

# WARWICK SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGE



## Warwick Sustainability Challenge (WSUsC): FAQs

### Introduction

This document answers some questions you might have about the project. Please submit any questions you have to the project leads, we're more than happy to answer any questions you have! (Last edited: 17/05/2022)

We appreciate this is a relatively new way of working as a student-staff community and so it is OK to feel unsure or challenged going into this. That is the entire point! Not being able to envision an outcome is a positive sign of entering this Challenge with minimal bias. This openness is key to innovation. The Warwick Sustainability Challenge is an invitation to embrace the discomfort and come together as a community of curious pioneers to create new representations of sustainability that match the diverse ambitions of the Warwick student-staff community.

### 1. What does this project aim to do?

We are aiming to develop more conversations across the institution about Sustainability at Warwick and the local community to understand more about the different meanings and challenges this holds. These workshops and outputs will inform future interventions in the sphere of Sustainability across Warwick and the local community.

## **2. What am I being asked to do and what is the time commitment?**

You are being invited to attend two workshops and an optional drop-in session during w/c 13th June. The two workshops will help you identify a Sustainability Challenge that you would like to tackle over the course of two weeks and you will be trained and coached through Design Thinking tools that will help you explore your identified Challenge in an innovative way.

You do not need to do any preparation in advance; the workshops are designed to support you in your team to think about Sustainability in the context of your current role/mode of study.

After the end of the second workshop, the teams will have an additional week to continue working on their ideas and insights. This could involve inviting more students and staff to share insights, feedback or their ideas, consulting with the industry or the wider University community, doing other secondary research, etc. More information about this and the support available during this week will be shared at the workshops. Teams will also be given templates that will help guide them in this independent work. Teams are encouraged to block some time in w/c 20th June to do the independent work in order to meet the entry submission deadline on Friday 24th June. Although the project team will be able to offer support and guidance during this week, it is each team's responsibility to manage their time and resources to meet the deadline.

### **3. What are the intended outcomes?**

After the workshops, we are asking teams to design an e-poster or power point presentation (max 10 slides) and record a short video (max 10 minutes) which outlines their definition of sustainability, solutions to the challenge, and ways to implement the suggested solutions in future. Outputs will be shared via the project webpages. Teams will also be invited to share their experience and outcomes via University social media and other University comms channels.

The purpose of this work is to start cross-institutional conversations around Sustainability that have been informed by co-creation. We want pluralistic definitions to emerge that speak to your current context, that we can share across the institution to inform future work in this area. Sustainability by nature means so many different things to different stakeholders, and so we want to create engagement in this important area through dialogue.

### **4. Who is leading the workshops?**

A team of Innovation Fellows (Warwick Enterprise) who are trained student facilitators will be leading the workshops. Teams will also be supported by Design Thinking student volunteers.

### **5. What are the judging criteria?**

The judging criteria are:

- **Desirable:** have you presented something that meets or has the potential to meet real needs of the student-staff community in your Department/University and/or the wider local community?
- **Feasible:** is this something you can see yourself and your Department/University (and/or Coventry City Council) developing further and if so, what is needed to take your insights further?

- **Innovative:** is this an original insight? Have you challenged yourself and the Department/University to uncover, combine, reconstruct insights and ideas using the tools from the Challenge?
- **Ethical:** is your suggested solution inclusive and led by Warwick Values?
- **Holistic:** is your solution able to integrate social, economic and environmental development?

These can be found via the main project page. These are aligned to the Design Thinking methodology and Warwick Education Strategy. Teams are welcome to explore ideas, insights and solutions that have the potential to address the challenges of sustainability outside of Warwick too.

## **6. Do I need to be a Sustainability Champion or in an Education for Sustainability role to take part?**

A team of Innovation Fellows (Warwick Enterprise) who are trained student facilitators will be leading the workshops. Teams will also be supported by Design Thinking student volunteers.

## **7. What do I get for taking part (as a student)?**

Individual students will be issued with a certificate in recognition of representing their Academic Department in the institution-wide Warwick Sustainability Challenge. This will demonstrate your participation in design thinking sustainability-focused workshops. The process itself could be something you might like to add to your CV. The team winners will be awarded with prizes, and will have an opportunity to present their work at the University of Warwick and will have an opportunity to present their work to the Climate Change Board at Coventry City Council, and at the University of Warwick. The winning idea will also be considered for implementation by the University and/or Coventry City Council.

## **8. What do I get for taking part (as a staff member)?**

Staff members can also request a certificate! In addition, this is something that you can cite in future rounds of TEG meetings, ITLR etc. The team winners will be awarded with prizes. We hope this new approach to co-creation and student voice can also contribute to your CPD and inform some of your Departmental work in this area.

## **9. Can we have teams of more than 5 people?**

We will consider teams of more than five in exceptional circumstances – please get in touch with the project team if this applies to you (email Lory, Nancy, or Bo details below). This will be taken into account in the judging process to ensure fairness. Departments teams from different study levels (UG, PGT, PGR, Apprentices, etc) are welcome!

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## **10. I'm struggling to find a team – what do I do?**

Sign up via the main page as a Wild Card member! We have many already signed up, and we are going to match interested colleagues into cross-institutional teams!

## **11. I'm a postgrad student, can I still take part?**

Of course! We're really keen to gain a representative view from across Warwick! You're most welcome!

## **12. Is this a team challenge or personal challenge?**

This is a team challenge! You can sign up as an individual and we will match you to a team!