



SUSTAINABLE·WARWICK·NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2022

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Warwick News

Green Champion energy projects success

In January we welcomed Gez Hunter and Andrew Thomas to our Green Champions meeting to talk about the University's Energy and Infrastructure Group, objectives of reducing consumption and decarbonising our energy supply and the importance of operational energy management. Green Champions were asked and encouraged to report issues with Estates managed equipment to estates.servicedesk@warwick.ac.uk and to speak to end users if items are being left on unnecessarily.

Gez also offered for his engineers to visit areas identified by Green Champions as having potential energy saving projects. Gary Stocker from WMG reported issues with the motion detectors in IMC. Gez arranged for an engineer to visit site and after further investigation and action the detectors are now working so lights are only on when they are needed. A successful project so thank you to Gary, Gez and Dean Turner.

Gary and the WMG Green Action Team have also been proactive at encouraging other staff within the department to raise issues and opportunities for improvement. Subsequently a possible heating project has been identified and is being investigated by an engineer. Another quick win this month was instigated by Sally Hicks in HR who noted that the lights were always on the bicycle shelter by Uni House. Sally raised a docket with the [Service Desk](#) and someone came out to fix it that day! We would like to encourage other Green Champions to report energy saving opportunities to Katherine Mayfield who will then triage them to either Gez or Andrew to look into further. Contact sustainability@warwick.ac.uk and tell us more. Let's keep up the good work and keep reporting opportunities and faults – together we will make a difference.

Technicians and Sustainability

There are a number of very active [Green Action Teams](#) across the University who help drive sustainability forward in their departments. During Green Week we took this one step further and had a session specifically with technicians to discuss the opportunities for improvement within and across their areas. We were joined by Lee Hibbert, Technician Manager from Nottingham University, who shared with us some of the very successful projects they have implemented include repairing equipment in-house, polystyrene recycling and reduction in the use of single use plastics.

We will be setting up a Technicians Sustainability Working Group in the near future for all attendees and other technicians interested in sustainability. There will be quarterly meetings with attendance from Estates staff (Sustainability, Waste and Energy) and regular communication through a Teams channel. If you are interested in getting involved please contact Katherine Mayfield, Sustainability Champion.

Term 2 winners!

Energy: Sherbourne Block 4
Water: Tocil Block 8

Congratulations to the winners for reducing the most water/energy usage this term!
Prizes will be awarded soon!

Cut the Flow Winners

Congratulations to Sherbourne Block 4 and Tocil Block 8, for winning term 2 of our Cut the Flow Competition! Sherbourne 4 reduced their electricity consumption and Tocil 8 reduced their water consumption more than any other blocks on campus. Prizes will be awarded soon. Remember to continue to reduce your water and energy consumption in term 3, for you block to be in a chance of winning the competition!

Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework (LEAF)

During Green Week we held an online session to show interested lab users around LEAF. It was very successful with more labs signing up to the initiative, most notably a number of RTP labs. Fifteen labs across Chemistry, Life Sciences, the Medical School and RTPs are now taking part to assess and improve the sustainability of their spaces and work towards achieving bronze, silver or gold awards.

If you work in labs and are interested in getting involved, find out more about sign up - <https://warwick.ac.uk/sustainability/environment/gettinginvolved/sustainablelabs/>. Achieving the bronze award should be relatively straightforward if you work in a well-managed lab space



Hedgehog Friendly Campus launch and species surveys

The University achieved the Hedgehog Friendly Campus bronze award earlier this year for the work we do to support hedgehogs in our green spaces and for promoting what everyone can do to help this iconic creature, which is on the IUCN's red list of species threatened with extinction. We held our launch event during Green Week and attracted a large number of people interested to know if hedgehogs are present. The answer to this is that we currently don't know, however we will be doing surveys over the spring to find out more.



We've created a Hedgehog Friendly Campus group on teams – [join the group](#) to keep updated about all the HFC projects happening on campus and how to get involved with them!

Rawkus Collection

Our most recent Rawkus collection, on Saturday 19th March, was a success! We went into accommodation blocks that have been moved out of for the easter period and collected all food that had been left and would otherwise be binned. This amounted to around half a tonne of food, and was collected by local homeless charity Emmaus, where it will be donated to those in need. A big thank you to everyone that helped with the collection!



Activity of the Week

Since the start of the year we've been posting regular Sustainable Activities of the Week on our social media pages! We know trying to live Sustainably can be overwhelming sometimes – by breaking this into small activities to complete during the week, it can help living Sustainable living feel more manageable! So far these have included trying a plant based alternative in a meal, visiting a zero waste shop, watching a Sustainable Documentary, and many more! Follow our social media pages to see them. Give them a try, and if you find them easy to do, you can try doing them regularly!

Hedgelaying

The Grounds and Gardens Team have undertaken more than 200 metres of hedgelaying on campus over the winter; they have layed hedges outside WBS and by Cryfield residences. The hedgerows are looking beautiful as the first leaves are beginning to emerge and the daffodils are in full flower. Laying the hedges promotes new growth from the ground keeping it healthy and thick for years to come, providing a habitat and wildlife corridor for animals and birds.



Feed Hibernating Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs are coming out of hibernation – and they will be hungry, after living off fat reserves only for months! Help them by putting out shallow bowls of meaty cat/dog food and water. If you don't want to encourage other animals in your garden, try cutting a small hole in a plastic box, to make a [hedgehog feeding station!](#) Learn more by reading Helen Thomas's most recent HogBlog, on our Sustainability Blog.



Events

Hedgehog Awareness Week

Hedgehog Awareness Week is running from 1st – 7th May this year! Organised by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, it aims to highlight the problems hedgehogs face and how you can help them. Keep an eye out for events coming up on campus that you can get involved with as part of this!

We now have a Hedgehog Friendly Campus Volunteers group on Microsoft Teams – email us at sustainability@warwick.ac.uk if you would like to be added to this, to keep up to date with all Hedgehog related activities on campus.

Great British Spring Clean

The Great British Spring Clean ran from 25th March-10th April this year, and it was a great success, with 448, 721 bags pledged to be collected! We took part as a University a number of ways, including a staff and student litter pick on the 5th April around campus, and the University of Warwick Nursery held a litter pick with children and parents as part of their Eco School Initiative! You can still pledge to litter pick, despite the clean being over on their website.

Royal Economics Society (RES) 2022 Annual Conference (11th April)

As part of the Royal Economics Society (RES) 2022 Annual Conference, the Department of Economics are delighted to be hosting a panel discussion on exploring the ways in which we need to start working together to solve the climate crisis. This will be a hybrid event to be held on Monday 11 April 2022 (18:15-19:30) with an invited live audience and RES conference delegates joining us online.

The Big Plastic Count

Sign up to The Big Plastic Count, happening 16th – 22nd May! Across the country, households and businesses are coming together to tell the government it's time to commit: reduce single plastic use by 50% by 2025 by switching to reusable options that work for everyone – and ban sending our waste to other countries. Sign up, to get sent a free pack, with all the materials you need to take part! Then simply tally how many pieces of plastic you bin throughout the week and upload it to [the website](#). You'll then be given a personal plastic, and information about what really happens to plastic when it leaves your home. At the end of the week, the national results will be shared, as well as the next steps on pushing the government, supermarkets and brands into action!



Opportunities

Sustainability Blog

We have started a [sustainability blog](#) on our website where you can keep up to date with news and events and our HogBlog.

We would like for students and staff to get involved! We particularly want to hear about your experiences with sustainability, any challenges you faced and tips you could give to others. So, whether you're a Green Champion, part of a sustainable society on campus or just have a passion for the environment and you would like to contribute and write something for our blog email us sustainability@warwick.ac.uk.



Hedgehog Baking Competition

We are running a Hedgehog Baking Competition! Take a photo of your baked goods that are hedgehog related, and either DM it via Facebook or Instagram, email it to us at sustainability@warwick.ac.uk or tag us at @WarwickUniSust. The competition closes at midnight on May 1st - best entry will win a prize! Get creative and get baking!



Warwick Volunteers

There's a number of volunteering opportunities happening throughout April, including conservation at Foundry Woods, garden volunteer at Historic Coventry Trust and Friends of Canley Green Spaces. [Visit Warwick Volunteers](#) for more information.

Home Composting Workshop

Warwickshire Waste Partnership have organised a number of home composting workshop locally! Come along to find out more about composting at home, whether you are just starting or have been composting. Learn important information, that will help reduce the amount of food and garden waste you throw away! There's a number available [to sign up to](#), including in Startford-upon-Avon on 5th April and in Warwick on 4th May.

Discounted Compost Bins

Warwickshire County Council are currently offering discounted compost bins, for only £10! If you're interested in composting there's options for delivery or for collection. There's loads of information on the Council website about how to get into composting too. Find out more information [here](#).

News and events from further afield

Birmingham Kilo Sale

Shop Kilo are holding a [Vintage Sale at Millenium Point](#) on the 23rd April from 10:30am-4pm. Check out the sale for a selection of vintage and retro preloved clothes, and pay by weight! Vintage Sales are a great place to grab preloved clothes that would otherwise end up in landfill.

Vintage Vera Sale

Fargo Village is holding a [Vintage Vera clothes sale](#) on the 24th April from 10am-4pm! Browse the shop and pick out what you want, weigh your clothes at the station and pay for whatever you clothes weigh! There will tonnes of clothes, from a number of brands, including Ralph Lauren, North Face, Fila and much more.

Song and Soil

[Join Food Union](#) to help with maintenance at the Coventry allotment – with seeds only recently planted, there's many jobs that need to be carried out this spring! They'll be meeting at the Food Union CV5 Site at 1pm on the 24th April. This will be followed by hot food round the bonfire, and provided by The Pod Café, and live music by the Treehoppers.