



Novus sows the seeds for environmental action through Build Back Better initiative

Novus Property Solutions has announced the second winner of its Build Back Better challenge as South West England charity, Moor Trees, which is dedicated to recreating native woodland across Devon and Dartmoor.

The leading national build and maintenance contractor, which launched its Build Back Better challenge in early 2021, is set to fund the planting of hundreds of trees across the region – which will offset hundreds of tons of carbon emissions.

One of Novus' offices is in South Brent, Dartmoor, which is near the location of one of Moor Trees' nurseries used to grow trees before replanting them in woodlands across the region.

The contractor places emphasis on giving back to the communities in which it works and offers colleagues one volunteering day per year to help to fulfil this. This company-wide scheme means that as well as donating hundreds of trees, on 12 July a team of seven Novus volunteers from across the business – as well as two volunteers from the company's valued partner, The Guinness Partnership, housing association – supported Moor Trees by helping to maintain and nurture the saplings at the nursery ready to be planted later in the year.

Novus has estimated that the number of trees planted, through the joint investment by Novus and Guinness, will ultimately offset the carbon emissions generated by its Devon operation through energy, vehicle use and general waste.

This project aligns with Novus' ongoing dedication to reducing its impact on the planet, including announcing its eight ambitious environmental commitments and transforming its Bathgate office into a flagship 'green office'. The contractor has committed to taking further steps to protect the environment through its Build Back Better initiative, which includes working with local communities to promote positive environmental action.

Novus Property Solutions' social value and CSR partner, Kevin Rhone, said: "Congratulations to Moor Trees for winning Novus' latest Build Back Better challenge. The charity does a fantastic job at recreating native woodland across Devon and Dartmoor – which is sadly becoming an increasingly rare sight – through growing trees from locally collected seeds and planting them with the help of volunteers.

"Taking positive steps for the environment is a key commitment for Novus and although we're proud to have recorded a year-on-year reduction in CO2 emissions since 2015, we recognise that simply reducing emissions is not enough: they need to be stopped completely. As we work towards this goal as a business, we're delighted to be able to support Moor Trees, along with The Guinness Partnership, through both funding and helping to nurture saplings.

Adam Owen, director at Moor Trees, commented: "We're delighted that the team from Novus Property Solutions and The Guinness Partnership had a great day helping to make improvements to our tree nursery, ensuring we're able to grow thousands of trees for the future. It is wonderful to be supported by both organisations, and their generous contribution enables us to continue our vision for a wilder, more natural Dartmoor with native woodland and restored moorland habitats managed by semi-natural grazing as well as by local farmers and communities – for nature, for our planet, and for people."

Alistair Smyth, director of external affairs & social investment at The Guinness Partnership, said: "We're pleased to be able to support Moor Trees, which reinforces our commitment to sustainability, and supports our aim of creating inclusive communities."

Chris Coldrick, volunteer and Guinness Partnership staff member, added: "The volunteer day at Moor Trees, was hard work, but very enjoyable and rewarding. This project will have a significant positive impact for local residents and on the environment."

For more information about Novus Property Solutions and Build Back Better please visit <https://www.novussolutions.co.uk/>.