



SUSTAINABLE·WARWICK·NEWSLETTER

MAY 2021

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Warwick News

New COP26 Microsite

This year, the UK will host COP 26, the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) accelerating action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Warwick has launched the [Way to Sustainable](#) microsite summarising Warwick's distinct approach to addressing the challenges being discussed at COP 26. In parallel, the Institute for Global Sustainable Development has developed a climate researcher directory and list of researcher opportunities for the academic community in the run up to COP 26. If you are a climate researcher and wish to be listed, please contact Stephanie Whitehead on S.Whitehead@warwick.ac.uk

WeWatt charging stations have a new home!

Back in April, the WeWatt charging stations were moved from the first floor of the library to a new home in the Oculus. You can now charge your devices with human power while you study on the left-hand side of the ground floor of the Oculus.

Engagement with Faculties and Departments

The Sustainability Team has met with multiple faculties and departments over the past few months to embed sustainability within departmental strategies. We are in the process of creating action plan for each department.

[Email us to find out more.](#)

Do you know someone who might want to join the network of Green Champions across the university? [Share this link with them.](#)

Waste and Recycling Engagement Events – Help Wanted

We are looking for some volunteers to join us on 10-12th June to run stalls at Sherbourne Residences about the new recycling facilities that are being rolled out. Training will be provided. For more information/to volunteer please email sustainability@warwick.ac.uk.

Events

Love to Ride Webinar - Supporting Women to Ride

Wed 26th May 12:00 - 1:15pm.

[Register and reserve your seat here.](#)

We've put an expert panel together to discuss how women can empower one another to cycle - the projects, programmes and tools that can close the gender gap and ensure equality of access to cycling in Scotland. The panel members are:

- Natalie Cozzolino (Monitoring & Development Manager - Cycling Scotland)
- Tierney Lovell (Inclusive Design Manager - Sustrans)
- Adele Brennan (Ride Coordinator - Strathaven Breeze Birds)
- Fleur Ammerlaan (Insights Manager - Love to Ride)
- Claire Sharpe (Marketing Manager - Love to Ride)

The session will include live polls and will finish up with 15 mins Q&A. Don't worry if you aren't based in Scotland, the messages and themes are relevant to everyone.

And in case you missed it, BBC Sounds did an awesome episode for Woman's Hour - [Breaking Barriers to Cycling for Women](#).

Electric Car Club

This event provides an opportunity for electric vehicle owners to share stories and expertise, as well as giving visitors the chance to see a range of vehicles on display and chat with the people who own them on how simple it is to switch from ICE (internal combustion engine) to NICE (no internal combustion engine) with zero emissions.

Head to Coventry Transport Museum on May 29, June 26, August 14, October 2, between 8.30am - 12pm, to see a complete range of electric cars, from a Twizy to a Tesla, including the latest Porsche in one of the first premieres in the UK amongst the exhibitors. [Find out more](#).

Coventry Extinction Rebellion Rebel Culture Weekend

Coventry Extinction Rebellion are gathering in person and online this weekend for a two day event to celebrate our planet and offer a weekend of arts and culture. Join singing workshops, crafts, yoga, talks and other events.

For more information check out the [Facebook event page](#) and book your free tickets via the [Eventbrite](#) link.

Warwick Resonate Festival's Month of Invention

The Sustainability Team is taking part in the Resonate Festival this month and we invite you and your friends/colleague to come and join in the fun. We have highlighted just a couple of the many events below; all events are free and online and [can be booked here](#) –

Transporting the City

How far would you trust a driverless vehicle? Join us for a lively online discussion about the developments being made with Intelligent and Connected Vehicles, whether we can trust automated (or driverless) cars, how they might shape the city of the future, and how these technologies might transform our lives.

Date - 24/05/21

Time - 19:00-20:00

Sustainability in the Community

What will the City of the future be built of? What if we could use recycled waste to build a more sustainable city? How can artists, designers and engineers work together to create sustainable cities that work for us all?

Join artist Kitty Kaur, Foleshill Creates and Warwick researchers to explore how new research is making greener cities a reality and how we can all be a part of deciding how we build back greener.

Date - 27/05/21

Time - 10:00-11:00

Invention and Mindfulness

Mindfulness practices have not only been shown to be beneficial for navigating the difficulties of life, but also for engaging in the positives and for cultivating greater creativity, problem-solving and invention. In this 1-hour session we will begin by exploring what contemporary mindfulness is (and what it isn't) before engaging in 2

activities designed to slow the mind, body and emotions down whilst heightening our experience of each moment.

Date - 27/05/21

Time - 10:00-11:00

Climate Action for a Fair Green Future

The event will be chaired by **Zarah Sultana (MP Coventry South)** with a range of leading public, private and third sector specialist showcasing a range of solutions as well as time for questions and comments.

There will also be a poster exhibition showcasing a range of local and international low carbon climate solutions, including 65 produced by Coventry and Warwick University students.

Also, a presentation of solar mapping of a wide range of large south facing buildings and car park clusters, together with smart systems, storage, EV charging points and energy efficiency retrofit.

[Book your free ticket.](#)

Opportunities

The Great British Spring Clean 2021

Keep Britain Tidy and partners are on a mission to clean up the UK, and they need people across the country to get outside, get active and help them on their quest to clean up a million miles of UK streets, coastline, parks, footpaths and neighbourhoods.

You can join by making a simple pledge and sharing how many minutes you'll clean up for during the campaign (**28 May – 13 June 2021**). These minutes will be converted to miles with the hope that, come summer, we can all enjoy a cleaner, greener, litter-free environment. You can pledge as an individual, or as a group, ensuring you follow the latest Covid-19 guidance about group gatherings outdoors.

Find out more [here!](#)



Coventry Giga Factory Consultation

Coventry Airport has been identified as the preferred site for a West Midlands Gigafactory and an outline planning application is now being brought forward by a Joint Venture made up of Coventry City Council and Coventry Airport Ltd.

As part of the pre-application consultation, you can find out more about the proposals here and leave your feedback before a planning application is submitted. All of the information included as part of the consultation is available now and you can [join in the consultation here](#).

Balsam Bashing

Tuesday 25th May 1pm - 4.30pm

Thursday 3rd June 10am - 1.30pm



Enjoy a few hours in the fresh air helping Friends of Canley Green Spaces remove Himalayan Balsam from the banks of Canley Brook. Pulling up balsam plants is good fun and provides a great opportunity for volunteers to explore nature.

Himalayan Balsam is an invasive plant that grows rapidly in tall dense colonies by brooks and rivers. Balsam has large leaves that block sunlight, causing native plant species to die. When Himalayan Balsam dominates the bankside, biodiversity is reduced. With fewer plant species, the brook supports less wildlife, endangering creatures like the fluffy water vole.

Gloves and training will be provided.

Meeting outside Pret (next to Rootes building)

[Sign Up for 25th May session](#)

[Sign up for 3rd June session](#)

Positive Images Festival

Warwick Institute of Engagement are looking for a small team of volunteers to support events, workshops and talks taking place at the upcoming Positive Images Festival, whether it be facilitating discussions, social media or question moderating. Full training will be provided by Warwick Institute of Engagement and would be a great opportunity to gain some skills in public discourse and technical support.

Roles will include; stage manager, technical support, event producer, moderator, social media content. This will involve working behind the scenes to create entertaining and engaging online broadcast and involve everything from briefing speakers to directing the show, an interacting with the audience to trouble shooting technical issues. For more information, please contact wie@warwick.ac.uk

Warwick DC Green Spaces Volunteers



Warwick District Council are looking for volunteers to help people use and enjoy their local green spaces, including the Pump Room Gardens and other parks in the district. You will assist with the planning and delivery of events and activities in parks and open spaces, produce communications and publicity,

support school workshops, manage community bookings and assist with project administration and manage bookings for the bandstand.

If you value our local parks and open spaces and enjoy meeting new people, they'd love to hear from you.

For more information and an application form, email greenspaces@warwickdc.gov.uk

News and events from further afield

Biden runs Climate Summit for Earth Day

On Earth Day 2021, world leaders met for a virtual White House summit on the climate crisis, at which Biden committed the US to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 50%-52% below its 2005 emissions levels by 2030.

Watch the full footage at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1rtZ-8E1Go>

UK government announces new emissions targets

On 20th April, it was announced that the UK government will set the world's most ambitious climate change target into law to reduce emissions by 78% by 2035 compared to 1990 levels. The UK's sixth Carbon Budget will incorporate the UK's share of international aviation and shipping emissions for the first time, to bring the UK more than three-quarters of the way to net zero by 2050.

While this is good news for many, some experts are concerned that action will not back up these ambitious targets. Chris Venables, of the Green Alliance thinktank, said: "It's great news that the government will put the 2035 target into law, and including aviation and shipping is genuine global climate leadership. But it's increasingly jarring for this long-term ambition not be backed up by action in the here and now. The clock is running down to Cop26 in November, and a detailed and fully funded net zero plan is needed well before then." (Source: [The Guardian](#))

Read more [here](#)!



Climate Live

Many will be young enough to remember Live Aid, even more of you will remember Live 8, and even more will get to enjoy the next world wide musical collaboration, [Climate Live](#), which aims not just help people across the world but our entire planet and its ecosystems.

Sherbourne Valley Project

The [Sherbourne Valley Project](https://www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/RiverSherbourneSurveys) is a new project led by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. It comes in two parts, an initial Development Phase aimed at gathering evidence and research, followed by a longer Delivery Phase aimed at action on the ground. The Development Phase started during lockdown in November and now as lockdown eases and it starts to take shape, we are particularly trying to get a clear understanding of what local people think about the river and our plans for it. The project aims to make the river better for wildlife and people, so it is vital we get a wide range of viewpoints in order to create a scheme that delivers exactly what the community wants. Young people and students can play a crucial part in this. To that end, we are asking as many people as possible to complete this short survey – whether you currently have much to do with the river or not. It takes about 7mins, but the results will mean a lasting positive impact for Coventry. Thank you so much for your time. It really does make a difference. Please also share this link with your friends and family and encourage them to share their thoughts.

<https://www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/RiverSherbourneSurveys>