

Food Project Update

SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the WLWA investment in Borough food waste projects.

- Waste composition completed including assessment of food waste
- There has been an overall reduction in food waste arising
- There has been a small reduction in the capture rate of food waste
- There has been a reduction in the kg/household/week in both food and the residual streams

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 1) *The Authority is asked to note the information within this report.*

1. Introduction

WLWA have invested £3M into the six Boroughs to deliver food waste services change. The return on this investment is measured in the absolute tonnage of food collected separately as well as measuring the associated waste reduction against previous performance.

The reduction in food waste needs to be measured in conjunction with the volume and composition of the residual waste as most of the food disposed of in West London flows through our residual stream and not the separate food waste service. WLWA are currently working with the Boroughs on the results from the latest waste composition analysis and we have updated the WLWA results as follows.

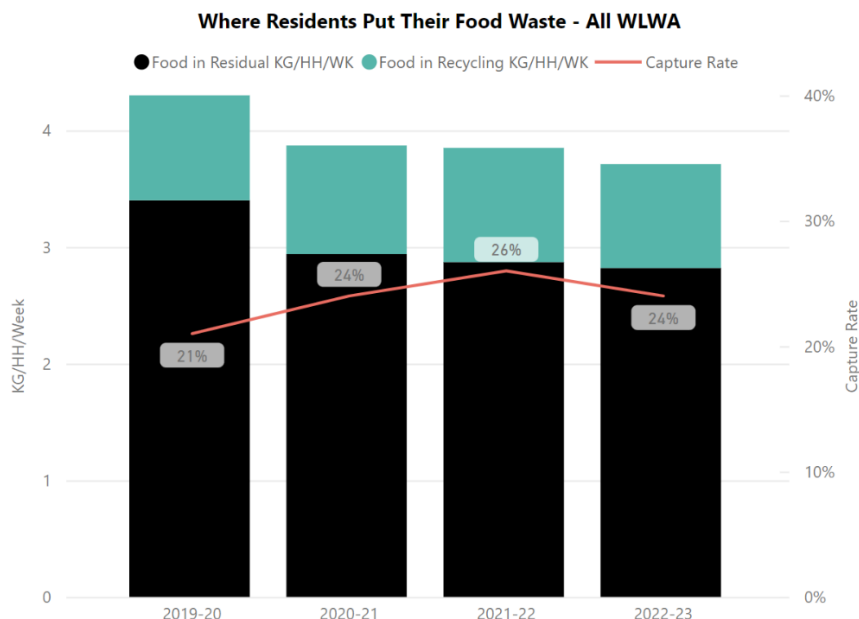
2. Waste Composition Analysis

The 2022 waste composition analysis has been completed by Integrated Skills Ltd (ISL). The sampling of the residual waste took place towards the end of September. To ensure consistency of methodology ISL also revisited the data from WCA in 2020 and 2021 so that we have a consistent dataset. Officers are working with ISL and Boroughs to finalise the figures and establish the service context for the results. WLWA Average composition detailed in Appendix 1.

2.1. Target materials in the residual

Food waste- food waste remains the highest proportion of the residual waste at c.34%, greater than the volume of waste that should be in the residual waste (Non-recyclable combustible 26%). This is very similar to the last analysis in 2021.

The graph below shows the change in capture rate (percentage of separate food waste to food in the residual) and the average kg/household per week of food since 2019.



Food waste capture yield – The total food waste arising in the residual waste per household (c.3kg/HH/wk) remains approximately 75% of all food waste disposed of through the West London Waste system. The remaining c.25% is captured in the correct separately collected food stream.

The gross volume of food waste has fallen for the four waste composition results as has the net volume in the residual despite a slight reduction in capture rate.

Borough specific performance on capture and yield can be seen in Appendix 1 and further work is being done to establish trends and potential interventions.

3. Risk

Continuing delays in the delivery of food waste business cases continues to threaten the returns modelled.

4. Financial Implications

WLWA have delivered the £3M investment across the Boroughs with the return measured across five years.

The latest waste composition analysis demonstrates further waste reduction, with an annualised estimate of an additional c.£247k saved in residual waste and food treatment costs compared to 2021/22.

Officers are working with Boroughs and the Waste composition provider to refine the returns for each Borough to be reported back to the Authority meeting in March 23.

Due to the whole system approach, there are aspects of the delivery and returns that require significant partnership working and multiple stakeholder changes, as such absolute returns are modelled, risk assessed and tracked but cannot be guaranteed.

5. Staffing Implications – Projects and Circular Economy Team have recruited maternity leave cover for two posts on fixed term contracts.

6. Health and Safety Implications –All fieldwork has been risk-assessed for the tasks to be completed. To improve the way, the H&S is addressed across all third-party projects, we are currently developing a protocol / workflow to map out how to address H&S and engage with the H&S advisor(s).

Additional Health and Safety training is being planned for the team to ensure all members are

informed to a standard to help raise awareness on site visits and project operations.

7. Legal Implications – none

8. Joint Waste Management Strategy

A key factor on the Joint Waste Management Strategy is the 65% recycling target in 2030. Food waste, as the largest contributor to residual waste, needs to be the primary driver of increasing rates.

The food waste project is intrinsically linked to the Authority’s Joint Waste Management Strategy and Business Plan. The projects are driving the design of the new polices and programmes through data, best practice and identification of opportunities, as well as delivering change to meet the desired outcomes and targets in the Strategy and the proposed Budget.

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Where Residents Put Their Food Waste

● Food in Residual KG/HH/WK ● Food in Recycling KG/HH/WK — Capture Rate

