Impact Report





Harnessing the power of trees to absorb greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to the impacts of climate change and support the mental health of the next generation is incredibly important. That's why we're taking action by planting a tree for every new and existing OVO member and raising awareness about their importance. The more we learn about nature and enjoy being in it, the more likely we are to take action to protect our planet."

Becky Heaton
Director of Sustainability at OVO



Partnership overview

Our partnership with OVO Energy began in September 2020 with their commitment to plant a tree for each of their members. 500,000 of these would be planted via the Woodland Trust's school and community tree pack scheme.

Free tree packs contain a mix of native broadleaf species, such as hazel, rowan, hawthorn, common oak and silver birch, that have been sourced and grown in the UK and Ireland.

Since 2004 the scheme has helped thousands of groups plant millions of trees. In spring 2021 alone, over 400,000 free trees were sent to keen planters across the country.



Summary of partnership achievements

Trees are essential for people and wildlife. Each tree creates an additional environmental benefit by absorbing carbon from the atmosphere as it grows and providing vital food and shelter for wildlife. They clean our air, prevent flooding and enhance our surroundings to make us healthier and happier. From a single garden tree to a whole wood, every tree makes a difference.

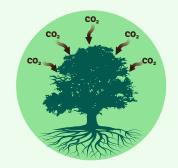
In our first year of the partnership we achieved:

- 500,000 trees planted through tree packs that's the equivalent of planting all of London's Richmond Park.
- a potential mitigation of 117,000 tonnes of carbon.
- 312.5 hectares of woodland created, which could support 568 pairs of breeding robins or 15-26 breeding pairs of tawny owls.

Woodland Trust tree pack scheme overview



1,093,050 native trees applied for in Autumn 2020 and Spring 2021.



255,983 tonnes CO₂ potentially mitigated from the 1,093,050 trees.



683 hectares
of woodland could
support 1,242 pairs of
breeding robins.



2,839 community groups engaged



2,854 schools engaged



240,680 people planting trees

Autumn 2020

Tree numbers by region table

North	136,395
Midlands	92,280
South East	196,875
South West	77,175
Scotland	67,905
Wales	38,505
Northern Ireland	16,860
Isle of Wight	1,065



Spring 2021

Tree numbers by region table

North	107,655
Midlands	77,160
South East	131,715
South West	64,650
Scotland	56,310
Wales	26,985
Isle of Wight	1,410
Isle of Scilly	105



Species mix planted in 2020-2021



7.9% 86,025



104,217 blackthorn crab apples



6.5% 71,142 dog rose



5.5% 60,017 dogwood



39,000 downy birch field maple



16,620



2.4% 26,340



2.1% 22,450 goat willow grey willow



142,677 hawthorn



15.8% 172,242 hazel



4.6% 50,220 common oak



15.1% 164,995 rowan



102,850 silver birch



34,255 wild cherry

1,093,050 trees planted

Taking the classroom outdoors

Dwight School London

Dwight School London's 'Tree Twinning Project' was awarded a certificate of innovation from the Mayor and Deputy of Barnet.

The school successfully applied for a Woodland Trust wildlife sapling pack of a variety of 2,000 saplings for its unique project with schools in Nepal. Each tree planted in Barnet, London will be reciprocated and planted in Nepal by Nepalese students.



Amita Sen, Head of Personalised Learning, said that students are getting the opportunity to tangibly participate in making a change to support the climate change agenda by "acting locally and thinking globally with the support of the Woodland Trust's donation of trees".





Kaizen Primary School

Kaizen Primary School in London successfully applied for tree packs from the Woodland Trust as part of their forest school learning.

As a school we are very grateful for the trees received from the Woodland Trust. We are using them to create a natural barrier between our school and the college next door. We will also use them to extend our foraging opportunities in our forest school. The children are really excited about being part of the whole process. Thank you so much."

Forest School Teacher at Kaizen





East Bierley Primary School

Pupils from East Bierley Primary School were delighted to plant trees with members of their local Preservation Society.

Being part of this venture helps our children learn more about their responsibilities within our community and feel a true part of it. The children enjoyed working together with the Preservation Society to plant the trees and develop a greater understanding of the difference trees make both environmentally and to our wellbeing. We planted a range of trees including silver birch, hawthorn and rowan trees and the children were able to discuss the trees planted. I know the children talked about the planting afterwards, proud of their involvement and pointing them out to parents. The fact that we were able to be part of the project, and right on our doorstep, also means we can continue our learning for many years to come learning about the trees and the wildlife they attract. This impacts on our science and art learning and is an area we can enjoy when doing our local geographical studies too."





Thank you

Ovo Energy have made a huge commitment for our planet. Each of the 500,000 trees that are planted by children and community groups alike will help us address our low tree cover UK-wide. But that's not all -OVO have the determination and energy to drive positive change through inspiring their customers and policy makers to recognise the true potential of our wood and trees."

Pip Greensmith Head of Partnerships at the Woodland Trust

