North London Waste Authority Module Evaluation

Scheme: Energy and Nature 2026/27
Module: 002
Location: Edmonton EcoPark, North London
Date of visit: 20th November, 2026
Date of Report: 23rd November, 2026

Attendees (MPs)
Deirdre Costigan
Josh Newbury
Bambos Charalambous

Knowledge Growth Metric	Result	Supporting Quote
Knowledge Gap	**67% (2 of 3 MPs)**	"I actually came with a lot of pre-knowledge... But despite that, I have learned loads today" – Deirdre
Specific Knowledge Acquired	**5.3 facts per MP (average)**	"How much electricity is generated from this site and how that is... helping to feed the national grid" – Josh
Emotional Engagement	**67% (2 of 3 MPs)**	"It's such a complicated and kind of wonderful system. I was entranced" – Deirdre
Sector Context	**67% (2 of 3 MPs)**	"Seeing that overlap between kind of waste and energy and house building" – Josh
Knowledge into Practice	**67% (2 of 3 MPs)**	"I need to get the message through to people that it's really important" – Bambos

Summary

The Energy and Nature Scheme 2026/27 continued with the North London Waste Authority Module, with 3 MPs visiting the Edmonton EcoPark. The site is home to the London Energy 'energy from waste' facility, the new plant being built to replace it, and a public reuse and recycling centre.
67% of participating MPs (2/3) described clear new learning, including a former waste authority chair, and MPs cited an average of 5.3 specific facts. 67% (2/3) showed emotional engagement with the visit, and 67% placed the facility in a wider system,

linking waste to energy, housing and the circular economy. Two MPs (67%) set out an intention to act on their learning: in Parliament, through the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee, and in their constituency, by encouraging recycling.

Framework Overview

The Parliamentary Knowledge Foundation uses MPs' own words to measure the immediate impact of a visit. This framework analyses post visit interviews through five interconnected metrics.

Each metric captures a different dimension of learning, from initial thoughts to systems level awareness from the transcripts of interviews given directly after the visit. Providing a broad picture of their experience in their own words, without bias or political direction.

Medium term impact is judged through MPs interactions in the Chamber and on social media.

Long term is through further Chamber discussions, legislation, future roles in Parliament/Government and signing on to future Schemes.

Measurement Metrics

1. Knowledge Gap Metric

North London Waste Authority Module Results: 67% of MPs (2/3)

What it measures: The gap between MPs' prior understanding and what they discovered through the visit.

Methodology: Analysis of feedback identifies expressions of surprise using phrases such as "I didn't know," "surprised me," "eye opener," "wasn't aware," or "didn't realise."

Deirdre: "I actually came with a lot of pre-knowledge because I was previously the chair of West London Waste Authority. But despite that, I have learned loads today."

Josh: "I've visited one energy from waste facility before in the North West, but I've never seen one that's kind of owned and run by local authorities, and then also combines that with a kind of refuse recovery facility for members of the public."

Bambos: "It's been very informative, I've learnt a great deal."

Summary: Two of the three MPs described clear new learning despite prior experience. Deirdre, a former chair of the West London Waste Authority, arrived with expert knowledge but still "learned loads". Josh had visited an energy from waste plant before,

but had not seen one run by local authorities alongside a public recycling centre. Bambos said he had learnt a great deal but did not say what was new to him, so he is not counted here. Asking each MP directly what surprised them would help draw this out in future interviews.

2. Specific Knowledge Acquisition:

North London Waste Authority Module Results: 5.3 facts per MP (average, based on 3 complete transcripts)

What it measures: Specific facts, statistics or operational details MPs can articulate after the visit, demonstrating awareness of new information.

Methodology: Count of specific facts mentioned in feedback, including statistics, programmes, technical details, historical facts, or operational processes.

Josh: "We've been able to hear from coming to the site about how much electricity is generated from this site and how that is, you know, helping to feed the national grid."

Deirdre: "To see the existing site, which is from the 1970s and then to see the building for the new site... It's going to be quite different in many ways, far more sustainable, and will deal with a lot more waste."

Josh: "We had a policy workshop on, you know, electronic waste fires, particularly from batteries, and we're able to kind of explore potential solutions for that."

Summary: MPs recalled the site's past and future (a 1970s plant being replaced by a new facility that will be more sustainable and handle more waste), how it works (energy from waste generating electricity for the national grid, with a public reuse and recycling centre on the same site), how it is run (owned by and serving seven north London boroughs, with a community benefits programme) and its wider role (supplying affordable heat and hot water to a new housing development nearby). Josh cited the most facts (10), followed by Deirdre (4) and Bambos (2), so the average is lifted by one long, detailed interview. Josh also drew on the battery fires policy workshop. The new plant replacing the old one was the most widely recalled detail (2 of 3 MPs).

3. Emotional Engagement Score

North London Waste Authority Module Results: 67% of MPs (2/3)

What it measures: Depth of connection beyond intellectual understanding. Emotional engagement indicates memorable, impactful experiences that are more likely to stay with MPs.

Methodology: Identification of emotional language in feedback, including words such as "struck," "moved," "emotional," "impressed," "humbled," "powerful," or "touching."

Deirdre: "I really loved seeing the 1970s feel... The design of the original site was brilliant but the new site is going to be amazing."

Deirdre: "It's such a complicated and kind of wonderful system. I was entranced in some parts of the visit today."

Bambos: "I'll certainly think twice before I throw things in the bin and certainly about recycling."

Summary: Deirdre's response was strongly emotional throughout ("loved", "amazing", "entranced"). Bambos's engagement came through as a change in his own behaviour rather than the terms listed in the methodology, but shows the visit made a personal impression. Josh was enthusiastic ("really fascinating") but his engagement was intellectual and policy-focused rather than emotional. Infrastructure visits are less likely to draw the emotional responses seen on visits to frontline services, so this is a positive result.

4. Sector Context

North London Waste Authority Module Results: 67% of MPs (2/3)

What it measures: Understanding of how organisations operate within larger systems and interact with other entities.

Methodology: Analysis of references to integration, interaction, comparison with other organisations, or how different entities work together within a system.

Josh: "So seeing that overlap between kind of waste and energy and house building and really fascinating."

Josh: "That kind of tension between building a new facility that's going to deal with waste for many decades to come and wanting to make sure that's the right size for the growing population here in North London, but also the fact that we want to recycle more."

Deirdre: "So seeing it kind of from beginning to the end of the process has also been really good... We throw stuff away and we think that's it, it's gone forever, and so it's fantastic to see what happens behind that."

Summary: Josh showed the strongest systems understanding of the module. He linked waste to energy, housing and the national grid, compared this local authority-owned site with the plant he had seen in the North West, and named the policy tension between building enough capacity for a growing population and the drive to recycle more. Deirdre followed waste through the whole process, from the public recycling centre to energy recovery, and her time at the West London Waste Authority gave her a point of comparison. Bambos focused on recycling and did not place the facility in a wider system.

5. Knowledge into Practice

North London Waste Authority Module Results: 67% of MPs (2/3)

What it measures: Whether MPs plan to use knowledge gained, either in their constituency work, parliamentary activities, or by sharing with others. Indicating potential real world application.

Methodology: Identification of stated intentions using phrases such as "I want to share," "in my constituency," "I'll tell," "keen for people to know," or "celebrate."

Josh: "We've been able to access an awful lot of knowledge today, for us to be able to take those discussions back to Parliament to inform all the work we're doing."

Josh: "For me also, looking forward to some of the work we're doing on the committee on the circular economy has been really useful."

Bambos: "We need to make sure more people recycle. I need to get the message through to people that it's really important... and encourage more people to come see the facility."

Deirdre: Spoke enthusiastically about the visit and brings expertise from the West London Waste Authority, but did not state how she would use what she learned.

Summary: Two MPs stated an intention to act. Josh set out the clearest intention, linking the visit to the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee's work on the circular economy. He also said that practical advice from staff at the battery fires workshop would inform discussions in Westminster. Bambos intends to encourage people to recycle more and to visit the facility, a constituency-facing commitment. Worth tracking in the medium term: Josh's contributions to the Committee's circular economy work and to debates on battery fires, and Bambos's social media.