



Community
Wood
Recycling



Working in partnership for a sustainable future

SHAKESPEARE PARK, MK4 4BE



Reusing wood with Community Wood Recycling

Community Wood Recycling is a network of social enterprises that collects and **reuses wood waste** in the most environmentally-friendly ways, creating **permanent jobs** and supportive **training opportunities**. Our labour-intensive process provides a wide range of disadvantaged people, including ex-offenders, those with mild mental health or learning difficulties, and people who have come through drug and alcohol abuse, with the opportunity to build confidence, learn new skills, and overcome barriers to finding work.

Active since 1998, the network has repeatedly been recognized by awards organisations and the media for our work in both recycling and job creation.

WOOD RECYCLING IMPACT ESTIMATES FOR SHAKESPEARE PARK, MK4 4BE

Wood Collected	Wood Reused	Employment	Training	CO ₂ Reduction
55 tonnes	34%	6 months	51 days	19 tonnes



Environmental impact

Community Wood Recycling is delighted to have collected over 55 tonnes of waste wood from Shakespeare Park, MK4 4BE since collections began in March 2017. Around 34% 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, Taylor Wimpey are ensuring the environmental impact of their site is minimised, and are leading the way in helping us to conserve this important natural resource.

When wood rots it produces methane, 25 times more damaging to the climate than carbon dioxide. Around a third of wood disposed of in the UK ends up in landfill, but all the wood we collect is reused or recycled. In addition, our vehicles only use around a fifth of the fuel of skip lorries, and reusing wood is ten times more energy efficient than harvesting fresh wood. We estimate that every tonne of wood we collect and successfully reuse saves the equivalent of around half a tonne of CO₂, even more if that wood displaces higher-energy materials like metal and plastic. We believe that by using our service on Shakespeare Park, MK4 4BE, Taylor Wimpey has reduced global greenhouse emissions by the equivalent of more than 19 tonnes of CO₂.

Social impact

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. For each tonne of wood we collect, we create approximately one day of training for our volunteers, and one and a half days of paid employment for our permanent staff (many of whom began as volunteers).

As well as making a highly positive environmental impact, collecting from Shakespeare Park, MK4 4BE has created around 6 months worth of paid work and 51 days of training for local “disadvantaged” people.

By working together, Taylor Wimpey and Community Wood Recycling are saving resources and changing lives.

If you have any questions about how our measures are calculated, please ask our national office.

Reusing wood from Shakespeare Park, MK4 4BE

Northamptonshire Wood Recycling CIC joined the Community Wood Recycling family at the beginning of 2017. Since then they have collected nearly 200 tonnes of wood for recycling and reuse, ensuring that none of it goes to landfill. The enterprise has serviced three Taylor Wimpey South Midlands sites; Shakespeare Park, Willow Lake and Woodford Halse. Over the year more than 67 tonnes has been saved from these sites and sorted so it can be reused for DIY, turned into products or recycled as woodchip.



This table top was made from scaffolding collected from Taylor Wimpey's Shakespeare Park site, and the frame was from pallets from Woodford Halse. Together with legs made from wood collected from a local builder, these have created a beautiful piece of furniture.

Far from being waste, this rescued resource created meaningful, confidence-building work for marginalised people. By working with local charity Northampton Hope Centre, the project has already been changing lives in its first year as part of the Community Wood Recycling network.

Volunteer study

Jason has lived at in accommodation run by the Hope Centre for 10 months and started volunteering at Northamptonshire Wood Recycling seven months ago.

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."

What has your volunteering work taught you?

"It has 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."

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 per cent been positive for me; it has stopped me doing all the things I was doing before - I was falling out with the world because I was drinking. It has helped me out a great deal."

The support given to Community Wood Recycling by Taylor Wimpey has been crucial in allowing Northamptonshire Wood Recycling to save resources and change lives, and we look forward to continuing to build the relationship.

Volunteer Case Studies

Volunteer case studies drawn from enterprises across the UK



Lee

Lee is profoundly deaf, and was still struggling to find work 8 months after he was made redundant. The city council's employment service referred him to the local Community Wood Recycling enterprise, initially for 12 weeks. Lee enjoyed his time at the enterprise so much he stayed on, eventually becoming one of the van drivers, and offering help to many other volunteers.

Thanks to the skills and support he got from working with the project, he was able to move on into employment. Lee says:

"Without this voluntary work I wouldn't have got the new job. Thank you to the people at Community Wood Recycling for their support and help to build my confidence and independence again!"



Luke

Luke had not worked in a long time, and says he was shy and had no confidence. However, he showed enthusiasm for the work and over the course of a year learned to use all the woodworking tools in the workshop, as well as pursuing several qualifications including warehousing and storage, first aid, and most recently the introduction to a career in construction NOCN course.

Luke says that volunteering with Community Wood Recycling has changed his life in many ways:

"Even my kids see me differently now, seeing their dad go to 'work' every day now. I feel really good about myself now as I had thought I would never work again. I was stuck in a rut just watching my life go by."



Buddy

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 remarkable. 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."



Roger

When Roger came to Community Wood Recycling, he hadn't been in employment for over a decade. He was trained in driving and loading the truck, and although initially quiet, quickly built his confidence and learned to coordinate with site managers and manage other volunteers. Community Wood Recycling helped secure forklift driver training and food hygiene training for both Roger and Dave, another volunteer taken on at the same time, and their dedication was recognized by Yummy Foods, a catering company on the same premises, who offered them both jobs. Roger says:

"The support and encouragement I received ... really helped me to renew my confidence and gain new skills which definitely helped me with choosing the right job for me. I never thought I would have 3 job offers in one week!"