



## RECYCLING: Shining a light on our year-round successes

As a [responsible](#) business, recycling is fundamental to our commitment to improving the environment and as we mark [Global Recycling Day](#) (18 March) we want to shine a light on all of the initiatives we have in place that ensure we're playing our part in preserving resources for the future of the planet.

During 2021, we successfully recycled a huge 96.5% of our waste nationally – a figure which excludes recovery and incineration – representing our highest recycling % achieved to date. This accomplishment is the result of several successful recycling practises embedded in our business nationwide.

For example, our Waste Strategy outlines recommendations for all developments to segregate wood, plasterboard, and inert materials for recycling where possible. Plasterboard waste is returned to British Gypsum for recycling or reuse, whilst inert is often used in the make-up of the roads we construct. For timber, we work with social enterprise Community Wood Recycling who collect and remove surplus material for either resale or repurposing. In 2021 alone, this successful partnership saw 102.5 tonnes of wood rescued from landfill, saving 51 tonnes of CO2 emissions.

Taking our recycling commitment one step further, we recently collaborated with specialists Thermal Recycling to safely package and convert asbestos waste found at one of our developments into a safe and reusable cement substitute. This proved to be very effective and is something we will continue to implement in future schemes where relevant.

Aside from direct construction waste, there are also a number of other effective recycling practices that we have implemented. Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), is securely collected from our sites and offices for recycling/reuse by ICT Reverse Asset Management, whilst Bull Products, providers of fire extinguishers and fire alarms, collect our equipment at the end of each project for refurbishment and reuse. We have also recently signed up to Pallet Loop, a reuse scheme that collects used pallets, repairs any minor damage, and recycles them, moving from a linear to a circular economy.

Gemma Tovey, Sustainability Lead at Lovell, emphasises why recycling is so important: "In order to protect the environment and meet our net zero objectives, recycling is something that we must constantly do, and do more of, throughout every day of the year.

"Global Recycling Day provides us with the perfect opportunity to take stock and look at what our business has achieved in terms of waste reduction, as well as identifying new areas where we may be able to improve. One of our five corporate commitments is improving the environment and recycling plays an important role within that. Our successful recycling processes are supporting us to meet our sustainability objectives and we are pleased with the impressive results achieved so far."

Each Lovell region takes its commitment to recycling very seriously and has made a major contribution to our results. In addition to the initiatives adopted at national level, Tammy Pritchard, Business Systems Coordinator in [East Anglia](#), explains some of the extra processes put in place in her region. "Our teams across East Anglia are dedicated to recycling, and endeavour to repurpose and

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reuse everything they can. As a result, last year our region achieved a diversion rate of 99.643% of construction waste from landfill.

“To achieve this, as well as adopting the waste recycling initiatives put in place by our national sustainability team, we also use a company called Waste Transfer Stations to further separate our mixed waste ensuring we avoid sending anything possible to landfill.

“We are keen to ensure every inch of material and equipment we have is used and wherever practical we transfer surplus or leftover materials to new sites alongside equipment such as PAVES barriers and mats.

“Recycling is even a consideration when it comes to the construction methods used at our developments. At our [Nar Valley Park](#) development in Norfolk, site levels were designed to avoid muckaway so that we could utilise the excavated soil at another Lovell site under the Environmental Agency Material Movement Plan.”