



IMPACT REPORT

2019



Preparing communities for the world of work



OUR STORY



In August 2018 we were given the keys to our warehouse at Croydon Street. It's been a really busy year, but we couldn't have dared to imagine how far we would come in 12 months. We've met some amazing people along the way and had fantastic support.

Our kick-start began with a grant and loan from Key Fund which, among other things, enabled us to purchase our first van, fit it with a cage and start our collections. Last summer was a busy time. Hard working and enthusiastic volunteers knocked down internal offices, built benches and created wood bays and retail areas. Without the energy and dedication of such an amazing group of people at that early stage we wouldn't be here!

In these early stages the Egger group – Timberpak kindly offered us sponsorship, a relationship that has been integral to the success of LWR. Momentum for the project grew in October with support from Path Yorkshire, a funding body that offered employment to two long-term unemployed people who joined part of our team for six months. This gave our collections and retail stability to grow, so we could focus on training more volunteers to be part of the team. We have been working with organisations such as Community Links, Aspire and People Matters to offer work experience and training to people from a range of backgrounds.

In January we received funding from Leeds Community Foundation to employ a Workshop Tutor, developing the woodwork side of LWR. This has also allowed us to reach people in Leeds suffering with isolation and loneliness. The impact these four ten week courses have had on individuals has been fantastic. We have worked to create a real community of people who are trading skills, experience and knowledge. Many of the course graduates have joined our volunteers to become Saturday staff and formed our commission 'making team', an arm to the business that we hope to focus on in the new year.....

THE FUTURE...

We are currently looking to grow our workshop capability, getting more tools and machines and making improvements to dust extraction and noise in the warehouse. We're developing a range of 'off the peg' products to sell in our shop, creating more 'hands on' carpentry experience for volunteers, and helping us divert more wood waste from landfill.

The project is growing, and space is already destined to be a question in our future, but our priority right now is to strengthen what we are currently doing. Nurturing a professional, friendly, inclusive space, in which volunteers and staff feel invested, collaboratively working to make LWR sustainable and supporting positive change in people's lives. We always welcome input from businesses interested in supporting our project grow, and are deeply grateful to all the businesses who have helped us get so far already.

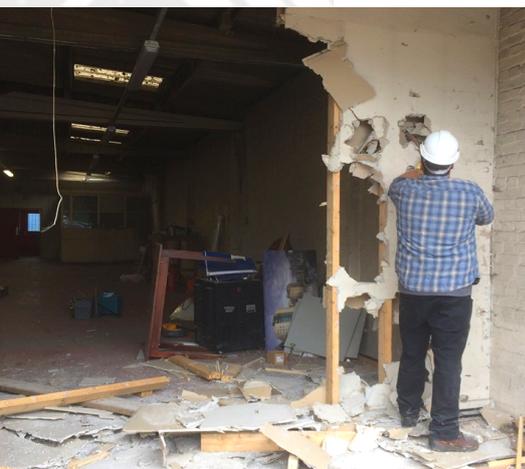
Warmest regards

Charlie Stanley

LWR Manager



LWR have been shortlisted as a finalist in the RPM Supplier of the Year an internal JLL award. We have also received a nomination for the International Green Apple Award. (Results announced October 2019)



LEEDS WOOD RECYCLING BUSINESS OVERVIEW



We work part of the National Community Wood Recycling Network, the UK's largest social franchise. They provide advice, training and link us to collections with some of the UK's top construction companies. Their support has been invaluable to us.



All this work gives disadvantaged people the chance to develop their workplace skills

OUR IMPACTS : 2018 - 2019

262.2

TONNES OF WASTE WOOD COLLECTED



69

VOLUNTEERS JOINED SINCE 2018

5370

HOURS VOLUNTEERED

12 new part-time staff hired since 2018

This first year's statistics are now a measure for improvement. We are proud of how much wood waste we have upcycled and repurposed in this first year. Our main challenge moving forwards is to repurpose even more wood waste through timber sales and product manufacture. We need to spread the word and raise the profile of reused timber to the public in Leeds. In order to do this we need to further grow our volunteer base, boost publicity and increase space capacity. This is what we will be focusing on this in the year ahead.

26%

of the collected waste wood was repurposed: sold in our shop, made into products or used for training people on our wood work courses.

74% of the collected wood was used to make 'Egger' Boarding by our sponsor Timberpack

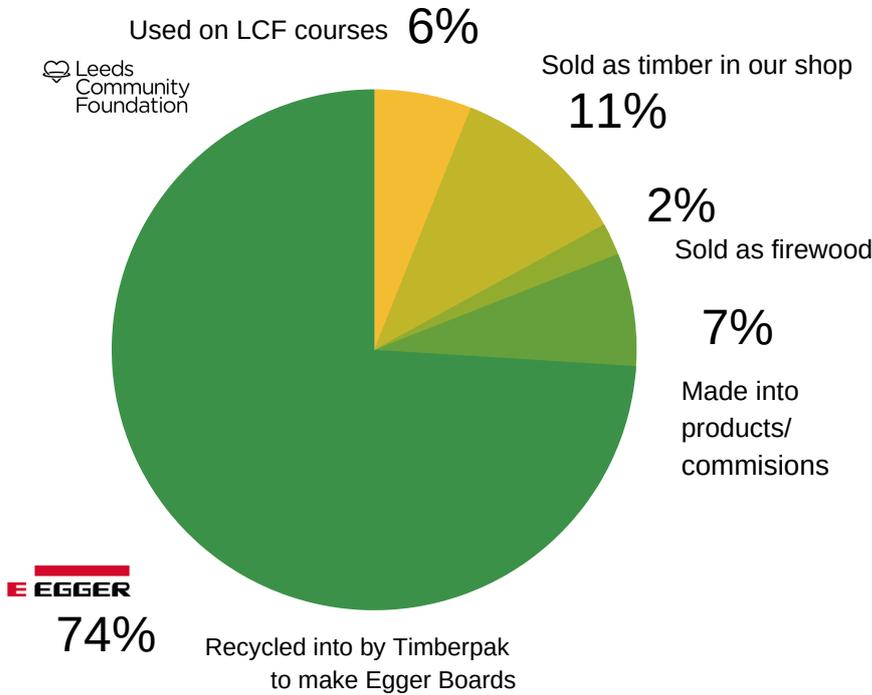


REDIRECTING WASTE

Our waste wood collection service

We have worked with over 100 businesses since opening our doors and have collected a range of items; from theatre sets to shop displays, building site waste to rock climbing walls. We collect at both domestic and commercial properties throughout West Yorkshire.

None of the wood we collect goes into landfill. Here is where it's gone instead:



Our waste wood collection service works in a similar way to a skip hire company, offering a sustainable, ethical alternative to waste disposal.

Once wood is collected from sites and businesses it is bought back to our warehouse, it's processed. This process is very labour-intensive but offers great opportunities for people to learn how to use hand and power tools. Tasks like de-nailing and chopping firewood feeds volunteers experience and as a result their confidence grows. We then train volunteers individually or through the LCF course in more skilled work like sanding, or construction. We now employ people to work on small commission jobs.

Training and 'skilling up' people who wouldn't have had the confidence to tackle such projects in the past is at the core of the Leeds Wood Recycling Project.



Symonds House RG Group

100%
Of the wood we collect
is reused or recycled

THE WOOD SHOP

Reclaimed timber & products at affordable prices

The Leeds wood recycling 'Wood Shop' had its official launch on the 22nd October 2018. We have an extensive range of reclaimed woods, with a cutting and delivery service available.

We support members of the public with 'small jobs' - things like sanding, cutting or routing wood for projects.

Alongside this, we have expanded our services to take on commissioned projects such as: TV stands, home and office furniture, bin covers and things for the garden.

Our social media presence has grown and we now have 2500 followers on Facebook, and nearly 1000 on Twitter.

In May we started opening on Saturdays, creating jobs for an additional 5 people.

The shop now runs 6 days a week and we are open from 10 - 4 Monday to Saturday.



FRANCESCA BOTTONE
RETAIL MANAGER



@leeds_wood
@leedswoodrecycling

WHERE OUR WOOD COMES FROM

THESE ARE SOME OF THE COMPANIES THAT SUPPORT
LEEDS WOOD RECYCLING BY USING OUR COLLECTION SERVICE



VOLUNTEERS

SOME OF THE AWESOME PEOPLE BEHIND THE PROJECT



JAY
VOLUNTEER/ COURSE
GRADUATE



MARK
VOLUNTEER/ COURSE
GRADUATE



LEONIE
(ALIAS)

TESTIMONIALS

JAY

Jay had been seeking employment and a change in direction to his life. When he came to LWR he was a bit unsure and even a little shy! Jay loves the physical work of going out on collections, enjoying being a 'van drivers mate' His completion of the woodwork training course and First Aid at Work qualification have given him skills and confidence to help as a volunteer on commission work and projects that we get in.

"I love coming here, everyone is so friendly.

It's great to be a part of something that is growing and doing good"

LEONIE

Leonie had been unemployed for over 2 years due to mental health issues.

"Whilst at LWR my confidence has grown enormously and I have a real sense of purpose and satisfaction because the organisation has a positive impact on our environment. As well as refreshing carpentry skills, I have had the opportunity to learn more about retail and feel like a valued team member."

MARK

Mark was born with some mild learning difficulties and suffered with ill health as an infant and teenager which affected his early development and education. When Mark first came to LWR as volunteer he was keen to get experience in a work environment, but was somewhat timid and a little nervous about the situation as he had no previous experience of tools or woodworking skills.

We recently celebrated his 1 year anniversary with us he has grown in skill and confidence dramatically. Mark completed the LWR woodwork course, gaining a qualification in the NCWR training programme. Competent in hand tools, he is also trained on a number of power tools now. We are very proud of how Mark has grown with LWR.

"I like the banter of being in the van and going on collections"



One of our volunteer socials. Ukelele class June 2019

WOODWORK TRAINING

Funded by Leeds Community Foundation

We have been running a series of inter-generational courses teaching woodwork and combatting isolation and loneliness in Leeds

36 PEOPLE
TRAINED

The course is a thorough introduction to woodwork skills. The classes have taught a range of skills such as design, construction and how to use hand and power-tools.

Alongside the practical training each student completes the National Community Wood Recycling Project Training programme, a nationally accredited qualification which gives a full understanding of the timber and recycling industry.

The course participants have built a range of projects for local community groups including REAP, Otley primary school, St Luke's Cares, Oakwood Traders and Residents Association, SCRAP Creative Reuse and Jerry Clay Academy Wakefield.



"I've honestly gained an awful lot from the course, more so than I expected. Not just basic woodworking skills and power tool training. It's given me drive and excitement about the whole idea of woodworking and working with wood - it's becoming more and more of a passion of mine, and something I see myself doing forever.

It's also allowed me to feel like I am capable and competent at something... I've also gained some amazing friends. I struggle with confidence and anxiety, and Leeds Wood Recycling has never made me feel bad, or like I can't speak up..." Leigh

COMMISSIONS AND PROJECTS

TAKE A LOOK AT SOME OF THE COMMISSIONS WE HAVE BUILT OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS



GROUPS WE'VE BEEN WORKING WITH:

LEEDS FIRST
Packaging-Free Store
Dry Foods
Toiletries
Homeware
Cleaning refills

KIRKGATE MARKET
Central Leeds
Unit BS1
Twitter
Facebook
& Instagram
@thejartree

SCRAP
CENTRE OF CREATIVE REUSE

**Sir Robert
McALPINE**

E EGGER

CITU

TRA
Oakwood Traders & Residents Association

community links
instilling hope
creating opportunity