

How Volker Wessels UK used the Thrive Platform to monitor their sustainability framework

[VolkerWessels UK](#) is a leading multidisciplinary contractor that delivers innovative engineering solutions across the civil engineering and construction sectors including rail, highways, airport, marine, energy, water, and environmental infrastructure.

This case study explains how VolkerWessels UK created a fully integrated CSR/sustainability approach and uses the [Thrive platform](#) to capture its true impacts.

Sustainability

VolkerWessels UK have a wide-reaching community investment, environmental and social impact strategy and are leading the way for contractors, by combining their existing CSR strategies and newer social value activities into an overall sustainability framework – called [People–Planet–Purpose](#). It takes bold action to balance the needs of the environment and society alongside the growth of the business and makes the commitment that 2020–2030 will be the ‘Decade of Action’ for VolkerWessels UK.



How did they integrate this into their daily business?

Each of the People–Planet–Purpose pillars has three ‘themes’ and a total of 23 high-level metrics, which allow them to measure and monitor performance. But this needs to be tracked for it to work.

In the past, VolkerWessels UK had used a mixture of online tools, spreadsheets, and emails to log and track the work they were doing around CSR and sustainability. However due to the size of the business and the complexity of the various components, they struggled with cohesion and some of the work they were doing was being underreported or worse, not demonstrated at all. So, there needed to be a centralised hub to make sure they could deliver on this plan.

Using the Thrive platform to solve this problem

VolkerWessels UK teamed up with [Thrive](#) to establish a centralized in-house portal to keep things simple and streamlined and all in one place. Emma Ward is Head of Sustainability and Inclusion at VolkerWessels UK and she explains how Thrive is key to the delivery and measurement of the success of their People–Planet–Purpose Sustainability framework.



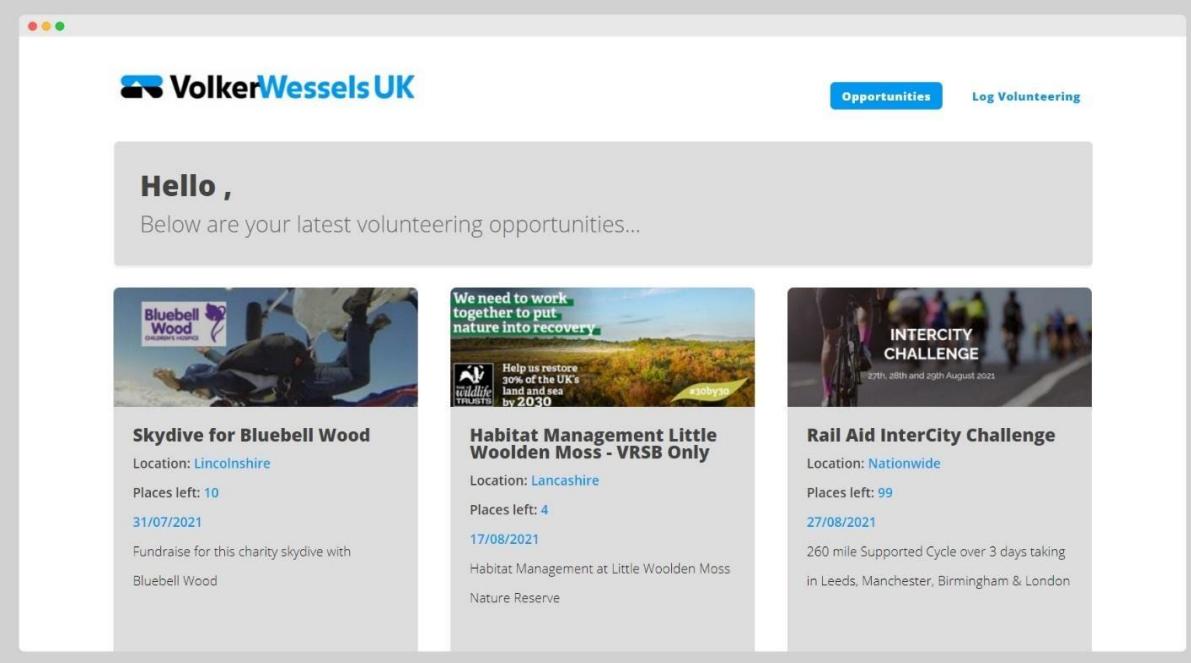
“Thrive’s software meant we could overcome data collection bottlenecks, by engaging with employees across the whole business. The reporting features have been pivotal in us being able to share our progress and further drive engagement internally, with our supply chain and with our clients”.

The ability to report the progress they are making towards targets they have set is key to ensuring ongoing engagement, trust, and success in the People–Planet–Purpose Framework. So, VolkerWessels UK uses the whole Thrive platform to manage their initiatives and report on them in one central view.

Social Value module - the ability to capture and track the social value activities at all of their projects – and those undertaken centrally by their head offices means they become transparent for staff, stakeholders and clients. It gives them standards to benchmark their work and targets to improve on year after year. And by reporting this clearly and consistently, they can see the associated social value of their activities, generate reports and share best practice within the business.

Application management system - VolkerWessels UK have a long standing programme of community engagement through schools, but the volume of inquiries for this is high across the country. Using the Thrive education module they can now manage requests really easily, matching them with appropriate support and geography.

Volunteering management system - Volunteering, helping and being active in local communities is core to everything VolkerWessels UK does. Through the Thrive platform, employees can sign up to volunteering options available to them across all 500 sites around the UK.



The screenshot shows the VolkerWessels UK Thrive platform. At the top, there's a header with the VolkerWessels logo, a 'Log In' button, and a 'Log Volunteering' button. Below the header, a large grey box contains the text 'Hello , Below are your latest volunteering opportunities...'. Three volunteering opportunities are listed in cards:

- Skydive for Bluebell Wood**: Location: Lincolnshire. Places left: 10. Date: 31/07/2021. Description: Fundraise for this charity skydive with Bluebell Wood.
- Habitat Management Little Woolden Moss - VRSB Only**: Location: Lancashire. Places left: 4. Date: 17/08/2021. Description: Habitat Management at Little Woolden Moss Nature Reserve.
- Rail Aid InterCity Challenge**: Location: Nationwide. Places left: 99. Date: 27/08/2021. Description: 260 mile Supported Cycle over 3 days taking in Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham & London.

The People–Planet–Purpose framework allows VolkerWessels UK to actively manage potential impacts on the environment and local community and helps them identify opportunities where they can deliver environmental and social value. This is something all organisations can take inspiration from.