

Frimley, UK  
22 August 2013

## Siemens volunteers get green fingers to improve the environment

Siemens employees in Newcastle joined forces with other volunteers at Groundwork North East and Cumbria to support a local community project at Gateshead Central Nursery in Lobley Hill.

Groundwork North East helps people and organisations make changes in order to create better neighbourhoods, to build skills and job prospects, and to live and work in a greener way. Operating across the North East and working on hundreds of individual projects each year, Groundwork North East focuses its activity on disadvantaged communities where we can make the most difference.

For the 10 Siemens volunteers, the day-long Gateshead project involved help in weeding, gardening and cleaning up an area which had become very overgrown. The project will help enhance the local environment bringing benefits to the local community and other visitors to the area.

Siemens has worked with Ground Work North East previously and is regarded as a valuable and reliable volunteering resource, whose teams add real value to a project. Geoff Dawson Land Enterprise manager for Ground Work North East said:

“I've worked with Siemens before on a number of these CSR [Corporate Social Responsibility] days and I'm always impressed by their attitude and willingness to get stuck in. They organise themselves really well and always achieve what they set out to do with a smile on their faces. A great team and always a pleasure to have them supporting Groundwork projects.”

“We had a great day working with the team from Siemens, who were as usual amazing and achieved so much. They worked tirelessly in the heat and everyone chipped in on the tasks. Because of their help many people in the local area will benefit. I’d like to extend a huge thanks to all those who contributed to a fantastic day.”

Mark Armstrong, general manager of Siemens Energy Service Training Centre, who participated in the event said:

“We are delighted that our team’s efforts have contributed to the success of this local project. Siemens has a long tradition of community engagement and this latest project fits well with our CSR focus and values. We deployed our varied skills to get the job done working alongside colleagues from other areas of the business - making it a great team building exercise. Our volunteers had great fun engaging in the project and supporting each other and volunteers in other participating companies.”

Siemens has a strong tradition and commitment to CSR in the North East and nationally. The Newcastle based Energy Service business also has a long standing partnership with Business in the Community (BITC), who co-ordinate local community projects and promote responsible business practice. For the past 4 years Siemens Energy Service has worked with BITC on a range of projects from tidying up gardens to decorating public areas. Employees are always keen to help and get involved with new initiatives.

-ENDS-

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