

Birch Airfield Composting Services Ltd. is contracted by Essex County Council to deliver Bio-Waste Treatment, Transfer and Transportation, from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2028. Based near Colchester, the delivery of this service contract is supported by over 75% of their employees being Essex residents.

At tendering stage, Birch Airfield Services Ltd. committed to a range of Social Value measures including:

- Employing local people
- Employing people with a disability
- Training opportunities (entry level training)
- Local spend
- Spend with local SMEs
- Savings in CO2e emissions
- Donations or in-kind contributions for local community projects
- Volunteering time in the local community

In order to define their Social Value ambitions, Birch Airfield Composting Services Ltd. considered what they were already doing as an organisation and then building on this in order to deliver additional Social Value on the contract.

Their Social Value delivery includes presentations to community groups about matters such as the composting process, as well as circulating the positive local recycling story that embodies what is done by the organisation: recycling Essex's waste and selling it back to the people of Essex.

The greatest local Social Value impact to date for the organisation has been achieved through their support to St Helena Hospice in Colchester, Essex. Birch Airfield Composting Services Ltd. accepts Christmas trees collected by St Helena Hospice every year, free of charge. In January 2022, over 2,300 trees were delivered to the organisation's compost site. This contributed to the creation of £28,500 in donations for St Helena Hospice, as well as gift aid. The organisation aims to continue this service for the rest of their contract with ECC, and this could potentially raise around £142,500 over 5 years for St Helena Hospice. Birch Airfield Composting Services Ltd. are also immensely proud of their continued use of local companies and their continued development of familiar relationships and support of local enterprises.

And the organisation has begun to consider how they can achieve even more Social Value in future; they are currently exploring potential community and special-interest group tours of the site, for example, to encourage more people to compost, recycle and separate their waste.