

Community RePaint East London at the Forest Recycling Project.

Bringing colour to the community.

Community RePaint at Forest Recycling Project (FRP) in East London is one of the longest running and largest Community RePaint schemes in the UK.

Diverting paint from waste streams

One key aim of Community RePaint is to collect reusable, leftover paint and redistribute it to individuals, families, communities and charities in need. This also diverts leftover paint from the waste stream.

FRP collects large quantities of paint from its local council run recycling centres where it has been dropped off by local residents. FRP also collects leftover or end of line stock paint from local decorators, retailers and other companies.

Brightening homes and spaces

The network aims to allow everyone in the community the opportunity to brighten their spaces and lives. The 40,000 litres of paint collected and redistributed by FRP each year allows at least 25,000 individuals to brighten their homes at affordable prices, especially beneficial for those living on low incomes.

Colouring the community

Every year the scheme helps over 180 community groups to brighten their spaces using affordable paint. For example, a Hackney Community Grant allowed GoodGym to team up with FRP to provide paint for six local renovation projects in the community.

“I knew I needed to paint my house, but I was on benefits. You know when something is not looking nice, but after painting it you get that sense of ‘wow, it’s lovely’.”

Victoria, a local resident



Supporting artists

The scheme contributed to the creation of nine local murals through the Colour the Capital project. Run in collaboration with Global Street Art and funded by The People's Millions, the project has left a vibrant and lasting legacy in the community which has been welcomed by local residents and inspired other local street artists in the area.

Volunteering opportunities

Run by four full time staff members, the scheme also has a fantastic team of volunteers. These volunteer opportunities have helped a number of people get back into work, providing valuable skills and experience.

Community RePaint is a network of over 70 third sector organisations nationwide, who together redistributed over 330,000 litres of leftover paint in 2016.

A mural at FRP created using leftover paint.

“I was unemployed, and the Job Centre asked me if I wanted to volunteer because I was a painter before. It gives me lots of confidence, it's built my confidence up a lot.”

Peter, an FRP volunteer



Contact Forest Recycling Project and the Community RePaint Network



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