



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

# SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2014

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**WELCOME TO THE SUSTAINABILITY SERVICE'S NEWSLETTER,  
A CONDENSED LOOK AT SUSTAINABILITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS.**

## SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION

As part of the drive to embed sustainability into University operations, a Sustainable Construction Standard has been developed to set minimum standards for all new developments and refurbishments over £1.5 million. Sustainable design principles will be incorporated into all projects from conception through to construction and operation. These will reduce environmental impacts by optimising natural light and ventilation, using natural/sustainable materials and ensuring the building uses low carbon design principles. The standard also recognises the embedded social impact of construction materials and the opportunity for local employment and skills developments through the contractors employed by the University.

## ANNUAL CAMPUS CROCUS PLANT

Due to previous years success, the campus crocus plant is back! For those of you who didn't attend last year, it is a University wide planting of the crocus plant, a common flowering plant. This is in line with the University's aim to improve campus biodiversity which fits in nicely to the various bee initiatives which should increase bee populations.

This year, the majority of the planting will take place in St George's Field, but there is also a chance for you to take some bulbs to be planted near your own department.

This event is taking place on 7th November from 12 - 2 where we will be meeting by the mausoleum in St George's Field around midday. Email us or check out our social media pages for more details!



## ELECTRONICS WATCH

Leeds University is one of the founding members of the Electronics Watch, an independent monitoring organisation working to achieve respect for workers' rights in the global electronics industry. As a University, we spend between £3-£4m a year on electronics. This may seem a lot, however this is a small part of the electronics market that we aim to influence. Through developing standard clauses that relate to working conditions, which are backed up by auditors on the ground, electronics watch will work with us to exert pressure on our suppliers. The idea is to get as many public buyers as possible across the EU to sign up to the scheme. This will lever a higher proportion of market share in order to push manufacturers to change practice.

### CAN YOU HELP?

If your research touches on this area, electronics watch are still looking for people to join its working groups. Do you have any influence over other public buyers? If so it might be worth introducing them to the project. The more of us there are, the greater the influence we can have.

## DON'T DRIVE DECEMBER

FREE travel anywhere in West Yorkshire for a whole month! If you use the car to get to work you could now benefit from a free monthly West Yorkshire bus and train MCard that family members can use too! A month's free travel normally costs £145 and provides virtually unlimited travel on buses and trains in West Yorkshire, 7 days a week. [Apply now](#) by Friday 14th November to be part of the 650 successful applicants.

### NEW TEAM MEMBER!

Claire Bastin, joined the Sustainability Service in October as Sustainability Manager. In this role, Claire will support the Head of Sustainability, Louise Ellis, in delivering the positive partner in the community strategic theme and in managing the sustainability service. She will manage work streams relating to the social impact of the University, including stakeholder and wider community engagement, partnership and collaboration activities. Claire first joined the University in 2008; prior to joining the Sustainability Service she was a Teaching Fellow in the Sustainability Research Institute, where she taught project and stakeholder management modules on MSc Sustainability programmes. If you would like to get involved or find out more about our positive partner in the community strategic theme, please get in touch with Claire at [c.bastin@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:c.bastin@leeds.ac.uk).

### OCTOBER HARVEST REVIEW

The Sustainable Garden's October Harvest took place on Wednesday 23rd and was a great success. We served soup from vegetables grown in the Garden which went down very well amongst a number of cold and hungry students, as shown in the photo below! It was also a great opportunity to engage external University stakeholders with staff and students in a positive environment. We had representatives from the RSPB, Kew Gardens, campus bee network, Bardon Grange, TCV, catering and the Sustainability Service who all helped celebrate the Sustainable Garden's first birthday!



### CREATING SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

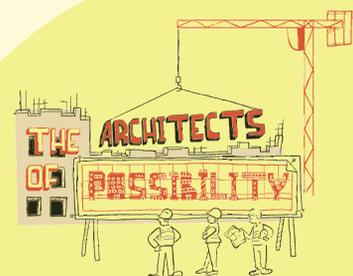
The University of Leeds has launched its first elective module devoted to sustainability, as part of the Discovery Themes. The module; Creating Sustainable Futures, is available to first year undergraduates and gives an insight into Sustainability in the global context, but also here at the University of Leeds with case studies on student changeover, waste, community relations and sustainable laboratories. The Sustainability Service has also been working with Professor William Young, who is the module leader, to create the assignments for the module, using campus as a research space. With work done on energy behaviours, bicycle parking capacity and biodiversity on campus, the students will gain an insight into how the campus is managed, and the University will get the data to feed into campus plans. This is an incredibly exciting opportunity for both students and the university, and this semester 34 students have enrolled on the module, with more to follow in the spring semester. This supports the University Sustainability Strategy, in particular the Knowledge and Capacity theme, by increasing student skills in sustainability, improving their employability, as well as equipping students with the skills to create a more sustainable future. For more information see: <https://leedsforlife.leeds.ac.uk/BroadeningTheme/3>

### SUSTAINABLE LIBRARY!

Come to a short film showing on 11 November at 5pm in the Edward Boyle Library Conference Room. The film is based on the book "Enough is enough" and proposes innovative and practical solutions to overusing the earth's finite resources. Co-author Dan O'Neill, a lecturer at the University, will answer questions after the film. Edward Boyle Library's Sustainability Area on floor 8 is a great way to keep up to date with how you can get involved in Sustainability and our upcoming events. Don't forget to write a review of a great sustainability related book you've read recently. This will appear on the [blog](#) and also be printed out in the Sustainability Area!

### FIRST OF THE BEE 'LUNCHTIME LECTURE SERIES'

We will be hosting a series of monthly lunchtime lectures that will aim to raise awareness about current bee populations and the University's various initiatives to improve bee biodiversity around campus. The first one was on Thursday 30th October where we had a guest speaker from Bradford beekeepers who emphasised that breakfasts wouldn't be the same without the bees! Keep an eye on our emails and social media pages to find out when the next ones are!



**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS RELATING TO SUSTAINABILITY AT THE UNIVERSITY, OR YOU WOULD LIKE TO USE THIS NEWSLETTER TO HELP PUBLICISE AN EVENT ON CAMPUS, THEN PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US: [SUSTAINABILITY@LEEDS.AC.UK](mailto:SUSTAINABILITY@LEEDS.AC.UK)**