



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## CANDIDATE BRIEF

Student Sustainability Architects, Facilities Directorate



**Salary: Grade 2 (12.70 per hour)**

**Reporting to: Sustainability Projects Officer**

**Reference: FDSUS1067**

**Closing date: 06/10/24**

Fixed-term because the post is for the sole purpose of completing a task or project with a specific end date. The roles are part-time working approximately 4-6 hours per week up to a maximum of 100 hours.

**Location: Facilities Directorate (with scope for hybrid working)**

**We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements.**

## Overview of the Role

**Are you excited about trying out new ideas and making a positive difference at the University? Do you want to gain experience of delivering an exciting sustainability related project? Do you want to be part of a dynamic and committed team to help drive forward sustainability initiatives at the University?**

As part of our aim to help expand sustainability knowledge and engagement across the student and wider communities, the Sustainability Service are seeking to appoint 29 Student Sustainability Architects for the 24/25 academic year.

Student Sustainability Architects are part-time paid positions which build our capacity to deliver sustainability projects, bringing new ideas, enthusiasm, and the student voice. They take the lead on delivering projects that align with our strategic objectives and develop their own ideas to increase student opportunities in sustainability at Leeds. Each role supports delivery of a core project in-line with the University's strategic approach to sustainability, with particular emphasis on student engagement, working across the institution and externally.

You will be required to work flexibly, which may include working evenings and weekends when appropriate and working variable hours (approximately 4-6 hours per week up to a maximum of 100 hours per project, split over the project duration).

During the application process, you will have the option to select your top three preferred Student Sustainability Architect projects (see the Appendix at the end of the Candidate Brief). Please note: projects will be allocated after interviews and assessments have taken place and though we will try to satisfy personal preference, it is not guaranteed you will be assigned one of your top three choices

Sustainability sits at the heart of the [University's strategy](#) and underpins every element of our [Climate Plan](#). This is an exciting opportunity to join the [Sustainability Service](#), who support the University to deliver on our sustainability commitments. Through our strategic approach to sustainability, we draw on the diverse expertise of our students, staff, and partners to collaborate in finding sustainable solutions to global challenges, and to maintain our position as world-leaders in sustainability. Delivering this strategy requires significant engagement and collaboration, with the whole University community and externally, to facilitate behaviour and process change.

For further details on the Student Sustainability Architect programme, please see [sustainability.leeds.ac.uk/get-involved/make-an-impact/student-architects](https://sustainability.leeds.ac.uk/get-involved/make-an-impact/student-architects).





## Main duties and responsibilities

Responsibilities for all Student Sustainability Architect roles will include:

- Supporting the delivery of a core sustainability project in-line with the University's strategic approach to sustainability (see Appendix at end of document for more details).
- Working with your supervisor to set objectives, plan and manage the project, and monitor performance against these objectives (e.g., including time, quality, and budgets).
- Where required, promoting Sustainability Services at key events, e.g., University Open Days, Careers Fairs, and Welcome, Induction, and Transition events.
- Supporting the marketing of the Sustainability Service and communication of sustainability at Leeds by, for example, using social media to publicise events or contributing to the Sustainability Service blog and news posts.
- Researching, applying, and promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion initiatives and sharing best practice.
- Supporting student facing activities and assisting with other sustainability campaigns and projects when necessary, including the Student Sustainability Research Conference.

These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent with the grade of the post.

## Qualifications and skills

You will be a current University of Leeds student and have a keen interest in current sustainability issues facing large organisations.

You will have excellent communication and interpersonal skills and an ability to interact well with others. You will be able to work effectively as part of a team, but also on your own initiative to look for creative and innovative solutions to problems.

You will have high-level organisational skills with an enthusiastic and pro-active approach. You will also have excellent time-management skills with the ability to prioritise your academic work and deadlines as necessary.

You will have excellent communication, written, and IT skills with the ability to present information to different audiences in different formats, with a high level of accuracy and attention to detail.



## How to apply

You can apply for this role online and we welcome applications from all current University of Leeds students from any discipline.

During the application process, you will have the option to select your top three preferred Student Sustainability Architect projects (see Appendix). Please note: projects will be allocated after interviews and assessments have taken place and though we will try to satisfy personal preference, it is not guaranteed you will be assigned one of your top three choices.

Considering the main responsibilities and skills listed in the sections above, you will be expected to provide the following information in the application form:

- What degree course or PhD you will be completing at the University of Leeds in the 2024-25 academic year?
- First choice project title.
- Second choice project title.
- Third choice project title.
- Please briefly outline how your knowledge, skills, aptitude, and values would benefit a Student Sustainability Architect project (up to 300 words).
- Explain how this opportunity will positively impact your personal development (up to 300 words).

You will also have the option to upload a CV (optional).

For advice on how to write application forms, please see [this information provided by the University of Leeds Careers Service](#).

More guidance can be found on our [How to Apply](#) information page. Applications should be submitted by **23.59** (UK time) on the **08/10/23**.



## Additional information

### Working at Leeds

We are a campus-based community and regular interaction with campus is an expectation of all roles in line with academic and service needs and the requirements of the role. We are also open to discussing flexible working arrangements. To find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area visit our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

### Our University

At the University of Leeds, we are committed to providing a culture of inclusion, respect and equity of opportunity that attracts, supports, and retains the best students and staff from all backgrounds. Whatever role we recruit for we are always striving to increase the diversity of our community, which each individual helps enrich and cultivate. We particularly encourage applications from, but not limited to Black, Asian, people who belong to a minority ethnic community; people who identify as LGBT+; and disabled people. Candidates will always be selected based on merit and ability.

### Information for disabled candidates

Information for disabled candidates, or candidates with impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found on our [Accessibility](#) information page or by getting in touch with us at [hr@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:hr@leeds.ac.uk)

## Criminal record information

### Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

A criminal record check is not required for this position. However, all applicants will be required to declare if they have any 'unspent' criminal offences, including those pending.

Any offer of appointment will be in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information page.





# Appendix

## Available Projects for 2024/25

**Project 1:            Student Engagement with Sustainable Labs**

**Programme(s):**    Sustainable Labs / Net Zero

**Supervisor:**        Laura Wilkinson & Sushila Pisano, Sustainability Service

**Scope:**            Over the last two years, staff engagement with the Sustainable Labs programme has grown rapidly, with over 50 lab spaces now signed up for the Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework. We would like to extend that engagement to our student community, to gain a student perspective on sustainability in labs. This will include student perceptions and awareness of the Sustainable Labs programme, how they currently or would like to engage with sustainability through their laboratory practical classes, if they are given / taught any information about making their research more sustainable and where they believe we could improve. These findings can be used to develop the most effective ways to engage with students, to raise awareness, teach / share best practice, and share successes.

There is potential for the SSA to run engagement events, produce engagement materials, run focus groups etc.

**Objectives:**

- Assess student awareness and knowledge of the Sustainable Labs programme, LEAF, and sustainable science more broadly.
- Identify potential ways to engage with students around sustainable science.
- Develop and deliver a student engagement campaign around the Sustainable Labs programme.
- Assess and report on the challenges experienced by teaching labs and barriers to initiating sustainability improvements.
- Share the successes of teaching labs reaching LEAF accreditation.

**Hours:**              100



**Project 2:** Delivering the Student Sustainability Research Conference 2025 (events management)

**Programme(s):** Student Engagement

**Supervisor:** Becci Kinsella, Sustainability Service

**Scope:** The Student Sustainability Research Conference offers students across all levels and disciplines from the twelve member institutions of Yorkshire Universities the opportunity to be inspired, share their sustainability-related research, and learn from their student peers from across the region in a professional conference setting.

The conference brings together students, staff, partners, collaborators, and members of the public to experience the diversity of undergraduate and postgraduate student sustainability research that reflects any aspect of positive social, economic and/or environmental sustainability.

This role will focus on the development of the conference programme, planning and events management.

**Objectives:**

- Assist with managing student applications and support in coordinating the themes, schedule, and format of the event.
- Research new opportunities to ensure the conference is delivered sustainably, inclusively, and accessibly.
- Support in delivering an engaging comms plan to promote applications and attendance. Liaise with relevant partners as appropriate.
- Assist with the delivery of the event on the day (set up, coordination of registration etc).
- Support with the carbon footprinting data collection and calculation.

**Hours:** 100



**Project 3: Student Sustainability Research Conference 2025 (partnership building)**

**Programme(s):** Student Engagement

**Supervisor:** Clare Jackson & Becci Kinsella, Sustainability Service

**Scope:** The Student Sustainability Research Conference offers students across all levels and disciplines from the twelve member institutions of Yorkshire Universities the opportunity to be inspired, share their sustainability-related research, and learn from their student peers from across the region in a professional conference setting.

The conference brings together students, staff, partners, collaborators, and members of the public to experience the diversity of undergraduate and postgraduate student sustainability research that reflects any aspect of positive social, economic and/or environmental sustainability.

This role will focus on relationship building across a range of partners who contribute and benefit from the SSRC.

**Objectives:**

- Contribute to identifying opportunities to strengthen engagement across the Yorkshire Universities membership & increase student participation.
- To support the development of external collaborative opportunities with the London Student Sustainability Conference and potential international collaborations.
- To shape an approach to evaluating the impact of these collaborations to support the continuous improvement of the conference.
- To support pre- and post-conference comms promoting the conference as a significant regional student education event and increasing recognition of this within the higher education sector.

**Hours:** 100





<b>Project 4:</b>	<b>Development of Guidance relating to our Environmental Management System to Promote Behaviour Change</b>
<b>Programme(s):</b>	Environmental Management System
<b>Supervisor:</b>	John Moore, Sustainability Service & Fariha Aasam, Waste Manager
<b>Scope:</b>	<p>Our Environmental Management System (EMS) has a lot of principles and requirements that should be followed but is not easily accessible to most staff and students. We also get regular enquiries about what individual people can do to move towards a sustainable workplace, and we don't have a lot of guidance to provide them with.</p> <p>The intended outcomes are to produce a range of guidance / advice for individuals which will explain how they can follow the principles of the EMS, as well as suggesting other related sustainable behaviours they could adopt. These may relate to areas such as purchasing, energy use, resource use, and others yet to be determined.</p>
<b>Objectives:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and suggest potential improvements to EMS documentation to improve understanding of them.</li> <li>• Gather insight from staff and students on what types of environmental or sustainability guidance they would find useful.</li> <li>• Research what guidance the University and other organisations (e.g. institutions, charities, government) provide on these topics.</li> <li>• Develop relevant guidance for inclusion on EMS page of the website and the staff intranet.</li> <li>• If capacity allows, promote guidance through existing staff and student events.</li> </ul>
<b>Hours:</b>	100



**Project 5:**            **Biodiversity Monitoring Programme**

**Programme(s):** Biodiversity

**Supervisor:** Michael Howroyd, Sustainability Service

**Scope:** The University of Leeds Biodiversity Standard and Action Plan has set ambitious targets for increasing biodiversity on campus in recognition of the role that urban areas can play in supporting diverse species populations.

Through a Leeds Living Lab project over the past five years, a student biodiversity ambassador programme has created three transects on the city campus to track pollinator, mammal and bird species as well as supporting the delivery of nationwide initiatives such as the Hedgehog Friendly Campus.

The project has been recognised internationally at the International Sustainable Campus Network Awards 2020 and has also been shortlisted for the EAUC Green Gown Awards in 2021.

**Objectives:**

- Coordinate and deliver regular and ongoing biodiversity monitoring activities across the University estate (mainly campus).
- Support and develop communications material around the biodiversity monitoring programme to promote activity and signpost to educational resources.
- Utilise and raise awareness of the campus transects and help to continually develop methodology for other species.
- Collaborate with key partners and feed into campus biodiversity meetings as required.

**Hours:** 100



**Project 6:**        **Biodiversity Baseline and planning**

**Programme(s):** Biodiversity

**Supervisor:** Michael Howroyd, Sustainability Service

**Scope:** At Leeds, we aim to become exemplars of urban biodiversity. We do this by recognising and embracing the challenges faced in urban centres and embedding biodiversity into all our campus works. We ensure continual improvement by using our campus as a Living Lab for learning and teaching as well as testing new approaches to monitoring and management and creating welcoming spaces that support improved wellbeing and health of all. Our Biodiversity Standard and action plan provides a framework for our approach in managing biodiversity, allowing us to be innovative and push the boundaries in recognising the important role biodiversity plays in improving wellbeing and health, particularly in urban centres.

As part of this continual improvement, plans are underway to map the whole university habitat portfolio, create a baseline for our current status, and create ambitious yet achievable targets for 2030.

This role will support this work. With experience of QGIS systems, habitat mapping and biodiversity management, the role will assist in collating the various habitat maps and drafting the ambitious plan for 2025-2030.

- Objectives:**
- Support the collation of datasets from QGIS maps and Biodiversity Metric calculations into one working set of documents.
  - Help with pulling together a biodiversity programme outline with deliverables around landscape improvements, engagement programmes, and research opportunities.
  - Help to create a final paper for approval by the Facilities Directorate senior team with clear expectations and timeframes for delivery.

**Hours:** 100





**Project 7:**            **Sustainable Travel Infrastructure Audit & Mapping**

**Programme(s):** Sustainable Travel

**Supervisor:** Hannah Pettavel, Sustainability Service

**Scope:** Sustainable Travel is one of the seven core principles required to achieve the University of Leeds Climate Plan. The University has taken positive steps to provide students, staff, and visitors with the facilities required to take active travel measures. Ensuring these are well documented and accessible to all is important to achieve the plan. In this project, locations and functionality of relevant infrastructure will be audited, e.g. bike storage & water refill points, and update applied to a custom Google Map. This role will have responsibility for the map over the course of the project, updating it in line with any campus changes. We encourage the use of GIS to provide recommendations for improvements to the existing infrastructure.

The Student Sustainability Architect will work closely with the Sustainability Engagement team to develop a communications plan for the public delivery of the map.

- Objectives:**
- Complete a sustainable travel infrastructure audit of campus.
  - Update the map accordingly.
  - Use GIS to identify potential improvements and make recommendations.
  - Support with development of a communications plan.

**Hours:** 100



**Project 8:      Switching to Electric Vehicles: Case Studies**

**Programme(s):** Sustainable Travel

**Supervisor:** Hannah Pettavel, Sustainability Service

**Scope:** The University of Leeds has made great progress towards decarbonising its vehicle fleet. As the University advances along its Net Zero pathway, the transition to electric vehicles (EV) has benefitted several Services and Faculties. In this role, the Student Sustainability Architect will develop three case studies exploring where vehicles have been switched to EVs in recent years. The case studies will demonstrate the broad opportunity presented by EVs and will be used as a tool to encourage other departments and operators to switch their vehicles to low carbon alternatives.

The Student Architect will engage with partners across the University, capturing the journey the motivation, challenges and outcomes for those who made the switch to EVs. They will work closely with their project supervisor, the Fleet Manager and the vehicle users to build and present valuable insight for other University teams. They will then work with the Sustainability Engagement team to design and present the case studies for circulation to the University community.

- Objectives:**
- Identify three UoL vehicles to showcase in a case study.
  - Carry out interviews and data analysis to form the content of the case study.
  - Create approximately three case studies of UoL vehicle switches to EV.
  - Create a communication plan to encourage others to make the switch and help disseminate the case studies.

**Hours:** 100



**Project 9: Student Engagement with the Bike Hub**

**Programme(s):** Sustainable Travel

**Supervisor:** Robyn Finn, Sustainability Service

**Scope:** The University is committed to reducing travel emissions to 50% of their 2018/19 levels and Leeds City Council has also committed to significantly reducing travel emissions. Active travel represents a part of the solution to this problem. The Bike Hub aims to encourage cycling in our community by providing access to a range of resources, including affordable bike hires, cycle maintenance, cycling advice, and cycle maintenance classes. Visitor numbers have not returned to pre-covid levels, which may be due to changing work/study habits, but also lack of awareness about the hub. The aim of this project is to identify effective ways to engage the student population and promote the Bike Hub. The outcome of this project would be a campaign to promote the services we offer and encourage more people to utilise the hub. This may take the form of an event, social media campaign, posters, etc. We are looking for someone with an interest in public engagement and active travel campaigning.

- Objectives:**
- Research and identify effective strategies to promote active travel by surveying students and reviewing previous campaigns in the Sustainability Service. Evaluate the potential impact of these strategies and select the most effective.
  - Plan and deliver a campaign to promote the Bike Hub. This may take the form of an outreach event on campus, a social event, or social media campaign.
  - Assess and summarise the effectiveness of this campaign using participant feedback responses.

**Hours:** 100





**Project 10: Delivering Sustainable Garden Projects (research & event management)**

**Programme(s):** Living Lab / PIP

**Supervisor:** Rebecca Brunk & Tasha Aylett, Sustainability Service

**Scope:** This project will support a collaboration between the University of Leeds and Incredible Edible to maintain and develop the Sustainable Garden. In this project, we are piloting a style of management for the Sustainable Garden that involves Incredible Edible as an external partner who organises activities within the space and takes ownership over beds in the garden. The Student Sustainability Architect will be tasked with supporting the Incredible Edible coordinator with organising and delivering activities in the Sustainable Garden. The student will also focus on exploring the challenges to building and maintaining a sustainable community within a garden, through research (with community garden coordinators) and through reflection of their own efforts throughout the year.

- Objectives:**
- Interview 5-8 community garden organisers on what challenges they have experienced in building sustainable communities around community gardens.
  - Support the Incredible Edible coordinator in delivering weekly gardening sessions with planning, organising, and advertising.
  - Engaging the student community to reinvigorate enthusiasm for the garden through collaboration with LUU officers and appropriate societies.
  - Create a network for communicating garden events that consists of the above relevant student partners, as well as relevant staff groups/services.
  - Write a reflective document/report about the challenges encountered when trying to build and maintain a volunteer base for community gardens.

**Hours:** 100



**Project 11:      Developing the University's Repair Café project**

**Programme(s):**    Community Projects

**Supervisor:**     Chris Bowie, Sustainability Service

**Scope:**            Launched in November 2023 as a collaboration between the Sustainability Service and the Libraries Makerspace, the Repair Café provides opportunities for skills development, promotes sustainable behaviours, and contributes to a circular economy model by extending the life of resources. Repair Café events are supported by volunteers skilled in textiles and sewing, mechanical, electrical, or electronic repairs. This project will build on the effectiveness and impact of the Repair Café by increasing student engagement, supporting volunteer development, and collaborating with internal or external organisations.

- Objectives:**
- Support with the logistics and delivery of regular Repair Cafe events.
  - Explore ways to increase student engagement with repair using research.
  - Gain or develop skills in repair and provide direct support to volunteers during Repair Cafe events and by coordinating skills development opportunities for volunteers.
  - Establish a collaboration with a student society or external community organisation.

**Hours:**            100



**Project 12: Neighbourhood Tours pilot project**

**Programme(s):** Student Citizenship

**Supervisor:** Ayesha Fitzwilliam-Hall, Sustainability Service

**Scope:** A central element of the Student Citizenship programme is fostering a stronger sense of belonging for students within their local community. We know from feedback, that a sense of transience can lead to poor behavioural choices by some students whereas for others it can lead to low mental health and feelings of isolation. Community / neighbourhood tours are one initiative to address this challenge. By creating walking tours that highlight the history, diversity, and opportunities in areas most popular with students, we hope that students will have a deeper connection to their neighbourhoods.

The project will consist of researching, planning out, and piloting 1-3 neighbourhood tours by engaging with the Student Citizenship team, students, community groups, accommodation services, Unipol and WIT and other relevant partners.

- Objectives:**
- Research and Engage: Collaborate with key individuals and groups to gather information on existing tours, optimal times of year, routes, potential collaborations etc.
  - Develop Engaging Tour Content: develop tour content that highlights the history, diversity, and opportunities within the selected neighbourhoods.
  - Pilot Tours: Promote and execute 1-3 pilot neighbourhood tours, carefully considering logistics, timing, and participant engagement.
  - Measure Impact and Effectiveness: Gather feedback from students and community members, to evaluate the effectiveness of the tours in fostering a stronger sense of belonging and connection to the local community.
  - Roll Out Plan: Provide a plan that uses learnings from the pilot to outline next steps relating to full roll out of the tours.

**Hours:** 100





**Project 13:      **Ambassadors to the ‘Community Streets’ Project (2 roles)****

**Programme(s):**    Student Citizenship

**Supervisor:**      Ayesha Fitzwilliam-Hall & Claire Walker, Sustainability Service

**Scope:**            The Community Streets project will support students to build a sense of belonging in their community. This is a pilot project to formalise and evaluate an existing informal set up seen in a street in Woodhouse where residents took on responsibility for driving neighbourly engagement and cohesion in their own street. In partnership with the community groups involved, UoL will support replication of this in other streets. Student Sustainability Architects will support on various elements of this work.

- Objectives:**
- Contribute to the creation of supportive toolkits or templates for the project.
  - Act as a Community Streets Ambassador to engage students and residents in selected area.
  - Support delivery of project related events and communications.

**Hours:**             100



**Project 14:** Co-producing 'school Living Labs' to reduce community carbon emissions

**Programme(s):** PIP / Living Labs

**Supervisor:** Rebecca Brunk, Sustainability Service

**Scope:** This Living Lab project is a collaboration between staff at UoL, the educational charity LeedsDEC, and two primary schools in the Seacroft area with a desire to embed sustainability concepts into their curricula.

There are two main aims of the project. The first is to evaluate how useful the teachers at both schools found the sustainability learning materials LeedsDEC has created. The second is to measure the impact on family carbon emissions at home when a pupil has learnt about climate change and sustainability at school. This project uses the school as a 'Living Lab' to see whether schools are a viable avenue for creating change within communities.

We are requesting a Student Sustainability Architect to support this project team and analyse the data collected from this project. We are ideally looking for an applicant with experience of analysing datasets to support this project. The project will not involve interaction with pupils or likely any visits to school but will be oriented around behaviour change and educational evaluation.

**Objectives:**

- Evaluation of the teachers' experiences using the learning materials.
- Analysis of data from a carbon action tracker designed by the project team.
- Support the integration of climate curriculum into two primary schools in an underserved area in Leeds.
- Evaluating the product of a local environmental education charity.
- Demonstrating evidence of effect OR areas of improvement for a carbon action tracker for low-income families.

**Hours:** 100



**Project 15:****Promotion of the My Green Labs International Freezer Challenge****Programme(s):**

Sustainable Labs / Net Zero

**Supervisor:**

Sushila Pisano, Sustainability Service and Olivia Ryan &amp; Dmitrijs Voloscuks, Estates Energy Team

**Scope:**

Thousands of scientists around the world compete in the International Laboratory Freezer Challenge each year to learn how to be more energy efficient with their lab's cold storage, improve sample accessibility, reduce risk, and save costs for their institutions. Second only to fume hoods, cold storage (refrigerators, freezers, cold rooms) is usually the biggest category of energy consumption in lab spaces. The Freezer Challenge is a fun, free programme to engage labs with sustainability though currently has very little uptake at the University of Leeds. Working in tandem with the Sustainability Service, the Estates Energy team, and laboratory staff across campus, this project will aim to raise awareness of and increase engagement with the Freezer Challenge, gathering background data to determine potential impacts, analysing and sharing data on the actual energy savings, and sharing best practice across campus.

**Objectives:**

- To develop a communications and engagement campaign to raise awareness of the Freezer Challenge across campus.
- To increase sign ups to the Freezer Challenge by University of Leeds based laboratories.
- To compile and update records relating to the number of ULT freezers located on campus.
- To record and analyse any potential energy, cost, and carbon reductions resulting from engagement with the Freezer Challenge.
- To gather and share case studies of good cold storage maintenance and evidence supporting the safety of raising ULT freezer temperatures and associated energy reduction.

**Hours:**

100





**Project 16:****Activities and events for sustainable careers****School / Service:** Careers Service**Supervisor:** Kathryn Davis, Careers Service**Scope:** The Careers team and Sustainability Service run annual careers and employability events for students across disciplines to help them along their sustainability journey. These activities provide students with the opportunity to listen to inspiring sustainability professionals from diverse backgrounds, learn about the breadth of sustainability career options, understand the green skills associated with sustainability careers and gain handy tips to help them along the way.

Liaising with both teams, this project will continue with and build upon previous work recognising the value of knowledge sharing between sustainability professionals and students looking at starting their careers.

**Objectives:**

- Support the delivery of various sustainability careers events including careers fairs, Sustainability Spotlight Week, the Student Sustainability Research Conference.
- Outreach: actively engage with internal and external employers / partners to identify sustainable employers, recruit speakers and presenters for different events throughout the year.
- Plan, organise, and deliver sustainability careers opportunities for students (e.g. workshops / events / talks / activities).
- Assist with cross-service event promotion and communications (including content creation for social channels), encouraging student participation from across disciplines.
- Support in producing resource materials for sustainability careers events.

**Hours:** 100

**Project 17:****Supporting the Sustainable Curriculum programme to build connectivity with student societies****School / Service:** Sustainable Curriculum**Supervisor:** Anne Tallontire and Vasiliki Kioupi, Sustainable Curriculum**Scope:** The Sustainable Curriculum programme is one of the University's Climate Plan principles. The ambition is for the University to demonstrate its leadership in this field, utilising our education and research strengths, to equip our students with the knowledge, skills, and capabilities to contribute to developing solutions to global challenges as they progress throughout their future careers.

In the 2024/25 academic year the programme seeks to build on Student Sustainability Architect work in 2023-24 to strengthen partnership working with societies including the Sustainability Society and other societies that link to sustainability themes.

This role will ensure that SSA work with Student Societies is co-ordinated as well as undertake specific activities with Student Societies to shape recommendations for how the programme could increase student participation and engagement in the Sustainable Curriculum programme – thinking about how we engage a diverse spectrum of students with differing insights, perspectives, and previous levels of engagement in sustainability themes.

The role will identify and communicate to the Sustainable Curriculum team which approaches to engagement prove more successful in terms of people who participate in activities and ideas that have support and enthusiasm from the student community.

**Objectives:**

- To create a forum for exchange of ideas and insights amongst the Sustainable Curriculum SSAs and society representatives.
- To validate and expand on ideas identified in 2023-24 to formulate recommendations for student engagement opportunities.
- Prepare and implement delivery plans for student engagement events and activities and secure the resource and any budget needed to achieve these.
- Develop an approach for monitoring and evaluating the success of engagement activities and prepare updates and reports on these for project team members.

**Hours:**

100



**Project 18:****Exploring alternatives to map sustainability within the Curriculum****School / Service:** Sustainable Curriculum**Supervisor:** Rosario Villarreal, Sustainable Curriculum**Scope:**

The University of Leeds is dedicated to embedding sustainability into its curriculum through the Sustainable Curriculum program, aligning with the Climate Plan. This initiative aims to equip students with knowledge and skills for addressing sustainability challenges. One of the first steps needed is mapping the current level of sustainability already embedded in the curriculum and identifying areas that require reinforcement. A pilot exercise was carried out in the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences, which illustrates efforts to integrate sustainability into education, though challenges persist with how digital tools could be harnessed to support curriculum mapping. Continuous evaluation and collaboration are essential for ensuring sustainability remains a priority in education.

The Student Sustainability Ambassador (SSA) role will be instrumental in driving the implementation of innovative mapping techniques. As an SSA, students will be actively involved in crafting a mapping framework to investigate the application of GenAI in curriculum mapping. Additionally, they will collaborate with external partners to conduct mapping of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the curriculum.

**Objectives:**

- To develop a mapping framework integrating GenAI technologies for curriculum mapping.
- To facilitate collaborative partnerships with external partners specialised in sustainable curriculum, implementing a systematic approach for mapping SDGs within the curriculum.
- To foster staff involvement in refining the mapping frameworks, gathering their feedback to refine the process, and suggesting improvements.

**Hours:**

100





**Project 19:**                    **Circular Resource Economy & Single-Use Plastics in University Residences**

**School / Service:**            Residential Services

**Supervisor:**                    Mike Leonard, Residential Services

**Scope:**                         Residential Services is responsible for accommodating around 9,000 students, in University owned and private partner sites, both on and off campus. University owned accommodation is provided on eleven major residential sites, plus several smaller properties located on campus and in the Headingley area. Residential Services has several sites accredited under the Green Tourism scheme, and works in partnership with its supply chain, and third sector charities, e.g. British Heart Foundation, British Hen Welfare Trust, Groundwork Yorkshire, Over2hills, Rainbow Junktion Café, and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

The post-holder must have a hands-on approach to work, strong communication and interpersonal skills, with an ability to work collaboratively with others, and build effective working relationships.

**Objectives:**

- Develop, promote and implement several sustainability-linked events, providing information to help, encourage & support students who are allocated accommodation in University residences to:
  - Adopt a circular resource approach to reduce, re-use, recycle & repair, in support of the waste & recycling contract with Mitie Waste & Environmental Services.
  - Buy ethically from local charities & shops, as opposed to ordering on-line.
  - Remove single-use plastics from their daily lives.
  - Provide advice before students move out and move into their accommodation.
- Inform student residents and staff about sustainability events/opportunities with Residential Services, the University of Leeds, and Leeds University Union.
- Provide information on the outcomes achieved from the events held, highlighting good news stories.
- Delivery of information via various media, including social media and hardcopy sources

**Hours:**                            100



**Project 20:**                    **Supporting Health and Wellbeing and Volunteering initiatives within University Residences**

**School / Service:**            Residential Services

**Supervisor:**                    Mike Leonard, Residential Services

**Scope:**                         Residential Services provides a number of outdoor volunteer activities with external third sector charities to provide opportunities for both students and staff to improve their mental health and wellbeing. The post-holder will be required to research how these activities may benefit those that attend such events and use both practical observations and written feedback to assess the relative benefits delivered during the year. The outcome will be an appreciation of the value of such activities, and recommendations on how these activities might be improved in subsequent years.

- Objectives:**
- Undertake research to establish the relative benefits of volunteering with nature-based charities.
  - Liaise with contacts in nature-based charities to establish their perspective on the benefits of volunteering with their nature-based charities.
  - Interview current students with previous experience of volunteering with Residential Services activities.
  - Attend volunteer events during the year to gain an insight into the experiences of students and staff attending on the day.
  - Conduct a series of follow-up interviews with volunteers after the events to gain their thoughts on experiences and potential improvements that can be made for the activities and attendance.
  - Produce a final report with recommendations on how these events benefit those that attend, and how they might be best communicated to raise awareness and numbers taking part.

**Hours:**                            100



**Project 21:****Schools' engagement for woodland creation****School / Service:** Gair Wood / Net Zero**Supervisor:** Robin Hayward & Tom Sloan, School of Earth and Environment**Scope:** The School of Earth and Environment runs outreach in local schools, communicating the importance of trees and woodland creation. This highlights research and experience from Gair Wood, a 36-hectare broadleaf woodland, planted recently in Leeds.

This role will focus on delivering outreach sessions, initially using an existing template and resources, but with the potential to create new materials for a motivated candidate.

The candidate will be supervised by Dr Robin Hayward, who has developed and delivered the outreach program; Dr Tom Sloan, who will provide scientific background and support; and in collaboration with UBoC, a charity which supports woodland research and land restoration. The University engagement team will help to facilitate connections with schools.

The candidate will deliver in-person lessons and demonstrations to local primary schools (ages 5-11) and may also develop physical or online resources, including video media. There will be opportunities to assist with other University outreach, including the annual Be Curious Festival, hosted on campus.

This project would suit a candidate with an interest in scientific outreach and education. A background in STEM is not required, but the successful candidate will have an interest and enthusiasm for nature, the environment, and trees.

**Objectives:**

- Develop a new outreach activity, highlighting an element of the science being conducted at Gair Wood.
- Create new connections with schools in the Leeds area to facilitate outreach, engagement, and environmental education.
- Visit primary school classrooms to provide engagement activities on the subject of woodland creation.
- Help to deliver an outreach stall at the University's annual Be Curious family open day.
- The candidate will focus on their own professional development as a communicator.

**Hours:**

100





<b>Project 22:</b>	<b>Scenarios Forum 2025 – A Sustainable Conference Living Lab</b>
<b>School / Service:</b>	Priestley Centre for Climate Futures, School of Earth and Environment, Conferences and Events, Catering Service
<b>Supervisor:</b>	Eric Kemp-Benedict, Associate Professor of Ecological Economics & Conferences and Events Operation Manager
<b>Scope:</b>	<p>The Priestley Centre for Climate Futures is providing support to allow the University of Leeds to host the third Forum on Scenarios for Climate and Societal Futures between 16 and 18 July 2025. The Scenarios Forum is an influential multi-disciplinary, international conference to discuss the most pertinent issues in socioeconomic scenario development for sustainability and climate. It brings 300 - 400 experts from around the world to share knowledge, build collaborations, reflect on the use of scenarios, and identify future research needs. Outputs from the forum inform the priorities of Integrated Assessment Modelling centres and the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change.</p> <p>Hosting the Scenarios Forum is a significant opportunity to showcase the University of Leeds campus and services and our commitment to sustainability and tackling climate change. Given the focus of the conference, it is imperative that we ensure the conference delivery is aligned with the latest evidence in terms of climate and sustainability. The aim of this Student Sustainability Architect project is to support a Living Lab project which will trial and showcase methods for delivering a conference on the University of Leeds campus in the most sustainable manner possible.</p>
<b>Objectives:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertaking research into industry good practice for delivering sustainable events.</li> <li>• Calculating carbon emissions and other sustainability related measures for conference delivery and catering.</li> <li>• Surveying delegates pre- and post-conference.</li> <li>• Translating findings and learning into communications outputs for internal and external audiences.</li> </ul>
<b>Hours:</b>	100



<b>Project 23:</b>	IT Service Data Centres - energy usage
<b>School / Service:</b>	IT Service
<b>Supervisor:</b>	Member of IT Services
<b>Scope:</b>	<p>Work with IT Data Centre Team &amp; Estates Team to put in place:</p> <p>i) measurement and annual reporting of energy consumption in the 3 on-premises data centres (CMR, HMR, TMR).</p> <p>ii) an annual review to identify and action opportunities for energy reduction across the 3 on-premises data centres.</p>
<b>Objectives:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the IT Data Centre Team and Estates Team to establish what measurement of energy consumption is in place or currently possible (3 data centres).</li> <li>• Work with the IT Data Centre Team and Estates Team to understand and summarise in a table their top 3 preferred options that would enable measurement/reporting of annual energy consumption (3 data centres).</li> <li>• Develop an approach for establishing an annual review to identify and action opportunities for energy reduction across the 3 on-premise data centres.</li> <li>• Engage with the IT Service Operational Leadership Team to seek agreement to proceed with the recommended option.</li> <li>• Work with the IT Data Centre Team, Estates Team, and the Service Operational Leadership Team to introduce the preferred option for measurement, reporting and review.</li> <li>• Prepare and give an informal 5-minute presentation to the IT Conference on the work you've done as part of this project.</li> </ul>
<b>Hours:</b>	100



<b>Project 24:</b>	IT Service e-waste
<b>School / Service:</b>	IT Service
<b>Supervisor:</b>	Member of IT Services
<b>Scope:</b>	<p>Work with IT &amp; IT e-waste recycling supplier to put in place:</p> <p>i) measurement and annual reporting of the quantity of e-waste generated - detailing the quantity of recycling achieved and quantity of e-waste that went to landfill.</p> <p>ii) an annual review to identify and action opportunities reduce e-waste generated by IT.</p>
<b>Objectives:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with IT &amp; IT e-waste recycling supplier to establish what annual measurement and reporting of the quantity of IT e-waste generated is in place or currently possible.</li> <li>• Work with IT &amp; IT e-waste recycling supplier to understand and summarise in a table their top 3 preferred options that would enable measurement/reporting of IT e-waste generated.</li> <li>• Develop an approach for establishing an annual review to identify and action opportunities for IT e-waste reduction.</li> <li>• Engage with the IT Service Operational Leadership Team to seek agreement to proceed with the recommended option.</li> <li>• Work with the IT, IT e-waste recycling supplier and the Service Operational Leadership Team to introduce the preferred option for measurement, reporting and review.</li> <li>• Prepare and give an informal 5-minute presentation to the IT Conference on the work you've done as part of this project.</li> </ul>
<b>Hours:</b>	100





<b>Project 25:</b>	Make business travel more sustainable within the IT Service
<b>School / Service:</b>	IT Service
<b>Supervisor:</b>	Member of IT Services
<b>Scope:</b>	<p>i) Engage with the Leeds University Business School to understand how they developed and implemented a sustainable business travel policy – including annual reporting of travel undertaken and how the policy has made this more sustainable.</p> <p>ii) Based on these lessons, work with the IT Business Support team &amp; the UoL Sustainability Service to develop, plan and implement a sustainable business travel policy for the IT Service - including annual reporting of travel undertaken.</p>
<b>Objectives:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage with the IT Business Support team to get an overview of business travel guidance that IT staff must currently follow and think about how it encourages/discourages sustainable travel. Identify what current reporting exists on business travel undertaken within IT.</li> <li>• Engage with colleagues in the Leeds University Business School to understand how they developed, consulted upon, planned, and implemented a sustainable business travel policy – including annual reporting of travel undertaken and how the policy has made this more sustainable.</li> <li>• Re-using as much from the LUBS approach as possible, work with your supervisor, IT Business Support team &amp; the UoL Sustainability Service to plan the development, consultation and implementation of a sustainable business travel policy for the IT Service and annual report of business travel undertaken by IT colleagues.</li> <li>• Draft a sustainable business travel policy for the IT Service.</li> <li>• Consult, seek, review, and incorporate feedback on the draft sustainable business travel policy from IT colleagues.</li> <li>• Seek agreement for introducing the sustainable business travel policy and annual business travel report for the IT Service.</li> <li>• Prepare and give an informal 5-minute presentation to the IT Conference on the work you've done as part of this project.</li> </ul>
<b>Hours:</b>	100



**Project 26:** Mapping Sustainable Development Goals within the Curriculum (3 x roles)

**Programme(s):** Sustainable Curriculum

**Supervisor:** Member of the Sustainable Curriculum programme team

**Scope:** The University of Leeds is dedicated to embedding sustainability into its curriculum through the Sustainable Curriculum programme, part of the University's Climate Plan commitments. This initiative aims to equip students with knowledge and skills for addressing sustainability challenges. One of the first steps needed is mapping the current level of sustainability already embedded in the curriculum and identifying areas that require reinforcement. To this end, we are partnering with [Students Organising for Sustainability-UK](#) to map sustainability within the curricula.

The Student Sustainability Architect (SSA) role will be instrumental in driving the implementation of the SOS-UK mapping framework. As SSAs, students will be actively involved as curriculum auditors. SSAs will be trained and supported by SOS-UK staff. SOS-UK staff bring expertise on student engagement and training, sustainability, and education to equip participating SSAs with the necessary knowledge, skills, and attributes to be empowered as auditors of formal curricula.

**Objectives:**

- To facilitate a collaborative partnership with external stakeholders specialised in sustainable curriculum mapping.
- To implement a systematic approach for mapping sustainability within the curriculum.
- To communicate the outcomes from the mapping carried out to relevant stakeholders internally and externally.

**Hours:** 100

