

# GROUNDWORK LONDON IN ACTION 2018





# CREATING BETTER PLACES IN LONDON

Last year we worked with communities across London to create and improve close to 1.9 million square metres of public parks, playgrounds, housing estates, community gardens, nature reserves, roof gardens and many more of London's valuable public open spaces.

## Designing a greener, more resilient city

Our award winning Landscape Architects specialise in *water and climate sensitive urban design*, an integrated solution addressing the increasing frequency of urban flooding, heatwaves and high levels of pollution. Last year we completed a multi-award winning Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) scheme on three housing estates in Hammersmith and Fulham. The scheme demonstrates how affordable climate adaptation measures can be effectively retrofitted into social housing landscapes. [urbanclimateproofing.london](https://urbanclimateproofing.london)

In Earlsfield, we implemented a new cycle path incorporating SuDS, designed to reduce surface water run off entering and polluting the near by River Wandle.

## Harnessing the enthusiasm of our corporate partners

Groundwork is fast becoming the go-to community charity for environmental corporate volunteering in London. Last year over 800 employees from 56 companies helped improve 43 community spaces. From reclaiming urban woodland to creating wildlife ponds in schools, volunteers are guaranteed a fun filled action packed day, but also feel a real sense of achievement. Last year our corporate partners and their amazing employees contributed £105,000 worth of invaluable support to community projects in London.

## Growing communities

Last year we continued to deliver Edible Westminster, an urban food growing initiative, comprised of 13 thriving community gardens located in nurseries, children's centres, schools and on housing estates.

Over 400 children and adults came together to discover more about urban food growing and healthy eating and countless friendships have grown in and around the gardens.

*"It's brought people together who didn't know each other at all. That's what makes a neighbourhood. I've come to know the children and their families and now we talk about the garden and compare how our plants are doing."* Glastonbury Estate resident and gardener



## Enabling communities to take action

We manage a range of environmental and community grant schemes on behalf of national and regional partners. Through these schemes we're proud to be able to support thousands of Londoners every year to transform hundreds of open spaces.

Last year we awarded over £3 million to community groups in London, who used their grants to transform forgotten places, plant thousands of trees and to realise many more life changing projects across the capital.

In August 2017 the Mayor of London's Greener City Fund was launched, in support of London's campaign to be the first National Park City. Last year we awarded £1,490,000 to 85 new community tree planting and green space projects in the city. As a result 17,809 trees are being planted in the city, helping to reduce air pollution and surface water flooding, now and in years to come.

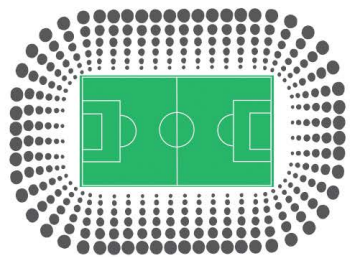
Groundwork continues to administer Tesco's Bags of Help community grants throughout the UK. Last year 635 projects in London were awarded close to £1.5 million, transforming open spaces and bringing communities together.

[Tesco.com/bagsofhelp](https://tesco.com/bagsofhelp)

1,867,114 m<sup>2</sup>  
**OF LAND**  
IMPROVED & MAINTAINED

THAT'S EQUIVALENT TO

**261**  
FOOTBALL  
PITCHES



**17,969**  
TREES PLANTED



REMOVING  
**4.78**  
TONNES OF  
AIR POLLUTION  
EACH YEAR



& ABSORBING  
**7.2 MILLION**  
LITRES OF  
STORM  
WATER  
EACH YEAR



# GREENER LIVING & WORKING IN LONDON

In London we're tackling fuel poverty and water stress head on with our Green Doctors and Thames Water Smarter Home visits. We support residents, community groups and businesses to save money, by using, and wasting less energy and water.

## Helping people keep well and save money

The latest Government research, published in 2017, has shown that 10% of London households are experiencing fuel poverty.\* Fuel poverty impacts heavily on the health and well-being of some of London's most vulnerable residents, including families with young children and the elderly.

Our **Green Doctors** visited over 3,300 households in London last year helping people to reduce their energy bills, improve their wellbeing and save energy. On average the households we visit save £350 a year. With the average annual shortfall that places a household into fuel poverty being £333, the Green Doctor service is effectively lifting thousands of households out of fuel poverty each and every year.

\*BEIS sub-regional fuel poverty England statistics (2015)  
published 28 June 2017.



## Getting smarter with water use

London's water supplies are being stretched further and further each day as the capital's population continues to grow. By 2050, if we keep using water as we are today, we'll need an extra 250 million litres a day. One of the solutions is for Londoners to use, and waste less water. That's where we come in. As part of the Thames Water Efficiency Programme our advisors visited tens of thousands of homes last year, giving residents free practical help to use less water.

Small changes have a huge impact. Last year alone we helped 70,000 residents and 2000 businesses save £14 million. For London, that's a much needed saving of 2.1 million litres of water, each day, every day.

WE HELPED LONDONERS  
**SAVE**  
**£15.2 MILLION**  
ON THEIR HOUSEHOLD BILLS



## Tackling food waste & promoting healthy eating

**Small Change, Big Difference** is a London wide campaign we're delivering in partnership with London Waste and Recycling Board and WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme). Together we're tackling food waste and promoting sustainable, healthy eating.

Last year we delivered workshops with over 3000 children and parents in schools and with community groups, resulting in over 1100 personal pledges to reduce food waste.

[smallchangebigdifference.london](http://smallchangebigdifference.london)

## Giving household goods a new lease of life

The community reuse hubs we set up in 2016 on the Pembury Estate and Graham Park Estate continue to thrive. At 'The Loops', as they're known, our teams oversee the collection of unwanted furniture and household appliances from resident's homes and fly-tipping hotspots on the estates. If possible they refurbish them and sell them on to residents, giving a new lease of life to hundreds of items that would otherwise have been destined for landfill.

All the money raised from sales is reinvested into the project, to buy workshop equipment and to provide free training to residents in reuse skills like furniture up-cycling and restoration.


At our **REWORK** workshop in Wandsworth, our trainees repair and refurbish unwanted white-goods and other electrical items. Instead of ending up as costly and polluting landfill waste, we deliver the refurbished goods to charity shops where they're sold at affordable prices. Last year our 10 trainees refurbished 4500 electrical items and we launched an eBay store, selling hundreds of refurbished items and parts online.

REWORK, together with our community reuse workshops 'The Loops' enabled us to divert a total of 314,788 kilograms of waste from landfill last year.

**315**  
**TONNES**  
OF HOUSEHOLD  
**GOODS**

**EQUIVALENT  
TO THE WEIGHT OF**  
**25** DOUBLE  
DECKER  
**BUSES**

**DIVERTED FROM  
LANDFILL SITES**





# IMPROVING PEOPLE'S PROSPECTS IN LONDON

We know that employment and the stability it brings is essential for healthy, prosperous communities and can transform lives. This is why we deliver an extensive portfolio of employment and skills programmes in the capital.

## Building skills, confidence & employability

We work with young people, people with disabilities and health conditions, refugees, and many other Londoners, helping them to grow in confidence, gain new skills and take that life changing step into work.

Last year we supported 529 adults and young people into education, training and work. Together they gained over 800 accredited qualifications, resulting in 40% of them having already found work, with a great many others in vocational training, working towards that goal.

Together with our partners in the ACE programme we're supporting people whose health or disability has prevented them from working in the previous two years. As well as supporting people into work, we work closely with employers, offering them support and advice, including grants that enable them to offer paid and supported six month work placements to our ACE candidates.

In Central London we're leading a partnership with Refugee Action helping newly arrived refugees to find work. The partnership offers a wide range of support, from helping people cope with past trauma to English language courses. Through this programme, hundreds of talented and capable people are finding work and settling into life in London with optimism and a greater sense of security.

## Supporting young people to achieve

Last year our Achievement Coaches worked with over 500 young people identified as being most at risk of exclusion or dropping out of school. The coach's support is tailored to the needs of each young person and their goals, whether that be to improve attendance, stay in school, get onto a training course or secure an apprenticeship.

Last year we began working with young people in Pupil Referral Units who are at risk of being involved in gang related activity, among other serious barriers to remaining in education or training. Our coaches spend up to 18 months in 1-2-1 mentoring sessions with each young person. This intensive programme of support helps build trust and respect between our coaches and the young people they work with.

It's a winning formula, with over 80% of the young people we worked with last year remaining in education or training.

## Training green skills

We continue to deliver our waged horticultural training programme, Green Teams. Our trainees gain experience and qualifications in horticulture and grounds maintenance during a 26 week accredited training programme. Last year 12 new Green Team trainees, successfully completed the course and are embarking on a new career.

## Promoting volunteering in London

Groundwork London is an NCVO accredited volunteer centre. Last year we delivered volunteering services in Barnet, Brent and Hounslow. We bring people together and support them to take local action, discover new interests, meet people, improve the quality of their lives and the lives of other Londoners.

We also work hard to develop and promote a variety of volunteering opportunities that directly help unemployed Londoners gain the experience and skills they need to move into employment. Last year we supported 2503 Londoners to begin volunteering in their communities.

WE DELIVERED & COACHED  
**120** **529** YOUNG PEOPLE  
WEEKS OF ACCREDITED TRAINING  
TO ACHIEVE IN TRAINING & EDUCATION





For more information about any of the work we do, please contact us:

[london@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:london@groundwork.org.uk) / 020 7278 1514

[groundwork.org.uk/london](http://groundwork.org.uk/london)

 [@GroundworkLON](https://twitter.com/GroundworkLON)

 [facebook.com/GroundworkLondon](https://facebook.com/GroundworkLondon)

 [@GroundworkLondon](https://www.instagram.com/GroundworkLondon)

 [linkedin.com/company/groundworklondon](https://linkedin.com/company/groundworklondon)



Groundwork London  
18-21 Morley Street,  
London, SE1 7QZ  
Company Registration No: 04212532  
Charity Registration No: 1121105