



SUSTAINABLE·WARWICK·NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2021

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Warwick News

Welcome

Welcome to all new students and staff!! The University is committed to sustainability, to reducing our carbon emissions, to improving biodiversity on campus and to ensuring that the sustainability is embedded in everything we do. We hope you will join us in playing your part to help combat climate change and protect the planet. Read on to find out more about what's going on, on campus and in the local area as well as how you can get involved. Watch our student [sustainability induction](#) video.

If you know someone you think would be interested in receiving these monthly newsletters, please ask them sign up to be a [Green Champion](#).

Welcome Week

We have been busy during Welcome Week at events and induction sessions:

- The Living at University Fair was attended by many new students keen to find out more about what's going on and how they can get involved.
- The Pay As You Feel Market ran for 8 days at the Junction. Second-hand pots, pans, cutlery, utensils, crockery and lots more have been purchased at 'pay as you feel' prices raising significant funds for local charity [Emmaus](#).
- More than 20 people attended the 'Greening Campus Tour' to when we explored the hidden gems of campus. Find out more about [walks on campus](#).
- The 'Sustainable. Action. Together.' induction sessions have been popular with students attending to find out more about what the University is doing and how everyone needs to and can make a difference.
- Transport for West Midlands, alongside University staff, have been promoting the various [sustainable transport options](#) across and beyond campus.



[Returning to campus sustainably](#)

As the new academic year begins, it is a great opportunity to reassess our actions both as a university and as individuals as we seek to allow us to live more sustainable lives, together. As individuals – whether students, staff, or visitors – our day-to-day habits have a real impact on emissions and the fight against climate change. Whether this is travelling more sustainably, turning off equipment and lights, using less water, or eating less meat, there are things we can all do in our daily lives to reduce emissions. [So what can I do?](#)

[Autumn SU Elections: Environment and Ethics Officer Nominations Open](#)

Your Students' Union is student-led meaning that we put you in charge of deciding, and becoming, your future student leaders. This could be leading your group, class or even the whole Union, so Make Your Mark and see who will lead the next chapter of the student experience at Warwick. This election is specifically to elect vacant Student Officer Roles and SU Committee Roles. [Nominations close at 12:00 on Friday 15 October 2021.](#)

[Cut the Flow Competition and Ambassador Training](#)

Warwick students living on campus use on average 153 litres a day. Initially this seems in line with the National average of 150 litres a day. However, while the national average includes dishwashers, washing machines etc. the Warwick average is purely the amount of water from accommodation bathroom and kitchen taps. Cut the Flow is an inter-block competition, aiming to reduce water usage, and energy usage across campus accommodation. Each block is automatically entered into the competition, and prizes are awarded at the end of each term to both the block that has reduced energy usage the most, and water usage the most. Ambassador Training for the competition is still open for sign ups – the training provides an opportunity to learn ways we can reduce energy and water usage personally, and how to encourage others to do the same. This is an opportunity to have a real impact on the Sustainability of the University, and learn skills that will be useful further afield – with advice that will help you save money when living off campus next year! Training days for this year are the 15th October and 20th October – [sign up here!](#)

[West Midlands Cycle Hire](#)

With the expansion of Coventry's West Midlands Cycle Hire scheme, nine docking stations have been made available for use across campus. And the scheme has proved popular on campus – with five of the docks on campus featuring in the top 10 most popular pick up points in Coventry. While four of the campus docks have featured in the top 10 most popular destination docks – where the bikes are cycled to and left. The scheme is easy to use, and costs only 5p per minute of cycling, plus a £1 unlocking fee – a fee that is waived for all users between 6am and 11am everyday. The scheme is offering a [First Ride Free](#) offer – with your first 30 minute journey completely free until the 30th November 2021! Simply download the [“Beryl Cycle Hire App”](#) to find your nearest dock and join the scheme!

Events

Warwick Climate Negotiating Forum (WCNF) 2021

Following a successful WCNF in 2019, Warwick students will host a Mock COP26, on the 29th-31st October, on Campus. Delegates who sign up will be put in the shoes of representatives of one of the 20 global nations, tasked with representing their nation's interests in an informal discussion. Delegates will work together to agree upon policy commitments, which the WCNF team will then use to predict the impact these would have on the climate crisis in the real world.



The event will facilitate collaborative involvement from different departments, and there will be a number of workshops, and different speakers, to broaden an understanding of Climate Challenges. A team of 34 students across Warwick is coordinating the event, led by Todd Olive who has recently commenced studying for the new MASc in Global Sustainable Development., Supported by a number of academics. Sign ups to be a delegate are open until 11pm on the 14th October – no specific experience or expertise is needed for the role! [Read more about WCNF and sign up here.](#)



Warwick Food Co-op is Back!

[Warwick Food Co-op](#) is a non-profit, student run co-operative, offering organic food in zero waste packaging. Sourcing from a number of sustainable and local sources, [be sure to visit their stall](#) on Thursday 14th 1pm at Warwick SU Atrium, for the opportunity to buy food that is both affordable and sustainable!

Climate Reality Events

Thursday – [Green Tea Discussion](#)

Green Tea Discussion is a weekly opportunity to get involved with an open discussion about the climate crisis. Starting on the 14th of October in the Oculus, the event will follow every Thursday thereafter, with green tea and snacks are provided! The theme for the 14th will be: How to be a good ancestor. Later themes will be revealed afterwards, and all suggestions are welcome. There will definitely be a COP26 themed one by the end of the month as Adele (President) and Benjamin (Green tea organizer) will be going to COP on official badges to advocate for intergenerational equity.



Saturday – [CR x Oxfam Charity Shop Crawl](#)

Saturdays are for sustainable shopping – join us in Leamington Spa on Saturday for a tour around the best Second Hand shops in the area, and an opportunity to meet some likeminded people!

Sunday – Plogging – Updates via [Warwick Plogging Facebook Page](#)

Updates on events as they come are available on the Climate Reality Warwick Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/climaterealitywarwick/?hl=en>

Walking Forest Coventry

[Coventry 2021](#) are looking for anyone who identifies as a woman to [join them](#) in their powerful demonstration. Carrying a felled tree throughout Coventry, that will eventually make its way to Glasgow for COP26, the tree represents women coming together to stand up for social and environmental justice. Birch trees can live up to 200 years – the tree that is to be carried is a young birch tree, felled at an early age as part of a large area of woodlands felled to make way for the HS2 rail link.



The group will be walking from dawn to dusk 15th and 16th October – anyone is welcome to watch the procession, and meet them at the stop points - [download the map and timetable](#). The route will include a stop in Shelton Square on Friday 15th October at 12.15pm. This is a climate café led by Heather Parker where young people (approx. 15-21) are invited to join and discuss what they've noticed about extreme weather changes locally and globally with a free lunch provided by Langar aid. If you are interested in joining this part please e-mail Hannah Rouse (Hannah.Rouse@coventry2021.co.uk). The procession will stop at the Magistrates Court on Fri 15th Oct, 15.15, 15.45 “Law making or Law Breaking” to hear witness statements from women who have been standing up for the natural world locally.

The West Midlands Green Jobs Summit

The [West Midlands Green Jobs Summit](#) is an online event on the 20th October 6:30pm. To achieve net zero goals, we must decarbonise buildings, improve energy efficiency of businesses, develop nature recovery strategies etc. This online event will showcase the huge potential of creating ‘green’ jobs across the region, necessary to tackle climate and nature emergencies.

Change Festival

Change Festival 2021 invites you to rise up to climate change with an uplifting weekend of theatre, cabaret, discussions, music, workshops, craft and films for all ages. This is your chance to come together and celebrate our collective power with all kinds of events like music from Cosmo Sheldrake, to inspirational talks from Satish Kumar, Amisha Ghadiali and Jonathon Porritt. [See what's happening and how you can get involved.](#)

Opportunities



Warwick Volunteers

Sat 23 October 10.30 - 2pm Planting Spring Flowering Bulbs

We will be planting spring flowering bulbs by Westwood campus, that will produce beautiful flowers throughout Spring over many years, for everyone to enjoy. [Sign up here](#)

Tues 26 October 10.30 - 2pm Tree Care

We will be revisiting the tree planting site in Park Wood, to cut away unwanted vegetation from around the trees. This will improve the appearance of the new woodland, giving the trees more light to ensure that they grow healthy. [Sign up here](#)

Earth Bound Plastic Project

Earth Bound are looking for plastic bags, bottles and anything else plastic that hasn't yet been recycled, to be used in costumes and set design for theatrical show "For The Love of Stuff". The show will incorporate theatre and song to tell a story of sacrifice for the materialistic love of objects and things. Collection point is CORE, 50 Regent Street CV32 5EG.

Earth Bound Video Project

Earth Bound is also looking for young people who have something to say about the climate crisis to answer a few questions in the form of a video. The Project aims to conduct a series of short interviews with those passionate about the current climate situation. Email sioda@earth-bound.co.uk for more information.

Environmental Sustainability Co-ordinator

University of Leicester have an exciting 6 month job opportunity (with potential extension of this role), at their research centre. The position provides an opportunity to support the implementation of emerging environmental sustainability policy and work on specific carbon-reduction activities. For more information visit the [Vacancy Page](#).

Environmental and Sustainability Advisor

Derby College is looking for someone passionate about sustainability to join their estates team. The main responsibilities will include advising and leading on environmental and sustainability management procedures, and overseeing the environmental and sustainability agenda. For more information visit the [Vacancy Page](#) – deadline for applications is 24th October.

FREE Online Sustainability Courses

The following Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) are beginning this month for a limited time and are a great opportunity for anyone interested in sustainability to learn more. Both have been co-developed by University of Edinburgh, Learning for Sustainability Scotland and the British Council, with input from Education Scotland.

'Learning for a Sustainable Future: Live at COP26' begins on 31st October and will run for the duration of COP26 in Glasgow. The content will be available for six weeks as a learning resource. Join the mailing list to be notified when enrolment opens [here](#).

#MyBitYourBit

#MyBitYourBit features a giant digital Planet Earth to be screened at COP26. A massive screen will display a constantly changing series of young people's messages, emerging one after another from the planet. Here's a 90-second taster to give you an idea of how it works: <https://vimeo.com/518726025>

Joining in is as simple as recording your video message on your phone:

- Aim for up to 20 seconds, with the first part saying **one action** you are taking to help reach net-zero, and the second part saying **one action** you think the COP politicians should take.
- Then tweet your video with **#MyBitYourBit**.
- Your video message will then be displayed in the digital Planet Earth. You'll get a reply tweet giving you the link to watch it back and retweet it to spread the word.

The logo for 'ONE CLIMATE' features the word 'ONE' in a large, bold, blue font with a white outline, and 'CLIMATE' in a smaller, bold, black font below it. The background of the letters is a stylized image of a globe or a planet.

Force of Nature tackling EcoAnxiety

Struggling to deal with Climate Anxiety? [Force of Nature](#) are running an Online Live Workshop, in collaboration with Common Vision and Climate Cares, focused upon supporting you in navigating your feelings around the climate crisis. Sign up here to attend the event, on Tuesday 26th October, 4:30 – 6:30pm.

Eco-anxiety can stem from not knowing where we fit into the climate crisis. Force of Nature have created a 5-minute quiz "[Which Changemaker Are You](#)", to help us find our place in tackling the Climate Crisis.

Ecosia

Ecosia is a sustainable search engine alternative, powered by completely renewable energy. 80% of profits are donated to non-profit reforestation organisations, including projects that plant native species where they're needed most. Over 134 millions trees have been planted since launching, in over 30 different locations – [make it your default browser](#) to help plant even more!

Giki Zero

[Giki Zero](#) is a free app, which calculates your personal carbon emissions, and advises you how to reduce these. By tracking how much carbon is being emitted through your day to day activities, it suggests simple swaps your emissions, and live more sustainably. Based on scientific calculations, Giki Zero is a useful app, demonstrating simple sustainable switches we may not be already be aware of.

News and events from further afield

Solihull Faiths Forum – The Uneven Path to Net Zero

Interested in Sustainability plans in the local area? Solihull Faiths Forum provides an opportunity to attend a talk, and Q&A session with Leader of Solihull Council Ian Courts. Chaired by United Nations Senior Consultant Ian Holland, this is an opportunity to learn about the Council's plans to make the borough carbon neutral by 2041. The forum is on Thursday 28th October, starting at 7:30pm, and will be held at St Helen's Church B91 2DA. To reserve a seat, be sure to email woodlandfarm@gmail.com by the 21st October!

City of Culture Green Future

Green Futures is a flagship programme for Coventry UK City of Culture 2021.

Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, with support from Garfield Weston Foundation and Severn Trent Community Fund, Green Futures explores Coventry and Warwickshire's wildlife, natural heritage, and landscape, uncovering the story of its 'hidden nature' and increasing local stewardship. Through the Green Futures programme, Coventry will become the greenest and most environmentally conscious UK City of Culture to date.

For the Green Futures programme, the Coventry UK City of Culture Trust is working with local and global partners, such as such as Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and the Canals & Rivers Trust, to ignite social activism, connecting and reconnecting communities to nature and heritage and prioritising issues that most directly affect them. The ambitious programme will unearth stories to inspire a modern, diverse city to reimagine its 'Green Future' for wild and human life.

[Check out the many events being run.](#)

National Day of Action for COP 26

As leaders meet in Glasgow on November 6th for COP26, towns and cities across the world will take to the streets to demand global justice. In Birmingham, people will be assembling at Millennium Point at 12pm on November 6th, to demonstrate to the Government we are demanding change. [A Facebook event page](#) has been created, with further information about the event. A meeting for the wider West Midlands coalition planning group will follow.



COP26 information for schools

An [Educational Pack](#) has been made for teachers and schools to help them get involved in the growing green momentum in the lead up to COP26. There are various resources to encourage children and families to take direct action on climate, including 90 lesson plans covering a range of subjects across KS1, KS2 and KS3. If you're involved with any schools, please consider sharing this information with them.

Making our Fair Green Solar Future

Coventry, as other cities, recognises the dual challenge to urgently address local atmospheric pollution and global warming from using fossil fuels. This public event will showcase how Coventry is involved with Solar energy. The event will highlight the latest installation of 5000 solar panels in Coventry, the Heart of England Community Energy Solar Farm and plans of solar mapping large clusters of Coventry buildings to potentially generate multiple times the existing green power. The event will be held at United Reform Church CV1 1EX on Wednesday 27th October 7:30pm – [sign up to be able to attend](#).

Billion Seed Challenge

The [Together Coalition](#) are coordinating the [#BillionSeedChallenge](#) to encourage the UK public to come together with their communities between 23rd September and 30th October and collectively plant one billion seeds. The project aims to demonstrate how we can all do our bit for the environment, while also acting as a project of hope for COP26 – how we can make a big difference when working together.

To support the challenge, Homebase will be reducing the price of seeds by 50% in all UK stores until October 26th! The [Event's website](#) have put together some tips to help decide what; where and how to plant your seeds, as well as how to organise a planting event in your local area.

