

Volunteering at Bristol Wood Recycling Project



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What to expect if you volunteer here:

There are different tasks that are done by volunteers at the wood project. We keep things simple for the first few weeks, to give people a chance to get to know people, settle in and learn a little bit more about what we do here.

The first few weeks

- **Denailing and site work**

A good introduction to wood recycling, getting to know the other people here and the everyday routine of the site.

You will be cleaning up the wood once it has arrived on site. You can learn how we grade timber for re-use or recycling, what different types of timber there are and their uses. The more you learn about wood the better - knowing what is re-useable and what is not is important.

You might be asked to do a bit of sanding or occasionally angle grinding in your first few weeks if we are very busy doing customer orders, but we try to give you a couple of weeks here before we ask you to use power tools unless you already have experience.

- **Drivers mate**

Going out on collections to building sites, industrial estates, and people's houses. This involves helping load and unload the van, helping navigate around Bristol, helping the driver manoeuvre, and learning about health and safety in vehicles. It involves a lot of heavy lifting, but it is often interesting and fun.

Longer term volunteers

- **Angle grinding and sanding wood**

The most common request from customers is for wood to be cut to size and cleaned up.

We usually start you off sanding

If you are happy doing that, and can do it to a saleable standard we would then train you to use an angle grinder.

Once you are happy angle grinding and can produce stuff to a good standard we would get you cutting things to customer specifications.

- **Making things to customer orders**

After you have done shelving from beginning to end satisfactorily you can help make something more complex. Tables, benches, fireplace surrounds or other things that customers might request.

- **A bit of everything**

We try to make sure that everyone does a bit of everything. We all do denailing and collections, sweep up and wash up.

What is the working day?

9:00am sharp, until 5:00pm. If you can't get here for 9:00 it makes things very difficult for us.

We break for lunch at about 1pm. If you are doing a full day we will provide your lunch (at a maximum cost of £3.50)

We have breaks in the mid morning and afternoon at about 11 am and 3pm. We provide tea, coffee etc. - to be found in the kitchen.

When can I come in?

We try to only have 4 volunteers in at a time, to keep the site safe and make sure there's enough tools and work for everyone. If you want to come in please book yourself in on the planning board downstairs or phone in to check there is space. You can come in for a maximum of two days a week. They don't have to be regular days.

Health and safety

Workwear

Everybody on site must wear steel toe & midsole safety boots at all times. We have many pairs on site and should be able to accommodate your needs. If you can bring your own it would be useful!

Heavy-duty gloves are provided and must be worn when handling timber. Due to the nature of the work it is advisable to wear old, hard - wearing clothes.

Accidents

On your first visit to the site you will have been informed where the First Aid kit is located and the name of the certified First Aider on duty.

Power Tools

Only people who have completed the power tools induction sessions may use the tools.

Who will I be working with?

There are usually between **10** and **15** volunteers from all walks of life who work here over the course of a week.

There are **seven** Permanent Staff members at BWRP:

- Ben Moss (Managing Director)
- Hugh Salter (Driver)
- Lisa Oliver & Beth Yarsley (Site managers)
- Ella Furness (Workshop & volunteer manager)
- Nathalie Griffin & Maff Tucker (Admin & Finance Workers)

What next?

Give us a ring on **0117 972 3219**, and we'll arrange for you to visit us. We'll show you around and have a chat. If you are still interested you'll fill in a form and we'll arrange for you to come in for your first day at work.