

Ever wondered what happens to your waste and recycling?

We have 36 waste collection crews in the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea, collecting waste and recycling from over 3500 businesses. Customers can have waste collected three times a day, and seven days a week in some locations.



Waste and Recycling are then taken to Western Riverside Waste Authority (WRWA) in Wandsworth, the statutory body responsible for the disposal of household and commercial waste, delivered to it from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and three other London Boroughs.

Waste

Since August 2011, the non-recyclable waste is transported by barges along the River Thames, then unloaded at The Riverside Energy from Waste facility at Belvedere. By moving waste on the river, it prevents over 100,000 lorry movements from London's heavily congested roads, and saves over 1.3 million HGV miles per year.



The Riverside Energy from Waste plant can produce enough electricity to power the equivalent of the number of households in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham.

Recycling Material

A crane that can carry 1.5 tonnes of recycling material loads it into a hopper before the material goes through a bag splitter, then the plastic sacks are removed from the waste at the picking station along with other contaminants such as textiles.

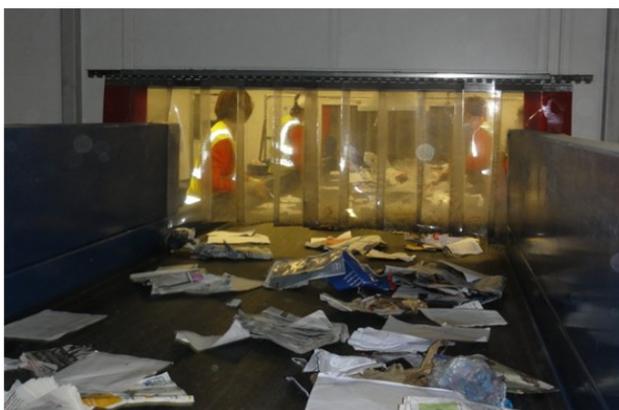
The Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) - a specialized plant that receives and separates recyclable materials – separates paper and card, plastic, food and drink cans, glass bottles and jars, using an optical sensor and high-tech equipment.



How does it work?

All the mixed recycling materials are placed on to a series of “mach screens” that separate small items like glass and cans by shaking them until they fall through holes in the mach screen. An electromagnetic device attracts metal and aluminium cans while blasts of air dislodge the plastic bottles.

Paper and card are left behind and heavy glass falls onto a separate area.



Once the recyclable materials have been treated by the MRF, a final manual check takes place to remove any contaminants which have been put into the recycling by mistake, such as textiles and non recyclable material.

At the end, the separated recycling falls into collection bays where it is loaded and transported to the recycling manufacturers.

The MRF has the capacity to sort around 84,000 tonnes of recyclable material each year.

What happens next?

Paper and card is taken to a paper processing plant where it is made into new paper and card products.

Plastic bottles, pots, trays and tubs are squashed and baled. The bales are then sent to various manufacturers. Old plastic bottle can make many things from plant pots to food containers.

Food and drink cans are also squashed into bales, melted down and then rolled out to produce new cans and other metal products.

Glass is crushed into small particles (sand) and used as an aggregate.

As you will see below the separated recycling has been baled and is now ready for transportation.



Waste collection and disposal process - A step by step guide

