

# SUSTAINABLE·WARWICK·NEWSLETTER

December 2020

## Warwick News

### We're Dreaming of a Green Christmas

Christmas 2020 is going to be very different from Christmas' of the past but let's make the most of it and make it a wonderful time of the year. It can be a season of waste, with mountains of packaging and left over food, as well as excessive energy use, so let us also make it a green Christmas.

Follow the link to [read more](#) and discover what you can do to make your Christmas a greener one.

Wishing you a very happy and safe Christmas and a sustainable New Year!

*The Environmental Sustainability Team*

### UI GreenMetrics

The 2020 results of the [UI GreenMetrics](#) have been announced and we are very happy to share with you that the University came 29<sup>th</sup> of 912 Universities globally. There has been an increase of Universities taking part since last year when we came 25<sup>th</sup>. This places the University of Warwick as 4<sup>th</sup> in the United Kingdom.



### Giki

Lots of universities have been getting active to tackle individual carbon footprints. Strathclyde even hit a total of 15,000 actions.

We know that sometimes climate change can seem like a massive beast that might be too large to face but if we all work to tackle the issue through our everyday actions we can bring about massive change. The UK Committee on Climate Change has reported that 60% of carbon reduction will come from behavioural and societal change; so even though there are large companies who are polluting all of our actions count.

But what actions can you take? Well, the team at [Giki](#) have worked with various experts to create a webapp platform to help not only list actions you can take but also track your progress!

Please sign up today to see what you can do and let's tackle this together.

## Warwick Society Shines Brightest

The [Warwick Climate Reality Campus Corps](#) (part of the world wide [Climate Reality](#) set up by Al Gore) has recently won the [Bright Network's](#) 'Society of the Year: Environment Award'. The society have been working on many projects this year and have been posting many videos on how to tackle the climate emergency, and their RAWKUS group has been educating how to reduce food waste and make the most of left overs. Their President Alex also took part in the recent [Sustainability Summit](#) to give an inspiring talk about being a Student Activist at Warwick. The society win a cash prize which will be going towards campaigns to help tackle the climate emergency. Congratulations!



## Green Gown Awards – submission for the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage

Warwick Enterprise has been shortlisted in the Enterprise category for the Green Gown Awards 2020 for their online programme "Summer Programme 2020 – Inspiring SDG Innovators". The Green Gown Awards recognise exceptional sustainability initiatives undertaken by the world's universities and colleges and we are happy that they have been listed alongside excellent programmes from other institutions across the UK and Ireland. Take a look at their video and learn more about them and the shortlisted programme [here](#).

## New Year's Resolutions

Would you like to reduce your impact on the environment? Why not start now by setting yourself some [sustainable New Year's Resolutions](#)? But instead of overwhelming yourself, like so many of us have done before, start slow and steady as every little change will make a difference. Overhauling your lifestyle overnight is not easy so instead of trying to be perfect straight away, break your ideals down into manageable chunks that you can chip away at. Try to give yourself monthly goals or a different lifestyle choice to choose every month.

## Litter and masks

There has been an increase in littering over the past few months. Not only is this illegal and a finable offense, it is bad for the environment and wildlife. Items such as masks have been found caught around the feet and necks of birds.

Please ensure you dispose of your waste correctly using the bins provided when out and about or take it home to dispose of. You could also consider buying yourself a litter picker / helping hand to make a difference when out and about.

We strongly encourage everyone to use reusable face coverings but if you do need to use disposable ones please:

1. Cut the elastic string that hoops over your ears.
2. Consider using the elastic as ties to put around plants in the garden.

## Hedgelaying

The Grounds Team have recently undertaken some hedgelaying along Leighfield to help enhance biodiversity on campus. Hedgelaying is a traditional craft originally used to create a natural barrier to stop livestock straying but it also provides many ecological benefits. For example, hedges provide valuable food sources and nest sites for insects, birds and mammals. They also provide corridors for wildlife to move more freely, capture pollutants and help prevent erosion.



## Campus walks

If you're on campus over the Christmas period try to get out and explore campus. Being in nature can help to revive us and give us a sense of peace; it is great for your wellbeing. The campus is larger than you may realise so we have put together a number of suggested walking routes to help you navigate your way around. Visit the [campus walks](#) pages to download the maps.

# Events

## Green Week – 8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Remember to get Green Week added to your diary. And if you wish to get involved in the creation of event and content please email [sustainability@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:sustainability@warwick.ac.uk)

## Catch Up Now!

Did you miss the Warwick Sustainability Summit recently? Or couldn't attend all of it? Or perhaps you heard of the EnvironMenstrual talk a bit too late to join to learn more about period poverty and how you can save money and tackle waste yourself? You can now catch up on both of these events via the recordings [on this page](#).

# Opportunities

## Volunteer with the Energy and Sustainability Team

The Energy and Sustainability Team are currently looking for a student to volunteer for 3-4 hours per week to support the Team with creating regular/daily social media content. The student will require a working knowledge of the various social media platforms and have an interest in sustainability. There may also be an opportunity to create marketing materials such as posters so experience of using Canva would be useful.

Volunteers will be required to sign a Volunteer Commitment Form.



Instagram

# News and events from further afield

## Change is abrewing

News of tackling climate change is coming from many sectors over this past year including the brewery sector with [Brewdog](#) announcing it went Carbon Negative. We also have a local sustainable brewery in Warwickshire, in the form of [Purity](#), and a vegan brewery in the form of [Twisted Barrel](#) at Fargo Village.

## Aiming Higher

This month the UK Government announced it will increase its [carbon reduction target to 68% by 2030](#). This will be a difficult target but one we must achieve and surpass. All eyes will be on the UK and its achievements as we head towards COP26 next November.

## #GreenGames2022

Commonwealth Games 2022 is due to help drive Birmingham towards being a [Plastic Free City](#).