

## CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING CASE STUDY

### From Cash Flow to River Flow -

### Grundfos' international finance team proves the best investment is in nature.



Grundfos are a global leader in advanced pump solutions and water technologies. The company is committed to meeting the world's water and energy climate challenges through innovation - moving and transforming water via intelligent, sustainable and energy-efficient solutions for use in buildings, industry and utilities.



During World Water Week (24-28 August), the international finance team from Grundfos swapped Excel for the environment. Partnering with the Wear Rivers Trust, employees from across the world took part in a bespoke corporate volunteering programme designed to combine team building with meaningful community impact.

Grundfos believe in giving back to the community, so all employees have three days paid time per year to do volunteer work. They can choose to do good within water, climate or people as these are matters closely aligned with the heart of the company, being directly related to their purpose as well as the focus of the Grundfos Foundation. These values matched those of the Trust in encouraging conservation and increasing awareness of our landscape and waterways.



The volunteering focused on tackling riverbank erosion along Hetton Burn, a tributary of the River Wear. Using natural, sustainable materials such as logs, willow and coir, the team worked alongside the Trust to build 'green-engineered' revetments to stabilise riverbanks, reduce erosion and allow plants and wildlife to regenerate in a healthier, more resilient environment. The volunteers also learnt about Riverfly monitoring by studying aquatic invertebrates – giving them insight into the river's water quality and delicate ecosystem, and equipping them with the knowledge to spot early signs of pollution, so action can be

taken quickly to protect the river and its wildlife.

*"We had a great time volunteering with the Wear Rivers Trust. The event was really well organised. The employees were knowledgeable and engaging. The tasks were hands-on and fun. All of the volunteers came away happy. I would thoroughly recommend getting in touch with the SVSA to see what volunteering activities are out there."* Grahame Moore, Finance Business Partner, Grundfos UK





The WRT protects, improves and helps manage the land and waterways of the Wear catchment, improving the environment of urban and rural communities, and using nature based solutions to problems like pollution, flooding and habitat loss.

Hosting the Grundfos team wasn't just about another day's work. It showcased the power of skilled and purposeful corporate volunteering, where companies align their mission and values with community activity and step beyond financial donations to actively engage in solutions to local issues on their doorstep.

The benefits of the day: increased awareness of the environment and the charity, stronger ecosystems, environmental work completed, and employees who returned to work with renewed energy, perspective and pride.



*“Working with Marie at SVSA has been a brilliant experience. It was great to have contact from Marie at each stage of the planning for the day. To be able to talk through supporting corporate businesses to reach their ESG/CSR goals and finding out about what else is on offer in our region has been a real knowledge gaining exercise. It was a fantastic opportunity for us to share our messages with a global team from Grundfos.”* Karen Stewart, Development Manager, WRT

Watch the video: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1GoR5oFEgo/>.

This collaboration was facilitated by Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance. Marie Wisson, Community & Corporate Volunteering Coordinator said: *“This relationship demonstrated how corporate volunteering can deliver actual change – improving habitats, deepening awareness of environmental issues and forging relationships between the private and third sector. The fact that it took place during World Water Week made it even more powerful, connecting local action to the company's global mission.”*

NO OF CORPORATE VOLUNTEERS	TOTAL NO OF HRS	SOCIAL VALUE (VOLUNTEERING) £	SOCIAL VALUE (MONETARY) £	TOTAL SOCIAL VALUE £
14	56	948.08	2,103.06	3,051.14

**SVSA** connects companies with local organisations to build meaningful partnerships that create mutual benefit and maximise social value. Find out how we can work together, contact us at: [volunteer@sunderlandvsa.co.uk](mailto:volunteer@sunderlandvsa.co.uk).

**Grundfos** - innovative water technologies in Sunderland for more than 50 years: <https://www.grundfos.com/uk>.

**The Wear Rivers Trust** welcomes new volunteers: <https://wear-rivers-trust.org.uk/home-v1>

**World Water Week** aims to develop solutions to the world's greatest water-related challenges, from food security and technology to biodiversity and climate crisis: <https://www.worldwaterweek.org/>.