



## Connecting communities with the environment

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### Why does it matter?

Network Rail is the fourth biggest land owner in Great Britain. Our environmental strategy exists to ensure we are a responsible steward of the railway and that we work to minimise our negative environmental impact, inspiring communities and leading to protection and enhancement of lineside surroundings.

### Highly recommended activities

We recommend you engage local communities in environmental issues to collectively improve our impact on local surroundings, and email the Environment & Sustainable Development department to identify opportunities for collaboration in this area: [sustainabledevelopment@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:sustainabledevelopment@networkrail.co.uk).

### Suggested activities

Below are some suggested activities you could deliver to help connect communities with the environment.

- Speak to your IP Environment Manager or route Environment Specialist to see if they have existing programmes you are able to support.
- If you are removing vegetation as part of an IP project, contact your Environment Manager to discuss Net Positive opportunities for biodiversity in your area.
- Develop an eco-workplace project which could involve developing environmentally led concepts within the site or workplace, which could involve; cleaning up gardens or outside spaces, making a food or native flower growing area, arranging composting facilities, rainwater harvesting or improving recycling.
- Work with the route Community Rail Manager to participate in community station projects related to planting gardens and improving the local wildlife habitat. Contact Alexander Maltby for your Community Rail contact.
- Work with environmental partners, such as the Wildlife Trust or the Canal & River Trust, to improve the visual and habitual impact of your work. This may include restoring a pond, creating habitat or tidying up a local community garden.
- Develop a Green Travel Plan for your workplace to minimise environmental damage in getting people to work and day to day operations. This could involve providing public transport packs for staff, promoting efficient vehicle use (including consideration of pool vehicles) and consider bike and walking routes if available.
- Work with environmentally-led education providers to deliver early engagement activities.



## How do you measure success?

Implement and monitor activity that results in communities improving the environment around the railways.

## Key performance indicators

- % of staff completing Network Rail’s environmental competency training
- Number of volunteering days focused on ‘connecting communities to the environment’
- Assessment of benefits on projects completed with environmentally led charities e.g. number of trees planted or bio-diversity units delivered
- Number of project complaints related to environmental matters.