



East London Waste Authority (ELWA)

Target population 400,000 households

Funding amount £50,000

Project duration October 2024 – October 2025

Project type Repair, in partnership with schools

Project aim To build a culture of repair and electrical recycling in East London through Repair Café events, and repair workshops and recycling points in schools.

Outcome

- 4 tonnes of electricals collected for recycling
- 374 items repaired
- 27 Repair Cafés held
- More than 4,000 people engaged through Repair Cafés and schools workshops
- School repair workshops encouraged confidence, STEM interest and awareness of reuse and recycling among Year 6 pupils.



Collection approach

ELWA delivered the pilot through schools-based electrical recycling points and Repair Cafés.

Schools were invited to host 240 litre pink bins and battery tubs. To boost engagement, they were offered gadget repair workshops for Year 6 pupils. These gave pupils hands-on experience of diagnosing faults, dismantling devices and learning basic repair skills using Team Repair kits.

Separately, existing Repair Cafés were enhanced with small electricals recycling points, skilled fixers and data-recording sheets.

Processes were refined through the year as the ELWA team tested container options, improved logistics and coordinated collections with multiple waste carriers.

Communications approach

- The pilot used tailored HypnoCat communications, newsletters and posters to help school pupils' families understand what could be recycled.
- Gadget repair workshops in schools were, in part, designed to boost engagement in recycling.
- The team will reach out with regular reminders, and re-engage schools that have not responded recently.

Future plans

ELWA plans to continue offering small electrical recycling at all Repair Café events and allocated extra funding to support more of these.

The pilot is to be opened up to additional schools across Barking and Dagenham, Havering, Newham and Redbridge.

“Funding from Material Focus enabled ELWA to significantly increase and improve its Repair Café and How To Fix programmes, while introducing recycling facilities for electrical items at schools across our area. ELWA will be maintaining all of the new or enhanced services that the Material Focus funding unlocked.”

Jon Hastings, Head of Strategy and Development, ELWA