



Finalist's case study



University of Nottingham Enterprise Enactus Nottingham



Profile

- 160 students
- 10 projects
- £43,000 revenue
- Local & international

About the project

Summary

Social enterprise is a sustainable solution to a variety of complex problems, and on top of the primary benefit that it is set up to tackle it will often offer employment and volunteering opportunities. Enactus Nottingham unites 160 students of different ages and backgrounds to work together to pro-actively solve tough and often over-looked issues through the creation of social enterprise. These social enterprises are set up to tackle a specific issue, and run with the goal of handing over to run even after our student volunteers have left the business. Primary examples of this are Think for the Future - who recently received global recognition, and Empower Malawi – now ran by Malawian entrepreneurs.

Project partners

We partner with organisations, normally charities or social enterprises, who have knowledge specific to the problem we are trying to tackle. For example: Re-covered Furniture Enterprise Ltd. partnered with The Friary Drop-in Centre (<http://the-friary.org.uk/>), whom works closely with the demographics Re-covered wants to help: the Homeless, Refugees, the Unemployed, or future Social Housing Tenants. They provide us with valuable insight & experience, taking two positions on the project's board of directors and helping us with our original needs assessment. CodeX has partnered with Autism East Midlands, Bottle By Bottle partnered with Himalayan Climate Initiative, Live to Love, and Architects Without Borders (ASF) Nepal.

The results

The problem

A variety of issues are tackled by this project from the large amount of re-usable furniture wasted in Nottingham and consequent greenhouse gas emission, to 1in5 children in UK schools knowing English only as a second language, or the lack of affordable and safe housing in Nepal.

The approach

Students use their spare time and ingenuity to create social enterprises to sustainably solve issues worldwide. Enactus teaches them to effectively tackle a consumer and social need, gaining them valuable leadership & work experience & instilling in them socially minded values. The social enterprises become self-sustaining



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through the revenue streams built into their model, yet due to the use of volunteers this doesn't become an issue even when undertaking charitable work for incredibly low prices.

Our goals

To create self-sustaining solutions to difficult issues, such as homelessness or the lack of affordable food sources, via the medium of social enterprise. In doing so we wish to instill the young minds of the future with the skills, knowledge and passion to continue solving world problems far in the future.

Obstacles and solutions

Furniture Waste & a lack of affordable furniture.	Re-covered collects waste furniture & re-purposes it, selling it to the general public at market prices to subsidise furniture for those in need, often selling it at lower than cost-price and saving them huge amounts of money; a total of over £20,000 in the last financial year. At the same time, this saves the council money by offering an alternative to their free bulky waste collection service and has the added benefit of re-using furniture and reducing the amount of CO2 emitted.
1/5 children in UK schools do not have English as a 1 st language	Lantern employs university students to teach English in UK primary schools, this teaching is geared towards students who are currently at a disadvantage due to their lack of English fluency.
Wasted plastic bottles & unaffordable housing in Nepal	Bottle by Bottle creates affordable housing from waste plastic bottles. These houses are completely safe and earthquake proof, and will go a long way in helping the people who have lost their homes due to natural disasters such as the 2015 Gorkha earthquake.

Performance and results

Over the last year Re-covered has saved 13 tonnes of CO2 & positively impacted 90 families in the previous financial year alongside saving them £20,000 via providing an affordable furniture source. Lantern is currently teaching approximately 30 students, whilst providing 5 university students employment and an opportunity to give back to the community whilst gaining experience.

CO2 savings

[If applicable, please insert your CO2 savings. Delete if not applicable. *Overall tonnes of CO2 saved using the DEFRA/DECC conversion factors. <http://www.ukconversionfactorscarbonsmart.co.uk/>. **if your initiative does not have any carbon savings please leave this area blank. If your initiative is a long-term project then please state over how many years.]

Please record the annual carbon savings* you have/will achieve with your initiative**.	
CO2t savings 2016/2017:	13 tonnes estimated (State if Actual or Estimated)
CO2t savings 2017/2018:	20 tonnes (Estimated)
CO2t savings over the life cycle of the project:	21 (actual, since Feb 2015 –Re-covered)



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The future

Lessons learned

Social enterprise is evidence that business can be a powerful force for good, and that when the values of social enterprise are taught to students it can create a lasting impact.

Top 3 learnings from implementing your project

Don't put others down & always offer positive advice

Often people only need a small push to help themselves out of a difficult situation

Never underestimating the value of a powerful vision or goal

Sharing your project

We presented our project in The House of Lords and to large corporations such as Barclays and Enterprise Rent-a-car in 2016. They gave us valuable feedback and links which we have used to grow our enterprises.

What has it meant to your institution to be a Green Gown Award finalist?

It's taken a lot of sacrifice to get this far and it is incredible to gain recognition for the work our volunteers have done. Any and all publicity, advice and help is appreciated and all goes towards furthering a good cause.

Further information

Website: <http://www.enactusnottingham.org>

Social Media: <https://www.facebook.com/EnactusNottingham/>, <https://twitter.com/enactusnotts>,
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