Research for Bath’s sustainable future

Helen Liang (Category Winner)

Helen has revolutionised a key challenge of practicing research sustainably with her initiative LabCycle, tackling the massive issue of plastic waste in laboratories. Inspired by first-hand observations as a PhD student, she co-founded LabCycle through an Innovation Award in 2020, aiming to transform lab practices globally. Helen’s innovative recycling method, developed to NHS standards, significantly reduces carbon emissions compared to landfill disposal. Her success within university labs has garnered widespread interest, supported by prestigious fellowships and partnerships. Helen’s commitment to environmental stewardship and collaborative spirit exemplifies her as a leader in sustainable innovation.

Will Hawkins and Andy Shea

Will and Andy have forged a pioneering partnership between the University of Bath and Bath & North East Somerset Council to advance sustainable construction policies. Their collaborative efforts aim to implement the council’s ambitious net zero operational energy and carbon standards for new buildings, supported by the UKRI Policy Support Fund. As leaders in building carbon research, they have helped monitor policy impact, advised on carbon assessment methodologies, and assessed design proposals to achieve significant emissions reductions. This innovative initiative exemplifies their dedication to decarbonising the construction sector and underscores their pivotal role in driving real-world sustainability solutions.

Psychology team:

Lorraine Whitmarsh, Paul Haggar, Kaloyan Mitev, Tara Mcguicken, Freya Rennison

Led by Professor Lorraine Whitmarsh, the Department of Psychology has partnered with the Climate Action Team to spearhead multiple Living Lab projects on campus. Collaborating with Paul, Kaloyan, and Tara, we have conducted an annual climate action survey over three years, gathering crucial feedback from staff and students. This data informs strategic decisions, guiding progress and highlighting areas for improvement university-wide. In the past year, with Kal, Freya, Lorraine, and Paul, we focused on promoting water conservation in campus accommodation. This initiative reflects the ongoing commitment to innovation and societal impact within the psychology department, and we’re eager to continue collaboratively advancing sustainability initiatives across our campus community in the future

Sustainable Food VIP Group:

Molly O’Grady, Mohini Howlader, Shimin Wang, Sam Taylor, Bill Chaudry, with academic leadership from Lorraine Whitmarsh

The ‘Students for Sustainable Food’ Vertically Integrated Project (VIP) is a student-led research initiative dedicated to advancing sustainable food practices and fostering behavioural change. Their impactful contributions began with shaping the Sustainable Food Commitment (SFC) in 2021-22, followed by a successful campaign targeting campus-wide adoption of oat milk without additional charges. In the past year, the group has continued their momentum by investigating drivers and barriers to promoting plant-based food choices and exploring solutions to reduce single-use food containers. Their ongoing efforts exemplify a proactive approach to sustainability and demonstrate tangible outcomes in creating a more environmentally responsible campus community.