



Environmental Impact Statement

Introduction

Wood that Works has community, creativity and sustainability at the heart of its ethos. As an inner-city workshop, often working with the most vulnerable members of our community, we are dedicated to making a positive contribution to people and the environment. By adopting sustainable practices, we aim to reduce waste, conserve resources and ensure the health and wellbeing of all who spend time in our workshop and beyond.

Finding New Uses for Salvaged Wood and Old Furniture

All our woodwork projects use recycled and donated wood. We do not buy or have new wood delivered and people who learn carpentry with us are encouraged to use upcycled wood and/or bring in old furniture for repair and restoration. If a piece is beyond repair, we take it apart and use the wood to make something new. It is, however, often very possible to extend to life of old furniture and we have set up a WhatsApp group, allowing members to share the location discarded wood and/or wooden furniture. This has proved to be a great way for people to save money, prevent waste and helps improve a sense of connectedness within communities.

Our workshop is located next to Highgate Cemetery, we work closely with the cemetery team to find new uses for wood from trees cut down during maintenance and/or safety reasons. By actively incorporating recycled and reclaimed wood from neighbouring organisations (e.g., WoodStock Joiners) into all our projects we reduce the need for new resources as well as reducing overall wood waste in our local community.

Recycling and Reducing Waste

We aim to keep wood waste to a minimum by optimising our furniture design and cutting processes. Wood waste including sawdust, offcuts and scrap wood are collected and repurposed for use in other projects and/or donated for use in both individual and community projects. We also recycle all other appropriate materials, including paper, cardboard, glass, plastic and metal.

Health and Safety:

Eco-Friendly Finishes and Adhesives: We select non-toxic, low-VOC (volatile organic compounds) finishes and adhesives to minimize the release of harmful chemicals into the air and environment. Our choice of products ensures a healthier environment for our workers and customers.

Dust Control: We use dust extraction systems to reduce airborne particulate matter, ensuring that the workshop environment remains safe and healthy for our workers. This also reduces the environmental impact of airborne sawdust and wood particles.

Chemical Management: We ensure that any chemicals used in the workshop, including finishes, paints, and solvents, are handled, stored, and disposed of according to legal and environmental standards to minimize harmful impacts

Cutting our carbon footprint

We teach carpentry skills that are readily transferable beyond the workshop. Wood projects are made using traditional hand-crafted methods to enable people to repeat the process at home. Electric tool use is kept to a minimum and prior to buying any equipment second hand alternatives are explored and the majority of our electric tools are sourced from auction houses, closing down workshops.

As a workshop located in the heart of our community, we encourage all who can to arrive on foot or by bike; however, we provide parking for individuals with mobility restrictions. Our team all live locally and walk to the workshop. We use a pull along cart for local wood and furniture collections, reserving the use of a works vehicle for large items only.

Environmental Education and Skill Building

We partner with local schools, community centres, disability groups and Youth Offending teams and our sliding scale places ensure our workshop is accessible to all. By empowering people of all ages to build and create new things from old wood and salvaged furniture we create communities with the skills to independently contribute to a circular economy through upcycling.

Conclusion

This Environmental Statement reflects our commitment to reducing the ecological impact of our woodworking workshop . Through sustainable sourcing, waste reduction, energy efficiency, and community engagement, we aim to operate a workshop that respects and nurtures the environment while building healthier and better connected communities.
