



ESH
CONSTRUCTION



County Durham
Community Foundation

Greener Activities Program

Building Environmental Awareness and Community Engagement Through Volunteering: A Case Study of Olusegun

This case study explores how Olusegun, an international student from the University of Sunderland, acquired environmental awareness and fostered community engagement through his participation in volunteer activities. Olusegun's decision to volunteer was influenced by his desire to contribute to the community, make new friends, and expand his network.

Olusegun encountered a volunteering opportunity through an advertisement on a park information board. Intrigued by the chance to help out, network, and meet new friends, he decided to reach out to Daniel, who coordinates the project, and whose contact details were provided on the information display board in the park. The process was straightforward, and Olusegun eagerly joined the volunteering initiative with the intent to give back to the community.

Olusegun's involvement in the volunteer activities provided him with a platform to develop environmental awareness. The tasks assigned to him, such as cleaning the park, removing litter, and controlling brambles, enabled him to witness first-hand the importance of maintaining a clean and sustainable environment. Through practical actions, Olusegun gained a deeper understanding of the impact of human activities on the environment and the significance of responsible waste management.

Olusegun found that volunteering at Backhouse Park gave him opportunities to meet individuals from diverse backgrounds and nationalities. In contrast to his experience at the university, where he had limited interactions and volunteering enabled him to make new connections. Olusegun discovered that engaging in a common cause created a sense of community, fostering meaningful relationships among volunteers.

Olusegun's experience highlighted the role of volunteer activities in environmental awareness and community engagement. ICOS actively worked to keep participants engaged and occupied. By involving volunteers in various tasks, such as park cleaning and environmental workshops, the organization offered practical ways to contribute to the community. These activities not only heightened environmental consciousness, but also created a sense of ownership and responsibility among the volunteers.

Olusegun acquired a better understanding of environmental issues by actively participating in tasks related to conservation, cleanliness, and waste management. The volunteering experience facilitated the expansion of his social network, as Olusegun connected with individuals he would not have met otherwise. Finally, the experience of giving back to the community instilled a sense of personal fulfilment and purpose for Olusegun.

The combination of practical tasks and networking opportunities offered by ICOS under 'Greener Activities Program' resulted in a comprehensive experience that nurtured Olusegun's environmental consciousness and personal growth, emphasising the value of volunteer initiatives in creating environmentally aware and engaged communities.