



# SUSTAINABLE·WARWICK·NEWSLETTER

## DECEMBER 2021

[Warwick News](#)

[Events](#)

[Opportunities](#)

[News and events from  
further afield](#)

### Warwick News

#### Sustainability Summit

Our recent Sustainability Summit provided an interesting insight into some of the Sustainability projects at Warwick. We heard from Provost Professor Chris Ennew, about new Sustainability efforts that have been implemented at University, followed by a discussion by some of the delegates who attended COP-26, including an explanation of COP-26 and how it went. We learnt from Rex Chiu and Peter Razzell about the Coventry Solar Project, and their work with mapping solar panels in Coventry, and learnt from Professor Alistair Smith about the UN SDGs. We also heard from Plant and Nature Society - President Erin Pitcher and Sustainability Officer Maleeka Imam discussed the work the society has been doing on campus, and upcoming plans! [The full Summit is now available to watch on Youtube!](#)

#### SDG Annual Report

We heard some interesting and important updates from Professor Alistair Smith about Warwick's recent SDG report. His discussion included the work towards embedding SDGs in modules across the University, particularly with an increase of inter-disciplinary modules, and the importance of the ways of teaching and leadership roles. He discussed how the report gave way to a list of important questions that must be addressed to improve Warwick's social and environmental sustainability. Listen to his talk by clicking 57 minutes into [The Sustainability Summit on Youtube](#), and read the full report [here!](#)

#### LEAF Update

The University participates in LEAF which provides laboratories with a systematic approach to improving sustainability and efficiency in the laboratory. It is open to both staff and students working in laboratories, including research or teaching facilities, and allows laboratories to work towards a defined standard (Bronze, Silver or Gold levels). It contains criteria which lab users can implement around areas such as waste and recycling, equipment management, procurement, and more.

In 2020, five awards were made. So far this year, eight labs have signed up and are taking part and we would like to encourage more labs to get involved. **Participating labs are encouraged to complete submissions by April 2022, with auditing due to take place in May and awards announced in June.** If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Lesley Ward ([lesley.a.ward@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:lesley.a.ward@warwick.ac.uk)).

#### WMG Green Action Team Case Study

The WMG Green Action Team have kept in touch with each other throughout the pandemic through their Teams group. Some members are on campus all the time, whereas others work from home. They have developed their own sustainability initiatives as well as supporting groups in the community. The following highlights some of the activities they been involved with:

- Recycling and sustainability added to a localised area induction.
- Specialist waste collection streams have been set up including crisp packets, medical blister packs, toothpaste tubes, batteries, used stationary and teabags / tea leaves / coffee grounds.
- Small area developed for wildlife including planting species for wildlife and putting up a bird bath; more insects and butterflies have been seen.
- Investigating opportunities for collecting latex / nitrile gloves for recycling.
- Promotion of sustainability opportunities in the local community.

### **Christmas Shut Down Message**

Christmas 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. There are lots of things we can all do whether you're at home or on campus:

1. Turn electrical items and lights off in your flats and houses, where safe to do so before you leave for your Christmas break.
2. Turn the heating down by 1°C and make use of that Christmas jumper (it is recommended that your main living space should be between 18 - 21°C).
3. Get LED decorations (which are 90% more efficient than standard).
4. Use recyclable wrapping paper (no foil or glitter) and take tape off before recycling.
5. Save your cards for next year to cut up and use as labels. Consider sending e-mails instead to reduce paper use.
6. Plan what you're going to eat to save on food waste and make use of those leftovers (current estimates suggest ~80% of Christmas food ends up in the bin. [More food waste reduction tips.](#))
7. Support local businesses and local charities who support those in need.
8. With New Year right around the corner consider making 'being more sustainable' your New Year's Resolution. As the saying goes...[there's an app for that!](#)

## How to have a Sustainable Secret Santa

Looking for a good Secret Santa present, that's environmentally friendly? Here are some tips for how to shop Sustainably this Christmas!

- Buy locally or from small businesses – particularly if you can travel via foot/public transport! This saves wasteful packaging used by big businesses and supports local, ethical businesses.
- Gift cards are a great zero-waste present – they can often be emailed and means the recipient will buy something they'll definitely use! Experiences vouchers are also great zero-waste presents – gift a unique experience or fun day out, to avoid waste from packaging etc.
- Websites such as Reusable and Plastic Freedom and shops like Core, Zero and Ikigai are great places have a great range of sustainable and zero waste gifts!
- Wrapping your present in a scarf/fabric tote bag is a great way of adding a small extra gift to your present, while avoiding contributing to the huge amounts of waste from wrapping paper! Furoshiki is the Japanese art of wrapping gifts in fabric instead of wrapping paper – follow Furoshiki instructions online!
- Sustainable beauty products, such as Scrubbee face wash, reusable beeswax food wraps, reusable water bottles/containers and homemade goodies are all great Sustainable gift ideas!



## 17 SDGs of Christmas

Be sure to follow our social media to get updates about the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of Christmas! In the lead up to Christmas we'll be posting about events that are happening, both locally and further afield, and tips, related to a different SDG each day. Learn how you can get involved in Sustainability this Christmas!

### 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS OF CHRISTMAS



Follow us for different tips and ways you can have a more sustainable Christmas this year!

## Travelling Home for Christmas

Did you know travelling by car emits around 4x the carbon emissions of a coach, and around 5x the carbon emissions by train, for the same distance? Help reduce your personal carbon footprint by travelling home using public transport, rather than getting your parents to pick you up! Megabus and National Express offer coach journeys across the UK. Get 15% off all National Express journeys, with Unidays (which is free to sign up to!), and 10% off Megabus routes with Totum. If you prefer the train, book tickets as soon as possible! A number of Advance tickets are available for most journeys – tickets for specific days and times which are significantly cheaper than other tickets and are only available to book online in advance.

**Be sure to dispose of waste correctly this end of term!**

Moving out of halls and student houses for Christmas can result in a lot of waste. It's important to dispose of this waste correctly - putting non-recyclable items in the recycling bin can result in the whole bag being sent to landfill. Bin bags need to be tied properly before putting in bins - otherwise all rubbish just falls out - and placed in outside bins, rather than placed next to it. If on campus your outside bins are full, simply check others that are nearby. Also ensure waste is always put in bin bags - loose litter thrown into outside bins has to then be picked out by the waste team by hand!

### **Tree planting on campus**

During December a large number of trees will be planted across campus including at Claycroft Field, Scarman House and Cryfield Residences. A new mature hedgerow has also been planted around Kirby Corner car park.

### **Hedgehog Friendly Campus**

We are currently gathering evidence to apply for the Bronze status of the Hedgehog Friendly Campus initiative!

- The first criteria we've met is our Hedgehog Friendly Campus Working Group! We've been having regular meetings talking about what we can do to help Hedgehogs on campus
- We've also posted information about Hedgehogs on our social media posts – including our Hedgehog Friendly Bonfire Campaign
- We've put a number of posters around Campus, including in the Library, Ramphal and the Post Grad Grid, with information about what we're doing on campus
- Warwick Carpenters have made Hedgehog Houses, which have been distributed on campus by the Grounds Team, as well as bug houses near Tocil Lake
- We've placed stickers on Strimmers and Mowers to remind the Grounds team to check for Hedgehogs before doing work on campus
- Warwick Plogging has organised regular student litter picks, and we've organised a number of staff litter picks, on campus, to help keep campus free of litter that is dangerous to foraging Hedgehogs
- Tanya Corey has been posting regularly on the Hedgehog Blog – read the blog here!

### **Drop in Bike Repair**

The Drop in Bike Repair Service is still running on campus! Bring your bike to the Piazza anytime from 10am to 4pm on Thursday, for any bike checks, repairs or maintenance needed! A range of services are available, including supplying and fitting of parts, bike health checks and puncture repairs. Cost depends on the service required!

### **Congratulations Parvez Islam!**

We'd like to congratulate Parvez Islam on his new role as Director of Environmental Sustainability! Parvez has previously been Director of Transport and Future Mobility – his new role brings the Environmental Sustainability Team under his direction.



## Events

### **Feast! Festival- Food for the Soul**

This is a great way to learn about the food and customs that bring us all together over the festive season. From farm to fork, the events showcase the making, history and meaning behind lots of different festive foods and drinks. Find out about ingredients, techniques and stories from Coventry and Warwickshire food and drink businesses and the wider community to celebrate what's on the menu in our area. Each week they are highlighting a different food and [sharing a video featuring local partners](#) to do with this food group.

### **Oxfam x Warwick International Development Society**

Oxfam and WIDS are throwing a joint social in the Oculus in room OC1.04 on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December from 5-6pm! Join them for an afternoon of games, Christmas crafts and festive treats.



### **Proof Bakery**

[Proof Bakery](#) hires and trains refugees in Coventry as bakers and servers and uses recyclable packaging for their products. They are now inside the SU every Thursday and Friday 11am-2pm - visit and choose from a range of delicious baked goods, fresh bread and festive treats!

### **Climate Reality Warwick**

Climate Reality are having a Christmas Meal at Bodega, Leamington Spa, on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 8pm. There are limited spaces available, sign up using the form on Climate Reality's Instagram!

### **West Midlands Cycle Hire e-Bike Launch**

30 e-Bikes are being added to the West Midlands Cycle Hire Scheme on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December, and to celebrate this, WMCH are offering 10% off all bike minute bundles all day on Wednesday! 10 e-Bikes are being allocated to Warwick Campus – and will be available for use at the Oculus Bike Station and the Sports Hub Bike Station. The other 20 are being allocated across Coventry City Centre. Use e-Bikes the same way as regular bikes, by downloading the Beryl Cycle Hire app, and unlocking the bikes with your phone. The discount will automatically be taken off when using bikes on Wednesday!

### **Vintage Sale**

Warwick Circuit and LINE are organising a pop up Vintage Sale in the Neighbourhood, in Leamington Spa, on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December from 5-9pm, with all profits being donated to Leamington Night Shelter! The perfect opportunity to buy affordable clothing and to meet other people interested in sustainable clothing over some good food and drinks!

### **GSD X Veg Soc**

GSD Society and Vegetarian Society are doing a joint circle at Kelsey's Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 8pm! If you haven't had a chance to attend many events with the Warwick Sustainable societies this term, this is a great opportunity to meet people involved in the societies before returning home for Christmas!

### **Hedgehog Friendly Campus Christmas Party**





The British Hedgehog Preservation Society are throwing an Online Christmas Party on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 5:30-7:30pm. Join in with the celebrations of all that people have been doing across the UK to help Hedgehogs! This is a great opportunity to learn more about Hedgehog Friendly Campus – with a talk from ecologist Hugh Walker and a tour around a Hedgehog Rescue Centre. [Sign up](#) to book your free ticket to attend!

### Green Week 2022

[Green Week](#) is a time to celebrate the environment and to learn more about how we can all be more sustainable in our day-to-day lives. It will be taking place from 7<sup>th</sup>-13th March 2022 so follow [@WarwickUniSust](#) and the [Green Week 2022 Facebook page](#) to keep up to date with what's going on and how you can get involved.

## Opportunities

### Sustainable Christmas Decoration Competition

Did you know around 25,000 tonnes of plastic is generated in the UK during the festive period – that's equivalent in weight to 25,000 elephants! And over 100 million black bags full of rubbish end up in Landfill during Christmas. Christmas Decorations contribute a lot to this - from the packaging they come in to breaking and being thrown away. Send us in entries of your Sustainable Christmas Decorations to our Facebook or Instagram, or upload a photo and tag us at [@WarwickUniSust](#)!



### Positive Images Festival Art Applications

Positive Images Festival are commissioning ten local emerging artists to create a piece of work for their Positive Images and Words Exhibition in March next year. The Festival wants to support local artists in the early stages of their career. The theme of the project is "eco-friendliness", and successful artists will be paid £350. Application deadline is Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December. [Click here for more info!](#)

### LWS Reverse Calendar

LWS Night Shelter provides food packages and hot meals for the Homeless and Vulnerably Housed every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Every day from the 1<sup>st</sup> December until the 24<sup>th</sup> they'll be posting an item they really need at the Shelter. The idea is to place the item in a box every day and donate it at the end, but they also accept donations anytime during their opening hours! [Follow their social media](#) to see their donations they're most in need of!

### **Tree Planting Events**

Coventry City Council is [aiming to plant 360,000 trees across Coventry](#) in the next 10 years – and they're looking for volunteers to help! Planting a range of tree species, provided by Trees for Cities UK, these will provide homes for wildlife, help combat pollution and provide Green Spaces for us to enjoy. There is no need to sign up – just turn up on the day, between 10am and 2pm, and tools will be provided to you.



- Sowe Common: 7th December & 9<sup>th</sup>
- Park Wood Extension (Canley): 14<sup>th</sup> December

### **Chrome Books for Afghan Refugees**

Do you have any old laptops you no longer need? Older laptops can be converted into Chromebooks, which are then distributed to refugee families in the local area. Drop off old unwanted laptops to the Student Union Reception - they will be converted by a team of WV Technology Volunteers, distributed to refugee families locally! Include your name and contact email address, plus the laptop charger, with your donation! If you have any queries or questions, please contact [Sarah.I.newell@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:Sarah.I.newell@warwick.ac.uk)



### **Dash To Dubrovnik**

Dash to Dubrovnik is an adventurous road trip across Europe that students undertake to fundraise for Amnesty International - a network of millions of individuals fighting human rights violations and related causes. Raise money for Amnesty, then convoy with a group of friends through Europe, with accommodation and ferries prebooked for you! For more information visit [Amaquella's website](#).

### **Ready to put the WIN in winter?**

Winter Wheelers is all about getting people on bikes and pedalling their way to prizes. Every day you log a ride, you're entered the prize draw. You could even win a new bike on Christmas Day- [register for free today!](#)



## News and events from further afield

### **Big Christmas Climate Quiz 2021**

Test your Climate Change knowledge in the Big Christmas Climate Quiz 2021 organised by Warwickshire Climate Alliance! The quiz is happening via Zoom on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December 7-9pm. [Register your place here!](#)

### **Improving Air Quality in Coventry**

Coventry City Council has developed a Local Air Quality Action Plan, to reduce Nitrogen Dioxide emissions in the City. The plan focuses on areas where air pollution levels are particularly high, and efforts are being made to reduce the congestion and traffic delays in these areas. The Council is looking for people to complete a short survey, by the 15<sup>th</sup> December, about their thoughts on the Action Plan – find out more detailed information about the plan, and voice your opinion [here!](#)

### **Coventry Railway Station Cycle Hubs**

Work at Coventry Railway Station is nearing completion. When complete there will be over 450 cycle parking spaces, including 176 new spaces at an indoor Cycle Hub located off Warwick Road, with easy lift double decker racks and dedicated spaces for cargo bikes and trikes!

### **Festive Jumper Swap**

[Zero](#) is a plastic free, zero waste shop in Leamington Spa and this year they are holding a festive jumper swap to keep them from ending up in landfill this season. They have created a [Facebook event](#) where you can post any jumpers you would like to swap and look at what others are donating. You then drop the jumper off and Zero will find it a new owner. They are accepting jumpers up until the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December, so check it out if you're after a different Christmas jumper this year!

### **Join Coventry's Citizens Assembly on climate change**

Climate change will make a difference to everybody on the planet in the coming years. But very few of us feel that we can help to address the challenge. We may have important opinions or possible solutions, but how can our ideas be heard by the people making the big decisions? Would you like to be part of a local [Citizens' Assembly on climate change](#)? They are looking for people from anywhere in the city to help organise the event and inviting people to take part in the assembly conversations. Contact Jess to get involved or if you'd like to know more. Email [jpinson@grapevinecovandwarks.org](mailto:jpinson@grapevinecovandwarks.org)

### **Growing green health from the ground up in Foleshill**

An opportunity for Foleshill residents to join a fun team involved in the creation of 'parklets' in the area as part of a pilot project between Grapevine and Coventry City Council - helping local people take action on clean air, valuing their neighbourhood, its green spaces, sheltering spaces and friendly places where people can connect. Comfortable bench? Bike rack? Community noticeboard? Planting to help wildlife? Bright colours? It's your choice! Read more about it [here](#).