



# GREEN IMPACT PROJECT IDEAS

## UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

This document gives some suggested projects you may wish to undertake as part of Green Impact. These projects have been specifically chosen to positively contribute towards high priority areas for the University's Sustainability Strategy. You can also design and implement your own project if your team has a specific interest or impact on another area of sustainability. If you are interested in any of the below projects, you can contact [greenImpact@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:greenImpact@sheffield.ac.uk) for more information and ideas of where to start.

The projects are split under three different themes: Biosphere, Society and Economy which focus on different areas of sustainability, all of which will need to be taken into account to create a truly sustainable society. Each of the three themes have a number of [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) under them that your project may contribute positively towards.

### Biosphere

Please note, we ask that all teams complete at least one project from this theme.



A project under this category will be aiming to have a positive impact on the environment and the natural world. The following UN Sustainable Development Goals fall under 'Biosphere':

[SDG 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation](#)

[SDG 13 - Climate Action](#)

[SDG 14 - Life Below Water](#)

[SDG 15 - Life On Land](#)

Some suggested projects include:

- Monitor and measuring work travel - collect data on business travel, recording which trips take place, by what mode, and why (Dr Matt Watson from the Geography department to provide standardised procedure)
- Conduct hedgehog surveys across campus, local area or in your own garden and upload findings to the [Big Hedgehog Map](#)
- Take measures to make your garden, workplace, campus or local area Hedgehog Friendly - see our Hedgehog Friendly Campus @ Sheffield [website](#) and the British Hedgehog Preservation Society [website](#) for more information and ideas.

- Devolved energy budgets - departmental energy budgeting
  - Gain information about energy usage within your department
  - Work to reduce total energy consumption
  - Ask University's Energy manager for areas of improvement
- Energy surveys

Within the area your department is responsible for:

- Understand what equipment is plugged in (types, usage etc)
  - What energy-intensive equipment is present (types, usage etc)
  - Inform EFM of equipment and usage, ask for recommendations
- Asset registers/audits (energy/water)

Does an asset register exist in the department? If not:

- How many pieces of energy/water intensive equipment exist? (e.g. in labs - drying cabinets, sterilisers, ovens, incubators, mass spectrometers, laser microscopes etc)
  - Inform EFM of equipment
- Out of hours audits - what's left running? (energy/water)
    - Conduct an audit after hours (e.g. when everyone has left at 5pm) on what equipment is left plugged in/running/switched on
    - Organise a campaign to improve this
    - Ask Energy/Water manager for areas of improvement
  - Labs cold storage audits
    - E.g. numbers of ultra low temp freezers, cryostats and other energy-intensive labs storage equipment
    - Inform Energy manager
  - Toilet surveys
    - Presence of urinal controls, high water pressure at basins, large toilet cisterns etc.
    - Inform Water manager about areas for improvement
  - Understanding how energy/water is used in your department
    - Can you make reductions in the amount of energy/water-intensive equipment in your department e.g. shared fridges, shared storage
    - Inform Water/Energy manager about areas for improvement

## Society



A project under this category will aim to have a positive impact on people & society. The following UN Sustainable Development Goals fall under 'Society':

[SDG 1 - No Poverty](#)

[SDG 2 - Zero Hunger](#)

[SDG 3 - Good Health and Wellbeing](#)

[SDG 4 - Quality Education](#)

[SDG 5 - Gender Equality](#)

[SDG 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy](#)

[SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities](#)

[SDG 16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions](#)

Some suggested projects include:

- Look to include sustainability within course material (academic departments)
- Audit the content of sustainability material already embedded in your department's course material (academic departments)
- Take part in [SOS-UK's Global Goals Teach In](#) - a call out for educators to include the SDGS within their teaching, learning and assessment during the campaign (February/March time) and beyond!
- Introduce innovative ways to make use of food waste and divert this from landfill
- Organise for staff and students to get involved and build relationships within the wider community - volunteering, litter picks, awareness raising, workshops, events and projects accessible to all
- Run a campaign for students e.g. shopping locally, supporting the end of term campaign (donations to charity)

## Economy



A project under this category will be aiming to have a positive impact on jobs, wealth distribution and creating a fair and just economy for all. The following UN Sustainable Development Goals fit under 'Economy':

[SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth](#)

[SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure](#)

## SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities

## SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production

Some suggested projects include:

- Update departmental policies or procedures to include sustainability (e.g. purchasing, travel)
- Utilise technology within the department to reduce the amount of travel for meetings/events (procurement/policy)
- Office/Lab waste/procurement audits
  - Review what is coming into the office/lab, how it's used and how it's disposed of
  - Analyse the findings of the audit and challenge your current practices and thinking to make appropriate changes.
  - Get in touch with the University's Environment Manager, Charlotte Winnert, for support
- Review department purchasing decisions:
  - Reduce purchasing (reduce and reuse)
  - Select more sustainable products - less packaging, recycled materials, FSC certified, durable etc.
- Implementation of waste hierarchy - reduce and reuse over recycling
  - E.g. a project to review all the junk mail, sales brochures and magazines coming into a department and cancelling all the junk mail and sharing magazines and catalogues by setting up a department library
  - E.g. reviewing some research practices and seeing how they can streamline or change processes to use less consumables, choose items with less packaging
- Produce 'buying' and sustainable procurement guides E.g. sustainable kitchens guide
- Sustainability Impact Assessment - incorporating sustainability as part of departmental meetings, similarly to Equality Impact Assessment - sustainability considered as part of decision making process