

SUSTAINABLE·WARWICK·NEWSLETTER

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[Warwick News](#)

[Events](#)

[Opportunities](#)

[News and events from
further afield](#)

Warwick News

2021 Warwick Climate Negotiating Forum

In line with COP-26, a team of students organised a simulation of global climate negotiations on campus. The 50 students who signed up were delegated into teams, representing one of the 19 nations, and a series of discussions and debates occurred. The aim of the forum was for representatives to agree on a global climate agreement, with policies modelled on COP-26 themes, while representing the countries' own interests.



The last day of negotiations was tense, but, with last-minute amendments the motion was passed unanimously. Agreements were tested against a computer simulation, which showed the policy packages would cap the global temperature rise to 2.1°C by 2100 - better than the estimated 2.4°C warming that will result from world leaders current policy agreements. Delegates also committed to a \$105bn annual Climate Adaptation Fund to support nations most vulnerable to climate change. Read more about what happened [here](#), or read a [student report](#) of the event!

COP-26

The University was approved for "observer status" at COP-26 – meaning 20 representatives attended events and talks in Glasgow.



The University will also be able to attend future meetings under the UNFCC and Paris Agreement. A number of [Warwick University research projects](#) were showcased in the Green Zone.

- The [Climate Resilience Demonstrator Project](#), which Warwick is supporting, broadcast a webinar as part of COP-26. This demonstrated how a digital twin across energy, water and telecoms networks can create resilient infrastructure, and improve climate adaptation.

- Warwick's Professor Keith Hyams is leading a project exploring how young people in informal settlements across sub-Saharan African cities are being affected by climate change. [This project](#) was one of the four project proposals showcased at COP-26, out of 120 applicants.
- [Warwick's micro mobility trials](#), including the introduction of e-scooters and e-bikes, were showcased as part of the UK Universities' Climate Innovation Showcase in Glasgow

Learn more about Warwick's involvement with COP-26 by checking out our regular blog posts [here!](#)

UN SDG report

The SDG Advisory group has launched its second report on the University's contributions to the SDGs. Universities have a vital role in SDG agenda, through research and teaching and engaging different generations. The report highlighted how, although there was a lot of research addressing specific and separate SDG goals, there was less that addressed interconnected goals. Read the [full report](#) online.

On the 7th December, there will be a discussion forum, to openly debate Warwick's contribution to SDGs. This will include how Warwick should move beyond a "business as usual" approach to sustainability, as well as how we can work to reduce inequality in all forms across the University, and how to increase engagement and awareness of SDGs at Warwick. Find more information on the forum [here](#).

Mapping Warwick's Contribution to the SDGs

As part of a new ISGD research project Sian Bolton will be working on a project to map Warwick's contribution to the sustainable development goals from our research. The project will directly contribute to pathway three in Warwick's upcoming sustainability route map. To do this Sian has set up a simple online form to learn about your research projects, funded or otherwise, that you have led or participated in since 2015, any wider research you have conducted, including publications and your research interests. Your contributions will be really helpful in gaining knowledge about what Warwick's research and its connections to the SDGs and identify any gaps. For more information and to complete the form [click here](#).

Hedgehog Friendly Campus

Hedgehog Friendly Campus is a programme funded by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society for universities and colleges. We're currently working towards the Bronze level qualification!

This Autumn University carpenters have kindly made hedgehog houses, which have been placed across campus by the Grounds team. BHPS has instructions for how to [make your own Hedgehog house](#) - they are easy to make and provide hedgehogs a safe place to hibernate, breed and hide from predators. Make your own to put in your garden and put out meaty dog/cat food and water at dusk, to encourage hedgehogs into your garden!

In addition, there are also Bug Hotels across campus to provide meals for any local hedgehogs, there are some near Tocil Lakes.

We're also always looking for help with making Warwick Hedgehog Friendly – [learn how to get involved!](#)



Greener, Cleaner Transport to and From Campus!

Transport is the biggest contributor to the University's carbon emissions, accounting for around 29% of total emissions and is mainly due to single car use. But there is lots we can all do to help this and try to make changes with the ways we get around, when possible. Some of the greener ways we have of getting to and around campus include:

- West Midlands Cycle Hire Scheme- ours is one of the most popular in the region, and in October alone you all cycled 5400km, the equivalent of cycling from Coventry to New York!
- VOI E-scooter scheme- since launching January last year has had 48,000 journeys taken
- Demand Bus Service- has had 4,546 people use the service.

Read more about this and the successes of sustainable transport on campus [here](#).



Cut the Flow

Our Cut the Flow competition is now well underway, and we have some results from weeks 3-4. There were improvements in some accommodation blocks, with more than a quarter of accommodation blocks reducing their water consumption and 7% of accommodation blocks reducing their energy consumption between weeks 3 and 4. However, there was still 142 litres extra litres of water used in accommodation in week 4 compared to week 3 - this is equivalent to 250 pints. Electricity consumption also went up overall with 4,718kWh extra of electricity being used in week 4 compared to week 3 – which is equivalent to charging over 400,000 smartphones!

So, there is still lots to improve on to reduce consumption, so look out for our ambassadors visiting your accommodation to give you information and answer any questions. You can also follow our Instagram [@warwickunisust](#) for updates and changes you can be making to help your block have the chance of winning one of our two prizes!

BBC Coventry and Warwickshire Radio

Gary Stocker, who works for WMG and is one of our Green champions at Warwick, recently spoke on BBC CWR Breakfast, about his recycling scheme at Warwick. The morning programme was focused upon Boris Johnson's recent controversial claim that recycling plastic "doesn't work". Gary described how he has set up recycling points around WMG for things that are more obscure to recycle, such as blister packs in medicines and crisp packets. Leaving cardboard boxes with signs advertising the recycling points, he then takes the boxes and empties them at the specific recycling centre. Look out for the recycling points around WMG, to dispose of your packaging correctly, instead of putting in landfill! Listen to the full episode [here](#).

Events

Warwick Sustainability Summit

Warwick is holding its biannual Sustainability Summit on the 25th November 6-8pm, Online. Join us for an evening of sustainable talks, presentations and discussions. There will be a panel discussion featuring six of the Warwick University representatives who attended COP-26 - learn what happened at COP-26, and what this means for the planet, with the opportunity to ask questions! Warwick Plant and Nature Society will be talking about how they have been and plan to promote sustainability on campus and how to get involved. We will also be hearing from students involved in the Coventry Solar Project – a chance to learn about the important work they're doing locally. [Book your free tickets now – event is open to all.](#)

Climate Reality Events

Thursday – Green Tea Discussion

Green tea discussion is a weekly event to get involved with the climate crisis discussion. The discussion topics change each week and suggestions are welcome, be sure to follow them on social media to keep up to date. Green tea and snacks are provided, so bring your reusable cups along and get involved.

Wednesday & Friday – Drop n Swap

Have any clothes you want to get rid of? Bring them to the piazza on Wednesday 17th anytime between 11am-1pm, as part of Climate Reality and Warwick Oxfam's Drop n Swap! Exchange clothes for tokens, and visit the piazza on Friday 19th 1:30-3:30pm, to swap your tokens for other donated clothes! If you don't like any clothes you see, you can hold onto them for the next Drop n s

Sunday- Plogging

Warwick Plogging Society hold regular events where they jog around campus or Leamington and pick up trash. Visit [Warwick Plogging Facebook page](#) for updates and more information about the next event!

Warwick Green Party

"That's Debatable" is a regular event on Thursdays, organised by Warwick Green Party Society, as an opportunity to discuss topics related to the climate crisis in an informal setting. The society meets on the Piazza around 7pm, before heading to whatever place the discussion is to take place. The most recent discussion topic was all to do with what's been happening at COP-26 – [follow The Green Party Society on Facebook](#) for information about when the next one is taking place!

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 and fresh bread!



Bike repair and maintenance on campus

Starting on the 4th November, there is now a [regular “drop in” bike repair service](#) every Thursday 10am – 4pm on the Piazza. A range of services are available including bike health checks, bike repairs, supplying bike parts, and fitting of parts. Cost will depend on the service required!

Supporting SMEs on their Net Zero Journey

Coventry and Warwickshire Green Business Programme are hosting an online webinar on 18th November 10-11:30am. Learn about local grants available to businesses to become greener, as well as hearing from a local business that has been supported by University of Birmingham in making their company more sustainable.

Cooking Masterclass: Vegan Sushi

Monday 15th November at 6pm at Westwood Way, Warwick Veg Society are hosting a vegan sushi masterclass. It only Cost £3.50 to attend, and you can sign up through the [link in their bio on instagram](#). Going vegetarian/ vegan for just one day a week can really help the environment and reduce your carbon footprint, so why not go along, try something new and learn new cooking skills!



Now or Never: Empowering the next generation to combat climate change

Reflecting on the COP26 Climate Conference, what can the next generation of young people do next? Join a panel of academics and students from the University of Warwick to explore the importance of youth engagement in climate action. The event is online on Thursday 25th November at 7-8pm, [register your interest here](#).

The Polluted Kitchen

Warwick Institute of Engagement are hosting the Polluted Kitchen event as part of the 2021 Festival of Social Science to learn about the challenges faced by people in low-income countries due to their kitchen polluting cooking practices. The event will take place on 18th November from 3:30-5:30pm and can be attended in person at Foleshill Community Centre or online and it is [free to attend!](#)

Opportunities

SOS Skills Survey

SOS UK are running an [online survey](#), about the student experience, and the skills University provides you with. Students who complete the survey will be entered into a draw to win £500, or one of the 10 £50 runner up prizes! Be sure to complete before the closing date 14th November.

Warwick Volunteers

Saturday 20th November 10am-12:30pm Planting Spring Flowering Bulbs

Join Rushmore St and Canalside Community on Saturday 20th to dig and prepare flower beds for winter and plant spring bulbs in South Leamington Community spaces! They will be meeting next to Rushmore Street play area at 10am. No experience necessary – [sign up here!](#)



Sunday 28th November 10am-12pm

On 28th November Friends of Foundry Woods are caretaking in Foundry Woods - join learn about the natural area while maintaining the trees and wildflowers. No skills are required, and all tools provided! [Sign up here.](#)

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.



- Park Wood Extension (Canley): 7th December
- Floyds Field: 21st November
- Longford Park: 23rd, 25th, 27th November and 4th December
- Allesley Park: 30th November and 2nd
- Sowe Common: 9th December and 14th 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

Energy and Sustainability Technician

Are you passionate about reducing carbon emissions? The University of Warwick's estates office is hiring a full time and permanent Energy and Sustainability Technician. They are looking for someone who can get stuck in and help drive key projects during an exciting period of development at Warwick. For more information and to apply, visit [here](#).

News and events from further afield

UK & Ireland Green Gown Awards Ceremony

The Green Gown Awards are supported by the UN Environment and are open to any university or college across the world. They recognise exceptional sustainability initiatives being undertaken by the world's universities and colleges and help put every learning institution at the heart of delivering the UN Global Goals. The winners of this year's UK and Ireland Green Gown Awards will be announced Thursday 18th November at 4pm in a virtual ceremony and [bookings are now open](#).

"World Falling Down" - Music Project

Local band Satsangi are performing with Søjus1 at Litten Tree Building, Coventry, on Saturday 20th November at 5pm. Their music project combines music and poetry to represent reactions to a changing world – with social conflict, climate change and the emergence of extreme political attitudes. Tickets are free – [book online!](#)

Fighting hunger and tackling food waste: a view from the frontline of community food provisioning during the pandemic

[Sign up](#) to this online webinar, on 23rd November 1-2:30pm, to learn about how Fareshare Midlands and central England Co-op worked to fight hunger over the pandemic. How food waste was tackled during this time and what can be learnt going forward in transitioning towards a more sustainable food system will also be discussed.



Climate Emergency Training for those working with young people

This online seminar, on 24th November at 9:30am, is targeted towards people working with young people, or looking to work with young people as a future career. It aims to provide an understanding of the climate crisis and equipping you with skills to help young people you work with take climate action, and the key roles young people have in the climate emergency. The event is free to sign up to – [sign up here!](#)

Winter Vegan Festival

Check out Fargo Vegan Festival on 27th November at Fargo Village, CV1 5ED, starting from 11am – entry is free, with no need to sign up! With a range of vegan traders, including sustainable clothes and homeware stalls, as well as food stands, the festival is open to anyone! The perfect place to buy some vegan and ethical presents for Christmas – a full line-up will be announced on [the event page](#) soon!

