



SUSTAINABLE·WARWICK·NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2021

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Warwick News

Green Gown Awards Finalists

We are proud and happy to announce we have been shortlisted for three Green Gown Awards! These awards are a showcase of best practice in the University and Sustainability Sectors.

[Read more about the projects we are shortlisted for.](#)

Queen's Green Canopy Success

The University has been successful in our application for 420 saplings as part of the [Queen's Green Canopy project](#). The saplings of 'all round colour' will be delivered in November and planted over the winter. The location of all these saplings has yet to be finalised but some will be used to plant hedgerows across campus to provide habitat corridors.

The Queen's Green Canopy is an inclusive national initiative meaning that everyone from across the UK can get involved from individuals to businesses, and from community groups to schools. If you're interested visit their website to find out more.

Summer student interns

Laura Chevrot - Biodiversity Intern

This week marks the end of my internship with the Estates sustainability team, for which I went onto campus every day to create species lists of wildflowers, list their abundance and survey butterflies. I also helped Estates join the Hedgehog Friendly Campus initiative, which I hope to be involved with next year.

Being the first person to compile databases of species on campus made the start of my 6 weeks confusing. However, with the help of Katherine Mayfield and Dr Jess Savage, I was able to create my own action plan and, essentially, my own role as an intern. The first weeks resulted in a few failed attempts, but I slowly problem-solved and was able to develop a methodology for surveying wildflowers, which I hope next year's intern will be able to use. It was also lovely to work with the other interns and students, particularly with Alicia in sharing what I had seen on campus.

Altogether I am very thankful for this internship, which has taught me a lot about how to work with less direction and structure than I am usually used to. It's very rewarding to know that my work will enable Estates manage wildlife better on campus, even though it meant me getting soaked from the rainfall this week!

Joe Gosney – Carbon Accounting and Scope 3 Intern

This past month I have been working with the University of Warwick to identify and develop strategies to track and reduce their Scope 3 emissions. This scope of indirect emissions, which covers those produced from most of the University's activities from building construction to staff and student commuting, is the largest and least understood of the three scopes, and so it is very important that we learn as much as possible to better combat climate change.

To this end, over the past few weeks I have worked on several projects to help inform and direct the University's future actions. My work has included a digital carbon emission report generator, which has significantly streamlined the process of informing the University's departments about their annual emissions, saving the Energy and Sustainability team valuable time. I have also worked to develop a comprehensive framework as well as identified necessary actions so that the University can accurately report its Scope 3 emissions. Finally, I have assisted on a couple of smaller projects looking at reducing student and staff's carbon footprint from food, as well as laid the groundwork for a 'Working from home vs. Working in the office' carbon calculator.

Alicia Lukman – Social Media and Engagement Intern

Over the past 5 weeks, I have been developing the Sustainability team's social media strategy and content, expanding the team's presence within the University community. As someone who did not come from a sustainability-focused background, it has been fascinating to learn about how much work is put into the field by a myriad of individuals and local groups, both student-based and not. It has been particularly rewarding to learn about the process of bringing sustainability to the forefront of the University's agenda – built from the ground up, bringing together people with different skillsets and ideas towards a common goal.

My work has involved creating a unified brand identity for the Sustainability team's communications, focusing on the themes of accessibility and awareness-raising. On a day-to-day basis, I design the team's social media posts and reach out to groups both within Warwick and outside to amplify our message. I have also worked on various physical marketing assets that the team can use in the coming academic year. I am currently working on several communications campaigns, such as the Wellesbourne Energy Saving campaign, the Cut the Flow competition and the Great Big Green Week coming up this September.

LEAF – Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework

Laboratories typically consume 3-10 times more energy per metre squared than typical academic spaces and as such the University is keen to reduce the environmental impact of its labs. We have therefore signed up to LEAF, which is a standard for sustainable laboratory operations. Laboratories are awarded either a bronze, silver or gold level depending on how many sustainability actions they take.

LEAF contains actions which lab users can take to save plastics, water, energy and other resources. By taking part in the programme, laboratories will reduce their carbon emissions and create an environment that supports research quality. A key feature of LEAF is that it allows participants to estimate the impact of changes in financial and carbon terms with user-friendly calculators.

LEAF is open to both staff and students working in laboratories, including research or teaching facilities. [Find out more.](#)

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Katherine Mayfield (katherine.mayfield@warwick.ac.uk) or Lesley Ward (lesley.a.ward@warwick.ac.uk).

Odysee Zero Dechet – a student initiative

One of our students and the President of Climate Reality Warwick, Adèle Henin, has cycled 1200km on the Vélodyssée - the French part of the EuroVelo1 cycle route. Along the way she has organised beach clean-ups, met many interesting people raising awareness about sustainability, and discovered initiatives such as mask recycling and shops donating their proceeds to ocean protection charities!

[Check out Adèle's journey here.](#)



Events

Walk Talk Walk

Walk Talk Walk is a new group on campus that invites you to spend more time outdoors in a friendly, welcoming and accessible environment. [Join Warwick's walk around the campus area](#), starting every Thursday at 6:30pm from the Sports Hub.

Opportunities

Warwick Climate Negotiating Forum 2021

Be a part of the organising team for Warwick's own simulation of the UNFCCC's annual Conference of Parties negotiations, hosted in the Autumn term! Positions are available in the following teams:

- **Packs Team:** prepare delegates' briefing packs and operate the simulation

News and events from further afield

Earth Overshoot Day 2021

On the 29th July this year we commiserated Earth Overshoot Day. This marked the day that we have used up the amount of energy and natural resources that the Earth can regenerate and emitted the amount of carbon dioxide that it can absorb in one year. This means that from this day onwards, we will be 'borrowing' time from the future by living with the same consumption demands. Our goal is to #MoveTheDate to 31 December or later through behavioural tweaks, supporting sustainable cities, and advocating for systemic change in our production systems. It is critical that we reduce our consumption.

To learn more, visit the [official website](#) and also [read the Warwick article](#).

For more in-depth information on how ecological footprints are calculated, you can read 'Ecological Footprint: Managing our Biocapacity Budget' by Mathis Wackernagel and Bert Beyers