

OCTOBER 2015

Social Impact Report

Wates EMPA



Community
Wood
Recycling

Community wood recycling is delighted to have collected over 26 tonnes of waste wood from 5 Wates EMPA sites across the UK. Around 77% of the collected timber has been pushed up the waste hierarchy into reuse; going back out to the community for their DIY and building projects, used to make a whole range of useful products from bird boxes to garden benches, or burned as a low-cost, carbon-neutral fuel source. With all the remainder being recycled, Wates are ensuring the environmental impact of their sites is minimised and are leading the way in helping us to conserve this important natural resource.

In addition to that however, Wates is also helping us to change lives!

As well as making a highly positive environmental impact, collecting from Wates sites has directly led to the creation of permanent jobs as well as work placement opportunities for local “disadvantaged” people – each benefitting from an average of 28 days of useful training.

	Wood Rescued	Volunteer positions	Training days provided	Paid employment ¹
WATES - EMPA²	259 yd³ (26 tonnes)	1	41	3 months

Community wood recycling activities are very labour-intensive and this lower-skilled but highly worthwhile work provides people from all walks of life with the opportunity to develop their confidence and self-esteem and learn a range of useful transferable skills in a supportive but disciplined and financially sustainable social enterprise.

Volunteering with organisations like Community Wood Recycling has been shown to have positive effects on volunteers’ physical and emotional health, such as improving their fitness and longevity, and enabling them to cope better with illness when it occurs³.

For so many of our people it’s also a crucial step towards getting back into the job market and our partnership with Wates has helped people develop themselves and really get their lives back on track!



Case Study

Dave had been unemployed for several years when he came to Just Wood Leicestershire CIC on a four week work placement in March 2015, through Intraining, a training provider working closely with the Job Centre.

Dave worked at the wood yard breaking down pallets, de-nailing and keeping the wood yard tidy as well as assisting on collections from construction sites. He enjoyed the placement so much he sought permission to stay with the project until he secured paid work. He quickly became an invaluable team member and was spotted by Yummy Foods, a company with premises on the same site, and now works for them as an order packer. Dave says:

“If it hadn’t have been for Just Wood I would have stayed at home and would still have been looking for work. I had the opportunity to do something different and had a reason to get up in the morning.”

Wates’ partnership with Community Wood Recycling not only preserves resources, but also provides opportunities for living and personal growth that contribute to a fairer, healthier, and more inclusive society.

¹ Represents a period of full-time-equivalent employment, including holidays and weekends. Part-time work is weighted as half as much as full-time.

² Estimates based on comparing volume of wood with totals from data collected by the NCWRP between 2010 and 2014.

³ University of Lampeter, 2008, *Volunteering & Health: What impact does it really have?*, Commissioned by Volunteering England

(<http://www.volunteering.org.uk>).