



# SUSTAINABLE·WARWICK·NEWSLETTER

November 2018

## Warwick News

### Warwick Sustainability Summit

Our third Sustainability Summit was a great success and got everyone thinking about the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. It made people think about how they can make a positive difference and the opportunities for collaboration both within and outside of the University. Visit our news pages to read our [full review](#).

### Coventry Climathon

The first annual Coventry Climathon was held on the 26<sup>th</sup> October. [See what thoughts the teams had](#).

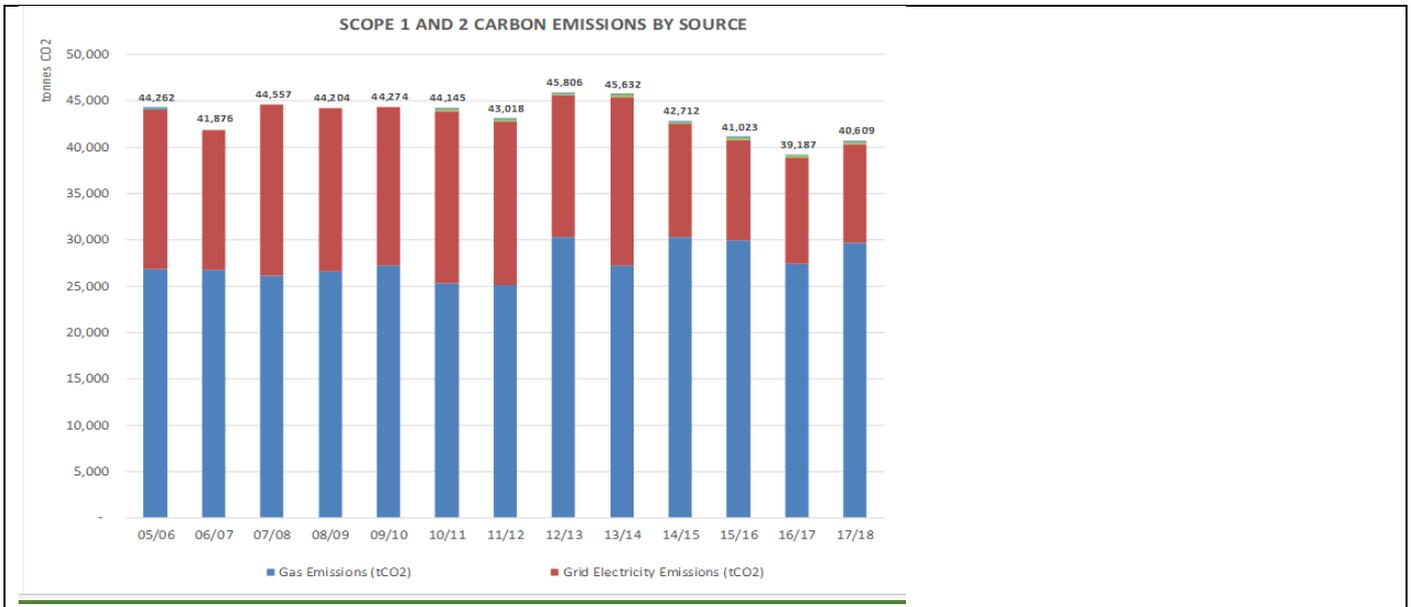


### Update of Carbon Emissions

The numbers are in for the University Carbon Emissions during the 2017/18 period. Although we have seen a decrease of scope 1 and 2 emissions over the past 3 years this year has brought us a slight increase.

Over the last 12 months we have seen an increase in emissions of 1,421 tonnes this is due in part to an 10% increase in electricity consumption as well as a 4.7% increase in water consumption. Much of this is due to new buildings but some is also due to behaviour.

The good news is that we have continued to keep emissions lower than they would have been through operational energy management and carbon reduction and maintenance projects including replacing lightbulbs with LEDs, improvement of buildings and services e.g. data centres and installing Low Loss Transformers amongst the mix.



### Plastic Free Conferences

Conferences are continuing on their sustainability journey following on from receiving Gold and Silver Green Tourism Awards for their centres the centres have now removed all disposable cups from use, they have replaced plastic straws with paper ones and have very recently removed the bottled water from all of their rooms asking people to use either tap water or request a refillable glass bottle that the centres supply. This will remove 1000s of single use plastic bottles from use. Well done Conferences!



## News from further afield

### Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report

On October 8th the IPCC Change released its special report on "How can humanity prevent the global temperature rise more than 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial level" which was requested by the UNFCC during the Paris Agreement.

The key findings of this report explain that maintaining a temperature rise to below 1.5 °C remains possible, but only through "rapid and far-reaching transitions".

In order to achieve the 1.5 °C target, CO2 emissions must decline by 45% (relative to 2010 levels) by 2030, reaching net zero by around 2050. Deep reductions in non-CO2 emissions (such as nitrous oxide and methane) will also be required to limit warming to 1.5 °C. Under the pledges of the countries entering the Paris Accord, a sharp rise of 3.1 to 3.7 °C is still expected to occur by 2100. Holding this rise to 1.5 °C avoids the worst effects of a rise by even 2 °C.

However, a warming of even 1.5 degrees will still result in large-scale drought, famine, heat stress, species die-off, loss of entire ecosystems, and loss of habitable land, throwing more than 100 Million into poverty. Effects will be most drastic in arid regions including the Middle East and the Sahel in Africa, where fresh

water will remain in some areas following a 1.5 °C rise in temperatures but are expected to dry up completely if the rise reaches 2 °C.

This is a stark warning that we have 12 years to change our world and our behaviour. But the good news is we can. To find out more you can read the [Policymakers Summary](#).

### TRIAD – turn it off

Do you turn everything off when you go home at night? Early evenings are a peak time for energy use so please switch off electrical equipment, turn off the lights and let the BMS team know if heating/cooling can be reduced especially in the late afternoon.

The University is subject to National Grid's Triad charging system, which gives us an opportunity to reduce our energy charges by reducing our consumption during peak periods. It is particularly relevant in the winter months when energy consumption is highest. If we can reduce our consumption we will save money, which can be better spent on teaching, services and research.

### A simple 'nudge' can lead to healthier diets

[Researchers from Warwick Medical School](#) studied data from Rootes Grocery Store on campus and found that simply moving fruit and vegetables closer to the entrance of the shop, can encourage increased consumption. There was an increase in purchases of approximately 15% compared to when the items were located at the back of the store, furthest from the entrance. The store now plans to continue to display the fruit and vegetables at the front of the store.



### reGAIN app – clothes recycling rewarded

The reGAIN app is a new concept in recycling clothes. If you don't want your old clothes to go to landfill, download the app and receive discount coupons at reGAIN's partners.

[www.regain-app.com](http://www.regain-app.com)

**reGAIN app**  
RECYCLING REWARDED

### Walkers crisp packet recycling scheme

More than 7,000 non-recyclable Walkers crisp packets are produced every minute and there has been recent consumer protests for the company to launch a recycling scheme. From December 2018 consumers will be encouraged to deposit used packets at one of the hundreds of public collection points around the country. The metallised film packets will be cleaned and shredded before being melted into small plastic pellets that can then be incorporated into products such as fence posts and furniture.



## The Budget

On 29<sup>th</sup> October, the Government announced the beginning of the end for austerity.

Included were:

- £30bn will be invested in highways, strengthening England's main arteries and improving congestion. Whilst this will be welcomed by many car users, it is mainly about improving road conditions and journey times, rather than reducing emissions. In comparison to previous budgets, there was a lack of acknowledgement of Electric Vehicles (EVs), something the UK Government has recently announced funding for in terms of innovation.
- £60m is budgeted for the planting of new trees in England, a clear move to combat deforestation and preserve natural capital. This will benefit air quality in the future but this also requires large scale change in actual emissions, especially as tree saplings will take many years before growing to fully-mature trees.
- £20bn increase in NHS spending has been announced, including a £2bn increase in annual expenditure on mental health treatment, an area which could really benefit from such funding.
- One key area this budget was arguably lacking in was any reference to the recent IPCC report and a subsequent lack of reference to climate change. The biggest reference to environmental issues was arguably a new tax on plastic packaging that does not contain 30% recyclable material. Whilst this is welcomed, it doesn't address the issue of single-use plastics and their detrimental environmental impact. The Chancellor clarified that a tax on disposable coffee cups will only be implemented if the industry does not make enough progress on reducing their consumption. The industry is undoubtedly making steps to reduce their consumption but more progress needs to be made.

## Events

### Society Events Coming Up

Warwick Blackout – [Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November](#) – SU Atrium and Piazza

Water Aid Quiz – [Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November](#) - Ramphal

Climate Reality Campus Corp 24 Hours of Reality – Tues 4<sup>th</sup> & Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Dec - Piazza

### Sustainability Stand at Gibbet Hill

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, School of Life Sciences Atrium (10am – 12noon)**

We will be holding an information stand in the School of Life Sciences atrium raising awareness of sustainability at the University and how individuals can get involved. Come along to find out more and to ask any questions.

### Second Hand Bike Sale

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December, Piazza**

Recycle Your Cycle work with disadvantaged groups within communities and with prisoner rehabilitation schemes to refurbish and repair bikes. These bikes are then sold and the money donated to charity. Since the charity was set up in 2015m they have refurbished and sold over 5,500 bikes and raised over £160,000 for charity.

<http://www.recycleyourcycle.org.uk/>



# Opportunities

## The NUS want to hear from you – and you can win £500!

All students can be in with a chance of winning £500 by completing an NUS online confidential survey about your time at university and the skills you develop for getting a job.

The short survey, which is being run in conjunction with the National Union of Students, will take about 15 minutes to complete. The closing date is 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and students will be entered into a draw to win £500 or one of 10 £50 runner-up prizes.

To take part in the survey log on to [www.nus.org.uk/uni-skills](http://www.nus.org.uk/uni-skills)

## Digital signage

Our summer student intern produced a number of slides to be used on the digital screens around campus. Some of these are being displayed on the centrally managed University screens but if possible we would also like them to be displayed on locally managed departmental slides. [Email us](mailto:sustainability@warwick.ac.uk) and we'll send the slides to you. Thank you for helping us to promote the sustainable message.



## From Plot to Plate?

Community food initiatives including Community Supported Agriculture (local example [Five Acre Farm](#)) and cafés (exemplars include [The Pod café](#), Monash University's [Wholefood Café](#) and Spon End's [Oasis Community Café](#)) provide important roots that reach deep into local need. Food-based initiatives, such as shared-kitchen incubators, which support inclusive enterprise, local food supply chains and healthy eating can be a key driver of community cohesion. What are the opportunities for Coventry? How can we help community enterprises, such as [Proof Bakery](#) grow? In an era of feast and famine co-existing, why do many people find food to be too expensive and what are the barriers to accessing healthier food options for those most in need?

Join the [RSA on 13<sup>th</sup> November](#) to discuss.

## Ethical Living Guide update – Can you help?

Our NEW Ethical Living Guide was updated by one of our student interns over the summer. It is very close to being finished but we need a little bit more help with research and finishing it off. If you are interested, please contact us to find out more: [sustainability@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:sustainability@warwick.ac.uk)