datasets that were created at different times, and have been carried out by different waste composition companies. No alterations have been made to the data to account for difference in date or seasonality. Sampling methodologies have been examined to ensure robustness, but any errors in data due to sampling or methodology that may have occurred during the collection of the data have not been assessed or rectified retrospectively.

- Not all datasets have been used to calculate each data point. For example some datasets only include residual waste, therefore these have not been used within the calculations for dry recycling or food waste arisings or composition. For this reason, percentages for waste streams may vary slightly between charts. All the charts shown in this report use data from at least 14 London boroughs, with the exception of communal food capture rates. Due to the low availability of data for food recycling from communal properties, recycling rates and capture rates for communal food waste should be treated as indicative – it would be beneficial to add to this dataset in future when more data is available.

- Unless otherwise indicated, overall London average figures (kerbside and communal combined) are calculated using the tool described above and are based on assumptions of 70% kerbside properties and 30% communal properties (and of these, 30% social rented flats). For this reason, the results are estimates and additional caution should be applied if using in other contexts.

- Waste composition analysis for flats with communal bins is more challenging to carry out due to the difficulties of attributing waste to households using shared bins. For this reason, the per household arisings results are estimates and additional caution should be applied to waste arisings information from communal properties if using in other contexts.

- The calculated capture rates in this study do not fully account for different capture within each stream of a twin-stream recycling system - i.e. if a recyclable item is put in the incorrect recycling container the analysis still included this as captured.

- Some of the data included was compiled pre-pandemic, and some post-pandemic – no data from 2020 is included in the datasets as studies were not undertaken during Covid. The impact of the pandemic on household waste composition and arisings cannot be estimated from this data.

- The data has been collated, analysed and quality assured by Resource Futures and ReLondon have checked the data against previous waste composition estimates for England and London, and against WasteDataFlow tonnages, before publication, to further quality assure the average values calculated.

- All data should be treated as indicative, due to the caveats set out above.

- Any use of this report or the data within it should be credited to ReLondon.

1.4. Data included

Kerbside service:

- Data available from 22 of the 33 London boroughs, from 5,177 households in total.
- Datasets used:
  - 5 x residual waste only, including data from 7 boroughs
  - 2 x residual waste & recycling only, including data from 4 boroughs
  - 8 x all streams (excluding garden waste), including data from 8 boroughs
  - 5 x all streams (including garden waste), including data from 3 boroughs

Communal service:

- Data from Flats Recycling Project 1.0 including 1,663 households across 6 boroughs, in 3 phases over 18 months
- Data from Flats Recycling Project 2.0 including 470 households across 1 borough, in 3 phases over 12 months
- Data from another estimated 4,000 households across 16 boroughs
  - 2 x residual waste only datasets
  - 9 x residual waste and recycling
  - 5 x all streams (except garden waste as this service is not provided)

All data

The categorisations used by the different studies varied, with between 49 and 61 categories used for sorting into material types. Where categorisations were the same, data were combined. Where categorisations differed (e.g. some studies did not separate edible and inedible food), data were combined using assumptions based on other datasets.

1.5. Tonnage data

Where tonnage data is included in this report, this is taken from WasteDataFlow 2021/22 financial year figures. Tonnages for London and England for collected household residual waste and dry and organic recycling (food and garden waste combined) (excluding bulky waste and separately collection healthcare waste) have been combined with proportions from the waste composition datasets to provide estimates of tonnages of different materials. It should be noted that although this is the most recent data available tonnages were higher than pre-pandemic data.

2. Estimates of household waste composition for London

2.1. Total household waste

The estimates of total waste discussed in this section refer to all collected household waste streams combined (if all bins – residual, recycling, food waste and garden waste were collected and the waste combined).

Chart 1

Composition of total household waste - by material

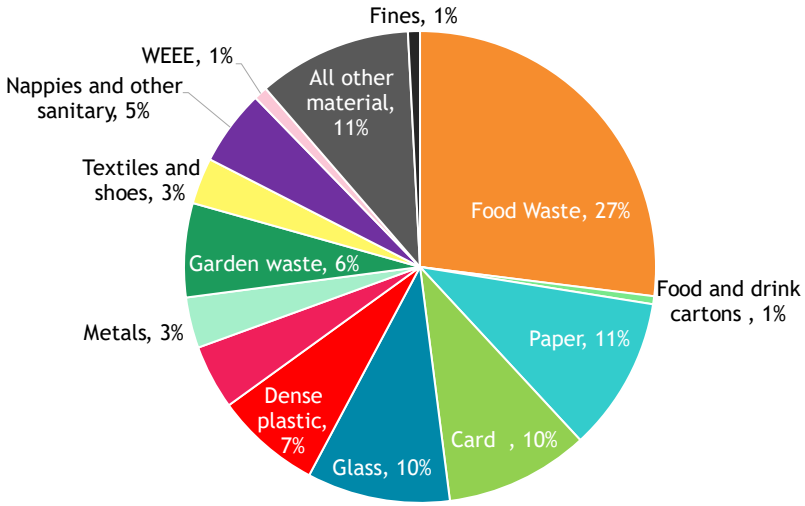


Chart 1 shows the estimated total household waste composition for London. The largest single material (by weight) found in London's bins is food. The data shows that 27% of waste overall is food waste, with 19% being food that could have been eaten.

Paper and card together make up 21% of London's household waste, with 11% plastic, 10% glass, and 5% nappies and other sanitary waste.

When compared to estimates of national household waste composition (WRAP 2017), a notable difference is the proportion of garden waste. The 2017 estimate for England's garden waste was 17%, compared to the estimate for London of 6%.

2.2. Comparison of kerbside and communal waste

The charts below show the composition of kerbside and communal total waste. The composition is similar in terms of the proportions of most materials, with the largest difference being garden waste, which makes up 2% of the total waste stream for communal, compared to 8% for kerbside.

Chart 2

Composition of kerbside total waste- by material

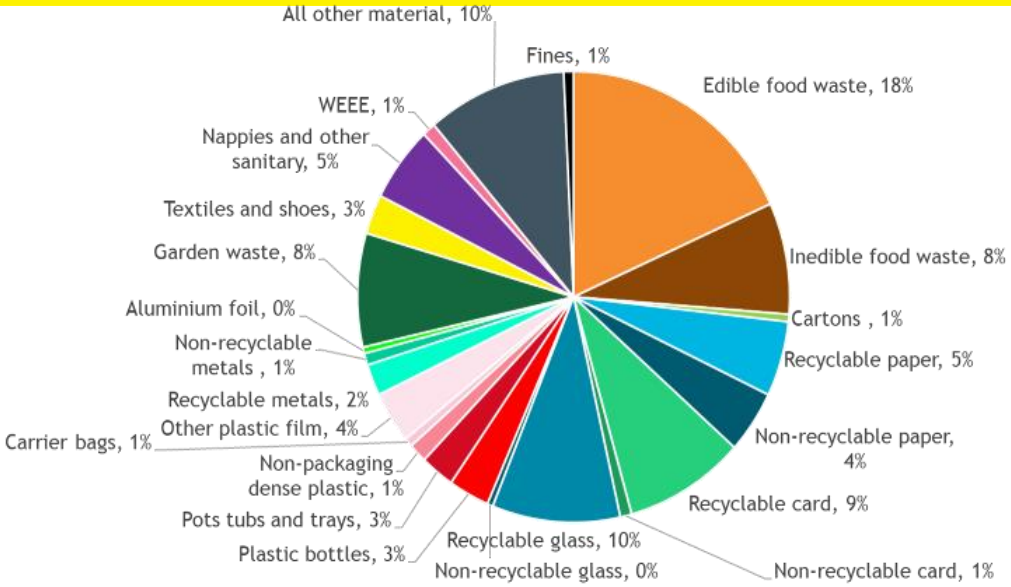
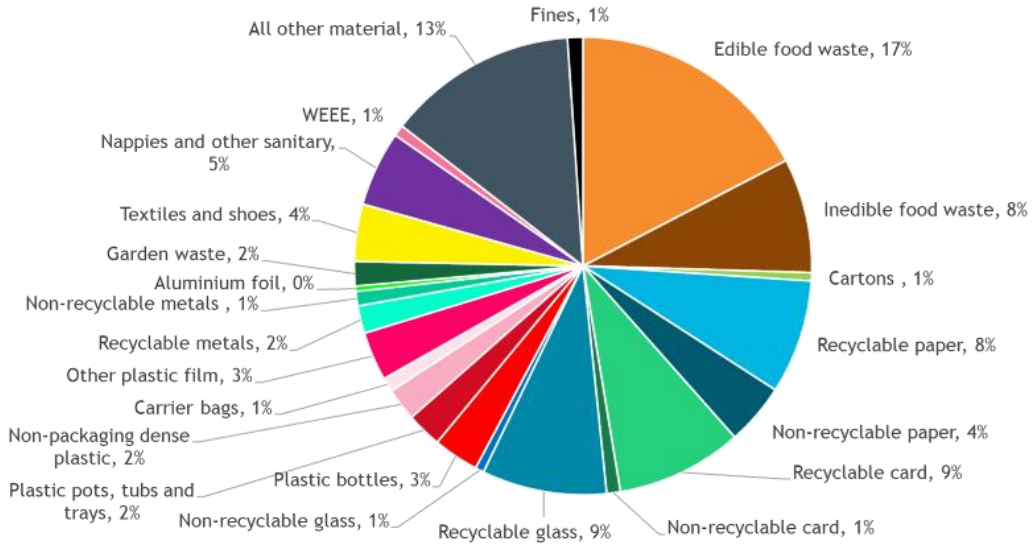


Chart 3

Composition of communal total waste- by material



2.3. Potential diversion of materials to recycling

Based on current composition and with existing services in place for dry mixed recycling, food and garden waste recycling, chart 4 below shows that 67% of kerbside waste and 62% of communal waste could potentially be recycled. For both kerbside and communal waste, a third of total waste (33% and 34% respectively) is dry recyclable materials, and a quarter is food waste.

Chart 4

Recycling diversion potential (current service)

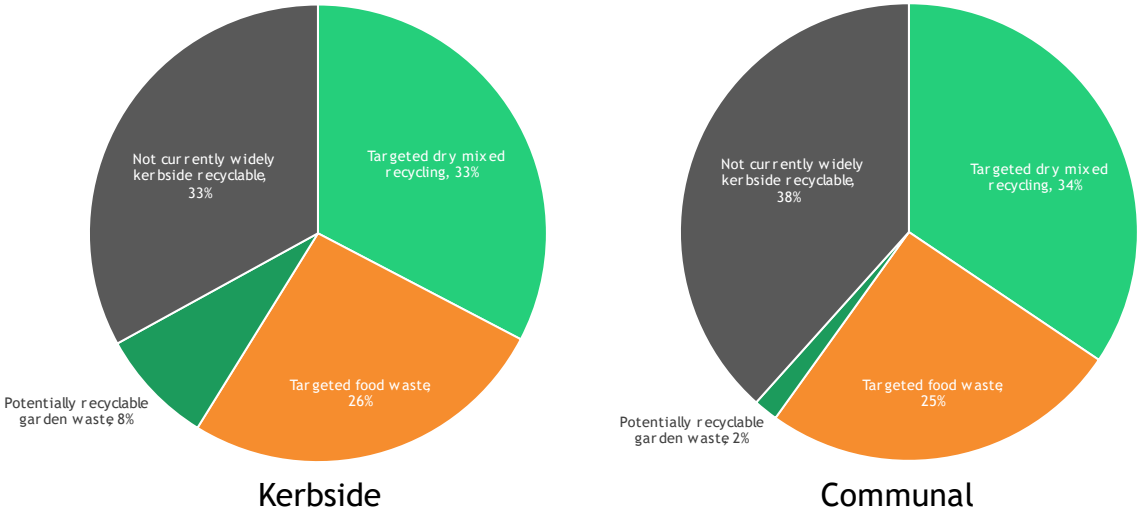
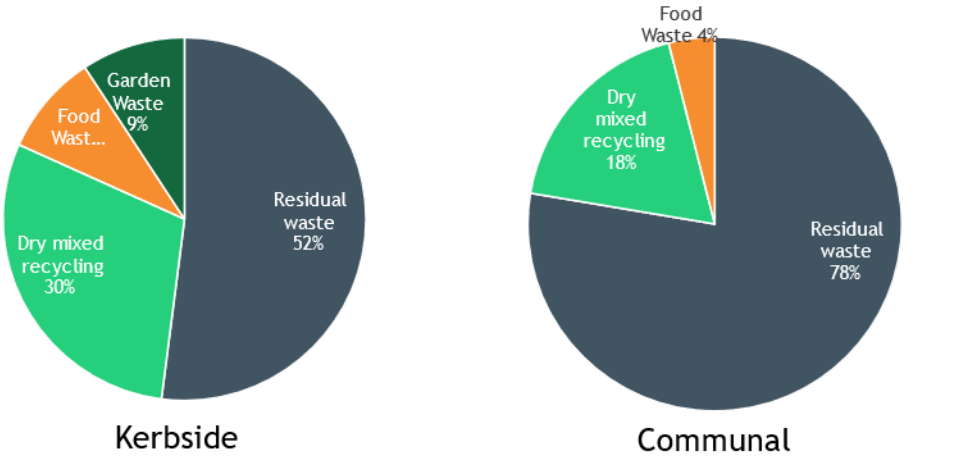


Chart 5 overleaf, however, shows the actual diversion of materials to different recycling streams, by weight (prior to sorting and removing contamination), from the available data. They show that half (52%) of kerbside waste, and three quarters (78%) of communal waste is being put into residual bins. Just under a third (30%) of kerbside waste is being put into dry recycling bins. Around a fifth (18%) of communal waste is put into dry recycling bins. Waste put into food waste recycling bins accounts for 9% and 4% of kerbside and communal waste respectively. These figures include any contamination and non-target materials) found in the recycling stream

Chart 5

Current diversion- what's going into each bin (% by weight including contamination)*



* Actual recycling rates will be lower than shown due to contamination

Chart 6 shows the more detailed composition of materials placed into dry recycling bins. For both kerbside and communal, paper and card (fibres) make up the largest proportion of dry recycling by weight (37% kerbside recycling, 42% of communal recycling). A quarter (25%) of kerbside and a fifth (21%) of communal dry recycling is glass. Recyclable metals make up the smallest proportion at 5% and 3% respectively.

The most commonly found non-target materials in dry recycling are non-recyclable paper, edible food and plastic film. Definitions of what constitutes contaminated recycling and non-target materials is variable between authorities, and some non-target materials may still be recycled once processed (for example small electric appliances put out in dry recycling bins may be removed during sorting and diverted to WEEE recycling). For kerbside, on average a fifth (20%) of the waste in recycling bins is non-target material (though within this there is variation between inner and outer London, with outer London having an average of 14% non-target materials compared to 26% in inner London). For communal recycling bins, just under a quarter (23%) is non-target material.

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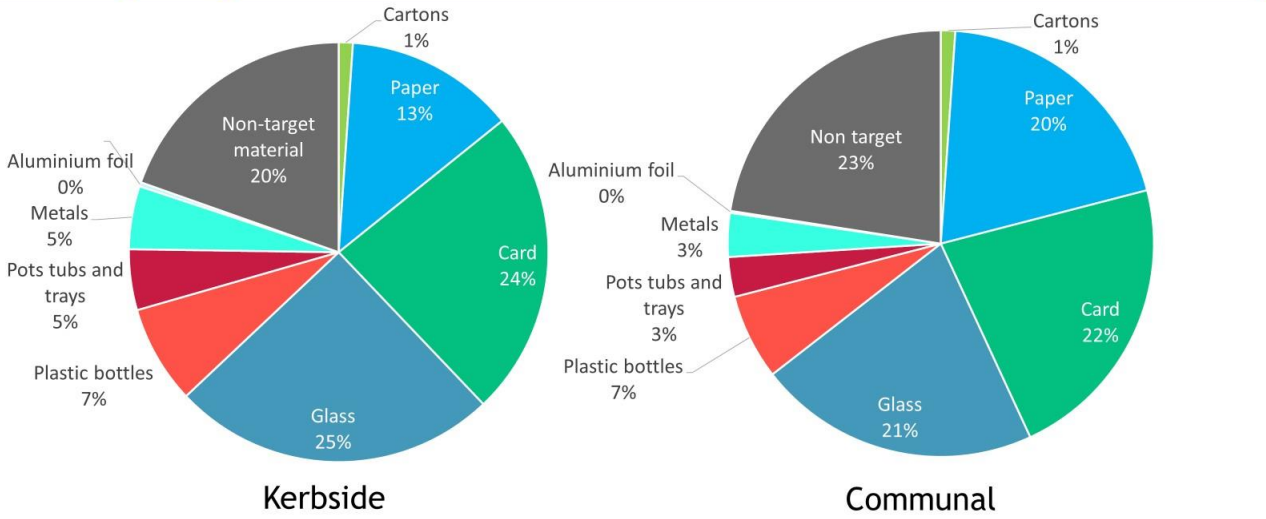
Chart 6

Current diversion - composition of waste put into dry recycling bins*



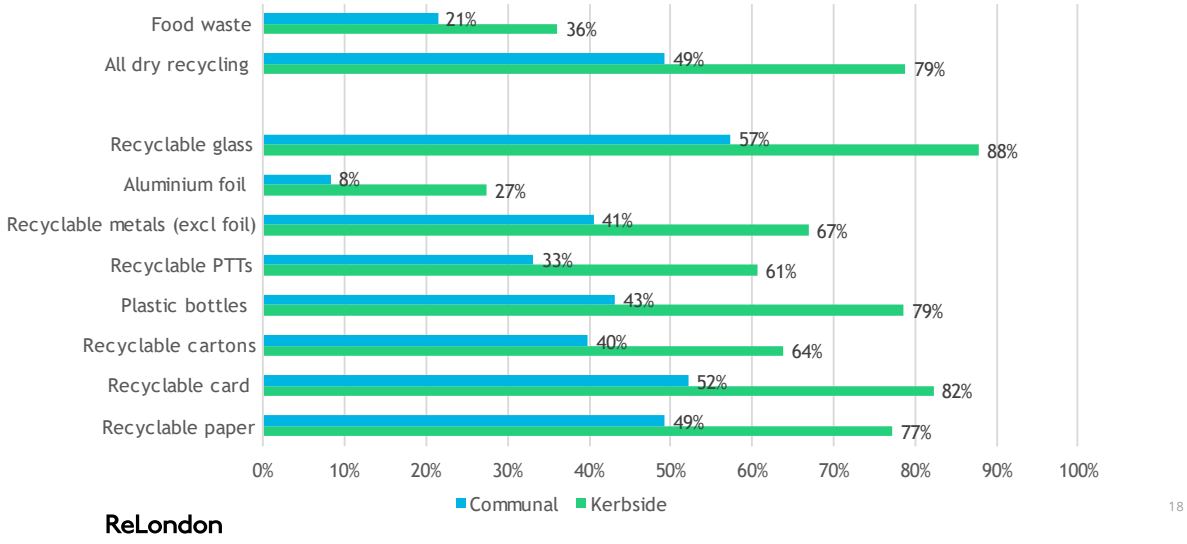
*non-target material includes known contaminants and materials which may be recyclable in other waste streams

2.4. Capture rates

Recycling capture rates show the proportion of a material that is found within the correct recycling stream (the amount of the material in the recycling stream divided by the amount in the total waste stream). They can therefore only be calculated when data from both residual and recycling streams are available. The variation between potential and actual diversion rates for recyclable materials is demonstrated by looking at the capture rates for different materials. Chart 7 below shows the capture rates from the combined data for kerbside and communal waste.

Chart 7

Capture rates of recyclable materials



The capture rates for communal waste are lower than for kerbside for all materials – meaning that a higher proportion of recyclable material is going into residual bins than for kerbside waste. For dry recycling, 79% of materials are correctly recycled from kerbside properties, but only 49% from communal properties. The materials with the highest capture rates are the same for kerbside and communal – glass, and recyclable card and paper.

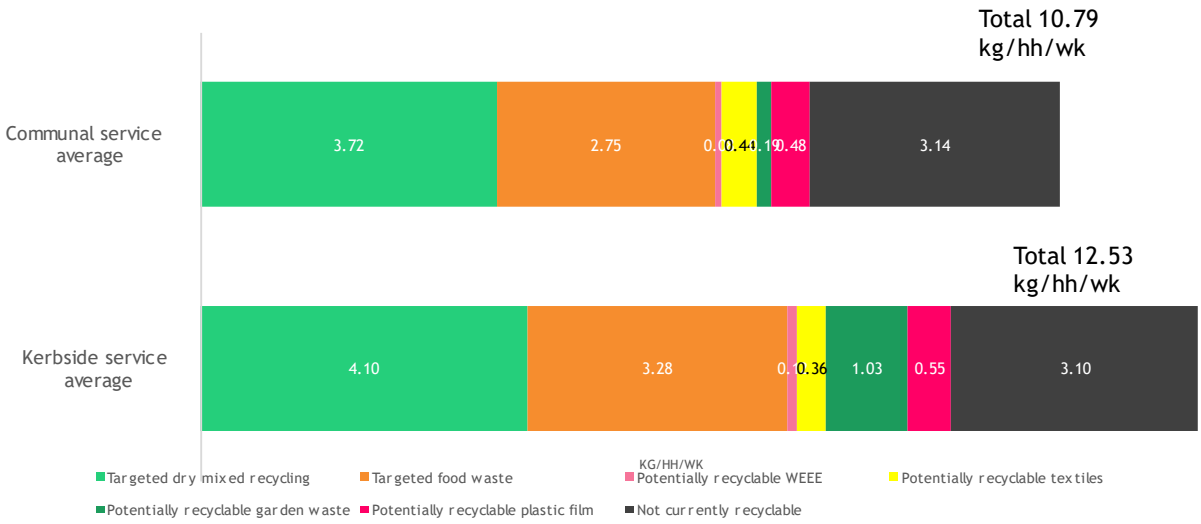
For food waste the kerbside capture rate is 36%, and there is some variation between inner and outer London (inner London 31% and outer London 41%). For communal waste the capture rate for food is lower at 20%. All of these figures relate only to properties where a food recycling service was available, and as previously noted due to the small number of datasets available for communal food recycling this figure should be taken as indicative only.

2.5. Waste arisings

The amount of waste disposed of per household (from all waste streams – residual, dry recycling, food waste, and garden waste where applicable) has been calculated for kerbside and communal waste streams and shows higher arisings from kerbside. The average amount of waste disposed of per week from kerbside properties 12.52 kg/household/week, compared to 10.79 kg/household/week from communal properties. This difference may be attributable to household size.

Chart 8

Total waste arisings by weight- by potential diversion route



*WEEE = waste electrical and electronic equipment

3. Impact of proposed collection and packaging reforms

3.1. Simpler Recycling

Through the proposed collection and packaging reforms, England's local authorities will be required to:

- collect separate weekly food waste from all households by 31st March 2026 (apart from those with named transitional arrangements).
- collect plastic film by 31st March 2027.
- collect garden waste on request, but are able to charge for this service, with no cap on charges – this represents no significant change to the current situation for most local authorities.

Chart 9

Materials within residual waste in scope of Simpler Recycling requirements

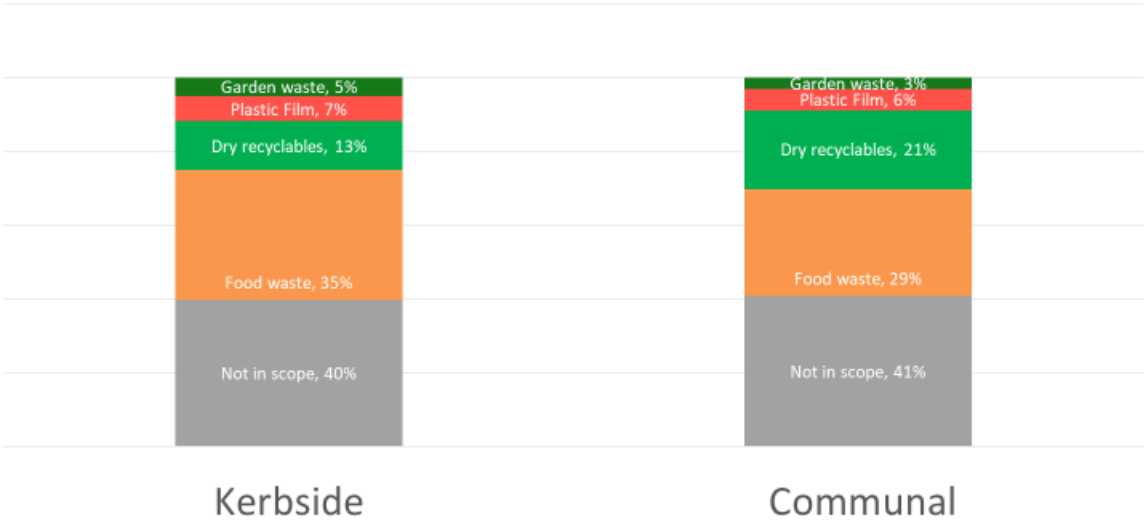


Chart 9 shows the proportions of materials in the residual waste stream that are covered by the Simpler Recycling proposals. By looking at the composition of residual waste, and extrapolating from WasteDataFlow tonnages for London, it is possible to estimate the potential impacts of Simpler Recycling reforms for London authorities.

An average 35% of kerbside residual waste and 29% of communal residual waste is food waste (with 25% and 16% respectively being edible), and so there is potential for significant increases in recycling rate from increasing the coverage of and improving participation in food waste recycling services (as well as reducing overall waste by changing behaviours to reduce edible food being thrown away). The approximate tonnage of food waste going into the residual waste stream in London is 500,000 tonnes per year (based on 2021/22 WasteDataFlow tonnages).

Dry recyclable material makes up 13% of waste put into kerbside residual bins, and 21% of waste put into communal residual bins.

Plastic film makes up around 7% of London's residual waste, which equates to 114,000 tonnes of material per year, or the equivalent of 5,000 carrier bags per household per year.

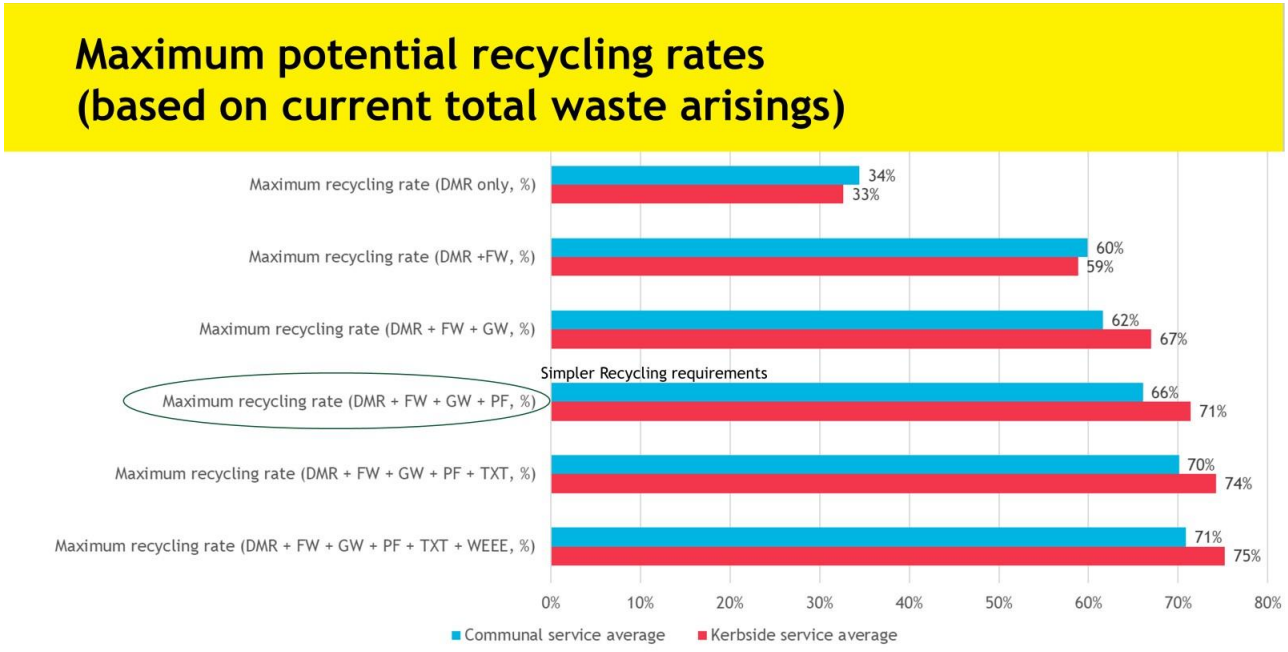
3.1.1. Theoretical maximum recycling rates with expanded services

Chart 10 shows the theoretical maximum recycling rates for kerbside and communal waste when different materials are included, using current composition and assuming 100% capture of materials alongside 100% participation (e.g. if everyone recycled everything, all of the time).

The maximum potential recycling rates if dry recycling, food, garden waste and plastic film services (current Simpler Recycling proposals) were available would be 66% for communal services and 71% for kerbside – the difference being mainly due to the availability of garden waste.

If textiles and waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) were also included in recycling, then 75% of London's kerbside household waste would be theoretically recyclable, and 71% of London's communal household waste. (The remaining 25% and 29% respectively is made of up materials that have no route to be recycled, such as nappies, tissues, sanitary items and other non-packaging household items (for example broken toys, lampshades, or crockery.)

Chart 10



DMR = dry mixed recycling FW = food waste GW = garden waste PF = plastic film TXT = textiles WEEE= waste electrical & electronic equipment

3.2. Extended Producer Responsibility

Under the proposed Extended Producer Responsibility scheme for packaging (referenced throughout this report as EPR), packaging producers will be liable for the net costs of collection, recovery and disposal of packaging that they place on the market. Packaging under EPR includes items such as cardboard boxes or sleeves, non-drink plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays, plastic film wrapping, plastic packets (e.g. crisps or biscuits), glass bottles and jars and metal food cans. It does not include plastic drinks bottles between 50ml and 3 litres, or metal drinks cans as this are included under the Deposit Return Scheme.

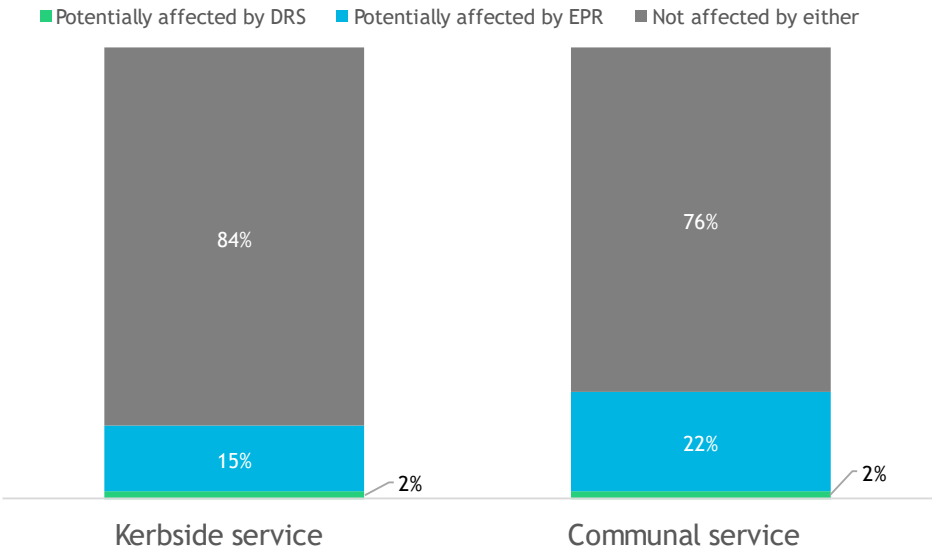
The waste composition data has been used in combination with WasteDataFlow tonnages to predict the proportions and tonnages of EPR material in each waste

stream in London. No future modelling of change in composition due to EPR has been carried out.

The data shows that, on average in London, materials that are classed as packaging and will be liable for EPR payments make up 15% of the kerbside residual waste stream and 22% of the communal residual waste stream.

Chart 11

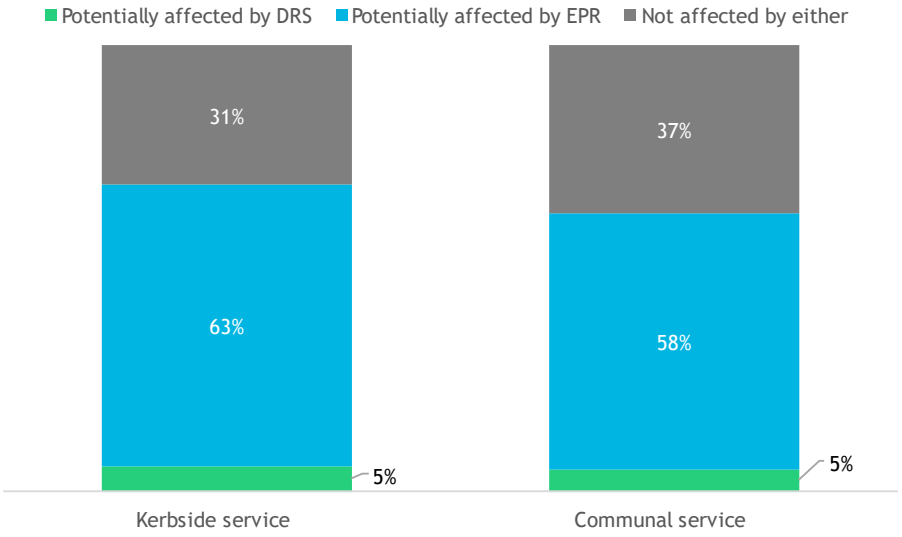
Materials in residual waste in scope of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)



EPR scope materials make up a larger proportion of dry recycling – with 63% of kerbside and 56% of communal dry recycling being packaging – reflecting the lower capture rates for dry recycling from communal collections.

Chart 12

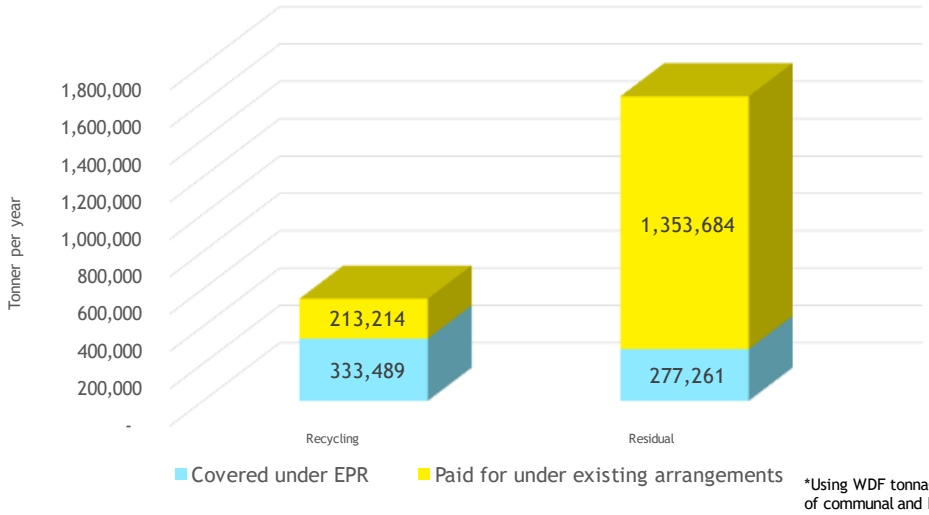
Materials in dry recycling in scope of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)



Overall approximately 28% of London's waste will be eligible for payments under EPR. The chart below shows estimated tonnages for EPR in residual and recycling.

Chart 13

Estimates of total London Local Authority collection tonnages* within scope of Extended Producer Responsibility



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*Using WDF tonnages and weighted average of communal and kerbside data from WCA

3.3. Deposit Return Scheme

Under the proposed Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), plastic drinks bottles (between 50ml and 3l volume) and drinks cans will include a deposit charged at the point of sale, and refunded to the consumer when the container is returned for recycling. These materials will be collected via reverse vending machines or in-store return points, and processed separately, and so diverted from local authority waste streams.

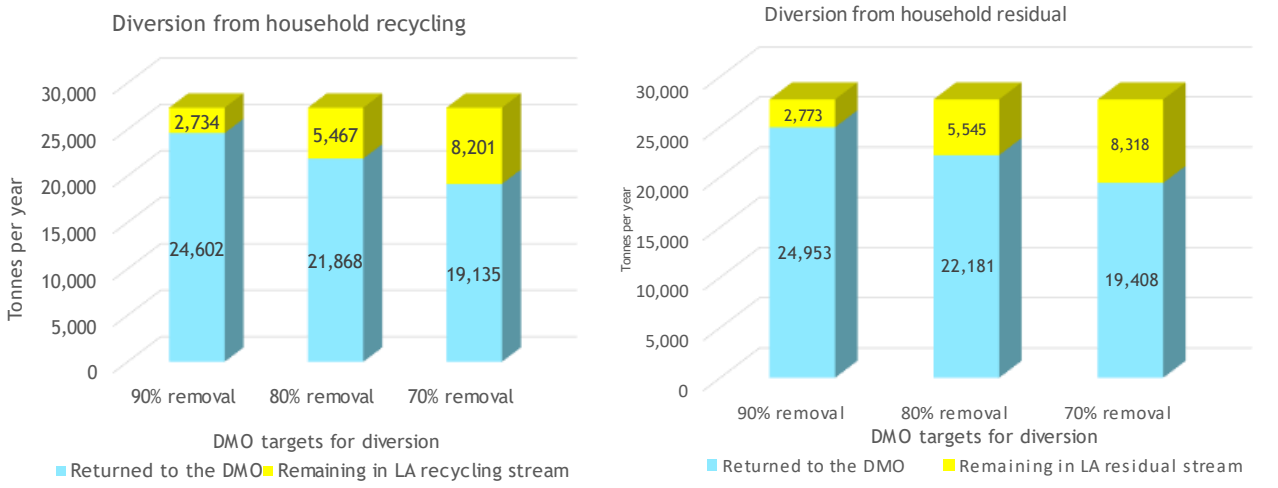
The DRS will be administered by the Deposit Management Organisation (DMO), which will monitor return rates for the materials. There are progressive targets for return rates in the first three years of operation of 70%, 80% and 90% of bottles and cans that are sold.

DRS materials are estimated from the data to make up 2% of residual waste (both kerbside and communal), and 5% of kerbside dry recycling (4% for communal dry recycling), as shown in charts 10 and 11 above. This equates to around 25,000 tonnes of cans and bottles per year in London being removed from both household recycling and residual streams, assuming that the upper target of 90% return of containers is realised.

It is unknown whether the materials will be diverted at equal rates from recycling and residual, however – so the financial impact of removal and reduced income and disposal costs cannot be easily estimated. The chart below shows the tonnages that may be diverted from London local authority household residual and recycling streams, depending on the return rate achieved.

Chart 14

Potential impact of the Deposit Return Scheme



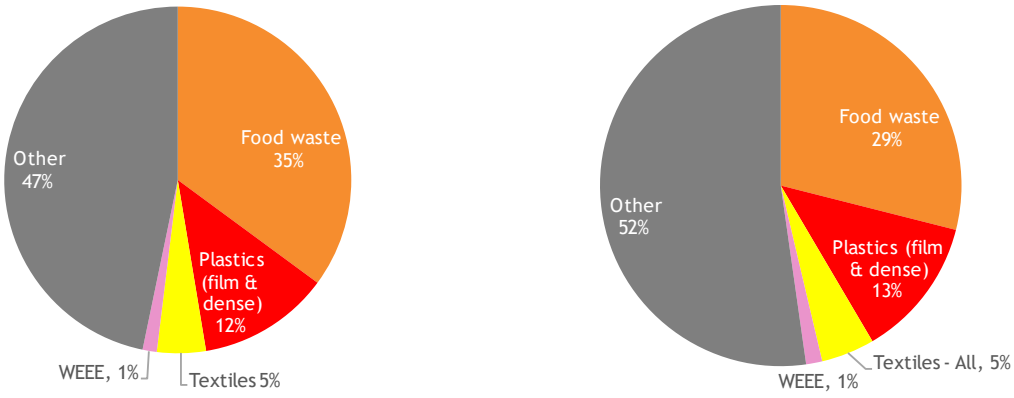
Using WDF tonnages and kerbside data from WCA

4. Food waste and carbon intensive materials in residual waste

Around half of London's residual waste is made up of food waste and other carbon intensive materials – plastics, textiles and WEEE. Chart 15 below shows the average proportions of these materials in residual waste from kerbside and communal waste streams in London.

Chart 15

Food and carbon intensive materials in residual waste



35% of kerbside residual waste and 29% of communal residual waste is food – with two thirds being edible food. This equates to 335,000 tonnes of edible food waste going into the residual waste stream in London each year. In terms of the carbon impact of waste disposal, eliminating food waste has a significantly higher carbon benefit than diverting it from residual to recycling – highlighting the importance of food waste reduction.

Textiles make up, on average 5% of the residual waste stream for both kerbside and communal waste in London. This equates to an estimated 81,500 tonnes of textiles going to residual waste per year.

Plastics (including rigid plastics and film) make up an average of 12% of London's kerbside residual waste and 13% of communal residual waste, an estimated 195,000 tonnes per year in total. Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) makes up an average of 1%, or an estimated 16,000 tonnes per year.

5. Conclusions

These indicative estimates of household waste composition show that the composition of total waste from kerbside and communal properties is similar, in terms of the proportion of food waste and dry recyclable materials, by weight. A lower proportion of communal waste is garden waste – which is not unexpected as flats are less likely to have gardens than properties with kerbside collections. Potential recycling rates for communal properties are therefore lower, due to the lack of availability of garden waste.

Food waste is the largest material by weight within London's household waste. The capture of food waste for recycling is low, with less than half of available food waste being diverted. This highlights the need to reduce overall food waste by supporting the behaviour shift to reduce edible food being thrown away. Even where food waste recycling is in place, a high proportion of the residual waste from London households is food. There is a lack of available data on food waste recycling capture from communal properties but the data available suggests that capture rates from flats are considerably lower than from kerbside. It would be beneficial to gather more evidence in this area in future.

Capture rates for all materials are lower for communal waste than for kerbside waste, although the pattern of capture was similar for both. This suggests that there is considerable potential to increase recycling rates through improving food waste recycling participation for all properties, and improving recycling capture of all materials from flats. Improving recycling rates from flats is more challenging than from kerbside properties, as referenced in section 7 below. ReLondon's Flats Recycling Package provides a toolkit for local authorities to address these challenges.

Around half of London's residual waste is made up of food waste, plastic, textiles and WEEE, which are carbon intensive materials. Therefore, reducing or diverting these materials to reuse or recycling would reduce the carbon impact of waste disposal.

ReLondon continues to undertake research on the material flows of these high impact materials, and has published Material Flow Analyses for food and textiles, with a further report on consumer packaging planned. More information about these and all of ReLondon's work can be found on our website here.

6. London context

Previously published data[1] alongside the data presented here show the challenges that London and other dense urban areas face in increasing recycling rates.

Recycling rates tend to be lower where there are higher proportions of flats, higher rates of population turnover, lower rates of home ownership, higher levels of deprivation, and higher proportions of young adults in the general population. In addition, previous research from ReLondon has found that people living in purpose built flats are less likely to recycle well than those living in properties with kerbside collections – due to a combination of factors including lack of space, poor waste infrastructure, lack of knowledge (or lack of communication).

In densely populated large urban areas like London, these demographic characteristics coexist, and exacerbate the challenge of increasing recycling rates.

Data from the 2021 census shows that:

- London's population density is 5,598 residents per square kilometre - which is 13 times the average in England (434 residents per square kilometre)
- In 2021, more than half of the households in London lived in a flat, maisonette or apartment (55.9%). This is considerably higher than all other English regions (varying from 22.81% in the South East to 12.08% in the East Midlands).
- London's population density is 5,598 residents per square kilometre - which is 13 times the average in England (434 residents per square kilometre). In inner London this density rises to 10662 people per square kilometre.
- London had the highest proportion of households that had fewer bedrooms than required (11.1%, 380,000), which is close to three times the figure across England and Wales as a whole, 4.3% of households (1.1 million)
- London had the lowest level of overall home ownership of any English region – 46.8% compared to 62.3% for England as a whole.

  The data set out in this report should be considered within this context – particularly the theoretical maximum recycling rates. Increasing recycling from flats is a critical challenge for urban areas, and existing research has shown that gains are possible, but that even with best practice, recycling rates from properties with communal bins are difficult to elevate to the same level as kerbside properties. ReLondon's Flats Recycling Package sets out evidence based best practice for increasing recycling from purpose-built flats.

[1] Data from the 2021 Census and WRAP's Recycling Tracker Survey

7. Acknowledgements

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8. Glossary of terms used

Capture rate	The proportion of a particular material captured for recycling, out of all of that material that is waste (residual + recycling)
Collected household waste	Waste that is legally defined as household waste collected at kerbside, flats and HWRCs
Collection cycle	The period over which an individual household receives all its waste services, normally weekly or fortnightly in London
Communal collection	A collection service which picks up waste from bins shared by a number of flats
Communal properties	Properties (flats) which share waste facilities and are served by a communal collection
Contamination rate	The proportion of the waste which is not targeted by the recycling service
Dry mixed recycling (DMR)	Comingled materials collected for recycling, excluding food, e.g. paper, card, glass and metals
Dwelling	A place where a person or group of people live with its own unique address and front door
Edible food waste	All food that was intended to be eaten at the time it was produced or sold. It excludes non-edible parts, even if they are integral with the item, e.g. a whole avocado is both edible (the flesh) and non-edible (the peel and the stone)
Estate	An area consisting of several blocks of flats, and possible some street level properties
Fines	A classification within waste composition analysis for materials that are of a very fine consistency e.g. dust, powder
Flat	A dwelling contained within a building with more than one storey and its own front door
Household	Definitions of 'household' are complex. For the purposes of this document, household is synonymous with dwelling.
Inedible food waste	The inedible parts of food, e.g. banana peel, avocado stone. Officially 'associated inedible parts' as food is by definition something that is intended to be eaten, so inedible food is not conceptually possible under international definitions.
Kerbside collection	A collection service which picks up waste from the curtilage of each property
Kerbside properties	Properties which have ground level entry and which are provided with the standard waste and recycling service
London Output Area Classification (LOAC)	A geo-demographic classification system, which groups small areas of London according to their Census characteristics

MRF	Materials Recycling Facility – where mixed recyclate is mechanically and manually sorted into categories for sale and disposal
Non-recyclable	Materials that are not targeted by the collection service and for which the MRF cannot find a market and are therefore disposed to landfill or incineration
Organic recycling	Food and garden waste separated for recycling (recorded in WasteDataFlow as organics)
Plastic film/flexibles	Flexible plastics and other items containing a significant amount of flexible plastics e.g. food pouches
Procurement framework	A list of suppliers who have been through a pre-qualification process to assess competence and financial standing
Purpose built flats	Properties that were built to be blocks of flats, rather than house conversions or flats above shops
Recyclable – non-target	Materials that are not targeted by the collection service, but for which the MRF has an outlet
Recyclable – target	Materials which are recyclable and targeted by the collection service
Residual waste	Waste destined for disposal, normally by incineration or landfill
Seasonality	The differences in waste composition that occur due to the differing weather conditions that occur at different times of the year
Waste composition analysis (WCA)	A method of measuring the composition of mixed waste, using sorting and weighing as the principal means of measurement
WEEE	Waste electrical and electronic equipment

Prepared by:

Liz Horsfield,

Strategic Advisor, ReLondon

Shelley Holmes

Advisor, ReLondon

ReLondon

relondon.gov.uk

Sustainable Workspaces, 5th floor, County Hall,
Belvedere Road, London SE1 7PB