

# Household Recycling and Waste Planning Guidance for New Developments

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# 1 Introduction

This guidance is a part of the Enfield Council's wider strategy to reduce waste and accelerate recycling in the borough in line with the London Environment Strategy and targets set out in the [Enfield Reduction and Recycling Plan \(RRP\)](#). This document outlines the requirements to facilitate, enable and encourage recycling in homes in new developments. It describes the methods of waste storage available and the general waste and recycling requirements for different types of residential properties.

This guidance provides basic information for architects and other developers working within the borough. Some developments will not fit into the broad categories outlined in this document, in which case advice should be sought from the Planning and Waste departments.

This document replaces the 'Waste and Recycling Storage Planning Guidance', last updated in March 2020 but should be used for construction of new developments.

## Scope of the Document

This document focuses specifically on household waste, separated into three streams (general waste, dry recycling, food recycling), collected by the Council, with an additional option for garden waste for detached, semi-detached and terraced houses.

The figure below shows household waste within the context of the wider municipal waste structure:

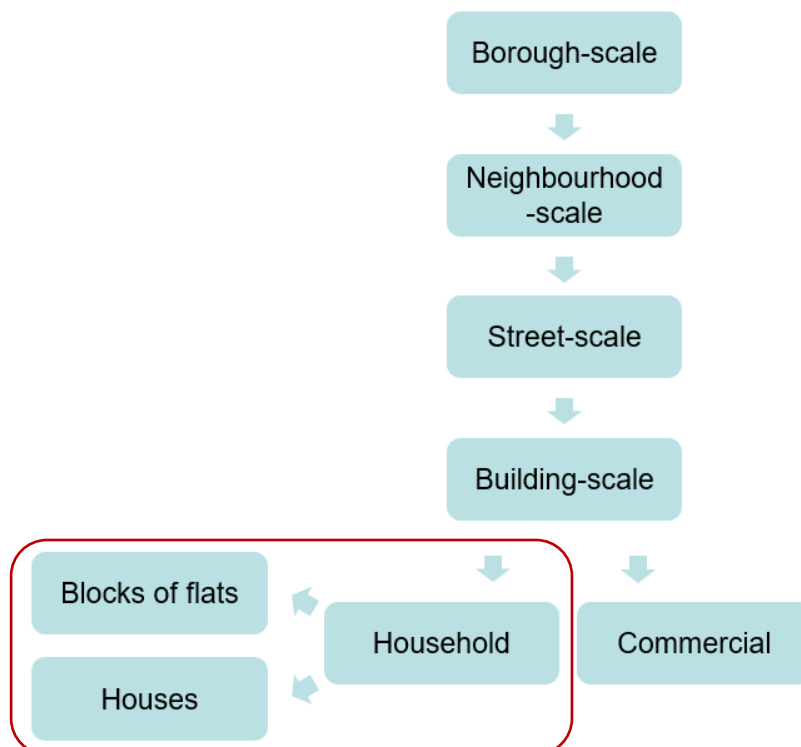


Figure 1 Residential Waste Management Structure and scope

Within the waste management hierarchy, this guidance aims to divert waste from Disposal towards the Recycle level, as well as provide the right waste infrastructure at the household level to deter and prevent fly-tipping. Notwithstanding, Enfield Council's priority remains to move up the waste hierarchy towards reuse wherever possible.

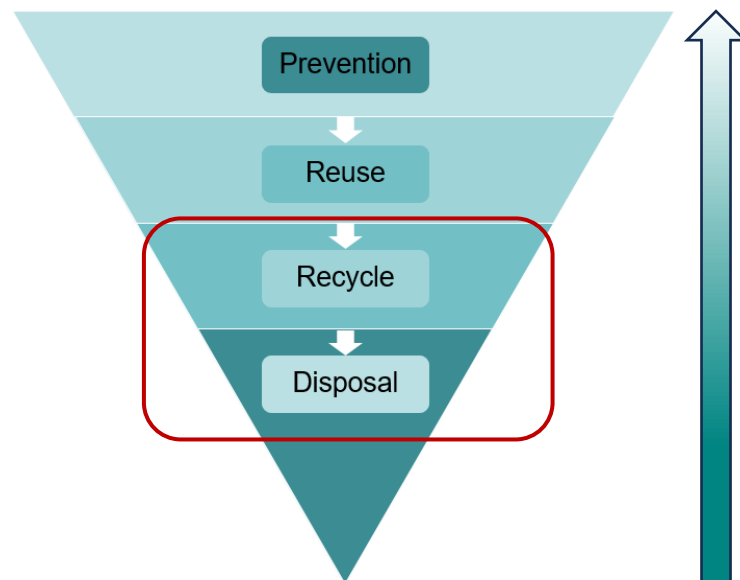


Figure 2 Waste Hierarchy

## Borough-wide Context

The [Enfield Reduction and Recycling Plan](#) (RRP) is available on the London Data Store. The RRP contains relevant stats on waste and recycling and sets out key actions to reduce waste and increase recycling.

Enfield is a member of the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) with a comprehensive [North London Waste Plan](#), and a [Residual Waste Reduction Plan](#) that outline borough-wide actions to reduce and manage waste in the region.

## Context and Recycling Targets

Enfield's Climate Action Plan sets out the Council's vision for a zero waste, reducing waste produced in the borough and treating the rest as a resource, by recycling and composting.

We define recycling rates as the percentage of waste by weight that is recycled or composted, divided by the weight of total waste.

<b>Weight of dry recycling</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>Weight of food recycling</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>Weight of garden waste</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>Recycling rate</b>
<b>Weight of total household waste</b>						

Please note, commercial waste, fly-tipping and grounds maintenance waste is not included in this calculation.

## National Targets

In 2011 the UK signed up to a target of 50% recycling by 2020 for the municipal collected waste<sup>1</sup> for recycling in houses and flats. In 2018 the Government set a further target of 65% by 2035<sup>2</sup>.

## London Targets

The London Plan 2021, sets the GLA's recycling rates target at 50% by 2025 and at 65% by 2030, with the overall household recycling rates for 2020/2021 measured at 33%.

The revised 2022 Resource London study [Making recycling work for people in flats 2.0](#) carried out by ReLondon in flats in Lambeth shows that the introduced interventions increased the recycling rate by 27% and reduced contamination by 24%, demonstrating the potential improvement.

## Enfield Targets

Enfield's recycling rates (34.2% in 2022/23) are below the current national (44.1%)<sup>3</sup> and just above the London average (43.4%)<sup>4</sup>, with flatted developments estimated to be achieving only 15-20% compared to houses achieving around 50-60% waste collected for recycling. Consequently, it is essential that the requirements of this policy are incorporated into the design of waste arrangements in new developments to improve our current performance.

Enfield is aligned with the North London Waste Plan (NLWP) recycling rates, with ambitious targets of becoming a zero waste borough by 2040 set out in

<sup>1</sup>[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/966114/Statistics\\_on\\_waste\\_managed\\_by\\_local\\_authorities\\_in\\_England\\_in\\_2019v3\\_accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/966114/Statistics_on_waste_managed_by_local_authorities_in_England_in_2019v3_accessible.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/765914/resources-waste-strategy-dec-2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/765914/resources-waste-strategy-dec-2018.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-waste-data/uk-statistics-on-waste>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-collected-waste-management-annual-results/local-authority-collected-waste-management-annual-results-202223>

the [Enfield Climate Action plan](#) and interim targets periodically updated for recycling and composting.

For more information on current targets, refer to the [website](#).

## 2 Operational Recycling Strategy

The strategy to increase recycling involves a comprehensive approach, addressing the interlinked elements below:



Figure 3 Household waste and recycling planning strategy

- **Recycling and waste route:** the collection method and management route of recycling and waste from home to the collection vehicle
- **Occupants' behaviour:** taking responsibility for separation and avoid contamination
- **Building design:** private, semi-private and public spaces that enable and encourage occupants to recycle
- **Site-wide context:** for new developments, considering community hubs for sharing schemes and re-use, such as Library of Things and repair café's, and street recycling hubs for additional recycling streams
- **Council-wide operational context:** as part of the waste reduction strategy for commercial, industrial, construction and hazardous, agricultural, etc. waste

These elements involve different sets of stakeholders and should all be addressed to maximise the potentials of waste reduction throughout the borough.

### Recycling and Waste Route

Recycling and waste route: collection method and management route of recycling and waste from home to the collection vehicle:

1. Residents selectively collect their everyday recycling in their homes in three streams (with an optional fourth for garden waste for houses

2. Residents take their three waste streams from their home to an internal ground floor bin storage area or dedicated bins on the premises
3. Bins are emptied into a collection vehicle that then takes the material to a disposal point.

## Influencing Occupants' Behaviours

The findings of a resident behaviour study based on previous developments that provides information on personal waste management habits, measure individual waste patterns to understand what would incentivise occupants to recycle more. This study includes:

- The occupants' journey from the home to waste storage area
- Understand how to improve the sense of safety and convenience of the route to the waste storage, as well as the impact of the design elements and other issues in incentivising recycling
- Exploring specific issues, such as how residents re-use bags or containers they use when they take their recycling to bin store
- Understand what would help occupants to recycle more, by using focus groups, market research and other engagement methods.

## Design Homes for Recycling

Designing-in waste separation and making it convenient for occupants to recycle can contribute greatly to the recycling rates. Dedicated storage space and/or built-in separation in under-sink kitchen cupboards should be considered to provide increased provision of recycling and waste separation and storage in homes.

The internal bins should be:

- Located in a commonly used area in the property, preferably the kitchen where the majority of waste is produced.
- Hard wearing and washable.
- In the capacity ratio of at least 1:4:2 for streams Food recycling: Recycling: General waste respectively and allow for the ratio of recycling to waste to be adaptable to meet future demand.
- Adequate to accommodate at least 60L accumulatively.

## Building Design – Blocks of Flats

The design of a flatted buildings with communal waste storage facilities plays a major role in influencing occupant behaviour in managing their household waste. Building design must also enable safe and efficient collection.

The list below contains the design tools to consider when planning for waste management in communal bin properties. All new developments are expected to implement at least three of these tools:

1. Holistic and structural approach to waste management in the building
2. Clean and accessible recycling facility in the building with a regular cleaning schedule, where applicable
3. Good lighting and maintenance of the waste storage area
4. Clear messaging of recycling streams with regular communication and engagement to keep messaging up to date
5. Provide as many recycling and waste streams as possible in one place
6. Encourage in-flat waste separation by providing built-in waste infrastructure (e.g., bins or space for bin storage, see more on this above) for at least three streams
7. Restricting access to bins to residents only.

The London Waste and Recycling Board used the Flats Recycling Package below in their study of 12 estates to increase recycling in flats.

Flats Recycling Package	
Operational	Communication
1. Collection of the six main dry recyclable materials* and food	7. Clear and visible signage on rubbish, dry recycling and food bins and at bin storage areas
2. Co-location of rubbish, dry recycling and food bins	8. Service relaunch and disruptive communications
3. Appropriate dry recycling and food bins (including caddies and liners)	9. Ongoing communications – yearly recycling leaflet and posters displayed in communal areas
4. Adequate collections to prevent overflows (rubbish, dry recycling and food) and appropriate dry and food recycling capacity (minimum 60 litres/hh/wk and 10 litres/hh/wk respectively)	10. Informing residents what they should do with their bulky waste items
5. Clean and well maintained bins and bin areas	
6. Regular monitoring of sites	

\*paper, card, glass, food and drink cans, plastic bottles and mixed rigid plastics (tubs, pots and trays)

Figure 4 Flats Recycling Package (source: [LWARB](#))

## Ground-floor Design

The ground floors of flatted homes can be complex, particularly where the space is shared with retail units, with competing uses for deliveries, parking, entrances, lobbies and amenities while ensuring fire safety for all concerned. In this context, the development should consider the below to increase recycling:

- Layout of route to ground floor bin store:
  - ease of access (residents or restricted only)
  - ease of use
  - proximity to lifts/stairs/building entrances etc.
- Space provision: More detailed planning of space needed to show increased recycling streams, bulky items deposit areas, food collection provision and operational activities.



## Bin Storage Design

The communal bin storage should be designed according to the following principles:

- Storage space should be easily accessible to residents only and well as for maintenance and collection purposes
- All recycling and waste streams should be in proximity, preferably in the same location
- Storage space should not be accessible for non-residents, such as passers-by and nearby commercial premises
- Storage design should satisfy lighting levels and smooth surfaces to provide easy cleaning
- Storage space should consider resident safety and security measures, including passive surveillance, particularly where there is a risk of non-residents accessing bins, and secure by design
- Storage space must comply with adequate ventilation and smell reduction requirements
- Storage space should be designed to be free of standing water
- Storage space design should ensure vermin and pest prevention
- Storage space should be provided with adequate information and labelling describing content for disposal in each bin.
- Include storage space for large bulky items in the design

## Building Design – Houses

Detached and semi-detached houses that are provided individual wheeled bins should have accessibility to the waste storage location to incentivise waste separation at the source. The same principles apply as for flats, including:

- Dedicated bin location should be convenient and accessible to residents but not to passers-by
- There should be a clear and level route from the storage to the collection point, so residents can easily wheel their bins out on collection day
- Bin location should be well lit, safe, and easy to clean and maintain
- Waste streams should be in proximity to each other
- Encourage in-home waste separation by providing built-in waste infrastructure in the kitchen
- Storage areas should be designed with adequate ventilation, be free of standing water, and ensure vermin and pest prevention

### 3 Requirements for Waste Storage Capacity

This section sets out the requirements for architects and developers to provide adequate facilities to enable Enfield Council to meet recycling targets in the Borough, as well as enable safe and efficient collection. It describes the methods of waste storage available and the general waste and recycling requirements for different types of domestic properties.

Some developments will not fit into the broad categories outlined here, in which case advice should be sought from the Planning and Waste departments.

Enfield as a waste collection authority has a duty to arrange for the collection of household waste and in doing so needs to ensure adequate provisions with respect to the space and access for the containment of the receptacles.

The Council currently provides a fortnightly collection of domestic waste and recycling and a weekly collection of food recycling, as well as an optional paid for fortnightly garden waste collection to properties in using wheeled bins (there are some exceptions for existing properties).

#### Bin Sizes and Capacity

Developments and building must have the correct size container for the number of households. This guide will help determine the correct number and sizes.

There are standard bin sizes for waste streams for different types of households.

Standard bin sizes for **Houses** (detached, semi-detached and terraced):

General waste	140L
Dry recycling	140L/240L/360L
Food recycling	23L
Garden waste	140L/240L

Standard capacity of bin for **Communal Storage** (blocks of flats):

General waste	360L/1100L
Dry recycling	360L/1280L
Food recycling	140L/240L

The size of each container is displayed below in millimetres:

<b>Bin Capacity</b>	<b>Depth (mm)</b>	<b>Width (mm)</b>	<b>Height (mm)</b>
23L (plastic)	400	320	405
140L (plastic)	540	500	1050
240L (plastic)	740	580	1100
360L (plastic)	880	665	1280
1100L (metal) for general waste only	990	1260	1370
1280L (metal) for dry recycling only	1000	1280	1440

The figures above should be considered a minimum and ease of access for emptying should be considered when designing the storage area. Enfield Council will view extra recycling facilities positively.

<p><b>240L Container</b></p> 	<p><b>140L Container</b></p> 
<p><b>360L Container</b></p> 	<p><b>1280L Container</b></p> 

The table below provides a guide and expected number and size of bins required to provide for based on weekly collection. To determine the exact number of bins and subsequent storage space, please use the dynamic [calculator](#) provided.

Number of dwellings	Average number of bedrooms	If using 140L food recycling bins	If using 240L food recycling bins	If using 360L dry recycling bins	If using 1280L dry recycling bins	If using 360L general waste bins	if using 1100L general waste bins
	2.3	140	240	360	1280	360	1100
10		2	1	5	2	3	1

For flats, the general waste bins are hired from the Council through the managing agent for a fee and the collections are free, whilst the dry recycling bins are provided and collected free of charge. For houses bins are provided for free.

Enfield Council will refuse planning applications that do not include enough accessible space for domestic waste and recycling storage.

Bespoke and innovative solutions may be considered for larger developments, these will be reviewed and approved as appropriate during the planning process.

## Bin Storage Planning Guidelines

When planning and designing bin storage areas and hard surfaces the following guidelines should be adhered to. This will facilitate safe collection and protect the health and safety of collection staff when handling and loading bins.

- **Houses** (23L/140L/240L/360L bins):
- Three wheeled bins – 240L (general waste), 240L (dry recycling), 240L (optional paid for garden) bins to be stored within the property boundary and presented on the curtilage<sup>5</sup> of the property for collection.
- Small 23L brown food recycling bin is provided to all houses
- All bins must be provided by the Council. This is charged – up to date charges can be found at [www.enfield.gov.uk/bins](http://www.enfield.gov.uk/bins)
- Please be aware that orders and delivery can take up to 10 days to process.
- Bins should be stored on a hard surface and/or in a storage cupboard within the property boundary.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.designingbuildings.co.uk/wiki/Curtilage>

- The walking distance from where the bins are stored to the collection point needs to be level to accommodate for the easy movement of the wheeled bins.

**Communal Bin Storage** (bulk bins 140L/240L/360L/1100L/1280L bins):

- All general waste bins are hired from LBE (360L/1100L).
- All dry recycling bins (360L/1280L bins) will be provided by the Council.
- Food recycling bins (140L/240L) will be provided by the Council.
- Four wheeled containers are to be presented within 10m of the public highway for collection.
- Bins must be stored on a hard surface or in a storage cupboard.
- Bins that are stored on a hard surface should be enclosed to create a bin storage area and not be accessible to non-residents, so that they do not easily roll away, and to protect them from theft or damage. The bin storage area will also need adequate signage to explain the waste collection system to residents and passive surveillance to deter misuse, both of which can be discussed with the Waste team on a case-by-case basis.
- Bins that are stored in a storage cupboard must be housed in chambers constructed in accordance with the British Standard Code of Practice BS 5906:1980 "Storage and On-Site treatment of solid waste from buildings". All storage cupboards must demonstrate adequate storage capacity and space for manoeuvrability. In larger bin sheds lights must be installed for the crew to avoid any hazards. Wooden bin sheds or doorframes need metal protection to minimise damages. There need to be adequate wall space to install signs explaining the service. It is the responsibility of the landlord or managing agent to keep these bin areas clean, tidy and accessible for collections.
- Footpaths between the container housing and the nearest vehicular access should be free from steps or kerbs, have a solid foundation, have a smooth solid surface, be level and have a gradient no more than 1:12 and a minimum width of 2m.
- The Council is to be indemnified against any damage to road surface and sub-tormentorial apparatus before bin delivery and collections if roads are not adopted.
- A letter of indemnity should follow request, confirming that the Council will not be held liable for any accidental damage.
- Access and turning circles, length, width, height and weight of the vehicles need to be considered at the design stage. Turning circle 21m; length 10.25m; width 2.53m, height 3.4m and gross weight 26 tonnes.

For flats above shops adequate waste storage will need to be provided and stored off the highway.