



# Municipal recycling and waste: a summary of our plans for Barnet

2016 – 2030

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## Foreword from Chairman of Environment Committee

**We want everyone in Barnet to play their part in keeping our local environment clean and attractive, to protect the environment by reducing waste and giving materials another chance through reuse and recycling. This municipal recycling and waste strategy covers all waste that the council collects.**

Recycling is cheaper than sending waste for disposal, and in the current tough financial climate we all need to be recycling as much as we can and make full use of the services that are provided. This is particularly true in Barnet as the current waste to energy facility is over 40 years old and will need significant investment in the next 15 years which will lead to much higher disposal costs.

We all need to work together and rise to the challenge of preventing waste, recycling more and reducing what we dispose of. We have a challenging target of 50% recycling in 2020, which is likely to increase before the strategy finishes in 2030.

It is in everyone’s interest that we meet the aims of this strategy. Before we finalise the strategy we are looking for feedback from you, our residents and businesses on our assumptions about what the future looks like and proposed approach to reaching our challenging targets. Please visit [engage.barnet.gov.uk](http://engage.barnet.gov.uk) or visit our local library, to let us know what you think,

more details about how to do this are at the end of this document.

Dean Cohen  
Chairman of Environment Committee



# Our vision and aims

**We want everyone in Barnet to play their part in keeping our local environment clean and attractive, and protecting our wider environment by reducing waste and giving materials another chance through reuse and recycling.**

By achieving these aims, we hope to see success through at least a 50 per cent household recycling rate by 2020, and a rate which exceeds 50 per cent by 2030.

## Our four aims

Provide services that help our rapidly growing community to manage its environmental impact.



Manage the rising cost of waste collection and disposal by designing services that promote recycling and reuse and are integrated, intuitive and efficient.



Encourage all Barnet's residents, businesses and visitors to take responsibility for the waste that they produce, but using enforcement where necessary.



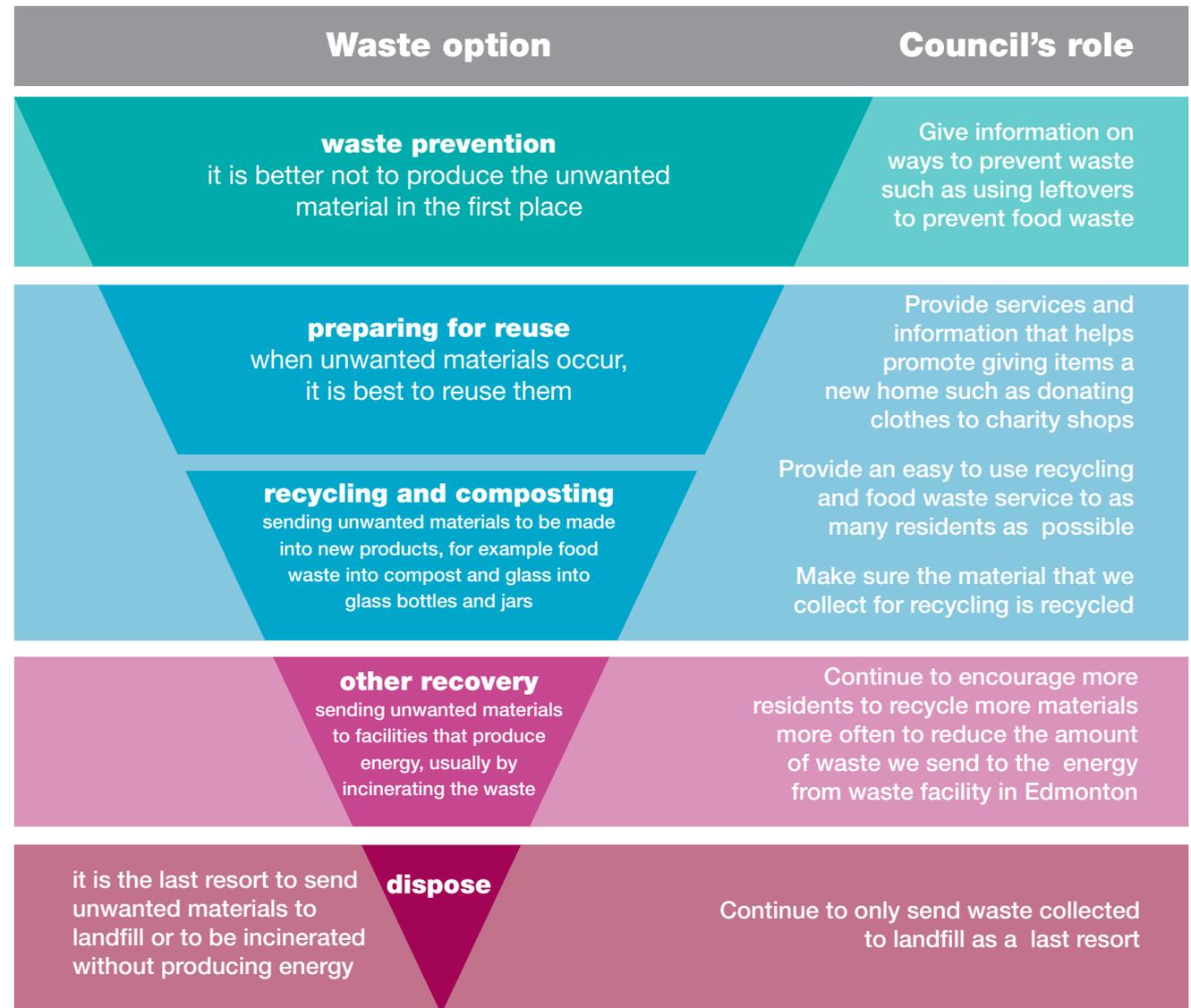
Embrace new technologies and ways of working that help us deliver services that respond better to the needs of our community.



## Embracing Barnet's future challenge and opportunity

Barnet is growing. We live in a vibrant and thriving borough, with millions of pounds being invested in housing, offices, schools, hospitals and transport networks. Local businesses are succeeding – existing ones are growing, and new ones are coming to the area. Barnet is now London's most highly populated borough, and we expect the population to grow by another 10 per cent by 2025.

While our growing economy and population creates exciting opportunities for residents and businesses, it will mean more waste being produced. This makes it more essential than ever that we manage this waste in an effective and efficient way, and ensure that residents moving into new housing – 85 per cent of which is likely to be flats – are encouraged to recycle as much as possible.



## Waste is the new resource

Since we first introduced a borough-wide recycling service in 2001, the way we think about ‘waste’ has changed dramatically – from a problem to be managed to a source of valuable materials.

‘The waste hierarchy’ sits at the core of what we, the Government and the European Union do. It sets out the priority order in which, waste should be managed.

## We need to do more with less

Central Government is continuing to cut council budgets across England, meaning that the financial pressure on all council services is growing.

Recycling, reusing and composting waste is not only better for the environment, but also much cheaper than disposing of it. Sending mixed recycling to be sorted costs half as much as sending residual waste to an ‘energy from waste’ facility (to be burnt to generate electricity). With more money saved, we can continue to deliver services that meet the needs of our growing population. Evidence from other local authorities suggests that our residents would be encouraged to separate out over 10,500 tonnes per year of additional material for recycling and composting if their residual waste capacity was restricted. This would reduce the amount of material sent to the energy from waste facility and would mean a financial saving of around £440,000 per year.



View of Brent Cross Shopping Centre, image supplied by Brent Cross Cricklewood Development Partners

## Barnet’s people understand

Our residents are recycling more materials than ever before – we have moved from a household recycling rate of just 8 per cent in 2001/02, to 37.95 per cent in 2014/15. 75 per cent of residents say that they are happy with their doorstep recycling service<sup>1</sup>.

But we could do a lot more. Our recycling rate has plateaued and we are not on track to achieve the challenging target we have set for 2020, of at least a 50 per cent household recycling rate.

In 2014/15 we fell short of meeting our recycling target of 41 per cent and of the 33 London Boroughs we ranked 10th in terms of our recycling performance. We know we can do better, and need everyone – the council, residents, visitors and businesses – to do their bit to make sure we leave a positive legacy for future generations.

<sup>1</sup> Barnet Council, Residents’ Perception Survey, 2014

## So we need to be ambitious

The next 15 years hold lots of promise, and this summary document sets out how we will deal with Barnet's waste up to 2030.

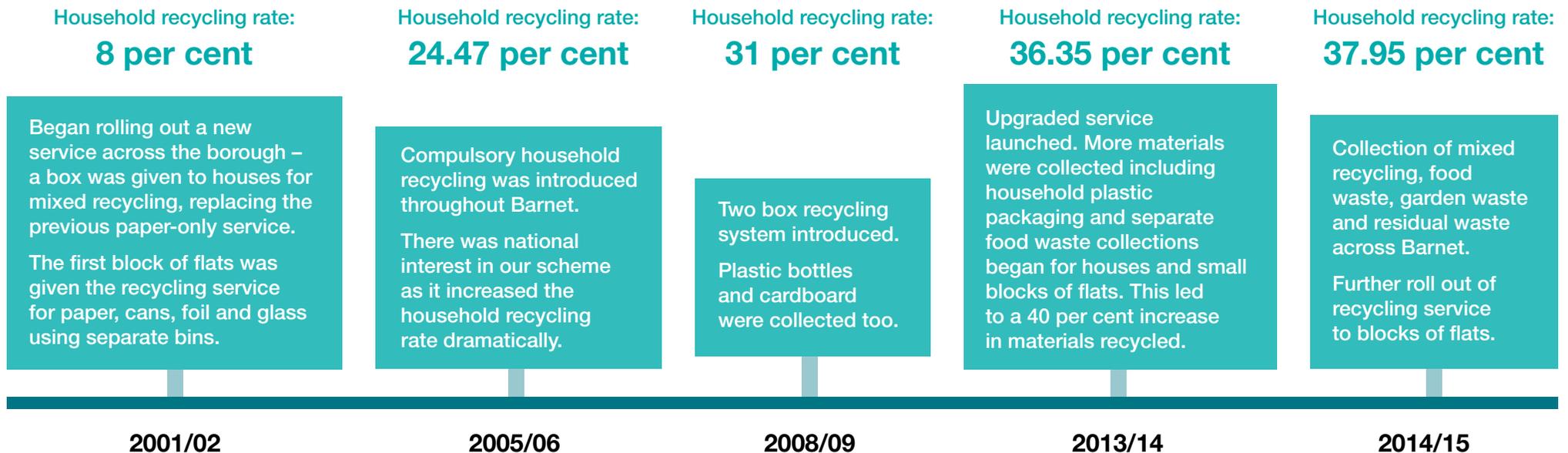
We have set ourselves challenging waste and recycling targets. We plan to increase the household recycling rate of 37.95 per cent in 2014/15 to at least 50 per cent by 2020, and exceed 50 per cent by 2030.

We expect any new recycling targets from the European Union will apply to all the waste that a local authority collects; 'municipal waste'. A target for municipal waste will be challenging as it will mean increasing recycling of waste from more sources, for example waste from businesses, parks and fly-tips as well as households. Some of this waste, such as fly-tipped waste, often cannot be recycled.

## Barnet and the bigger picture

Local government recycling and residual waste collection services will look very different by 2030. We anticipate that public sector agencies will work together more closely - pooling resources, sharing staff and assets, and developing joint solutions. Waste streams will change, North London Waste Authority will be developing a replacement energy from waste facility, and private waste management firms will become fewer and larger, potentially reducing competitiveness and increasing service costs. Recycling and composting of materials will continue to be much cheaper than sending materials to landfill sites or energy from waste facilities. In the future, some materials such as food waste and textiles may be banned from landfill.

Our plans have been put together based on assumptions about what the future will look like. The assumptions and the data that supports them will be available in an online data room during the draft strategy consultation.



# How Barnet will rise to the challenge

**Working together. It is the council's responsibility to ensure that our recycling and waste plans are delivered, but we can only succeed with help and support from a range of people and organisations. We all need to contribute to continue making Barnet a place in which people are proud to live.**



Our council services and staff need to do more to support and encourage recycling



Our residents (permanent and temporary) need to use the recycling services we provide fully



Our businesses need to dispose of their waste correctly



Our visitors need to use the services that we provide, particularly for litter



Our registered social landlords (including Barnet Homes) and private landlords need to work with us to help deliver high quality services to residents

# Our plans for a successful future

**More people than ever are using our recycling services. Today, all of our residents living in houses are offered collections for mixed recycling, food waste, garden waste and residual waste, and about two thirds of residents in blocks of flats have a service for mixed recycling.**

More people than ever are using our recycling services. Today, all of our residents living in houses are offered collections for mixed recycling, food waste, garden waste and residual waste, and about two thirds of residents in blocks of flats have a service for mixed recycling. We clean up litter and fly-tipping, maintain green spaces, collect trade waste and have a reuse and recycling centre, generating further materials for recycling and disposal.

We are making encouraging progress, and our residents consider our recycling and residual waste services the top two performing council services<sup>2</sup>. Our residents have high expectations of our recycling and waste collection services – rightly so, and we strive to continue providing a service that meets, and where possible exceeds, these expectations. Here are some of our plans for changing services in the future.

## Now

- by 2018, there will be a predicted 34,000 more properties than in 2011
- 85 per cent of these 34,000 properties will be flats, which often have a lower recycling rate than houses as residents can find it harder to recycle.



## Serving new properties

### Our plans

- introduce more efficient ways to collect materials and embrace new technologies
- work with architects and developers to make sure that new and refurbished properties are designed in a way which helps achieve our target recycling rate.



## Houses

### Now

- most houses have a blue wheeled bin for mixed recycling, a caddy for food waste, and can request a wheeled bin for garden waste
- 85 per cent of households now put out mixed recycling for collection but only 38 per cent use the food waste collection service
- 1,400 tonnes of material collected for mixed recycling in 2014/15 was too contaminated with the wrong materials to be recycled
- there is still a lot of potential to reduce the amount of waste we produce in the first place.

### Our plans

- make sure that everyone knows all of the materials that can be recycled
- encourage and support residents to reduce waste and recycle more
- review the residual waste capacity that is provided to encourage residents to reduce waste and recycle more
- target communications at new residents
- support residents to recycle more when preparing for Passover by providing additional collection via the food waste and mixed recycling service rather than residual waste service.

<sup>2</sup> Both about 75 per cent satisfaction in the Barnet Council, Residents' Perception Survey, 2014



### Blocks of flats

#### Now

- two-thirds of residents have a mixed recycling service
- groups of wheeled bins are located close to blocks of flats for residents to use.

#### Our plans

- provide every household with easy access to the mixed recycling service
- ensure everyone understands how and what to recycle to try to stop contamination with the wrong materials
- look at reducing the number of residual waste bins and increasing the number of mixed recycling bins
- design recycling collection points in a way which makes it more difficult for irresponsible users to contaminate the bins
- look at opportunities to broaden recycling services to help residents living in flats recycle even more materials, including trialling a food waste collection service for around 12 blocks of flats in 2016.



### Flats above shops

#### Now

- many flats above shops are located in our high streets, where it is important that recycling and residual waste do not block pavements or contribute to overfilled litter bins
- we need to keep the recycling and residual waste created by our residents and businesses separate.

#### Our plans

- carefully assess the needs of each individual area when introducing improvements
- consider introducing a requirement for residents and businesses to set out materials for collection within separate time-slots
- consider introducing the use of specific coloured sacks for residents in flats above shops and businesses
- support improvements with an education and enforcement campaign.

#### Now

- by 2018, there will be a predicted 34,000 more properties than in 2011
- 85 per cent of these 34,000 properties will be flats, which often have a lower recycling rate than houses as residents can find it harder to recycle.



### Reuse and recycling centres

#### Our plans

- work closely with North London Waste Authority to support residents to use the network of reuse and recycling centres available across north London
- ensure that sites are as easy as possible to use.



### Bulky waste collection service

#### Now

- residents can book a collection for large items, such as mattresses, televisions and fridges
- a charge is made to the customer which covers the costs of collection and not disposal (disposal is covered by residents' council tax).

#### Our plans

- look at ways for items to be reused or recycled
- see if we could allow for items to be collected directly from residents' properties where these are not on the ground floor
- continue to review collection charges, as we recognise that the cost of collection is more than some residents can afford.



## Collections for our businesses

### Now

- over 10,000 tonnes of residual waste was collected in 2014/15 from local businesses via the paid-for commercial waste service
- represents more than 10 per cent of the waste collected by the council in 2014/15
- we believe that by 2030 recycling and composting of waste from local businesses will make a significant contribution to the municipal recycling rate.

### Our plans

- provide competitively priced mixed recycling and food waste collection services for those businesses that use our residual waste collection service
- undertake a fly-tipping enforcement campaign to ensure that businesses have suitable contracts for the disposal of waste and that those caught dumping are punished
- investigate how to address difficulties in distinguishing commercial waste from household waste.



## Collections for our schools

### Now

- services to schools are central to engaging children in positive behaviours
- almost all schools that use our residual waste collection service also use the mixed recycling service, but under 10 per cent use the food waste collection
- only around 31 per cent of waste generated by schools is recycled.

### Our plans

- promote the food waste collection service to schools
- ask schools to commit to increasing recycling and reducing residual waste, with potential rewards for those that make a positive change
- deliver a communications campaign to encourage the use of all recycling services and ensure recycling is free from contamination
- review how schools are charged for collection services to help motivate them to reduce residual waste and recycle more.



## Our streets, parks and open spaces

### Now

- our teams work in all weathers picking up litter and emptying litter and dog bins, servicing public recycling sites and clearing fly-tipping
- we collected and disposed of 1,500 tonnes of dumped waste in 2014/15. The cost of disposing of this was covered by local taxpayers (our residents and businesses).

### Our plans

- continue reviewing whether on-street recycling sites should be removed or relocated, as the sites have recently suffered from a substantial increase in fly-tipping
- develop a communications and enforcement campaign to address fly-tipping
- continue looking at how we can increase recycling of the litter and fly-tipped materials we collect.



## Clinical flytipping and hazardous waste

### Now

- our teams work in all weathers picking up litter and emptying litter and dog bins, servicing public recycling sites and clearing fly-tipping
- we collected and disposed of 1,500 tonnes of dumped waste in 2014/15. The cost of disposing of this was covered by local taxpayers (our residents and businesses).

### Our plans

- continue reviewing whether on-street recycling sites should be removed or relocated, as the sites have recently suffered from a substantial increase in fly-tipping
- develop a communications and enforcement campaign to address fly-tipping
- continue looking at how we can increase recycling of the litter and fly-tipped materials we collect.

# The roadmap to 2030

**We know it will take more than just sending out a service leaflet or a placing an advert in the local newspaper to achieve our aims.**

In fact, we all need to act, work and change our behaviour together and we understand that this will take time. We will follow national best practice to support our residents, businesses, visitors and staff to act in new ways.

We have agreed with our members<sup>1</sup> what we need to do at an overarching level (see below). Following the public consultation on the draft strategy, an Action Plan has been developed to help deliver these goals, this action plan can be seen in the full strategy document.

## What we need to happen

Reuse, recycle or compost 50 per cent of all household waste by 2020

Minimise the amount of municipal waste being sent to disposal

Encourage residents to change their behaviours in relation to waste

Provide waste services to local businesses that are cost effective and that allows them to manage their waste sustainably

Provide a waste collection service that is accessible and easy to use, that encourages residents to recycle their waste effectively

## High level actions

Review and implement (in partnership with North London Waste Authority) new transparent arrangements for re-charging the cost of disposal and treatment of recyclables and residual waste

Consult on and finalise this Municipal Waste Strategy

Develop and implement a waste minimisation and resident engagement plan

Options analysis and delivery plan for revised Trade Waste offer

Develop new waste collections offer to deliver improved recycling including garden waste recycling

<sup>1</sup> Environment Committee Commissioning Plan 2015 – 2020

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For more information:  
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or visit [www.barnet.gov.uk/citizen-home/rubbish-waste-and-recycling](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/citizen-home/rubbish-waste-and-recycling)