



Community
Wood
Recycling

ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL IMPACT ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18



**A year of saving resources and changing lives
in the Community Wood Recycling network**



RICHARD MEHMED
MANAGING DIRECTOR,
COMMUNITY WOOD
RECYCLING

The Community Wood Recycling social franchise has flourished over the last year. With record amounts of timber saved from the waste stream and jobs and training opportunities created, we have combined meeting our social and environmental objectives with providing our customers with an efficient and cost-effective wood waste collection service, and our communities with a source of low-cost quality recycled wood.

Our network has been growing; this year saw the successful transition of two of our operating areas to new enterprises and the opening of a new project in Wolverhampton, and we have four more members due to open over the next few months. We have invested in our people, infrastructure and in technology enabling us to provide an even better service.

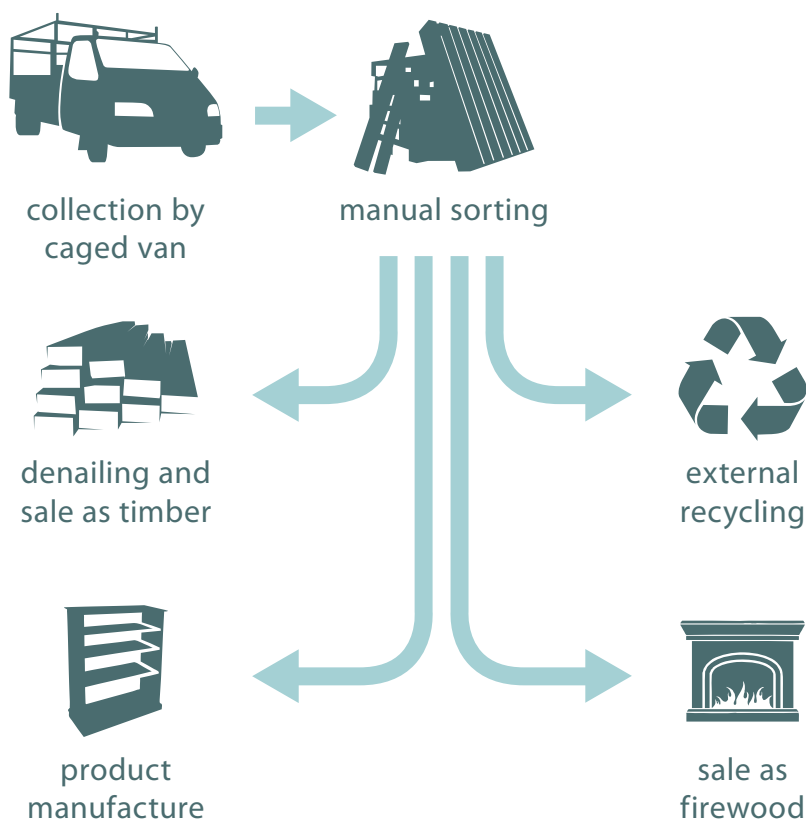
I am proud to lead a network which shares our values of commitment to the environment and the desire to bring real change to the lives of people who are excluded from the mainstream of society. We continue to show how social enterprise working in partnership with the commercial sector can be a powerful agent for change.

I sincerely thank all of our members, customers, staff and supporters for working so hard with us to help create a more just and sustainable society.

I hope our partnership continues to go from strength to strength.

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, and it provides meaningful volunteering and work placement opportunities for disadvantaged people.



REUSE AND RECYCLING

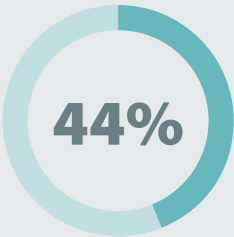
The network collected twice the weight of the Tower of London in waste wood.

Any material not directly reused was recycled into woodchip, used in particleboard, animal bedding, and carbon-neutral fuel in power stations.

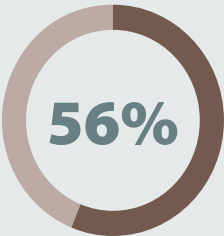


21,000 tonnes collected

▲ 7% year on year



9,240 tonnes reused



11,760 tonnes recycled

TRAINING AND SUPPORT

Collecting, processing and selling the collected wood gives hundreds of trainees the opportunity to develop their self-esteem and confidence and learn skills that will help them to get back into the job market. We provided 16,400 days of training, an average of 26 days per volunteer.



640 people trained



16,400 days of training



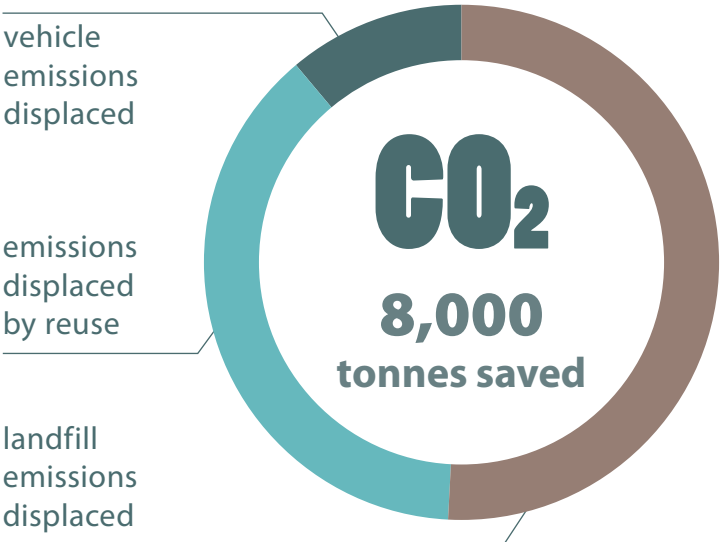
180 paid jobs created



117 tonnes per job

EQUITABLE JOBS

Our local, people-powered methods create far more jobs than mechanised bulk recycling. The network provided approximately 100 full-time and 80 part-time jobs, just under 1 job for each 100 tonnes collected.



CARBON REDUCTION

We estimate that by keeping wood out of landfill, providing wood for reuse without the energy costs of harvesting and transport, and using more efficient vehicles, we helped reduce emissions by the equivalent of 8,000 tonnes of CO₂. That's around the same as the emissions produced by the electricity use of 1,000 houses in one year, or 18,000 barrels of oil.



1 tonne wood reused

=



2 oil barrels CO₂ saved

To ensure the high standards of service, we survey every site we collect from. Here is what some of our customers have said about us:

"Fully professional with all the relevant paperwork, and a positive attitude too!"

"It's much cheaper than a skip and I'm thrilled that the timber is recycled, not chipped. I've seen the products produced from the recycled timber and it's amazing."

"Superb! Absolutely brilliant service. I got exactly the service that was explained to me over the phone and more. Very neat and tidy."

"I'd recommend to other sites without a shadow of a doubt."



CHANGING LIVES



Community Wood Recycling has helped hundreds of people overcome challenges in their lives by providing training and a supportive, meaningful work environment. Jason had lived at in accommodation run by the Hope Centre for 10 months before he started volunteering.

Q: WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE FOR YOU BEFORE YOU STARTED VOLUNTEERING?

"Before I started volunteering I was an alcoholic. Then I did a detox and put myself into work so I could keep myself busy."

Q: WHAT HAS YOUR VOLUNTEERING WORK TAUGHT YOU?

"It's given me a bit of purpose in life again to actually go and do something rather than drinking all the time. I look forward to getting up now rather than laying around and not doing anything. There's more stability in my life."

Q: HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT YOURSELF NOW?

"I feel a lot better about myself; I'm a lot more positive, I'm getting healthier and I'm enjoying what I'm doing. This has 100 percent been positive for me; it's stopped me doing all the things I was doing before - I was falling out with the world because I was drinking. It's helped me out a great deal."

Our work in both saving resources and helping to change lives has been widely recognised.



FINALIST: CIRCULAR ECONOMY SUCCESS FINALIST: BEST COMMUNITY RECYCLING INITIATIVE AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

The National Community Wood Recycling Project was a finalist in 2 categories of the Awards For Excellence in Recycling and Waste Management.



COMMENDED: ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIAL ENTERPRISE UK SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AWARDS

The National Community Wood Recycling project was named Highly Commended in the Environmental Social Enterprise category of the SEUK Awards.



RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR GATWICK DIAMOND BUSINESS AWARDS

Mid Sussex Wood Recycling Project were named Responsible Business of the Year at the Gatwick Diamond Business Awards.



MADE IN HULL SOLD LOCALLY AWARD FERENS ART GALLERY AND HULL CITY OF CULTURE 2017

Humber Wood Recycling were winners of the Made In Hull Sold Locally Award for furniture items made from reclaimed pallet wood.



DEVELOPING PEOPLE AWARD COMMUNITY RESOURCES NETWORK SCOTLAND

Glasgow Wood Recycling Project were honoured at the Community Wood Recycling Scotland Awards with the Developing People Award for their work supporting volunteers.



GREEN BUSINESS AWARD WESTON SUPER MARE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Somerset Wood Recycling won the Weston Super Mare Chamber of Commerce Green Business Award.



COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD ST ALBANS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Geoff Deans, founder and managing director of St Albans Wood Recycling CIC, won the community champion award from St Albans Chamber of Commerce.

NEW ENTERPRISES

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE WOOD RECYCLING CIC WEEDON BEC, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Northamptonshire Wood Recycling CIC is a community interest company created to serve Northamptonshire, Milton Keynes, Bedfordshire and Rugby.

RIVERSIDE TIMBER RECYCLING PROJECT ROMFORD, ESSEX

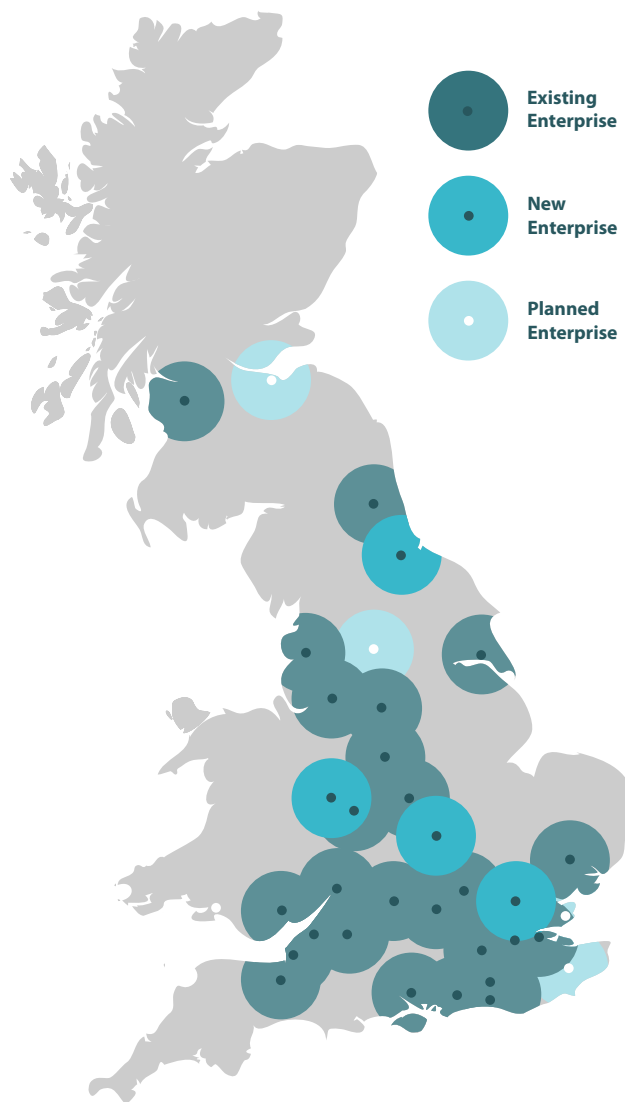
Riverside Timber Recycling Project provides a wood waste collection service to North East London and the surrounding area.

RESOURCES REGENERATION CIC MIDDLESBROUGH, YORKSHIRE

Covering North Tyneside, South Tyneside and Sunderland, Resources North East help business and young people develop their apprenticeships in construction, I.T. and business administration.

WOOD SAINTS WOLVERHAMPTON, WEST MIDLANDS

Wood Saints is a wood recycling and re-use enterprise launched by All Saints Action Network Ltd (ASAN) to collect and reuse wood from all over the Black Country.



PLANNED ENTERPRISES

Community Wood Recycling is supporting development of enterprises in the following cities in 2018-19:

EDINBURGH, ASHFORD, SOUTHEND, LEEDS

HOW YOU CAN HELP



There are many ways to help us in our ongoing efforts!

If you are in an industry generating 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 wood for that DIY or building project, or for furniture, decorations or gifts, please consider buying sustainably from one of our enterprises.

Find out more at:

www.communitywoodrecycling.org.uk

Or call our national office on:

01273 20 30 40