Welcome to your first green impact newsletter! We understand that you get a lot of emails, almost too many to keep track of so these newsletters will aim to be brief. In these updates you’ll find information on how we, as a department, can be as green as possible, with tips and advice, departmental targets and the occasional news story that might interest you if you’re trying to go green yourself.

**Toilet Twinning**
A massive thank you to everyone who contributed to the cake sale; whether you baked or ate cake we could not have pulled it off without you all! We are delighted to announce that we raised an incredible £119.24! We had hoped to raise enough money to twin one of our toilets but we’ve raised enough to twin two. You sure are good at eating cake.

**At the University**

**Transport**
There are several ways to reduce your impact on the environment. Walking is a great no-quarrel way of reducing your impact on the environment and is a great way to refresh yourself and relieve stress; perfect for if you’re heading to a particularly stressful meeting. Another option is to make use of the University’s own version of the infamous Boris Bikes. These are very easy to pick up and drop off from the expanding number of locations around campus and further afield.

Additionally, if you have your own bike, or are want to get into cycling there are over 1400 cycle parking spots around campus (the nearest being just outside the front entrance of the Arts Tower) and LoveToRide’s Unicycle scheme is a fun way to compete with your friends and others to work towards bettering your health and reducing your impact on the environment.
Top 5 tips for reducing plastic waste

If you’ve been watching Blue Planet II you may have seen the episode entitled ‘Big Blue’ that showed harrowing scenes of how plastic waste in the ocean is impacting its inhabitants. This is completely unnecessary, and there are a few simple steps we can all take to reduce our plastic consumption and make a start towards stopping the harm we are causing.

1. **Buy a reusable water bottle** – in the UK we use over 35 million plastic bottles each year! Look out for bottles that are double walled as they keep your drink cooler for longer.

2. **Say no to straws in drinks** – this may seem insignificant but imagine how much plastic could be saved if everyone in the bar said no to a straw?

3. **Use a mesh bag for fresh fruit and veg** – mesh bags can be put in the washing machine plus buying loose is normally a lot cheaper.

4. **Invest in a bag for life** – Did you know that a single plastic bag can take up to 1000 years to degrade in a landfill site? Bags for life do not have to be those big bulky ones you get from the supermarket; there’s loads of options for smaller bags that fold away and look nice too.

5. **Recycle at work and at home** – at the University there is always one recycling bin to every waste bin. Simple things like washing out your yoghurt pot and putting it in the recycling bin is something that takes no time at all, but over time will save a high volume of plastic from going into landfill sites and the ocean. The University website has a [handy list](#) of what can be recycled and where, including batteries, cardboard, mobile phones and catering platters.

We know we can’t change the plastic waste overnight, but by continuing to be aware of our consumption, we can help to reduce it massively.

---

**Energy**

We all know the energy saving method that has the best effort to reward ratio, so please try to ensure you switch lights off when leaving a meeting room. By turning lights off we could save up to 2.66 kg of CO2 in six hours, the same as burning 1.1 litres of petrol in a VW Golf! As well as lights, turning your computer off will help dramatically with energy consumption. And not only that, leaving your computer off overnight helps to retain its speed and prevent it slowing down.

---

**Around the world**

There has been a lot of news coming from Germany regarding sustainable energy, most substantially energy costs to consumer actually became *negative* as wind energy production met over 100% of it’s target, and if they weren’t already having a green week, the *world’s tallest wind turbine* has also been built there. In the spirit of renewing and recycling to reduce our environmental impact here are 9 projects that reimagine old buildings. This is an excellent showcase of how we can hold on to the original architecture and breathing a fresh new life into it, all while reducing the need for more material production.