

New survey launched for North London residents to provide urgent feedback on rubbish, recycling and the redevelopment of the Edmonton incinerator

London 08 March 2022 – Local campaigners have launched a new, North London wide survey, for residents to provide urgent feedback on their rubbish and recycling collections and the redevelopment of the Edmonton Incinerator. In the past 10 years councils and residents have not managed to increase the rate of recycling much above 30% in North London, nor reduce what is burnt. Last December the seven councils of North London approved of a replacement Edmonton Incinerator, to burn even more, but construction has not yet started.

Speaking about the North London Zero Waste Survey available from www.letstalkrubbish.london, Sydney Charles, a resident of Haringey, said: *'Our councils only see a future where we keep burning more and more rubbish, so we launched this survey to ask if people in North London would prefer to rapidly improve kerbside recycling, sort valuable recyclables from kerbside rubbish and cut down on burning'*. The survey results will be collected before the upcoming May 5 elections and provide a public mandate for the next generation of councillors, including the councillors sitting on the board of the North London Waste Authority (NLWA).

The survey responds to repeated requests, comments from NLWA board members (who are also councillors), and Cllr Peray Ahmet the leader of Haringey council, to come up with and promote reuse and recycling alternatives to incineration.ⁱ Vicki Pite, a former Labour councillor from Enfield, said: *'We are responding by not only proposing what can be done, we are also asking residents what solutions they would welcome, to make sure people's voices are being heard across North London'*.

The North London Zero Waste Survey includes questions to residents about a range of solutions that can rapidly reduce the need for incineration, ramp up recycling, and reduce pollution and carbon emissions. This includes pre-sorting rubbish with the latest technologies to take out food waste and plastics for recycling, and making clothing collections and clothing banks accessible to everyone across North London, so residents no longer need to put these items into their rubbish bins.

Dr. Rembrandt Koppelaar, a resident of Hackney, said: *'Our councils are planning with this new incinerator to continue burning the majority of our rubbish in the next 30 years, despite the possibilities of collection service improvements and recycling technology to turn most of our rubbish into recycled materials.'* No less than 80% of our rubbish is readily and potentially recyclable according to the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs.ⁱⁱ

The last time the public in North London was consulted was in 2015 when the NLWA asked residents open questions about the Edmonton incinerator redevelopment, and managed to receive only a paltry 96 responses.ⁱⁱⁱ Any questions about alternative or complementary solutions that would rapidly increase recycling were deliberately excluded in the NLWA consultation.

The North London Zero Waste Survey group is ready to ask residents across Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington and Waltham Forest to use their voice. As well as using social media to extend the reach of the survey, volunteers will be going house to house to help the non-digitally literate, the super busy and residents who are not proficient in English, to deliver significant data to their Councils and to the NLWA. Please complete the North London Zero Waste Survey. Just go to www.letstalkrubbish.london to give your views on the change you want to see.

ⁱ In April 2020, the chair of the North London Waste Authority and Cllr from Waltham Forest, Clyde Loakes, stated: 'We call on Extinction Rebellion to work with the NLWA and the boroughs in areas of common interest, such as the vital practical and campaigning work to reduce waste and increase recycling for the benefit of the planet and future generations.'

<https://www.nlwa.gov.uk/news/north-london-boroughs-confirm-backing-vital-north-london-heat-and-power-project-ahead-earth>

In November 2021, the leader of Haringey council, Cllr Peray Ahmet, stated in a letter to the NLWA that: ‘We are also keen to work with partners, including environmental campaigners, and the NLWA to produce a “less waste, more circular” reuse and recycling programme which aims to achieve a 65% and better recycling rate by the mid-2030s.’

<https://enfielddispatch.co.uk/haringey-becomes-first-council-to-demand-edmonton-incinerator-review/>

In December 2021, Cllr Hass Yusuf from Enfield council in his role as board member of the North London Waste Authority, asked after a deputation to a resident and campaigner: ‘Can you give us any new ideas on how we can actually get the public to recycle more?’

https://camden.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/628391

In December 2021, Cllr Mete Coban from Hackney in his role as board member of the North London Waste Authority, asked after a deputation from a resident: ‘What transformation would you like to see or do you propose to see, what can we do if we were not going ahead with this new plant, how can you cover that gap of 60%-80% of people who are not recycling, in a very rapid time of months or a year, to find an alternative for the current facility?’.

https://camden.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/628391

In February 2022, Cllr Mike Hakata of Haringey council in his role as board member of the North London Waste Authority, stated: ‘There is a rising interest in waste management generally and its connection to climate and the environment. We need to look at how we can answer that need and connect with our communities even more...to look at initiatives that shape policy, to see how we can bring in those structures, we have the members recycling working group, how we can put a framework together that connects that with potentially a community working group. A second group in a way, another group that works directly with communities and campaigners to look at how we can outreach.’

https://camden.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/641121

ⁱⁱ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1036297/resource-waste-monitoring-progress-second-edition-nov-2021.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ [Microsoft Word - AD05.01_Consultation_Report_FINAL.docx \(northlondonheatandpower.london\)](#)