

Social Impact Report



We collect many thousands of tonnes of wood waste each year and our key aim is to ensure that it is all reused or recycled in the most environmentally beneficial way possible – reducing its environment impact to an absolute minimum and helping to conserve this important natural resource.

But our equally important objective is to provide what can be life-changing jobs and training for local people – especially for those that could be considered “disadvantaged”.

Every time Kingerlee Ltd use our wood collection service, they are helping us to deliver these really important social outcomes, and since they began working with us they have helped us provide¹:

	Wood Rescued	Volunteer days	Volunteer positions	Paid employment ²
KINGERLEE LTD	496 yd ³ (50 tonnes)	63	3	7 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 highly supportive but disciplined and financially sustainable social enterprise.

Volunteering with organisations like Community Wood Recycling has been shown to:

- Improve volunteers’ confidence and mental health
- Improve fitness
- Enable them to cope better with illness when it occurs
- Increase their longevity³

For so many of our people it’s also a crucial step towards getting back into paid work. Many go on to work in the enterprise and our employment practises ensure that we recruit from within; giving our volunteers even more incentive to work hard, develop themselves and really get their lives back on track!

At the very least, we’ll train them in H&S, support them to get a CSCS card and help get them ready to get out and get a job.



Case Study

A mental health charity put Buddy in touch with his local community wood recycling enterprise after his physical and mental health rapidly declined as a result of a serious liver condition. Initially he wasn’t able to work much, so started to volunteer a day a week. Soon he began to increase his hours and he now volunteers much of the week, helping on collections and designing products crafted from the collected wood.

His recovery has been astonishing. According to his doctor, his liver is functioning better than it has for a long time, and Buddy agrees: “I’m sleeping and eating better than ever and I love it here. I’m doing something useful with people trying to do good for the environment”.

Recycling wood 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 Estimates based on comparing volume of wood with totals from data collected by the NCWRP in 2013

² Represents a period of full-time employment including holidays and weekends. Part-time work is included, weighted as half as much as full-time.

³ University of Lampeter, 2008, Volunteering & Health: What impact does it really have?, Commissioned by Volunteering England (<http://www.volunteering.org.uk>)