



Community
Wood
Recycling

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



**A year of recycling, reuse, and training in the
Community Wood Recycling network**



RICHARD MEHMED
MANAGING DIRECTOR,
COMMUNITY WOOD
RECYCLING

I am delighted to report another successful year for the Community Wood Recycling network. Our National Builders Collection Scheme continued to flourish, exceeding our income targets despite a challenging trading period in the run up to the Brexit referendum.

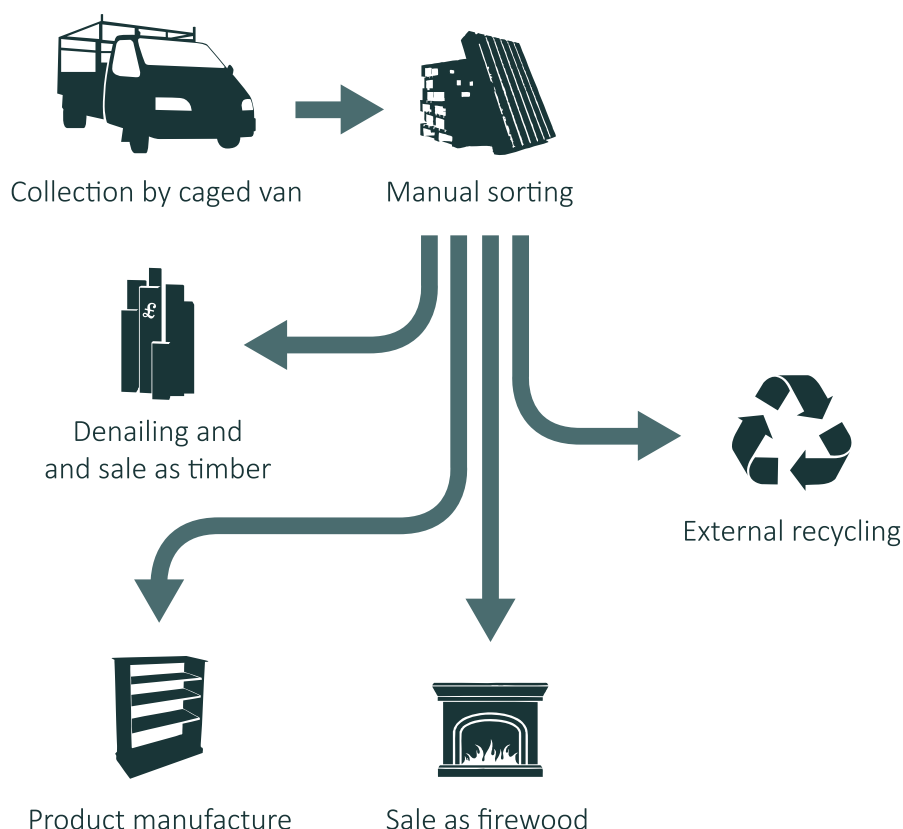
As a network we continue to go from strength to strength, with year on year growth across the country in all the important financial, environmental and social measures.

Our goal of covering all areas of the country where it is financially viable to run a wood recycling project came closer with the addition of four new enterprises to the network and progress made towards setting up another four in key target areas.

Finally, a word of admiration for all our entrepreneurs and enterprise managers. The work of running a community wood recycling project is complex and multi-faceted. Our enterprises are at once wood waste collections services, timber merchants, bespoke furniture makers, firewood suppliers, volunteer placement providers and at the heart of it all, a resource for the local community. The people who take on this challenge are very special, and it's a pleasure to work with them.

THE COMMUNITY WOOD RECYCLING MODEL

- ▶ Wood waste is stockpiled in a segregated area.
- ▶ Collections are made in a 3.5 tonne truck and the wood is taken back to the wood yard.
- ▶ Once at the yard it is sorted and as much as possible is prepared for reuse.
- ▶ Larger pieces of timber are sold to the public for reuse. Smaller pieces are made into furniture and other goods for sale to the public. Leftover wood is cut up and sold as firewood. Only wood which cannot be reused is sent for recycling by chipping.
- ▶ This work is labour intensive and much is low skilled, but it provides meaningful volunteering and work placement opportunities for disadvantaged people.





**17,000
tonnes
saved**

TOWERING DIVERSION

In 2016 the network collected a tonnage of wood equivalent to more than twice the weight of the Eiffel Tower.

Any wood not directly reused was provided to woodchip facilities to be converted into chipboard and biomass fuel. We estimate that our intervention kept at least 5,000 tonnes of wood out of landfill.



**8,000
tonnes
reused**

A FOREST OF REUSE

Nearly half of what was collected was directly reused, either as firewood and timber for the local community, or made into handmade products by staff and volunteers at one of our enterprises.

Producing that much wood with sustainable forestry rather than reuse would have required at least 1,300 hectares, an area the size of Sherwood Forest.



**7,000
tonnes
averted**

CARBON REDUCTION

We estimate that by keeping wood out of landfill, providing wood without the energy costs of harvesting and transport, and using more efficient vehicles, we helped reduce emissions by the equivalent of around 7,000 tonnes of CO₂.

That's equivalent to the emissions produced by the electricity use of 1,000 houses in one year, or 16,000 barrels of oil.

WORKING WITH THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Community Wood Recycling supports the efforts of the construction industry in becoming ever-greener and more socially conscious. In 2016 80% of collections were made under the national scheme coordinated by the NCWRP, which partners large wood-waste producers with enterprises in the network.

THE QUEEN'S AWARD FOR ENTERPRISE, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WATES

Community Wood Recycling Managing Director Richard Mehmed presented HRH The Princess Royal with a collection of Christmas decorations made by Humber Wood Recycling and Brighton and Hove Wood Recycling from waste wood collected from Wates' sites, to celebrate Wates' receipt of The Queens Award for Enterprise, Sustainable Development.

FREEBEE POSTS INITIATIVE BAM CONSTRUCTION

Several enterprises have been working with BAM to provide freebee posts (a sort of bee hotel) to their sites. This initiative was featured in BAM's entry to the BIG Biodiversity Challenge put on by the Construction Industry Research and Information Association.

COLLECTION MILESTONES WATES, KIER, B&Q (BIFFA)

The year also saw our contracts with several customers pass milestones in the thousands of tonnes. That's a phenomenal quantity of wood to be collected and sorted, and a credit to the vision and commitment of our customers.

OUTCOMES FOR NATIONAL WOOD COLLECTIONS

**43%
WOODCHIP**

**26%
TIMBER &
PRODUCTS**

**32%
FIREWOOD**



In order to provide the best possible service we actively seek out feedback from collection customers, and any problems are recorded and quickly resolved. However, we're delighted to say that feedback in 2016 has remained overwhelmingly positive.

Here are some comments taken from our customers:

"Brilliant ... would definitely recommend. Fully professional with all the relevant paperwork, and a positive attitude too!"

"Would 100% recommend"

"Perfect! 10 times better than throwing it in a skip."

"A very convenient service which helps me to easily manage the company's carbon footprint. [Before using the service] I was finding the disposal of wood a difficult and costly procedure."

"Super, lovely, nice lads"

"I'm well chuffed, they're doing a great job, well impressed - and it's not often I say that!"

"Other companies, when they're meant to turn up, can take 4-6 weeks and there's always a problem like a broken down lorry. [Community Wood Recycling] is by far the best service out there."

"I've used the service for a few years now, you're always there when I need it, and I appreciate it!"

"Yes, excellent! They come down take what I need. Pretty quick too - they turned up a day after I ordered a collection."

"The collection team that turns up is very helpful and the whole process is very straight forward."



23
days per
trainee



660
people
trained



100
tonnes
per job



176
jobs
provided

TRAINING FOR ALL

Collecting, sorting, working and selling the collected wood provided hundreds of volunteers with the opportunity to improve their skills and confidence at our enterprises.

We provided 15,000 days of training in 2016, an average of 23 days per volunteer.

A NEW DIRECTION

Patrick was encouraged to volunteer for Community Wood Recycling as part of his rehab programme. As well as his serious addiction problems, he suffered from anxiety and could barely hold a conversation. He started off by volunteering on collections and in the workshop, but when an opportunity to work in the shop on Saturdays came up, he took it and soon he built up his confidence so he could approach customers and help them with choosing what to buy.

Now he has been offered a permanent job, and after five years on Employment Support Allowance, he is able to come off benefits.

"I went into rehab because I didn't think I would survive another winter on the streets. When I was in rehab I had idle time on my hands, and I found that difficult. I was able to come in [to Community Wood Recycling] all the time and it really helped me through the period when having free time was rocky. I love working with stuff that other people consider to be waste, and I'm very lucky to be able to get off benefits and work in a job where everyone is so helpful"

**- PATRICK, COMMUNITY WOOD RECYCLING
EMPLOYEE AND FORMER VOLUNTEER**

EQUITABLE JOBS

Our local, people-powered methods provide far more jobs than mechanised bulk recycling.

In 2016 the network provided approximately 95 full-time and 80 part-time jobs, approximately 1 job for each 100 tonnes collected.



Another successful year has seen more enterprises in the Community Wood Recycling network recognised for their outstanding commitment to forwarding the cause of social and environmental justice through collaboration with businesses and the local community.

The NCWRP continues to support enterprises in the network with consultancy visits from MD Richard Mehmed, regional meetings, regular newsletters and projects including our local marketing pilot, development of employment and volunteer recruitment literature and research into issues of importance to our members. Individual enterprises have also been given practical help on specific projects.

2016 AWARDS



BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP WINNER NATIONAL RECYCLING AWARDS

Reseclo won the Business Partnership Award at National Recycling Awards in July for their work with Bron Afon Community Housing and The Really Amazing Charity.



VOLUNTEERS FOR RESOURCES WINNER BRISTOL GREEN VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Bristol Wood Recycling Project was the winner of the resource category in the 2016 Bristol Green Volunteer Awards, which celebrates Bristol volunteers and their causes, for their contribution to recycling/reuse in Bristol's 2015 European Green Capital year.



COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE WINNER SCOTTISH AWARDS FOR BUSINESS EXCELLENCE

Glasgow Wood Recycling received one of Scotland's most prestigious business awards at Quality Scotland's 25th Anniversary Awards ceremony in June. This award demonstrates a continuing focus on business improvement, to build on their strengths and attain even higher levels of excellence throughout their entire operation.



RESOURCES CATEGORY WINNER P.E.A. AWARDS

The team at Brighton and Hove Wood Recycling Project was selected as the winners of the Resources category at the People. Environment. Achievement. Awards, which recognises the amazing contributions made to society by individuals and small groups.



NOMINATED FOR RESILIENCE AWARD SE100 SOCIAL BUSINESS AWARDS

The NCWRP was delighted to be nominated in the resilience category of the SE100 Social Business Awards. This recognises a social venture that continually delivers positive social or environmental change and repeatedly achieves impact goals, successfully tackling challenges and overcoming difficulties to deliver their mission.

SHAW TRUST WOOD RECYCLING (CROYDON)**WWW.SHAW-TRUST.ORG.UK/SERVICES/SOCIAL-ENTERPRISES**

The South London Wood Recycling Project in Croydon was founded in January. After a successful launch, management of the project has been transferred to Shaw Trust, who run the neighbouring Bromley Community Wood Recycling enterprise.

NORTH ESSEX WOOD RECYCLING**WWW.NEWOODRECYCLING.WEEBLY.COM**

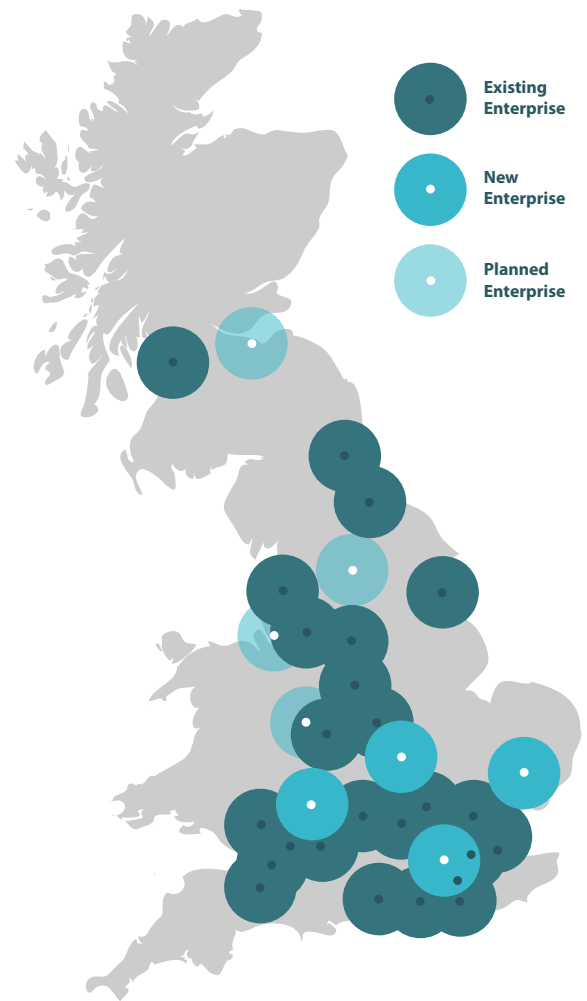
North Essex Wood Recycling extends our coverage to the area around Colchester and Ipswich. The founder/director is Kevin Fletcher, who worked for many years at Bromley Community Wood Recycling Project.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE WOOD RECYCLING**WWW.NORTHANTSWOODRECYCLING.ORG.UK**

Northamptonshire Wood Recycling CIC joined the network at the end of 2016. It is owned and run by Director and Operations Manager Darren Cooper.

GLOUCESTER WOOD RECYCLING**WWW.GLOUCESTERWOODRECYCLING.COM**

Gloucester Wood Recycling was set up by Wiltshire Wood Recycling to provide an additional retail location and wider coverage in the Cheltenham and Gloucester area. This is the first of our enterprises to develop its business through a branch location, and we look forward to learning more about this development of the model.

**MEDIA MENTIONS**

The network's beautiful handmade products continue to catch the eye of TV presenters and interior designers.

THE £100K HOUSE: TRICKS OF THE TRADE**BBC2**

A bench made by Just Wood Leicestershire was featured on BBC2's The £100k House: Tricks of the Trade, which helps homeowners realise their ambitions of a dream home on a budget.

**THE PARTY'S AT YOUR PLACE! HULL FOLK 'SHOULD THROW OPEN DOORS TO VISITORS NEXT YEAR'****THE YORKSHIRE POST**

Linda Barker of Changing Rooms fame tweeted her delight with a headboard constructed for her by Humber Wood Recycling as part of Hull's City of Culture 2017 campaign, encouraging local people to do up a spare bedroom and let it on airbnb to increase the city's capacity for visitors during the year long festival.





SAFECONTRACTOR APPROVAL SAFECONTRACTOR

Ensuring the safety of our workers, volunteers, and customers has always been an essential component of our work, and we are glad to announce that we are now officially recognised by SafeContractor as having appropriate and sufficient Health and Safety procedures.



WOOD WASTE FLOW RESEARCH ZERO WASTE SCOTLAND

At the beginning of the year, Zero Waste Scotland awarded us the contract to carry out research into the wood waste flow in Scotland, and prepare a detailed feasibility study for a potential new project in Edinburgh. This is the most thorough examination of our model and how it fits in to the wider picture of wood waste generation to date, and it was heartening to see how such scrutiny only increased our belief that what we are doing really works.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2017

Our main priority for 2017 is, as always, to support existing enterprises, encourage new ones, and ensure a high level of sustainability and service quality.

In particular, we intend to:

- ▶ Help members develop their retail operations in order to reuse more wood and diversify income;
- ▶ Improve our health and safety management system including working with health and safety authorities to ensure that all of our staff and volunteers are able to obtain affordable access to industry-recognised accreditation;
- ▶ Research and develop bringing the model to other European countries.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

There are many ways to help us in our ongoing efforts! If you are in an industry which produces wood waste, you can help promote our wood collection services in your organisation. If you have time available, you can volunteer with us, and if you are looking for furniture, decorations or gifts, please consider buying sustainable handmade goods from one of our enterprises.

Find your local enterprise at:

<http://www.communitywoodrecycling.org.uk/stores/>

Or call our national office on:

01273 20 30 40