



## We're updating Lambeth's Municipal Waste Strategy

### We want your views

#### Why is the waste strategy being updated?

Managing waste is important. Plastic pollution is a global environmental problem which starts right here at home in Lambeth. Reducing waste, reusing and recycling more:

- Helps **protect the natural environment** by conserving valuable resources; and
- **Reduces greenhouse gas emissions** which cause damaging climate change.

**Every one percent increase in recycling achieved will save the council around £90,000 - money which could be used to fund other services, especially those supporting the most vulnerable in our community.**

Since the strategy was first published in 2011 we've managed to reach a recycling rate of over 30% which puts the council in 4<sup>th</sup> place out of the 13 Inner London Boroughs. This is good and not far off London's overall recycling rate of 33%.

However, we are still a long way from the national targets and in 2017/18 Lambeth still disposed of 55,625 tonnes of household waste at a cost of £8 million.

Lambeth Council has made extra commitments on waste and recycling and in 2018 there were changes in national laws on waste:

Extra commitments by the Council to:

Maintain weekly bin collection of recycling, food and residual waste and keep Vale Street Re-use Centre open.

A new national Resources and Waste Strategy for England.  
The Mayor's London Environment Strategy.

These increase targets for recycling (including commercial waste) to: 50% by 2025; and 65% by 2030.

This means the current waste strategy needs to be updated to ensure Lambeth Council:

- Continues to comply with the law;
- Makes greater efforts to reduce waste and recycle more; and
- Continues to meet the needs of council tax payers.

## How can you help?

- We want to hear from you.
- We want to know what you think about our ideas.
- We also want to hear your ideas about things you and your Community could do to reuse and recycle more as well as to look after your neighbourhood.
- We're ready to listen and to help.

## The Waste Strategy Conversation

We are holding a conversation and seeking views from various stakeholders and the public between May 14<sup>th</sup> and June 10<sup>th</sup> 2019.

All the information can be found on a special waste conversation webpage [\[insert link\]](#). On the webpage you will find:

- The full updated draft waste strategy document;
- This summary conversation document (this document); and
- A link to the online conversation questionnaire.

### What is a Municipal Waste Strategy?

The waste strategy explains what the council will do to manage waste from households and businesses in Lambeth. The current strategy runs from 2011 to 2031.

You can also contact the council directly on any aspect of the updated draft waste strategy: emails should be sent to [wastestrategy@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:wastestrategy@lambeth.gov.uk).

The waste strategy update is being promoted via a range of channels including the council website; Love Lambeth; social media; one-to-one correspondence with interested citizens and groups; promotion via local networks and channels; and a number of conversation meetings which are being held to gather the views of particular groups (such as councillors and officers, Lambeth Environment Forum, Lambeth Forum Network and Disability Reference Group).

## Waste and Recycling in Lambeth - Where we are now?

Since 2011, a number of major changes in waste management have been successfully delivered which have enabled Lambeth to reach a recycling rate of over 30% (2017/18):

- Introducing a weekly food waste collection service (for street level properties);
- Charging for weekly garden waste collections using reusable sacks;
- The full range of core recycling materials (paper, card, cartons, glass, cans, tins, plastic bottles, plastic pots, tubs and trays) are collected from all households (with most street level properties using 240-litre wheeled bins);
- Compulsory recycling was introduced in 2011;
- Waste from street level properties is now mainly collected using a 140-litre wheeled bin;
- An excess waste policy was introduced in 2014 to stop extra waste being left out beside wheeled bins;
- Bulky waste is now a charged for service available to private homeowners and renters. Council tenants living on housing estates will continue to receive the service - organised by Lambeth Housing Management - through their tenancy agreement.

## What needs to be done?

The revised strategy has **updated targets**:

To reduce residual waste from 397kg per household in 2017/18 to:

- Less than 375kg by 2025; and
- Less than 350kg by 2030.

To contribute towards national and regional (Mayor of London's) targets:

- Recycle/compost 37% of household waste by 2025; and
- Reuse, recycle or compost 50% of local authority collected waste\* by 2025.

\*NB. Local authority collected waste (LACW) includes commercial waste and Lambeth's current LACW recycling rate is just 22%.

The **objectives** of the updated strategy are to:

- Encourage people and communities to change behaviour so more waste is prevented (reduced), reused and recycled;
- Deliver waste and recycling services that:
  - Protect human health and the environment;
  - Maximise local economic, environmental and social benefits and meet legislative requirements at the same time as minimising costs;
  - Conform with Regional Waste Policy (Mayor's strategy for London);
  - Offer excellent customer service;
  - Continuously improve service quality and customer satisfaction;
  - Maintain and improve civic pride; and
  - Lead by example and embed the principles of the waste hierarchy (reduce-> reuse->recycle->recover->dispose) throughout the council.

**A further update is planned:** By 2025 the impact of the new national waste policy initiatives should be clearer and the council will review and update its targets out to 2030, in line with the Mayor's strategy.

## How are we going to achieve this?

### Reduce:

The council will commit to working towards ending the use of **Single Use Plastics** by:

- Maintaining and expanding a network of drinking water fountains across Lambeth to reduce use of single use plastic bottles in the borough; and
- Working towards eliminating the use of **single use plastics** purchased by the council; and
- Working towards eliminating the use of **single use plastics** at local events e.g. by supporting reusable drinks containers or deposit return systems.

The council will help residents to **reduce waste** by:

- Increasing **home composting** by selling at least 250 compost bins per year;
- Promoting the reduction of **food waste** through suitable communications and education initiatives, linking with national campaigns where possible;
- Continuing to reduce the use of disposable nappies through a voucher scheme to encourage 150 parents each year to use **re-usable (washable) nappies**; and
- Providing information on the **Mail Preference Service** and **'no junk mail' stickers** to reduce unwanted mail.

### **Re-use & Repair:**

The council will divert at least **30 tonnes of furniture per year to reuse** by:

- Reviewing and potentially expanding the range of materials accepted for re-use at the **Vale Street Reuse & Recycling Centre**;
- Working more closely with current furniture re-use partners to maximise the positive social value aspects of **furniture re-use**; and
- Seeking to increase re-use and repair at **Rework Re-use Workshop** at Smugglers Way.

The council will support the community to repair, re-use, swap and share by:

- Actively promoting and supporting local community groups that engage in repair, re-use, sharing and swapping activities and/or events;

### **Recycle:**

The council will **increase recycling rates** by around 5% (from the current level of 32%) in the next 5 years by:

- Leading by example and targeting high levels of recycling in council buildings;
- Identifying and using the most appropriate ways to communicate extensively with residents about waste and recycling services;
- **Investigating ways to expand food waste collections** by running trials with suitable households;
- **Enforcing the councils' excess waste policy** which states that refuse crews will only collect household waste which is properly presented in wheelie bins;
- Maintaining a **network of bring banks** to collect materials not covered by household collections (such as textiles, books or CDs), by:
  - Supporting third sector partners to run sites; and
  - Continually reviewing bring bank provision as not all residents can easily make use of the wide range of materials collected at the Vale Street Reuse and Recycling Centre and / or Smugglers Way;
- Reviewing and possibly increasing the number of **'on the go' recycling bins**; and
- Working with the **Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO)** licensing team on waste management issues affecting these properties.
- **Increase recycling on Estates** by considering the following ways to improve recycling services:
  - 'Twin stream' recycling – collecting paper and card in one recycling container and glass, cans, plastic etc. in a second container;
  - Reviewing the placement of recycling bins to improve recycling; and
  - Introducing food waste collections on estates (where practical).

## Other Important Actions:

### Collections

- Review whether bins be presented on the street or collected from within properties

If bins are presented on street they can:

- Obstruct pedestrians;
- Make it difficult to clean the pavement after collection;
- Make it more difficult to tackle dumped rubbish.

If bins are collected from within individual properties:

- They can be in the way of people getting in and out of their homes;
- It is less efficient and more expensive for the council.

However, it would be easier to clean pavements and enforce against dumped waste.

**Street cleansing and tackling litter and fly tipping** are priority actions. The council will:

- Actively manage **side waste, littering and fly tipping** by applying the Excess Waste Policy (for details see <https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/rr-wheeled-bin-policy-october2013.pdf>), educating and providing effective and appropriate services to address littering and fly tipping issues and taking appropriate enforcement action once all other options have failed; and
- Continue to work with and support community groups and street champions in **litter clean-ups** to promote civic pride and bring people together.

### Commercial waste

All commercial businesses must make sure their waste is collected by a genuine waste management company and not place commercial waste into household waste bins that are collected by the council's household waste collection service.

The council has a duty to collect commercial waste if asked to do so and the council does this by operating a commercial waste collection and recycling service. The commercial waste and recycling that the council collects in this way counts towards Lambeth's recycling rate so it is important that businesses recycle as much as possible. To do this, the council will:

- Promote Lambeth's **commercial recycling service** to increase recycling (which counts towards achieving the boroughs' recycling target); and
- Carry out enforcement action to restrict commercial waste put into household waste and recycling streams.