

# London Recycling Rate Analysis

Below is an analysis of the London local authority waste and recycling data for 2018/19 released by Defra on 28 November 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-collected-waste-management-annual-results>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/env18-local-authority-collected-waste-annual-results-tables>

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## Household Waste Recycling

In 2018/19 **London achieved a 'household' recycling rate<sup>1</sup> of 33.4%** – a 0.3 percentage point increase from 2017/18.

- This is against an England 'household' recycling rate of 43.5% in 2018/19 – up 0.3 percentage points on 2017/18.
- However, London continues to have the lowest household recycling rate of the English regions (at 33.4% in 2018/19 while South West region is the highest at 50.1%).
- Of the nine regions, six increased their recycling rate (most by 0.3-0.6%), one remained the same and two decreased. The South West region had the largest increase in household waste recycling rate up by 1.1 percentage points to 50.1 per cent.
- Newham Borough Council has the lowest 'household waste' recycling rate in England in 2017/18 at 16.9 per cent. The next lowest recycling rates for London are Westminster City Council at 21.7 per cent, and Wandsworth Borough Council at 23.2 per cent. However, it should be noted that all three of these boroughs increased their recycling rate from the 2017/18 figure (2.8%, 2.9% and 1.1% respectively).
- Croydon Brough Council had the third and Lewisham Borough Council the sixth largest increases in recycling rates in England (9.4% and 6.2% respectively). In total 22 London boroughs achieved an increase, plus 2 JWDA's (against only 17 boroughs and 1 JWDA in 2017/18).
- Bexley Borough Councils had the highest recycling rate at 54.1% (of this 42 percent of the total recycling is organic material).
- Defra has again recognised the complexities of delivering services in wholly urban areas stating: *'At a regional level there is considerable variation across authorities, influenced heavily by how heavily populated an area is, and the kind of housing present and the level of other organic or garden waste collected. As an example, in built-up areas with a higher proportion of flats, residents may find it difficult or otherwise be unwilling to store waste for recycling; and will not be producing organic or garden waste for collection. This will reduce recycling rates for these authorities. Similarly, authorities with higher recycling rates are likely to be advantaged by good householder response to recycling schemes and a higher tonnage of organic or garden waste being collected.'*

- London also had the top six authorities with the lowest household waste generation per head:

Rank	Authority	Collected household waste per person (kg)
1	Camden LB	214.8
2	Islington LB	230.3
3	Tower Hamlets LB	230.8
4	Ealing LB	237.8
5	Lambeth LB	248.3
6	Hammersmith and Fulham LB	253.7

- London also has three authorities in the top six authorities with the largest percentage decrease in household waste per head:

Rank	Authority	Percentage change between 2017/18 and 2018/19 (kg per head)
2	Camden LB	-9.3%
4	City of London	-9.1%
6	Croydon LB	-7.4%

- London has the second lowest regional percentage of waste to landfill. In 2018/19 London landfilled 7% of its local authority collected waste, down from 9.6% in 2017/18.
- London sent the largest proportion of local authority collected waste to incineration in 2018/19 at 59.3 per cent (2.2 million tonnes).
- In 2018/19 London had the fourth highest regional residual household waste at 550kg per household, but this has decreased from 560kg in 2017/18.

Below is a table of individual authority performance and percentage change from 2017/18 to 2018/19.

## Waste from Households

It should be noted that nationally Defra reports a recycling rate based on the 'waste from household' definition (as apposed to the 'household waste recycling' definition used above to report local authority and regional recycling rates):

- In 2018 the recycling rate for 'waste from households' was 44.7 per cent, down 0.5 percentage points on 2017. But the rolling 12-month 'waste from households' recycling rate was 45.1% at the end of March 2019. An increase of 0.3 percentage points.

### **Note on the data source:**

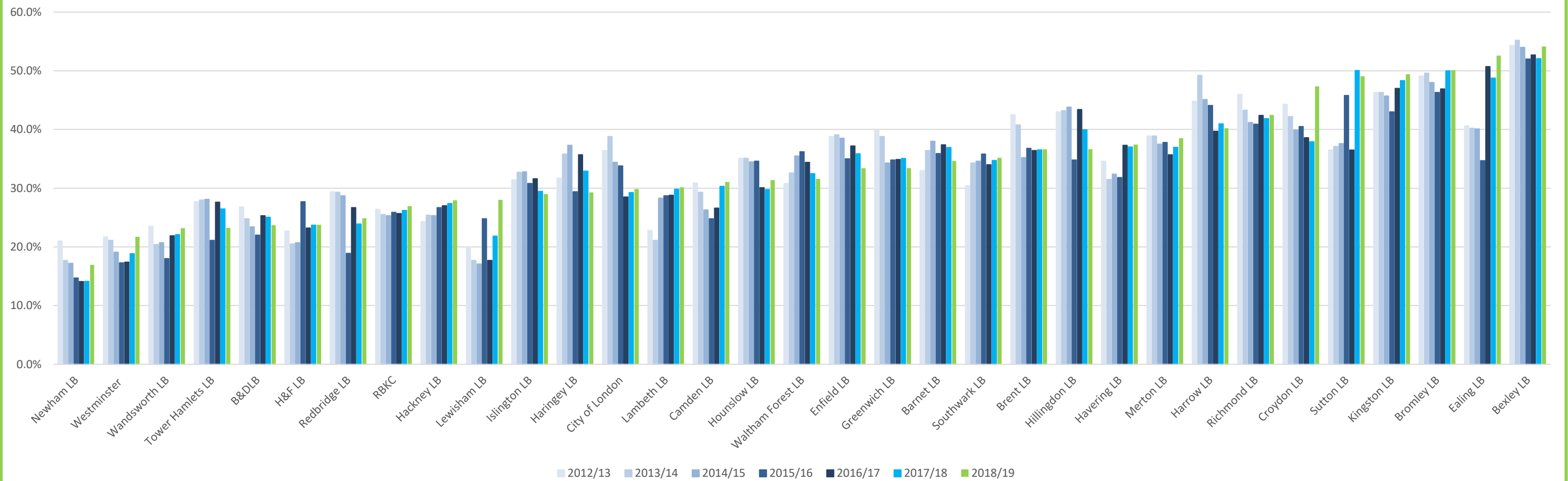
The '**household waste**' (ex-NI 192) measure is a broader definition of waste and includes street bins, street sweepings, gully emptying, parks and grounds waste, soil, and compost-like output, separately collected healthcare waste and asbestos.

This is different to the newer '**Waste from Households**' classification introduced in 2014, which aligns with the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC). 'Waste from households' excludes local authority collected waste types not considered to have come directly from households, such as street bins, street sweepings, parks and grounds waste and compost-like output, but includes metal recovered and recycled from IBA.

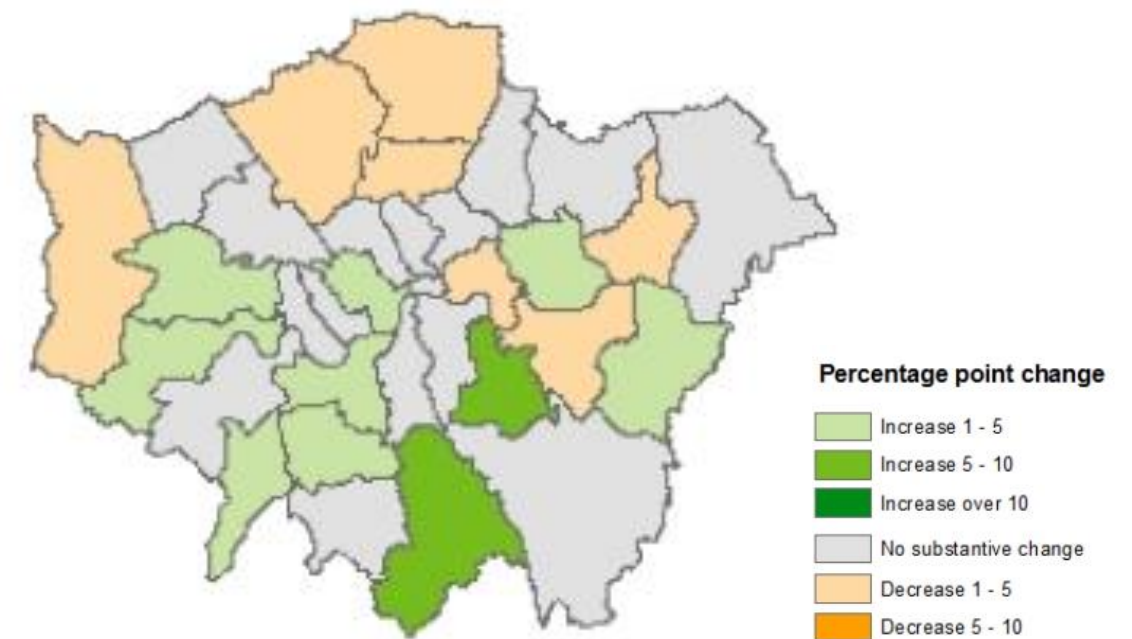
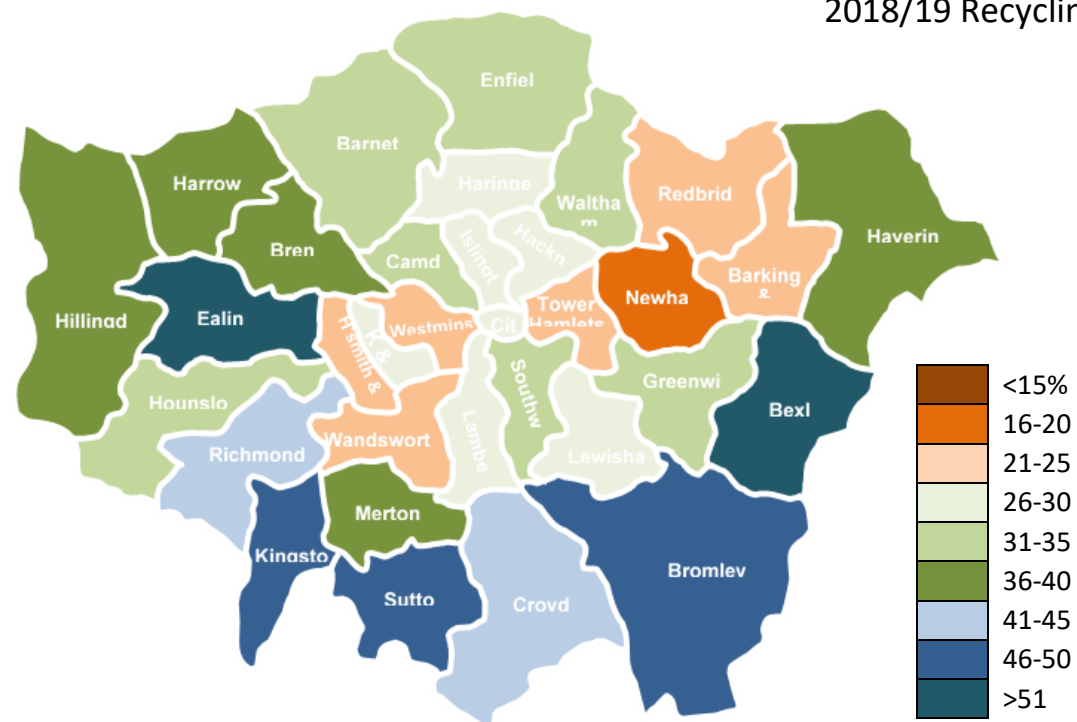
It is therefore critical when comparing national and local recycling rates the same definitions are used so that you are comparing 'apples with apples'.

Authority	Type	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	% change
Newham LB	C	21.0%	17.7%	17.2%	14.7%	14.1%	14.1%	16.9%	2.8%
Westminster	U	21.7%	21.1%	19.1%	17.3%	17.4%	18.8%	21.7%	2.9%
Wandsworth LB	C	23.5%	20.4%	20.7%	21.1%	21.9%	22.1%	23.2%	1.1%
Tower Hamlets LB	U	27.7%	28.0%	28.1%	26.7%	27.6%	26.4%	23.2%	-3.2%
B&DLB	C	26.8%	24.8%	23.4%	18.9%	25.3%	25.0%	23.7%	-1.4%
H&F LB	C	22.7%	20.5%	20.7%	22.0%	23.2%	23.7%	23.8%	0.1%
Redbridge LB	C	29.4%	29.3%	28.7%	27.7%	26.7%	23.9%	24.9%	1.0%
RBKC	C	26.4%	25.5%	25.3%	25.9%	25.7%	26.2%	27.0%	0.7%
Hackney LB	C	24.3%	25.4%	25.3%	24.8%	27.0%	27.4%	27.9%	0.5%
Lewisham LB	U	20.0%	17.7%	17.1%	18.0%	17.7%	21.8%	28.0%	6.2%
Islington LB	C	31.4%	32.7%	32.8%	29.4%	31.6%	29.5%	29.0%	-0.5%
Haringey LB	C	31.7%	35.8%	37.3%	36.2%	35.7%	32.9%	29.3%	-3.6%
City of London	U	36.4%	38.8%	34.4%	30.8%	28.5%	29.2%	29.9%	0.6%
Lambeth LB	C	22.8%	21.1%	28.3%	28.7%	28.8%	29.8%	30.1%	0.3%
Camden LB	C	30.9%	29.3%	26.3%	24.8%	26.6%	30.3%	31.1%	0.7%
Hounslow LB	C	35.1%	35.1%	34.5%	33.8%	30.1%	29.8%	31.4%	1.6%
Waltham Forest LB	C	30.8%	32.6%	35.5%	34.6%	34.4%	32.5%	31.6%	-0.9%
Enfield LB	C	38.8%	39.1%	38.5%	35.9%	37.2%	35.9%	33.4%	-2.5%
Greenwich LB	U	39.9%	38.8%	34.3%	34.8%	34.9%	35.1%	33.4%	-1.7%
Barnet LB	C	33.0%	36.4%	38.0%	36.8%	37.4%	36.9%	34.6%	-2.3%
Southwark LB	U	30.4%	34.3%	34.6%	35.0%	34.0%	34.7%	35.2%	0.4%
Brent LB	C	42.5%	40.8%	35.2%	35.8%	36.4%	36.5%	36.6%	0.1%
Hillingdon LB	C	43.0%	43.2%	43.8%	44.1%	43.4%	40.0%	36.7%	-3.3%
Havering LB	C	34.6%	31.5%	32.4%	31.8%	37.3%	37.0%	37.4%	0.4%
Merton LB	U	38.9%	38.9%	37.5%	34.8%	35.7%	37.0%	38.5%	1.5%
Harrow LB	C	44.8%	49.2%	45.1%	40.9%	39.7%	41.0%	40.2%	-0.7%
Richmond LB	C	46.0%	43.3%	41.2%	40.5%	42.4%	41.9%	42.5%	0.6%
Croydon LB	U	44.3%	42.2%	39.9%	37.8%	38.6%	37.9%	47.3%	9.4%
Sutton LB	U	36.5%	37.1%	37.6%	34.7%	36.5%	50.0%	49.1%	-1.0%
Kingston LB	U	46.3%	46.3%	45.7%	45.8%	47.0%	48.3%	49.4%	1.1%
Bromley LB	U	49.1%	49.6%	48.0%	46.3%	46.9%	50.0%	50.1%	0.1%
Ealing LB	C	40.6%	40.2%	40.1%	43.0%	50.7%	48.8%	52.6%	3.8%
Bexley LB	U	54.3%	55.2%	54.0%	52.0%	52.7%	52.1%	54.1%	2.1%
									0.0%
ELWA	D			25.0%	27.9%	25.8%	24.8%	24.81%	0.0%
WRWA	D			23.3%	23.3%	23.7%	24.2%	24.86%	0.7%
NLWA	D			33.3%	33.2%	32.2%	31.2%	29.62%	-1.6%
WLWA	D			38.5%	40.1%	39.1%	38.0%	37.55%	-0.4%
London	Total	34.0%	33.9%	33.1%	32.0%	33.0%	33.1%	33.40%	0.3%

### Annual recycling trend



### 2018/19 Recycling Rates and percentage change from 2017/18



This tables show recycling rate percentage change from 2017/18 to 2018/19 vs percentage change for waste per household and waste per head from 2017/18 to 2018/19

	Recycling rate % change	waste Per HH % change	Waste Per head % change
B&DLB	-1.31%	2.50%	0.95%
Barnet LB	-2.28%	-0.12%	-3.75%
Bexley LB	2.03%	-3.71%	0.94%
Brent LB	0.13%	-3.10%	-2.41%
Bromley LB	0.09%	-6.26%	-6.15%
Camden LB	0.77%	-8.64%	-10.25%
City of London	0.66%	-0.45%	-10.05%
Croydon LB	9.44%	-28.56%	-7.97%
Ealing LB	3.77%	-15.38%	-5.45%
Enfield LB	-2.50%	4.37%	0.87%
Greenwich LB	-1.69%	1.35%	-0.91%
H&F LB	0.06%	-3.09%	-3.43%
Hackney LB	0.53%	-4.61%	-4.17%
Haringey LB	-3.61%	2.41%	-1.96%
Harrow LB	-0.78%	1.52%	0.43%
Havering LB	0.43%	-1.79%	-1.60%
Hillingdon LB	-3.34%	8.33%	3.30%
Hounslow LB	1.57%	-0.09%	2.59%
Islington LB	-0.50%	-2.61%	-5.17%
Kingston LB	1.11%	-2.25%	-7.36%
Lambeth LB	0.34%	-4.41%	-3.49%
Lewisham LB	6.21%	-12.82%	3.54%
Merton LB	1.50%	-4.35%	-0.19%
Newham LB	2.83%	-3.79%	0.73%
RBKC	0.76%	-0.09%	3.64%
Redbridge LB	0.98%	1.02%	9.81%
Richmond LB	0.59%	-3.29%	-14.63%
Southwark LB	0.47%	-1.45%	0.73%
Sutton LB	-0.93%	2.37%	0.65%
Tower Hamlets LB	-3.16%	2.68%	-2.88%
Waltham Forest LB	-0.91%	-1.56%	-2.29%
Wandsworth LB	1.10%	-2.82%	-1.10%
Westminster	2.92%	-0.65%	-0.51%