

SUSTAINABLE·WARWICK·NEWSLETTER

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[Warwick News](#)

[Events](#)

[Opportunities](#)

[News and events from further afield](#)

Warwick News

Warwick Sustainability Challenge

The [WIHEA ESD learning circle](#) is delighted to launch the 'Warwick Sustainability Challenge'. This is a project that has been developed in partnership with Economics, WMG, WBS, Warwick Enterprise, Estates, our Warwick Alumni, and Coventry City Council. The project will see staff and students across the whole University co-creating sustainable solutions to a particular challenge. Using a design thinking approach, the objective of this project is to provide a more holistic approach to sustainability in HE, linking the teaching and learning provision (Curriculum), to values and ways of working and studying on Campus, and the local Community by engaging with local people and partners (we are naming this 'CCC approach'). You can find more information about the project [here](#). Join the Challenge. Help us to shape a more sustainable world where to live!



Rawkus

[Rawkus](#) collection is taking place on the 2nd and 3rd of July this year! As students move out of halls at the end of term 3, tonnes of unwanted food and kitchen equipment is left behind. Rawkus volunteers come together to collect any food that is in-date and edible and any unwanted items, that would otherwise be binned and end up in landfill. The food and goods collected are then distributed to local charities in Coventry and Leamington, including food banks. [Sign up](#) to get involved and help with collection.



Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework

[LEAF](#) is a standard for sustainable laboratory operations used by 70 global institutions including the University. Nineteen laboratories from across Chemistry, the School of Life Sciences, the Medical School and RTPs have submitted this year, up from the five that submitted in 2021. It's a great achievement and clearly demonstrates the commitment from these labs to assess and improve their sustainability and efficiency.

Katherine Mayfield, Sustainability Champion, is currently being supported by Lesley Ward (SLS) and Manpreet Kaur (Chemistry) to audit all the 19 labs against either the bronze, silver or gold criteria and achievements will be announced over the coming weeks.

Hedgehog Surveys

Two weeks ago we conducted Hedgehog Surveys on campus! This involved placing small mammal footprint tunnels around campus, with food inside to tempt animals in. Black non-toxic ink was put on the bottom of these, for animals to tread in and leave footprints behind. We unfortunately didn't find any hedgehog tracks, only tracks of other wild animals - but we did find other evidence of Hedgehogs nearby, so are planning on conducting more surveys soon! A big thank you to the volunteers who helped set up the tunnels and checked daily on the results. [Sign up](#) to the Hedgehog Volunteers group on Teams to get involved with surveys we're conducting in the future!



Wildflowers

We are currently developing the wildflower areas on campus, to provide food and habitat for pollinators and wildlife! Areas that are being rewilded include the large wildflower area by Spine route, which stretches all the way from Radcliffe to the Sports club, which were sown in 2021. We also are rewilding areas by Sherbourne residences and at Gibbet Hill. We'll be doing surveys over the summer to record what wildflowers species are present.

Events

Litter pick

We are running a litterpick on campus, for any staff and students to get involved with, on the 13th July, starting at 12noon! This will be around an hour long - bags, gloves and pickers will be provided, but if you have your own please feel free to bring them. Not only does litterpicking keep our campus clean and safe for wildlife and people, it also provides the opportunity for you to meet likeminded people! [Sign up here.](#)

Plastic Unlimited: How corporations are fuelling the ecological crisis and what we can do about it?

Despite the global movement to tackle plastic pollution, demand for plastics continues to rise. As the world transitions away from fossil fuels, plastics are set to be the biggest driver of oil demand.

Alice Mah reveals in her book, [Plastic Unlimited](#), how petrochemical and plastics corporations have fought relentlessly to protect and expand plastic markets in the face of existential threats to business. From denying the toxic health effects of plastics to co-opting circular economy solutions to plastic waste and exploiting the opportunities offered up by the global pandemic, industry has deflected attention from the key problem: plastics production. Hear from Alice Mah, Nickie Charles and Nirmal Puwar, as they discuss the plastic problem and what we can do to tackle this. [Sign up](#) to attend the discussion and Q&A, happening in Ramphal on 6th July 10:30am-1:30pm!



Russia's War in Ukraine and its Consequences for Sustainability

The Institute for Global Sustainable Development and Warwick's Global Research Priorities on Energy, Food and Sustainable Cities are organising this one-day conference to discuss the global consequences of Russia's War in Ukraine for the sustainability of the planet. The ongoing war unleashed by Russia in February 2022 does not only have devastating consequences for Ukraine, but also has a significant impact on the rest of the world.

This one-day conference will address specific challenges of sustainability, with planetary consequences, on the following issues:

- Energy and food security in the context of Russia's war: from cascading risks to global effects?
- Ruined cities and destroyed infrastructures: What are the consequences for global connectedness?
- The human dimension: What lessons for democratic sustainability?

[Register to attend here](#)

Nicky Dean - Chief Editor of Nature Energy

Nature Energy is a monthly, online-only journal publishing the best research on energy, from its generation and distribution to the impacts energy technologies and policies have on societies. Nicky Dean has had a long history in this field, managing a team of physics and earth sciences editors before leaving to launch *Nature Energy*, and has gained a DPhil from Oxford University, where he employed a range of time-resolved techniques to study ultrafast dynamics in correlated electron materials. [Sign up](#) for a presentation from Nicky Dean, and a chance to network, happening on Friday 17th June, 2pm - 4pm, Space 12 in Radcliffe Conference.

There is also an opportunity to book a one-on-one meeting with Dean – [click here](#) for more information!

Wellesbourne - a campus for research excellence in Food and Environmental Science

Join us for a guided walk on Thursday 21 July and delve into the TRIALS and tribulations of growing food for the future...

- Visit field trials and specialist outdoor research facilities within the SLS footprint.
- Visit areas of interest for further studies, including biodiversity (e.g. wildflower strips, tree sparrow boxes, hedge planting, bees, low maintenance areas).
- Explore opportunities for future teaching, student projects and cross collaborations.

Each guided walk is approximately 1.5 hours, followed by posters and the opportunity to mingle with our researchers whilst enjoying some vegetable snacks. Return transport from Gibbet Hill campus available.

[Register now to secure your place](#)

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.



West Midlands on Demand

[West Midlands Bus On Demand](#) is a Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) service, that meets you wherever you are! Book a ride on the West Midlands On Demand app by inserting a pick-up and drop-off location. You'll then be matched with other passengers heading in the same direction. Currently they are offering a number of promotions - use code "UOW22" on the app for two free rides if you have not used the service before! Or refer a friend - when they complete their first journey, 2 free rides will be credited to your account! You can find your unique referral code in the "Free Rides" section on the app.

Warwick Volunteers

Warwick Volunteers is looking for people to help with spreading awareness of Homes for Ukraine Support Coventry & Warwickshire. The scheme is helping Ukrainians fleeing the war find a safe roof here in Coventry and Warwickshire. There's a number of roles available including writing and designing welcome packs for arrivals, researching and liaising with local resources etc. [Visit their website](#) to see how you can get involved with helping.

Positions within the Grounds Team

Warwick Grounds and Gardens Team have a number of permanent positions available, including [two Groundskeeper positions](#) and [two Grounds Team Leader positions](#). The closing dates for these positions is the 27th June – apply online!

News and events from further afield

The Big Zero Show

The Big Zero Show is a one-day event, focused on demonstrating to you different products and services available today, which will cut your emissions. Speak to energy experts and sustainable businesses – listen to people making changes, that you can emulate! There will be a huge range of talks and lectures, as well as an exhibition. The event is happening on the 21st June, in Coventry Building Society Arena – [sign up here](#).



Summer Makers Market

[Summer Makers Market](#) is happening on the 25th June 11am-5pm and the 26th June 11am-4pm! Visit [Fargo Village](#), for a weekend of the best independent makers, artists and designers around! With a range of products available, from plants to prints, to jewellery, to homemade treats, there will a huge range to choose from – all independently made!



National Clean Air Day

Every year, air pollution causes up to 36,000 deaths in the UK. [Clean Air Day](#) is an annual event, aiming to focus public and political attention on the problem of air pollution in the United Kingdom. This year it happened on the 16th of June, with the theme focused upon the damage air pollution does to your physical health. You can still get involved with this by [making a pledge](#) – this could be pledging to cycle short journeys you would normally drive, or co-ordinating deliveries with people you live with.

Clean Air Warwickshire

To mark [#CleanAirDay](#), Clean Air Warwickshire have been working with the Eco Group at Coten End School, Warwick who have devised this fabulous Clean Air Day Quiz - there are prizes to be won too! Do you know:

- Are children at greater risk from air pollution?
- Can you be fined for sitting in your parked vehicle with the engine running?

[Take this quick quiz](#) to check the facts and find out how you can reduce local air pollution and protect everyone's lungs. You could win a day out, pub grub or a top hair salon voucher!

[Insect Week](#)

[Insect Week](#) is running from the 20th-26th of June this year, and there's loads of ways to get involved! The week, organised by the Royal Entomological Society, is focused upon celebrating and spreading awareness of the importance of insects! Learn more about insects and why they are so important from the Royal Entomological Society website – there's a number of informative videos. Also look out for any insects you see in your day and [record what species you see](#) around campus (and elsewhere) using the [iNaturalist](#) app.



[Climate Change Action for Air Quality 2022](#)

A full day conference on Air Quality with guest speakers from Local Government, Research Institutes and Worldwide Subject Experts, with the purpose of gaining a wider understanding of the effects of poor air quality and possible ways to mitigate against poor air quality. This event is happening in Coventry University on the 23rd June, from 9:15am – 5:15pm. [Register your place here!](#)