

THE LONDON TREE AND WOODLAND AWARDS 2019

CASE STUDY - THE TREES AND BUSINESS AWARD

WINNER – WATES TREEATHLON



The London Tree and Woodland Awards celebrate the work of individuals, communities and professionals to protect, improve and expand the capital's tree and woodland cover.

The Trees and Business Award is presented to a tree planting or management project with significant business involvement.

The winner of the 2019 award was the Wates Treeathlon project, nominated by The Conservation Volunteers.

Wates Treeathlon:

The Wates Group is a privately owned construction, development and property services company, employing almost 4,000 people across the UK. In January 2019, the company launched the carbon offsetting Treeathlon project in conjunction with charity partner The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) with the aim of planting 15,000 trees between 2019 and 2022.

Construction and the inevitable CO2 it produces during a project's lifetime, can have a significant effect on the environment and one of the objectives of the Wates Treeathlon was to offset this through planting trees. The Wates Treeathlon also committed to planting native varieties of British trees to improve biodiversity and help create a greener, more resilient environment for everyone to enjoy.



Activities:

In February and March 2019, more than 100 Wates employees volunteered with TCV to plant 2,600 trees at six sites in London. The trees and planting days were made possible by the fundraising efforts of Wates employees across London, which raised £15,000 through a range of activities including dress down days, bake sales and canoe challenges.

TCV worked with its contacts at local authorities to identify planting requirements requested by local communities, which would benefit wildlife and contribute towards carbon reduction in the area and improve air quality.

The following communities benefited from the planting programme:

- Wanstead Allotments, Redbridge – a green screen between busy main roads to reduce carbon and noise pollution
- Dulwich Upper Wood, Southwark – a new hedgerow around the pond
- Stave Hill Ecology Park, Southwark – new boundary hedgerow
- Holly Lodge Estate, Camden – a green screen to regenerate a neglected area by garages and bins
- Stockdove Way, Ealing – a new green corridor for wildlife and to absorb carbon emissions near busy roads.
- Regent's Park, Camden – a new boundary hedgerow by ZSL London Zoo.



Outcomes:

The programme led to the planting of 2,600 native British trees, providing green screens, hedgerows and wildlife corridors in communities across London.

Kate Mabbutt, Operations Leader for TCV in London commented: "It was fantastic to work with our partners Wates and support tree planting projects in boroughs across London. Planting trees benefits not just the environment and urban air quality, but also communities in some of the most



deprived areas of London, who use these green spaces. Without Wates' support, the tree planting would not have happened."

2019 Awards Ceremony:

The London Tree and Woodland Awards were presented at a ceremony hosted at City Hall on 10 July by Shirley Rodrigues, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy and Sir Harry Studholme, Chair of the Forestry Commission.



2019 Award Sponsors:

The awards were kindly sponsored by the following organisations:



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