



**TREE
STATION**

Making Wood Work

A Social Enterprise in Arboriculture,
Woodland Management, Biomass
Fuels and Timber.

Community Benefit Policy

Version control and board approval					
Rev	Date	Changes	Prepared by	Approved by	Signature
1.0	02/04/14	n/a	P. Morrello	P.Benn, <i>on behalf of the board</i>	
1.1	20/01/16	n/a	H. Fletcher	P.Benn, <i>on behalf of the board</i>	
1.2	01/02/17	Formatting. No content changes.	H. Birch	P.Benn, <i>on behalf of the board</i>	

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1. Context

The community benefits are delivered as part of the TreeStation's wider ethical approach/values, described in our [ethical policy](#). In short, we believe in a fair and just society rooted in equality, integrity and solidarity and we seek to bring clear benefits to various scales of communities.

Our business model is based on empowerment, co-operation, mutual help and positive impact for the local or wider community. Co-operatives, not-for-profits and social enterprises have been shown to bring social and economic benefit to local communities. As the TreeStation is not-for-profit, any financial surplus will be re-invested in the TreeStation or will be used to support other projects for the benefit of the community.

The TreeStation is a not-for-profit Social Enterprise constituted as a Society for the Benefit of the Community (BenCom). BenComs are a form of Industrial and Provident Society (IPS), and are a type of co-operative enterprise. We are managed by an elected [Board of Directors](#) and owned by our community shareholders. Our members (shareholders) are our supporters, customers, employees and directors. They collectively own and control the TreeStation and have the right to elect the Board, to stand for election as Directors and to receive the annual accounts, making it a democratic and accountable organisation. All members have one vote, regardless of the number of shares they hold.

The TreeStation seeks to benefit the community, namely:

- The community of people and all other life on Earth,
- The community of people in Greater Manchester,
- The community of people in Gorton.

2. Global scale: people and other life on Earth

We seek to benefit the people and other life on Earth by:

- Delivering our main mission which is to mitigate climate change by producing low carbon fuels and timber from renewable local resources that replace the use of fossil fuels. A reduction of global warming and climate change is of benefit to all life on Earth.
- By diverting wood from landfill, we contribute to a reduction in methane emissions, methane being a potent greenhouse gas.
- By demonstrating a co-operative and ethical way of doing business and by publicising it, we intend that our example will lead to imitation and thus benefit people generally.

3. Medium scale: Greater Manchester

We seek to benefit the people of Greater Manchester by:

Availability of ethical products

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- Providing ready access to locally sourced and produced firewood
- Providing local hardwood and softwood timber made from Manchester trees
- Providing quality biomass woodchip, made partly from local arboricultural arisings and partly from trees responsibly harvested almost all from within 50 miles of the city centre
- Providing other useful and/or beautiful tree products, such as woodchip for mulch or compost, chainsaw sculptures, sleepers, fencing, and playground equipment

Local economy

- Providing gainful employment with our Gorton based business, paying no less than the living wage
- Working with local authorities and housing associations to alleviate fuel poverty
- Providing a cost-effective disposal service to local tree work contractors, helping their businesses function more safely and efficiently, and making best use of the arisings they generate
- Supporting local wood-based enterprises, such as start-up joiners and edible fungi cultivation, via resource sharing

Education

- Encouraging people to adopt lower carbon lifestyles by offering visits to our site to training and community projects, thus showing participants what is possible
- Hosting or taking part in public events raising the profile and understanding of sustainability in Greater Manchester

Cooperation with other projects

- Collaborating on an ongoing basis with various projects working towards positive social change, such as food growing/educational projects, recycling initiatives, community centres and mental health art charities. We aim to expand this type of mutual assistance in the future to increase our positive impact. Where we can, we help those with the resources that are available to us (e.g. supplying them with reduced cost woodchip, logs, planks)
- Supporting ethical, local businesses and non commercial projects, by trading preferentially with them or sharing equipment/resources
- Working to ensure the longevity of traditional wood industries, enhancing the sustainable management of UK woodlands and supporting emerging new technologies that are environmentally beneficial
- Where the TreeStation financial situation allows, we will invest, lend or donate the financial surpluses to projects or initiatives promoting values similar to ours. We also support such projects in non-financial ways.

4. Local scale: Gorton

We seek to benefit the people of Gorton by:

- Engaging with local community projects to see in what ways we can add value
- Planting trees or providing wooden planters in the local area
- Offering the opportunity for local schools and other youth groups to visit our yard and learn about carbon reduction
- Providing gainful employment to local people, paying no less than the living wage

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- Encouraging the installation of biomass boilers so people can benefit from the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) and providing reduced cost fuel to community projects.

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