

London's recycling record is dismal, says assembly member

Written by: [Geraldine Faulkner](#) | Published: 20 February 2015



[Comment on this article](#)

Green Party member of the London Assembly, Jenny Jones has slammed London's "dismal record on recycling" as a new support programme for London waste authorities was launched.

Jenny Jones, Green Party member of the London Assembly, has criticised the mayor of London's recycling record as a new, jointly-funded, support programme for London waste authorities, Resource London, was launched.

"I sincerely hope that Resource London will be able to turn around the mayor of London's dismal record on recycling which culminated in almost half of London boroughs recycling less in 2013/14 compared to the previous year; a prospect that would have been unthinkable a few years ago," Jones told *RWW* before adding: "I applaud their aims of reducing and tackling food waste.

"Their efforts should target the boroughs that aren't acting on this, or provide a very limited separate food waste collection."

Delivered in partnership by the London Waste and Recycling Board (LWARB) and WRAP, the UK's resource efficiency body, Resource London is said to aim to provide a range of support to London waste authorities helping them to save money while continuing to maintain high service standards.

According to WRAP, Resource London will help the city move towards the mayor of London's 50% local authority waste recycling target by 2020 and in meeting the mayor of London's target, the capital would make "a significant contribution" towards the UK achieving the 50% household waste recycling target by the same date.

"It's vitally important that boroughs continue to encourage residents to recycle and manage food waste," said Matthew Pencharz, senior advisor - environment & energy to the mayor of London.

"The mayor is supporting a number of innovative schemes across London and is delighted that this new partnership is bringing together a number of organisations to increase London's recycling,"

The programme aims to be operational from April 2015 and is expected to provide "a unified approach offering specific, targeted and tailored regional and local support".

Jones went on to ask: "My burning question is what difference will this new programme make and what new resources will be on the table? Why do we need another programme when the mayor and his London waste and recycling board have been responsible for tackling London's waste for the last seven years?"

WRAP said the work of the partnership will be focused on:

Improving the performance of existing food waste collections and introducing new collections where appropriate

Improving the yield of dry recycling from flats

Increasing the quality of dry recycling to maximise income and service performance

Minimising the amount of waste produced by households within London and maximising re-use.

Clyde Loakes, deputy leader of the London Borough of Waltham Forest and chair of the new Resource London Partnership Board, said: "This is a very exciting opportunity to bring more support to London boroughs at a time when we're striving to deliver excellence in our services against the backdrop of austerity."

Marcus Gover, director, WRAP added: "London faces its own very particular challenges in reducing waste and meeting recycling targets, but we know that by really focussing our action on areas such as food waste collections and dry recyclables we can make a genuine impact."

Jones stated: "The fundamental problem is Boris Johnson's 'hands off' approach.

"He has taken little interest in [attaining] his own 45% recycling target by 2015 and how it will be achieved."