

# SUSTAINABLE·WARWICK·NEWSLETTER

August 2020

## Warwick News

### Ecosia

Thanks to your searches on Ecosia, more trees have been planted where they are needed most. The university's latest impact report shows that through 10,174 searches Ecosia were able to plant 257 trees from November 2019 through to July 2020. Well done; your internet searches are helping to combat climate change.

Please continue to use the Ecosia search engine or download the app and encourage others to do the same!

For more information about Ecosia's tree planting projects visit [blog.ecosia.org](https://blog.ecosia.org)  
#WarwickOnEcosia #MakeTheSwitch



### Lockdown Saves Carbon Emissions and Costs

Since the Corona-virus lockdown in March, the university has saved 2.4 million pages from being printed. This is equivalent to approximately 1000 trees being saved. Going forward, please continue to consider the need to print and make the switch to digital wherever possible.

Please continue to save the lungs of this earth!



No office stationary & printing per month  
**~ -110 tCO2 or £34,000**

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No Business travel per month:

**~ -800 tCO<sub>2</sub> or £80,000**

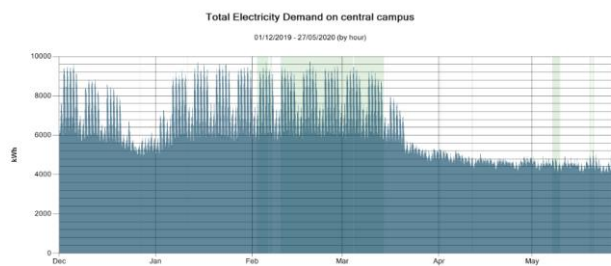
Based on £45 for 1,777 bookings in April 2020



No commuting per month:

**~ -2,200 tCO<sub>2</sub>**

Time, stress & financial savings to staff



Drop in electricity demand per month:  
**£250,000**

### Departmental support for improving environmental performance

Members of the Energy and Sustainability Team have been meeting with the Chairs of Faculties and the Professional Services Group to raise awareness of the University's commitment to the Climate Emergency and the roles of departments to ensure targets are met. There has been overwhelming support from all areas and recognition of the need to engage with current Green Champions and Green Action Teams to support the development of departmental action plans.

Initial discussions will be around energy savings, education for sustainable development (for both staff and students) and setting up (and supporting) Green Action Teams. If you would like to be involved or have any thoughts or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact the Energy and Sustainability Team on [sustainability@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:sustainability@warwick.ac.uk).

### Insite Readership

It is really positive to see that environmental articles are often amongst the most popular categories from central communications. For example:

- Mini-series #3 about wildlife and gardening during lockdown was the third most popular item that week;
- A tweet about the environmental benefits emerging from the Covid-19 crisis by Professor Rob Lillywhite in Life Sciences was the fourth top tweet of the week; and
- A tweet about World Rainforest Day was the second top tweet of the week.

You can view the rest of our mini-series and newsletters [here](#). And thank you for your continuous support in engaging with us online.

## Making food the medicine of life with hydroponics

The medical school got two hydroponic garden towers just as lockdown hit, originally intended for educational purposes (and kindly funded by the Food Global Research Priority!) - one is now located at the charity Carriers of Hope in Coventry, where refugees have taken it on to grow fresh food for sharing. The charity is also in the process of setting up a culturally relevant food bank for BAME families in need in Coventry, and it is reported that Warwick medical students are going to help with that. The garden tower will be at the centre of a project to grow and share fresh food with those in need. For more explanation of hydroponics, check out this [short video](#).



## Events

### Toxic Expertise Webinar Series: Struggles for Environmental Justice

Please join the Toxic Expertise team to engage in urgent debates about the challenges and possibilities for environmental justice struggles over the toxic impacts of the petrochemical and fossil fuel industries. Each 2-hour webinar will be organized as a panel discussion (on Zoom), including short presentations from a range of international and interdisciplinary scholars, followed by a Q&A.

#### **Wednesday 2 September, On the Petrochemical Fenceline: Environmental and Employment Challenges in Community-Industry Relations, 3-5pm BST.**

Speakers: David Brown (University of Warwick), Giulia Malavasi (University of Florence), Alfonso Pinto (University of Lyon), Elisa Privitera (University of Catania). Chaired by Lorenzo Feltrin (University of Warwick).

#### **Thursday 3 September, Climate Justice, Decarbonisation and a Just Transition, 3-5pm BST.**

Speakers: Tomas Aritzia (Universidad Diego Portales), Shalanda Baker (Northeastern University), Dunja Krause (United Nations Research Institute for Social Development). Chaired by David Brown and co-organised by Patricio Flores Silva.

#### **Friday 4 September, Toxic Expertise: Environmental Justice and the Global Petrochemical Industry, 3-5pm BST.**

Speakers: Alice Mah (University of Warwick), Thom Davies (University of Nottingham), Loretta Lou (University of Macau), Lorenzo Feltrin (University of Warwick), Barbara Allen (Virginia Tech University, Washington DC). Chaired by Alice Mah.

This webinar series will be hosted by the Toxic Expertise team at the University of Warwick, funded by the European Research Council, and is free to attend. If you have any questions about the event, please contact [toxic.expertise@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:toxic.expertise@warwick.ac.uk).

To register for the online event, please go to the Eventbrite page [here](#).

## Launch: Nature-based Solutions for the Climate Emergency

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August 14:00-15:00 – [Book Now](#)

### Speakers

- Dr. Rachel Morrison, Nature-based Solutions Advisor, Greater Manchester Combined Authority
- Sam Hartley, Environment Team Campaign Officer, Business in the Community
- Nourhan Heysham, Research Assistant, University of Salford
- Sam Evans, Head of Natural Environment, Greater Manchester Combined Authority
- Jack Shuttleworth, Business Development Manager, SEL Environmental
- Craig Morley, Project Manager, Bruntwood
- Robert Winch, Sustainability Officer, UKGBC
- Alastair Mant, Head of Business Transformation, UKGBC

## Opportunities

### Ingenuity – Creating Prosperity Challenge (£5k prize fund)

Starts this: Monday 17th August

- Want to use your knowledge, skills, and/or experience to contribute towards making a difference?
- Interested in taking on a new challenge and learning about how you could help others?
- Interested in making an impact?

We are excited to announce next week's Ingenuity 'Creating Prosperity Feeder Event' (with up to £5k prize funding) will be starting this Monday 17th August.

Open to staff, students, alumni, and community organisations, you don't need to have a pre-existing idea, just a passion for social/environmental impact.

Register at: [Ingenuityimpact.org](https://www.ingenuityimpact.org)

If anyone would like to discuss their idea/this challenge please email: [enterprise@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:enterprise@warwick.ac.uk)

### Kickstarting the West Midlands Circular Economy

Traditionally our economy has worked in a linear way, where products and materials are made, used, and then thrown away.

A circular economy is one that designs out waste and pollution by reusing and repurposing products and materials that would normally be discarded. This diverts waste from landfill, protects our limited natural resources and reduces carbon emissions.

WMCA is working with experts from business and academia to deliver a plan for advancing a Circular Economy in our region. [Have your say](#) by 9<sup>th</sup> September.

### Green Champions

Many of you joined a great event recently about the Green Champion network and Warwick Green Action. We now have a number of teams up and running of getting off the ground. If you know someone who might be interested in signing up, or if you want to create a team in your area please [follow the link](#).

## News and events from further afield

### World could hit 1.5-degree warming threshold by 2024

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said forecasts suggest there's a 20% chance that global temperatures will be 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) higher than the pre-industrial average in at least one year between 2020 and 2024.

The Geneva-based WMO said there's a 70% chance that the 1.5-degree mark will be exceeded in a single month between 2020 and 2024. The five-year period is expected to see annual average temperatures that are 0.91 C to 1.59 C higher than pre-industrial averages.

"This is the message that people in their daily lives and how they vote and every other way they should be concerned about," said the WMO official.

Read the full article [here](#).

### River Sherbourne Valley Living Landscape funding

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust has received initial support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for the River Sherbourne Valley Living Landscape. Made possible by National Lottery players, the scheme aims to reconnect the people of Coventry with the city's river, restore the river for wildlife and complement the growing City of Culture programme linked to nature.

Find out more about the scheme and the three new roles available as part of the Development Phase.

### The impact of coronavirus on the meat industry

Alice Standen from the SU's The Boar newspaper found that on "a global scale, humans consume around 350 million tons of meat a year" with trends showing that people are eating meat more than ever before. However, whilst Corona-virus' lockdown impacted most workplaces, including smaller slaughterhouses, meat plants remained unaffected.

These slaughterhouses suffer from the risk of being breeding grounds for many diseases. In fact, approximately 10,000 cases of Covid-19 have been linked to these plants in the United States with other countries echoing the trend.

Read the full thought provoking article [here](#).