

COMMUNITY BENEFITS SUPPORTING SOCIAL IMPACT



PALLET BY DESIGN - CASE STUDY

What Can You Do With Waste Pallets?

When a new lighting contract for Fife Council meant delivery was made on wooden pallets the Procurement Team engaged the assistance of Economic Development to identify an innovative solution to avoid the pallets going to landfill.

Fife Council are aware of the impact their policies have on residents, local businesses and the environment and when a replacement lighting programme was recently procured, it was identified that there was going to be an unexpected surplus of wooden pallets. As the Procurement Team were working in partnership with a number of services across the council on how to implement community benefits within council contracts – it was suggested that this would be an ideal time to put this to the test – Pallets By Design was borne!

By including community benefit clauses, Light and Energy Distribution Limited (who won the new lighting contract) were able to gift pallets to 8 secondary schools in Fife and through collaborative working the Economic Development and Education teams created an enterprising project which saw second year pupils being challenged to design and create an item made primarily from wooden pallets. The Roads & Transportation teams in Fife Council supported the delivery of the programme so pupils could develop their communication and team working skills as they created a product they believed would be desirable for their chosen market. One team per class brought their product to a showcase event to pitch to a panel of expert judges.

Community Benefits Clauses are essentially clauses within contracts requiring preferred tenderers to commit to undertaking some form of social impact as part of winning that contract. Light and Energy Distribution not only committed to gifting the pallets to the participating schools but UK Lighting Manager, Barry Morrison, also joined the judging panel and gifted prizes to the winning schools. Barry commented: "The pallets are a side effect for our business but seeing how the pupils have taken them and created innovative products has been amazing. They have researched their potential customer base and built a product to meet those needs, something that is at the core of our business."



"Community Benefits can strengthen any tender bid and it needn't cost a lot. As we have seen here with Pallets by Design, something that is relatively low cost for a business to deliver and support has had a high value to pupils and teachers."
- Billie Mitchell, Corporate Procurement Officer, Fife Council



The judging panel was also represented by Jim Auchterlonie, Lecturer in Carpentry and Joinery, as well as a Master Craftsman. Jim was enthused by the creativity of the pupils and said: "here we have our crafts people of the future and they have shown great skill in creating their products. Projects like Pallets by Design helps young people to contextualise what they learn in schools with the world of work and we hope we can support them reach their future goals with further study at Fife College."

At the core of projects like Pallets by Design is linking industry to education and developing enterprise skills in young people. Pamela Stevenson, Lead Officer in Economic Development said: "No matter what aspirations a young person has, developing enterprising skills and behaviours is vital. Projects like Pallets by Design contextualise learning as well as engage businesses with young people. They get to learn first-hand from businesses and have an opportunity to widen their future goals. We strive to create engaging projects for young people that support the outcomes of Developing the Young Workforce, Scotland's youth employment strategy."