

# Carbon COPY

March 2015

Blackpool Council

CORPORATE PRINT SERVICES

## What Carbon Capture means to us



We have teamed up with Premier Paper and the Woodland Trust to capture the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from our paper purchases by planting native woodland, right here in the UK, through the Woodland Carbon scheme.

With only 13% tree cover in the UK, compared to a 44% average in Europe, the aim of the Woodland Trust is to see a doubling of native broadleaf trees such as oak, maple, birch and other indigenous species in the UK. There's no denying that the carbon benefits of woodland are felt globally, however many of the other benefits operate on a local scale. As people we can identify, sympathise and get involved in local projects such as tree planting; habitats are created and reconnected, air quality improved and flooding reduced. Not to mention improving the landscape and lives of future generations

### Tree of the Month: Alder

Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) is the only native alder in Britain and is also found throughout Europe as far as Siberia.

It thrives in damp, cool areas such as marshes, wet woodland and stream and river banks, where its roots help to prevent soil erosion. It grows well from seed, tolerates poor soil and will quickly colonise bare ground. A short-lived species, most common alder trees live to around 60 years. Conical in shape, mature trees can reach a height of around 20m. The bark is dark and fissured and is often covered in lichen. Twigs have a light brown spotted stem which turns red towards the top. Young twigs are sticky to touch. The purple or grey leaf buds form on long stems and the 3-9cm long dark green leaves are racquet-shaped and leathery.

Introducing  
*The paper that plants trees*



Woodland Trust Office Paper is a high white, totally chlorine free office paper, produced to the most demanding environmental standards. Ideal for use on laser and inkjet printers, photocopiers and fax machines. Woodland Trust Office Paper is produced with zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil fuels, with much of the energy used to make the Woodland Trust Office Paper being generated from the waste materials used in the pulp and papermaking process. Excess heat from the process is also piped to a community heating project that services some 3,000 homes and civic buildings in close proximity to the mill.

### Planting Trees Boosts the Health of our Rivers

Trees can play a vital role in improving our rivers and making landscapes more resilient against climate change.

So says the Woodland Trust's Diane Millis – and this year the Woodland Trust is devoting at least £150,000 to the cause. The money will pump-prime water-related partnership projects across the UK and encourage the planting of woods, hedgerows and riverside trees. Diane says the benefits of planting native trees are manifold: "They help water to infiltrate the soil, reducing surface flooding and the flow of agricultural pollutants and sediment, and so keeping rivers cleaner. They stabilise riverbanks and provide shady habitat for river wildlife, while their leaf litter and woody debris sustains voles and invertebrates. Bankside roots act as nurseries for juvenile fish and holts for otters.

### Did You Know?

The Alder tree is particularly noted for its important symbiotic relationship with a nitrogen-fixing bacterium called *Frankia alni*.

This bacterium is found in the root nodules. The bacterium absorbs nitrogen from the air and makes it available to the tree. Alder, in turn, provides the bacterium with sugars, which it produces through photosynthesis. As a result of this mutually beneficial relationship, alder improves the fertility of the soil where it grows, and as a pioneer species, it helps provide additional nitrogen for the successional species which follow.

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