PRME
an initiative of the
United Nations Global Compact

2025 Sharing Information on Progress **(SIP) Report**

College of Business and Law,
Coventry University

September 2025

Table of Contents

About the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME)

The Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) is a United Nations-supported initiative founded in 2007 that aims to raise the profile of sustainability in their classrooms through Seven Principles focused on serving society and safeguarding our planet.

PRME engages business and management schools to ensure they provide future leaders with the skills needed to balance economic and sustainability goals, while drawing attention to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and aligning academic institutions with the work of the UN Global Compact. Driven by its mission to transform management education, PRME equips today's business students with the understanding and ability to deliver change tomorrow. As a voluntary initiative with over 800 signatories worldwide, PRME has become the largest organized relationship between the United Nations and management-related higher education institutions.

> *The PRME initiative was launched to nurture responsible leaders of the future. Never has this task been more important. Bold leadership and innovative thinking are needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).*

Antonio Guterres

Secretary-General (2017 - Present)

United Nations

Principles of PRME

Purpose

We advance responsible management education to foster inclusive prosperity in a world of thriving ecosystems.

Values

We place organizational responsibility and accountability to society and the planet at the core of what we do.

Teach

We transform our learning environments by integrating responsible management concepts and practices into our curriculum and pedagogy.

Research

We study people, organizations, institutions, and the state of the world to inspire responsible management and education practice.

Partner

We engage people from business, government, civil society, and academia to advance responsible and accountable management education and practice.

Practice

We adopt responsible and accountable management principles in our own governance and operations.

Share

We share our successes and failures with each other to enable our collective learning and best live our common values and purpose.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In September 2015, all 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted a plan for achieving a better future for all – laying out a path over the next 15 years to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and protect our planet. At the heart of Agenda 2030 are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 related targets that address the most important economic, social, environmental and governance challenges of our time. The SDGs clearly define the world we want – applying to all nations and leaving no one behind. Successful implementation of the SDGs will require all players to champion this agenda; the role of higher education is critical to this.

Getting Started

This section provides foundational information about College of Business and Law, Coventry University, including key details and basic institutional data.

Mission

Our mission

Creating Better Futures – through responsible management and legal education

Vision

Our vision

We equip global future leaders with an entrepreneurial mindset that will inspire them to make a difference through impactful transformations of business and society.

We do this through:

- Outstanding life-long student experiences that equip confident graduates with the knowledge, skills and behaviours to embrace and value creativity and criticality
- High-quality, multi-modal international partnerships, networks and opportunities that inspire and develop a global outlook
- Impactful collaborative research and scholarship that engages and positively influences individuals, organisations, and society
- Strong strategic collaborations with businesses, third- and public sector organisations that ensure a relevant and applied approach to education, research, enterprise and innovation
- A diverse, engaged and motivated team of student-centric colleagues
- Challenge-led curricula designed to nurture highly employable, ethically, socially, environmentally and economically responsible future leaders

Strategy

College Strategy 2030 Refresh View document Download document

Graduates & Enrollment

2024 Statistics	Number
Graduates	1266

Degrees Offered

Bachelor Programs

- Bachelor of Science (B.Sc. or B.S.)
- Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)
- Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.)
- Bachelor of Laws (LLB); Master of Laws (LLM)

Masters Programs

- Master of Science (M.Sc. or M.S.)
- Master of Arts (M.A.)
- Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.)
- Bachelor of Laws (LLB); Master of Laws (LLM)

Doctoral Programs

- Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Purpose

We advance responsible management education to foster inclusive prosperity in a world of thriving ecosystems.

Letter of Commitment

Letter from Professor Jenna Ward, Dean of the College of Business and Law

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 2025 Sharing Information on Progress (SIP) report.

The College of Business and Law is proud to reaffirm its commitment to the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) through our transformed curriculum that has embed sustainability, ethical leadership, and social responsibility into both our active pedagogy but also our learning materials and activities.

Despite the challenges posed by changes in the higher education landscape, our commitment to our 2030 strategy, *Creating Better Futures: Through Responsible Management and Legal Education*, remains. We are incredibly proud of the progress we have achieved in embedding responsible management education into our teaching, research, and operations. This progress would not be possible without the dedication of our staff to integrating PRME principles into curriculum.

We continue our work with regional and local businesses, alongside the third and public sectors, to open the minds of our students to the range of opportunities available to them beyond the corporate world of work. The focus of our student engagement activities is to promote value creation above profit creation while nurturing pro-social values within future leaders.

Colleagues engage in challenge-led projects that address real-world issues with the goal of fostering responsible, ethical, and sustainable solutions. Shining a spotlight on the School of Economics, Finance and Accounting (EFA) this year; Dr Judith Kabajulizi received the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) Gender Grant for 2024 to support a pilot scheme to establish economics clubs in secondary schools in Coventry and to record and monitor alumni careers beyond graduation. Dr Mehul Chhatbar is part of the team awarded a Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) grant to research how accounting curricula and pedagogical practices in UK HEIs contribute to SDG implementation, exploring challenges, opportunities, and the role of professional, statutory and regulatory bodies. Professor Jenna Ward and Dr Jaliyyah Bello secured PRME UK and Ireland Research Seed Funding to support their project investigating the impact of our transformed undergraduate curriculum on students' prosocial values.

We are ambitious in our approach and welcome challenges and partnership opportunities with our Students' Union, local authorities, and our international partners. Under the auspices of the PRME Working Group on Climate Change and Environment, we launched the Virtual World Tour on Climate Change Solutions, involving 11 institutions and over 800 global participants. We continue to support our 19 transnational education partnerships, through which we support the education of more than 3,500 international students in their own countries. This initiative provides us with a real opportunity for dialogical knowledge exchange. This year, through a series of staff development workshops and COIL projects with our TNE

partners, we have focused on exploring best practices for quality education and embedding sustainability and climate education into teaching and learning.

PRME and sustainability awareness remain a priority within the College of Business and Law through staff training, student induction sessions, and resource sharing. At the start of the academic year and during college-wide PRME sessions, we shared the blueprint for SDG integration, the PRME i5 Playbook, and several other PRME resources.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to fostering a culture of sustainability, ethical leadership, and social responsibility, ensuring that PRME remains a core part of our identity. We invite all members of our community to continue collaborating, innovating, and driving meaningful change together.

Thank you.

Values

We place organizational responsibility and accountability to society and the planet at the core of what we do.

Who Champions Responsible Management Education at Our Institution

- Interdisciplinary efforts across business school
- Interdisciplinary efforts across parent organization
- Individual leader

Teach

We transform our learning environments by integrating responsible management concepts and practices into our curriculum and pedagogy.

Courses that support RME

College of Business and Law, Coventry University reports 3 courses in 2024 that support responsible management education and sustainable development goals.

Corporate Governance and Ethics

| 6000ECN

Corporate Governance and Business Ethics are highly topical issues in the modern world of business. This is reflected in the growth of corporate codes of conduct, environmental auditing, and ethical investment. It is also reflected in the spate of recent official reports into corporate governance structures and executive remuneration, the growing public concern about the roles of owners and managers, and the issues concerning stakeholders' participation. This module thus aims to help students understand the meaning and importance of corporate governance, the main governance issues, and how to maintain sound and effective governance mechanisms. The module also looks at the fundamentals of business ethical decision making and the various ethical dilemmas that individuals and organisations might face. The module aims to introduce students to the impact of business ethics within corporations including decision making, governance and corporate social responsibility within a global economy with more emphasis on real cases studies and in-class discussions.

In lectures, basic concepts and issues are outlined. In seminars, problems are discussed and case studies are analysed. There is also directed and self-directed study.

Environmental Economics

| 6035ECN

This module explores the uses of economic analysis in investigating the causes, consequences and possible solutions to problems of environmental degradation. Some of the major themes in the module include: the determination of the optimum levels of environmental resource usage; the analyses of alternative ways of attaining those targets; and valuation of environmental resources. The crucial notion of 'sustainability' is a key focus as are the proximate and underlying causes of environmental problems.

Students' learning is organised around direct contact time with the teaching team, and reflective independent learning. The direct contact time takes place through lectures, seminars and group workshops. Students are expected to complement this 'formal' learning activity with further reading of the material suggested in the teaching sessions, solving real world problems using economic analysis, research, writing, planning and preparation for group presentations.

Light reference to SDGs

Principles of Finance

| 4009FIN

This module seeks to empower students by teaching them the key areas of personal finance, including personal financial planning, budgeting, saving, managing credit, investing, retirement planning, and tax planning. This knowledge will help students manage their finances, and make confident and informed financial decisions, thereby increasing their financial control, satisfaction and well-being.

A variety of teaching and learning methods will be used including lectures, seminars and group discussion. Key concepts and introductions to particular techniques will be given through lectures. Seminars are designed to enhance students' understanding through practical exercises and discussion questions that require students to apply their knowledge and demonstrate an understanding of these concepts and techniques. In addition, students will be required to carry out directed research in preparation for assessments and seminars. Students will receive ongoing formative feedback during the module. The learning will incorporate through examples and case studies the Principals for Responsible Management Education (PRME): sustainability, social responsibility, responsible leadership and ethics. Students' learning will incorporate international perspectives to enhance their experience.

Light reference to SDGs

Fostering Innovation

To a great extent
Teaching and learning at our institution strongly foster innovation.

Experiential Learning

A lot
Our institution supports experiential learning significantly through teaching and learning.

Learning Mindset

A lot
Our institution supports a lifelong learning mindset significantly through teaching and learning.

Method of Teaching and Learning

In person
Traditional classroom-based learning with face-to-face instruction.

Additional Evidence

Spotlight on Coventry Law School	View document	Download document
Spotlight on School of Economics, Finance and Accounting	View document	Download document
Spotlight on School of Management	View document	Download document

Research

We study people, organizations, institutions, and the state of the world to inspire responsible management and education practice.

Research Funding

In 2024, College of Business and Law, Coventry University was awarded funding for research that is:

Regional

National

International

Socializing Research

In 2024, College of Business and Law, Coventry University contributed research findings to:

- Government and policy makers
- Industry and business networks
- International media
- Local media
- National media
- Open-access platforms
- Research collaborations
- Social media and digital outreach

Research Projects

In 2024, College of Business and Law, Coventry University reported 1 research project that implemented responsible or sustainable activities.

‘First of its kind’ creation by Coventry University academic to help space vessels travel longer distances

Period Covering: January, 2024 - December, 2024

Department: Engineering

The future of space travel is seemingly changing by the day and a Coventry University academic is doing his bit to stay at the front of the space race.

Dr Ashwath Pazhani along with an international team of researchers have created a new material for storing the liquid hydrogen used to propel rockets into space by the likes of NASA.

Their new material is lighter than the current material used for liquid hydrogen storage tanks and means that more fuel can be stored or more payload carried at one time – a feat that Dr Pazhani describes as a "groundbreaking work that leapfrogs current research in the field".

Lecturer in Engineering Design and Materials Specialism Dr Ashwath Pazhani, said:

"This all started as I was looking for the super lightweight and load-bearing material for external fuel tanks. The material in question has been used since 1993 to store liquid hydrogen and yet in this work we innovatively reinforced this material with nano graphene, creating a new composite out of that.

"We have been able to reduce overall external tank weight by 2%, which is 19,400kg of total weight reduction and that can be utilised towards sending 19 tons of extra payload in every space flight. This means space vessels can travel longer distances as well as carrying more payload.

"This is a significant innovation in liquid hydrogen storage and the material is the first of its kind. This achievement is groundbreaking in terms of sustainable energy solutions, aligning with global goals for cleaner and more efficient energy systems."

Dr Pazhani hopes to see the material put to use soon and believes it could also be used in coming years for the sustainable storage of liquid and gaseous hydrogen in domestic household purposes, underground storage for fuel stations, and for transport systems including automotive, marine and aviation.

The research was carried out collaboratively with Professor Anthony Xavior from Vellore Institute of Technology in India, Dr Andre Batako from Liverpool John Moores University, and Dr Dirk Honecker at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory.

As well as working with colleagues across the globe, Dr Pazhani also used expertise closer to home in the form of a Coventry University student he once taught. Alicia Patel studied her Master's degree in Aerospace Engineering at Coventry University and was part of the materials testing team.

Dr Ashwath Pazhani said:
"In addition to its technical merits, it has also played an important role in promoting inclusivity and diversity in STEM, actively encouraging women to participate and lead in scientific breakthroughs. Alicia's contribution is a shining

example of how student involvement can drive impactful research."

Publications Related to RME and/or Sustainability

Analyzing public discourse on photovoltaic (PV) adoption in Indonesia: A topic-based sentiment analysis of news articles and social media | DOI

Authors: Mulyani, Y.P | Saifurrahman, A | Arini, H.M | Rizqiawan, A | Hartono, B | Utomo, D.S | Spanellis, A | Beltran, M | Banjar Nahor, K.M | Paramita, D | Harefa, W.D

Date of publication: January, 2024

Department: Centre for Resilient Business and Society

Abstract

The importance of integrating renewable energy, such as solar PV, in the global energy mix for mitigating carbon emissions is increasing. Despite the global drive towards renewable energy, the limited uptake of solar PV particularly in developing nations, such as Indonesia, poses significant challenges for transition to sustainable energy. This study analyses public discourse to comprehend the obstacles for widespread adoption of solar PV technologies. This study employs topic modelling and sentiment analysis of mainstream and social media data to comprehensively capture public discourse and perceptions concerning PV and residential PV adoption in Indonesia. The findings reveal shared thematic areas in both mainstream and social media. Nonetheless, the two media types diverge significantly in their focal points. Our findings support previous survey-based research while introducing three new topics found in both media channels. These topics are: (1) knowledge, misconceptions, and skepticism, (2) economically viable alternative PV technologies; and (3) government regulations and policies. Social and visual impressions such as aesthetics, hedonic motivation, and social influence are notably absent. Public perception varies, with mainstream media portraying PV technology more positively than social media. From both media, the public generally holds favorable views of PV, particularly in terms of its practicality, installation, safety, and information accessibility. Nevertheless, negative perceptions arise regarding investment costs, regulations, governmental policies, and the adequacy of government support.

Unleashing the power of artificial intelligence for climate action in industrial markets

DOI

Authors: Shahriar Akter | Mujahid Mohiuddin Babu | Umme Hani | Saida Sultana | Ruwan Bandara | David Grant

Date of publication: February, 2024

Department: Centre for Resilient Business and Society

Abstract

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a game-changing capability in industrial markets that can accelerate humanity's race against climate change. Positioned in a resource-hungry and pollution-intensive industry, this study explores AI-powered climate service innovation capabilities and their overall effects. The study develops and validates an AI model, identifying three primary dimensions and nine subdimensions. Based on a dataset in the fast fashion industry, the findings show that the AI-powered climate service innovation capabilities significantly influence both environmental and market performance, in which environmental performance acts as a partial mediator. Specifically, the results identify the key elements of an AI-informed framework for climate action and show how this can be used to develop a range of mitigation, adaptation and resilience initiatives in response to climate change.

Digital technologies, social entrepreneurship and resilience during crisis in developing countries: evidence from Nigeria

DOI

Authors: Franklin Nakpodia | Folajimi Ashiru | Jacqueline Jing You | Oluwasola Oni

Date of publication: November, 2024

Department: Entrepreneurship | Centre for Resilient Business and Society

Purpose

Social entrepreneurship (SE) is a complex phenomenon designed to resolve numerous societal challenges while remaining economically viable. However, how social entrepreneurs in developing countries have deployed digital technologies to address communal challenges during the Covid-19 crisis is largely undocumented. This research examines social entrepreneurs' adoption of digital technologies, the multi-level organisational conditions, and associated innovative outcomes of engaging digital technologies.

Design/methodology/approach

Based on the organisational resilience theoretical framework, this research employs a qualitative methodology, comprising 38 semi-structured interviews with Nigerian SE firms, to investigate social entrepreneurs' engagement with digital technologies.
Findings
The study's findings reveal 19 pathways through which digital technologies enabled organisational resilience outcomes by Nigerian SE firms during the Covid-19 pandemic. This allows the authors to show, via a 3 × 3 matrix, how social entrepreneurs deploy digital technologies to build proximate, dynamic, and continuous resilience in a weak institutional context.
Originality/value
The study's findings enables the authors to advance the SE – digital technologies – resilience scholarship in a developing economy.

Additional Evidence

Researchers develop game to help teachers in rural Vietnam embrace artificial intelligence in the classroom

Coventry University Group is using Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) to equip teachers in rural Vietnam with the skills and knowledge to integrate such tools into their teaching practices.

Vietnam's educational landscape is evolving with the introduction of digital tools and flexible learning, but rural areas face challenges with limited technology and training. To bridge the gap in access and resources between urban and rural schools, Dr Petros Lameras from the university's Research Centre for Postdigital Cultures has launched GameAid, focusing on enhancing educators' understanding and application of GenAI in the classroom through a serious game.

The project, a collaborative effort with the Hanoi University of Science and Technology (HUST) in Vietnam and funded through the British Council under the International Science Partnerships Fund, will support Vietnamese educators by designing, prototyping and evaluating a serious game that illustrates how GenAI applications and tools can be integrated into teaching in playful and engaging ways.

Urban areas in Vietnam tend to have better access to technology and educational resources compared to rural regions. This disparity extends to digital skills and teacher quality, with urban teachers often having higher qualifications and more professional development opportunities than their rural counterparts.

GameAid aims to address these challenges by helping educators create and utilise AI-generated educational materials; facilitate interactive and personalised learning experiences; provide tools for AI-driven assessments with real-time feedback and evaluation; and offer AI-enhanced feedback mechanisms to improve student learning outcomes.

The game will also address the ethical implications of AI, promoting diversity and inclusivity in education, and working to reduce the digital gender divide by ensuring equal opportunities for educators, with a particular focus on empowering women and other under-represented groups.

The Project Lead, Dr Petros Lameras said:

"This project is crucial in introducing innovative ways to develop teachers' competencies in Vietnam. By utilising a serious game to teach GenAI, we are not just enhancing skills but fundamentally changing how educators engage with technology in the classroom. GameAid is a step forward in ensuring that Vietnam's education system is equipped to meet the demands of the future."

Co-lead and member of HUST, Dr Nguyen Thi Thu Huyen said:

"The GameAid project equips teachers with simple guidelines and tools to integrate generative AI into lesson development, fostering innovation in education. It focuses on reducing the educational gap between urban and rural areas in Vietnam, promoting equal access to new learning opportunities."

This work was supported by a Research Collaborations grant, ID 1203440280, under the International Science Partnerships Fund. The grant is funded by the UK Department for Science Innovation and Technology in partnership with the British Council.

Centre for Future Transport and Cities to help shape Coventry's very light rail

Experts at Coventry University are to play a key role in a major project aimed at providing affordable accessible transport in the city.

Coventry Very Light Rail (CVLR) is a project to create a rail-based mass-transit system that can be built at less than half the cost and in half the time of conventional tram systems, while providing the same benefits.

A 220-metre single-track demonstrator has already been constructed in the city centre, the first time the new track has been installed in a live urban setting. The project is being led by Coventry City Council, and Coventry University's Research Centre for Future Transport and Cities has been tasked with engaging with the public to get their views on the CVLR demonstrator.

This will involve surveys and interviews with some of the 2,000 members of the public who have already signed up to take a trip on the demonstrator line, along with more in-depth follow-up research on attitudes to CVLR. That feedback will be collated by experts at the university to produce a report and recommendations, which will be used to inform the future development of the project.

Funded by the Department for Transport via the West Midlands Combined Authority and Coventry City Council, the project aims to provide a reliable,
frequent, environmentally friendly, hop-on, hop-off transport system suitable for a city the size of Coventry.

It will form part of a wider city-wide transport network connecting with existing electric buses and could potentially become commercially available for use in other cities in the UK and around the world.

The vehicles will be battery-powered and a key feature of the project is its turning system which enables the track to be installed within tight corners in the existing carriageway and at a shallow depth, to minimise the need to relocate underground cables and pipes.

Professor of Transport Design at the Research Centre for Future Transport and Cities, Professor Paul Herriotts, said:

"We are a world-renowned centre in the development of human centred transport, whether that be very light rail or flying taxis, we're excited to be playing a leading role in shaping this exciting transport solution in Coventry. This is the first time such a rail system has been developed for a city of Coventry's size and we're very proud to be playing our part in its development. We are actively engaged in challenge- led research with and for a number of external partners, which not only benefits them but also helps shape our teaching and helps us prepare our students for the workplace."

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Richard Dashwood, said:

"I'm very pleased that I will get the chance to experience what it will be like to travel on the VLR in Coventry, this project offers incredible benefits and we're excited to be playing a role in it. It's great for the future of transport in the city to see the council engaging with organisations such Coventry University in such a positive way on this transformational project."

Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change, Councillor Jim O'Boyle, said:
"The Coventry Very Light Rail vehicle is here in Coventry, the city whose pioneering and manufacturing skills have helped to bring us to the point of offering rides to local people, as well many from further afield. This is a significant next step in our plans to revolutionise transport, improve air quality, and create jobs. I'm pleased to say as well as enjoying a ride on the vehicle people can also have their say by taking part in the survey and letting us know what they think about this revolutionary project. The green economy is growing, and CVLR is at the heart of that right here."

Coventry University and Indian institutions laying foundations for a greener future

Coventry University has teamed up with two institutions in India to share its expertise in hydrogen fuel technology – a clean energy that is key to tackling climate change.

Hydrogen fuel cells have a huge part to play in future energy sources with hydrogen able to power vehicles, buildings and industries while contributing to net zero targets. A new online course from Coventry University focuses on delivering knowledge of hydrogen fuel cells through digital learning and interactive virtual labs, while industry involvement will help develop both technical know-how and employable skills for the future green economy.

The project is a collaboration alongside Indian institutions Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) and Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG), and has received a £10,000 grant from the British Council's Going Global Partnerships – Online, Distant, and Digitally Delivered Learning (ODDL) Grant.

Project lead and Electrical Engineering lecturer, Dr Sanju Thomas, said:

"We aim to bridge the digital education gap by designing virtual labs, webinars and open educational content focused on hydrogen production, storage, fuel cell design and applications. Not only does this project align with the Government' UK–India 2030 Roadmap and national hydrogen missions, it contributes to workforce development in the green energy sector by equipping learners with industry-relevant hydrogen skills."

Dr Thomas has worked alongside fellow Coventry University academics Dr Jayesh Shanthi Bhavan, who co-led on the project, and Dr Maria Tareen, as well as Dr Oliver Curnick from the Centre for E-Mobility and Clean Growth with the centre making its facilities and materials available for the project.

Professor in Mechanical Engineering at CUSAT, Dr Biju N, said:

"It is our privilege to associate with Coventry University for this project. Since hydrogen fuel cells are expected to play a crucial role in the future of clean transportation and energy storage, the participants immensely benefit from the course. While hydrogen fuel cells are not yet a mainstream technology, advancements in production, storage and infrastructure are expected to drive their adoption in the coming years."

Coventry University joins £6.75m programme to boost creative technology innovation in the West Midlands

Coventry University has joined forces with Birmingham City University, the University of Birmingham, the University of Warwick and the Royal Shakespeare Company to develop and grow creative technologies in the West Midlands, positioning the region as a global leader in the sector.

The universities will lead a £6.75m programme funded by investment from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) on behalf of UK Research and Innovation, which will support businesses, drive collaborative research and development and address regional challenges such as skills gaps, underinvestment and lack of diversity in the creative technology sector.

The five-year programme, titled CreaTech Frontiers, aims to utilise and combine expertise across high-demand sectors such as artificial intelligence, immersive technologies, digital arts, live performance and gaming to create a multifaceted support system for the region’s creative technology businesses.

Four specialist research and development labs will serve as the foundation of the programme: Virtual Production (Coventry University); Immersive Audio and Video Technologies (Birmingham City University); Applied AI for Createch (University of Birmingham); and Gaming, Esports and Animation. (University of Warwick).

These labs will work collaboratively across cultural, creative and technology sectors to explore and advance the development of new products, services, content and concepts. Further research and innovation will be driven by pilot production and demonstrator activities, with the Royal Shakespeare Company playing a key role.

CreaTech Frontiers' innovation-led activity is set to hand out £1.8 million in funding grants to regional SMEs, offering awards between £5,000 and £50,000.

This funding, combined with business support, 70 paid internships and 16 fully funded PhD placements, is designed to build local talent, the innovation ecosystem and drive long-term industry growth.

The project will be supported by a network of industry and cultural collaborators, including Vodafone, ARUP , Rebellion, Hollywood Gaming, Birmingham Open Media, Mirrorpix, Capture, Culture Central and the Birmingham Opera Company.

Led by Birmingham City University, the programme will see Professor Nick Henry, Director of Coventry University's Research Centre for Creative Economies, serve as Co-Investigator and Rachel Farrer, Coventry University's Associate Director of Cultural Community Engagement as a key project collaborator.

Executive Chair of the Arts and Humanities Research Council Professor Christopher Smith, said: "AHRC is delighted to announce a new wave of Creative Industries Clusters that will create vital support for technology and innovation in the UK's world leading creative industries and expand our regional investment. They will support artists and creators so they can benefit from new technologies across a wide range of platforms, and develop their innovation and business skills. The remarkable projects made possible through our Creative Industries Clusters span sustainable fashion, game design and extended reality, and have attracted major co-investment. They have helped solve real-world problems and they deliver commercial benefits to the UK economy in line with the Government's Industrial Strategy."

Director of the Centre for Creative Economies Professor Nick Henry, said:

"Coventry University are thrilled to be part of this successful collaboration to drive further recognition of and growth in the expertise, skills and dynamism of culture, creativity and technology in the West Midlands. In uncertain times we remain committed as a university to supporting our creative region and its businesses, talent and communities to thrive as a global leader in creative technology."

To deliver inclusive growth, CreaTech Frontiers will embed principles of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI), as well as sustainable and responsible innovation practices, ensuring that the programme's benefits are accessible to the diversity of talent and communities in the West Midlands.

Coventry University researcher shows how time crystals could be used to make quantum batteries

Time crystals may sound like something from a science fiction film but a researcher at the Group is showing how they could contribute to the future of energy storage.

In a regular crystal, like a diamond, the atoms are arranged in a repeating pattern. In a time crystal, a pattern repeats at regular intervals over time. Since it constitutes a robust phase of matter with unique properties, there is thought to be huge potential for application in future technologies.

Federico Carollo, Associate Professor at the Research Centre for Fluid and Complex Systems, has been investigating how these time crystals can be used in quantum batteries. Such batteries have the potential to be significantly more efficient and powerful than those we are traditionally familiar with and Federico's research into time crystals had some important findings in terms of how time crystals could be used in such applications.

Associate Professor at the Research Centre for Fluid and Complex Systems, Federico Carollo, said:

"A time crystal is a phase of matter in which the system periodically repeats itself in time rather than in space."

The types of crystals that people are more familiar with are solid structures such as diamond, table salt or quartz. These all contain a series of patterns that are regularly repeated within the atoms of the crystal structure. Time crystals are different. They show repeated patterns as well but these repetitions happen consecutively over time. In a time crystal, the system does not approach a stationary state but keeps on oscillating forever.

Federico and his colleagues have been studying the thermodynamic properties of time crystals to understand how these systems can be achieved and maintained. Although they're still mostly studied with theoretical and mathematical models, time crystals can also be produced in laboratory experiments. They have potential applications such as quantum engines, quantum sensors or quantum batteries. But to understand how this can be achieved, researchers first need to know more about the thermodynamics of time crystals – the way that energy flows in these systems.

Associate Professor Federico Carollo, said:
"It is important to quantify the resources that are needed to exploit this technology and its efficiency. Thermodynamics helps us understand the energy needed to sustain the phase, or the heat that's dissipated."

That type of information will make it clear whether the practical applications of time crystals are really achievable and efficient. When time crystals were first proposed by Nobel Laureate Frank Wilczek in 2012, he assumed that these crystals, like other phases of matter, would exist in an equilibrium state. However, physicists have since learned that the only way to achieve time crystals is if they are not in equilibrium. Federico's team explored the thermodynamics of time crystals' non-equilibrium state. Initially they set out to describe how coupled time crystals could be used for a quantum engine but they quickly realised their model was more appropriate to describe quantum-battery applications.

The researchers worked with a model in which two systems are coupled. They discovered that these coupled systems can work as a quantum battery more efficiently and can store more energy when in the time crystal phase rather than in the stationary one. That knowledge can help researchers who are working on the development of quantum batteries.

Associate Professor Federico Carollo, said:
"Quantum batteries could be used, for instance, to channel energy into nanoscale devices. They hold the promise to perform better than classical batteries. The hope is that we can make the next step by talking to industry, and with theoreticians and experimentalists. Together we can try to understand the future challenges to exploit time crystals in technology and to bring this outside of physics laboratories."

Federico led a team of researchers on the project including Paulo J. Paulino, Igor Lesanovsky and Albert Cabot from the University of Tübingen, Gabriele De Chiara from Queen's University Belfast and Mauro Antezza from the Université de Montpellier. This research was recently featured in an article in New Scientist and Federico hopes this is a step towards getting more feedback from the broader community.

Associate Professor Federico Carollo, said:

"We had already received some nice feedback from the academic community, but this was an opportunity to go beyond that. It's easy to get lost in the work but this shows that people care."

Coventry University study reveals how a natural antioxidant could help reduce muscle decline linked to obesity

Coventry University researchers have discovered that resveratrol, a natural antioxidant, may help combat muscle weakness caused by a high-fat diet.

Resveratrol is found in foods like red grapes and peanuts and is already known for its anti-inflammatory and antioxidant benefits but findings by the Centre for Physical Activity, Sport and Exercise Sciences (PASES) offer the first clear evidence of its potential to preserve muscle strength and performance, even when under metabolic stress from a high-fat diet.

Using advanced techniques developed at PASES, researchers examined the effects of resveratrol on mice fed a high-fat diet over 12 weeks, with some of the mice receiving resveratrol as a daily supplement. Mice that received the supplement showed significantly greater muscle power than those without, despite being on the same diet. In some cases, their muscle function resembled that of animals fed a standard, healthier diet, suggesting resveratrol may offer a protective effect from high-fat diets.

Resveratrol had the strongest effect on muscles used for quick, powerful movements, which are the most affected by high-fat diets. The potential for applying this discovery to human trials offers new opportunities to tackle the obesity pandemic which is now affecting approximately one billion people.

Maintaining muscle health offers life-changing benefits to society including disease prevention, quality of life and increased mobility. Project lead, Associate Professor Jason Tallis, said:

“This is the first time we’ve seen such direct results that resveratrol can protect muscle performance under the stress of a high-fat diet. We will now be able to use the findings to investigate safe and effective treatment and preventative strategies.”

Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Deborah Lycett, said:
“This work is a great example of novel experimental science happening at Coventry University. Such discoveries open the way for investigating new treatments and approaches to tackle challenges like obesity. ”

The research, which has now been published in the Journal of Physiology, forms part of the PASES team's ten-year commitment to exploring how dietary factors affect muscle performance.

Research into climate and the environment on the horizon thanks to Coventry University Group agreement

Coventry University Group hopes to expand its global research reach by joining forces with Centrum Lukasiewicz, which coordinates the Lukasiewicz Research Network in Poland.

The link-up between the two organisations aims to work on joint research initiatives in areas such as climate, energy, mobility, natural resources, agriculture, environment, digital, advanced manufacturing and health. This work could potentially lead to collaboration on European and national research grants, knowledge sharing and staff exchanges, as well as co-authored publications. The Lukasiewicz Research Network, which has 22 institutes across Poland and is the third largest such network in Europe, is named after Polish entrepreneur Ignacy Lukasiewicz who founded the first ever oil mine in 1854 and was also the inventor of the kerosene lamp.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Professor Richard Dashwood, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research at Coventry University Group, and Rafal Lukasik, Presidential Plenipotentiary for International Relations at the Lukasiewicz Research Network Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research, Professor Richard Dashwood said:

“Our research centres work with our international partners on a vast range of technologies that are key to solving global challenges. It is connections with organisations such as the Lukasiewicz Research Network that help us to make a real difference far and wide, and we look forward to exploring just how far we can push the boundaries together.”

Presidential Plenipotentiary for International Relations at the Lukasiewicz Research Network, Professor Rafal Lukasik said:

"The signing of this Memorandum of Understanding between Coventry University and the Łukasiewicz Research Network marks a significant step forward in promoting international collaboration and innovation. Through this collaboration we are excited to explore joint initiatives in key areas, including climate, energy and mobility, bioeconomy and natural resources, digital industry and intelligent healthcare. We aim to create more opportunities for staff and student mobility while establishing a solid foundation for collaborative research that supports both European and national goals. We are hopeful that our combined expertise and the exchange of knowledge will lead to impactful projects that address critical challenges in society and industry.

Researcher aims to help employers support disabled and neurodivergent home-based workersa

A researcher from the Centre for Healthcare and Communities has produced a new toolkit designed to help organisations support disabled and/or neurodivergent staff to work from home.

The guidance has been produced by Dr Christine Grant following extensive research into the impact of remote working on disabled and/or neurodivergent people through the Remote4All Project, which is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council’s Centre for Digital Futures at Work Research Centre (Digit).

She found a gap in the knowledge of line managers when supporting disabled and/or neurodivergent workers.

Dr Grant, who presented her research before MPs in Parliament last year, believes disabled and neurodivergent people can be better supported to start and stay in employment and that remote working can play a key part in this. It offers advice to line managers on areas such as how to initiate and support key conversations about remote working, how meetings are conducted and what steps can be taken to ensure those working from home do not feel isolated. Tips to avoid micromanagement, building trust in a remote environment and signposting to a range of resources

and support services are also included. The development of the toolkit has also been supported by funding from the UKRI Economic and Social Research Council' and is supported by organisations such as Vodafone, NHS Employers, Costain, the UK Atomic Energy Authority and neurobox.

Dr Grant said:

“During Covid there was the big move towards remote working, but since then there’s been a bit of a shift back to being in the office and to some extent a stigma has returned around remote working. During my research it was clear that without remote working, a significant proportion of disabled and/or neurodivergent people would find it very difficult or impossible to work."

“There are huge benefits in home working for many in this group. There are also some downsides such as the potential for increased isolation that is acknowledged in the toolkit, however this is why the role of the line manager is so important in supporting people."

“There is a lack of understanding around remote working as a key adjustment and knowledge of the support services that are available- which is why I decided to put together the toolkit with the key stakeholders. It will be adopted by the external stakeholder organisations involved and my hope is that other businesses and organisations will adopt this guidance.”

Head of Diversity and Inclusion at NHS Employers, Paul Deemer, said:
"Creating psychologically safe environments where both staff and managers feel comfortable talking about disability, neurodiversity and adjustments is essential. This toolkit aims to bridge that gap and will help educate and empower managers so they can support their staff, allowing them to flourish in their roles."

Director of Vodafone Learning Organisation, Carl Clarke, said:
“This toolkit is a powerful resource that helps managers and colleagues create truly inclusive, flexible workplaces where every individual has the opportunity to thrive and perform at their best.”

Partner

We engage people from business, government, civil society, and academia to advance responsible and accountable management education and practice.

Institutional Partnerships

- AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business)
- EFMD (European Foundation for Management Development)
- Financial Times
- Local institutions and associations
- Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)
- Times Higher Education (THE)
- Ministries of Education, Higher Education, or similar national bodies
- University Councils
- Association of Commonwealth Universities Higher Education and the SDGs Network

Student Organization Partnerships

- Enactus
- PRME Global Students

Partnerships

The following provides more details on 1 key partnership at College of Business and Law, Coventry University.

Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme

Work has begun to reduce the university's carbon emissions and meet its net zero carbon target by 2030 by installing hundreds of new solar panels.

The ambitious programme will see panels installed across the campus alongside new efficient windows and a connection to the Coventry district energy network.

This network is formed of a 6.6km underground heat system that transports waste heat from the city's municipal incinerator to supply energy to major public buildings and, in doing so, has only one-sixth of the carbon emissions of natural gas.

The university was awarded £13 million in funding for the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme in February 2024 to take a significant step towards achieving this goal.

Head of Sustainability and Environment, Selina Fletcher said:

“After much planning, we can now start to see the results - we will immediately be able to see a carbon reduction as the solar panels start to generate energy and reduce our emissions. This is fantastic news for the university and showcases the first of many actions to put sustainability at the heart of what we do, benefiting our students, staff and the wider community.”

The grant will help the university to reduce emissions from heating by a quarter as gas boilers are switched off in exchange for the connection to the lower carbon district energy scheme. The university enlisted the help of consultant Baily Garner to collaborate with specialist contractor Geo Green Power on the installation of the solar panels, which have been successfully mounted on the Sir Frank Whittle and Charles Ward buildings, with plans to cover the roofs of The Hub and the Alma building in the new year.

Nearly 800 panels will be installed across university buildings. In total these will be approximately the same scale as around 90 typical home solar arrays. This is only the start of the decarbonisation work at the university. In May 2025 pipework will be put in place that will allow 11 of the university’s city centre buildings to join the existing district energy scheme. The project is due to be completed in April 2026 and is expected to save 95 tonnes in carbon reduction per year on campus once everything is installed as well as provide a real-life case study for students to see climate change mitigation in action.

Coventry University is part of the city-wide Climate Change Board

Partner Voices

The following statement from our partners demonstrates ways in which our collaborations at College of Business and Law, Coventry University support sustainability and responsible management education.

Coventry University and Gallery of Living History to celebrate the pioneers of black British music in Coventry

The university will host a series of special events to celebrate black British music culture in the city.

Black Sound Coventry will tell the story of 100 years of musical creativity and DIY ingenuity with an exhibition, a panel event and a citizen curation day - all taking place at the university’s Delia Derbyshire building.

The aim is to spotlight the pioneers who made it all possible, from the players and promoters to the punters who supported the city’s music scene. It also seeks to show the importance of black British music to the wider culture in Coventry. Co-curated by acclaimed creative director Scott Leonard, and

Lloyd Bradley, one of the UK's foremost black music experts, Black Sound is a collaboration involving the Gallery of Living History, which has previously worked with the university for the Gallery of Living History Schools Competition.

The Gallery of Living History's aim is to encourage people to re-visit our history by telling the stories of those who may have been overlooked, forgotten or ignored.

The Black Sound exhibition (18 January-28 February 10am-5pm), previously on display at the Black Cultural Archive in Brixton, and the Bernie Grant Arts Centre in Tottenham, plots the narrative of contemporary black music in Britain from the arrival of Southern Syncopated Orchestra from the USA in 1919 to Fuse ODG's afrobeat answer to Do They Know It's Christmas more than 100 years later.

As the home of Two Tone, Coventry is ideally placed to host the event, though Black Sound aims to delve more deeply into the city's wider black music heritage. It will feature exhibits tailored to Coventry in addition to those telling the national story. As part of the wider event, special panel discussion events will also take place during a presentation evening on Friday, 7 February (7-9pm) and on Saturday, 8 February (10am-6pm), featuring films, talks and Q&As diving into the city's sound system history, the underground black recording industry, the importance of community spaces and pirate radio.

Visitors will also get the chance to experience live performances from the Coventry Youth Orchestra and several contemporary artists, including Danniella Dee, one of the founders of Sisters in Dub, Coventry's first all-female sound system.

The final event of Black Sound Coventry will be the Heritage Collection Day on Saturday, 8 February (10am-6pm), encouraging people to share their memories of the city's black music heritage. Visitors are asked to bring in objects or souvenirs to be 2D or 3D scanned, digitally preserving them for future generations to discover, learn from and enjoy.

Dr Ben Kyneswood from the Centre for Creative Economies will use the Coventry Digital platform to make the scans and the stories people tell available online.

Additional Evidence

A new initiative continues to help Ukraine rebuild and build towards a brighter future

It has been nearly three years since the Russian invasion of Ukraine began, and the university continues to help the country rebuild and prepare for a brighter future.

The Group has already joined forces with two universities in Ukraine, trained healthcare workers and rehabilitation specialists to care for those injured and impacted by the war, as well as exploring potential joint research projects.

The newest initiative has seen the Centre for Peace and Security win a project to develop Gender Equality Partnerships to increase the representation of women in senior leadership positions in higher education institutions in Ukraine.

The project will analyse the obstacles preventing women's representation in higher education leadership in the country and the UK and look to develop an online course to assist female academics in overcoming these barriers.

It builds on a grant previously awarded to the research centre for the development of a dual master's degree in city leadership and management in collaboration with Alfred Nobel University. The connection between Coventry University and Alfred Nobel University is part of the Twinning Ukraine project which sees universities around the world supporting institutions in Ukraine and was set up in the wake of the Russian invasion of the country in February 2022.

Coventry University is also twinned with a second Ukraine institution - Kyiv National University of Construction and Architecture (KNUCA) - with the collaboration exploring how KNUCA can offer Coventry University degree programmes, as well as online summer schools and potential joint research between the two institutions.

The impacts of the war with Russia have also been considered by Dr Agnieszka Lewko, Assistant Professor in the Centre for Healthcare and Communities, who helped to arrange training for healthcare workers and rehabilitation specialists as they care for those injured in the violent scenes across the country.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International), Professor Richard Wells said:
"The people of Ukraine have shown, and continue to show, great strength to rebuild and we are proud that Coventry University Group can work alongside them to make this possible.

“While things are not as they should be across much of Ukraine, our work alongside universities in the country, including leaders in health and other disciplines, is helping to make this happen.”

Other work in the country includes the Centre for Global Learning winning a Horizon Europe bid on Education for Democracy which will be using Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL), while the College of the Arts and Society is also using COIL in rehabilitation psychology and qualitative research methods in psychology in work alongside Alfred Nobel University.

Coventry University helping develop future carbon-zero aircraft technology

The incredible potential of hydrogen fuel cell technology to power zero-carbon flight is being developed with the help of experts at Coventry University.

The three-year project called HEIGHTS is led by Intelligent Energy, one of the UK's leading hydrogen fuel cell manufacturers, and has just secured £17million in Government-backed funding from the Aerospace Technology Institute (ATI) Programme.

The project aims to ready Intelligent Energy's fuel cell power system for the next generation of zero-carbon aircraft. Initially this will be in Electric Vertical Take-off and Landing (eVTOL) aircraft, which are set to enter service by the end of the decade, before targeting larger regional aircraft in the 2030s. Coventry University's role in HEIGHTS is to develop advanced health monitoring and diagnostic technologies that provide a better understanding of the condition of the fuel cell during service.

Professor of Electrochemical Engineering at the Centre for E-Mobility and Clean Growth, Dr Oliver Curnick, said:
"Hydrogen fuel cells represent a gold standard for zero-emission aircraft propulsion. Alternatives like sustainable aviation fuels and hydrogen combustion] still produce polluting emissions but the only by-product from a fuel cell is water vapour. Most of the technology development around hydrogen fuel cells to date has focused on automotive applications in cars and heavy vehicles like buses. The requirements in terms of safety, reliability and power are understandably much higher in aerospace, and for a fuel cell to compete with a jet engine, it must be very power-dense and impeccably reliable."

"Our role is to develop technologies to monitor the health of the fuel cells. At present this is done in quite a basic way; typically by simply measuring the voltage of each cell in the stack. This requires hundreds or even thousands of electrical connections, each of which is a potential failure point, particularly in an aircraft that is susceptible to vibrations and temperature changes. In HEIGHTS we're developing an approach that we've applied previously to Li-ion batteries, which integrates sensors into the cells themselves with no external connections, enabling us to improve reliability and diagnostics."

"It's important that we work to accelerate the adoption of hydrogen fuel cell technology in aviation, as there simply aren't any viable alternatives for truly zero-emission, long-distance flight."

CEO of Intelligent Energy, David Woolhouse, said:

"This is about getting hydrogen-powered aircraft in the air, and into service at scale, as quickly as possible. We firmly believe that hydrogen will be the primary energy source for flight, initially for smaller aircraft but eventually in the longer term for everything that flies."

The ATI Programme supports world-class research into advanced aerospace technologies and is delivered by the Aerospace Technology Institute, the Department for Business and Trade, and Innovate UK.

Chief Technology Officer at the Aerospace Technology Institute, Jacqueline Castle, said:

"Hydrogen as a fuel source is an essential part of the ATI's technology roadmaps for future power and propulsion systems. We are delighted to be supporting Intelligent Energy's HEIGHTS programme, which builds upon its prior expertise in fuel cell development to encompass novel means of addressing thermal management challenges associated with aircraft integration."

Coventry University joins £11m power electronics consortium to drive sustainable electrification

Coventry University will play a key role in a project designed to revolutionise the UK's ability to manufacture power electronics to enable the shift to sustainable electrification.

Project PULSE (Power Electronics Upscale for Localisation and Sustainable Electrification) is an £11 million initiative funded by the UK government through the Advanced Propulsion Centre, that aims to establish a state-of-the-art power electronics facility in Coventry.

Empowered by the expertise of an industry-academia consortium, the project is expected to reduce CO2 emissions by 1.2 million tonnes annually, reinforcing the UK's leadership in green technology and aligning with national net zero goals.

Harnessing the university's award-winning Institute for Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering (AME) facility, Coventry University researchers will provide instrumental leadership in enhancing manufacturing efficiency and sustainability and incorporating cutting-edge solutions like digital product passports for recycling and traceability to maximise on the project's ambitions.

The project is a collaboration with industry leaders such as Protean Electric, VIRITECH, Unipart Manufacturing Group and the University of Warwick. Director of the AME Professor Marcos Kauffman, said:

"Building on previous collaborations, including the creation of Hyperbat Ltd, now a world-class battery manufacturing facility, this project will focus on establishing a state-of-the-art power electronics facility in the heart of Coventry. This will not only boost the local economy but also create new jobs and safeguard 159 positions by 2030".

Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Carl Perrin, said:

“Project PULSE exemplifies how academic expertise and industry collaboration can drive sustainable innovation. This initiative supports the UK’s electrification goals while reinforcing Coventry’s role as a centre for advanced manufacturing. Coventry University is excited to work alongside its consortium partners to deliver on the goals of Project PULSE and contribute to the ongoing advancement of sustainable electrification.”

Practice

We adopt responsible and accountable management principles in our own governance and operations.

Institutional Policies and Practices

- Carbon reduction or offset commitments
- Sustainability strategy or strategic plan (school or university level)
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Water
- Buildings/real estate
- Local staff/student/faculty transportation
- Employee equity, diversity, inclusion

Policy Documents Related to RME and/or Sustainability

University sustainable-development-strategy-pdf compressed

View document Download document

Practice Awards

In 2024, College of Business and Law, Coventry University received 5 awards for responsible and/or sustainable practices.

The Bees Needs Champions Award

Granter: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

Grantee: Coventry University Grounds and Public Realm Team

Award Description:

Coventry University's exceptional work to help pollinators thrive in the city has been recognised with a top award from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The Bees Needs Champions Award celebrates the work the university has done to transform the green space between the Delia Derbyshire building and Starley Gardens on Cox Street. It is a significant achievement, particularly for a city centre campus and coincided with the city centre campus also retaining its prestigious Green Flag status. The newly refurbished space has been created as a pollinator corridor connecting to a pollinator hub in the centre of the campus, providing nutrition and homes for pollinators while helping them to disperse into new areas, contributing to a healthier ecosystem. It consists of a pictorial meadow with 34 wildflower species, edible hedge, native trees and hedges, and biodiverse herbaceous planting. Jamie Whitehouse, Grounds and Public Realm Manager, accepted the accolade on behalf of the university from Mary Creagh, Defra's Minister for Nature at The Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew. Grounds and Public Realm Manager, Jamie Whitehouse, said: "This is

amazing news for the Group to be recognised with these accolades. It continues to be a team effort as we transform the city centre campus into a welcoming and attractive space so that staff, students, communities of Coventry as well as wildlife can reap the environmental benefits." This is not the first time Coventry University has been presented with the Bees Needs Award, with the university's edible garden close to the Hub building previously celebrated for its role as a pollinator hub. Last year the university was also presented with two prestigious sustainability honours, The Green Gown Higher Education Sustainability Excellence Award, in the category of Nature Positive, and the Green Flag Best Climate Adaption Project. The awards recognised the removal of two prominent buildings to make way for new greenspaces, providing a fruit theme throughout, wildflower meadows, biodiverse friendly planting, tree planting, informal social spaces, sculpture and new stunning views of the iconic Coventry Cathedral.

Design Concrete

Granter: Design Concrete

Grantee: Coventry University Students

Award Description:

Students from Coventry University took both first and second place in a national competition for budding architects. Design Concrete is a national student competition which encourages architecture students to explore the benefits of designing sustainably with concrete. The 2024 competition challenge was to design a sustainable concrete artist's studio or exhibition space within a restored quarry site and teams of Architecture and Architectural Technology students from Coventry claimed first and second prizes. The winning team – whose project was called Organic Prefabrication – was made up of Architecture students Thomas Jackson, Charlie Brooker and Umar Mahmood, and Architectural Technology student Miles Neale. The judges praised the team as "a standout winner" and added in their comments that they "developed their designs with such technical rigour, logic and well-informed decision making that really stood out", as well as noting the students' "exceptional attention to detail and critical thinking". On winning project Organic Prefabrication, Thomas Jackson said: "It was good to bring two groups of students together to work with concrete which is often seen as unsustainable but this allowed us to shed light on that and show it can be used sustainably. It was fantastic to speak to people who worked at the quarry and find out in deptha bout the materials they could source and where it goes within the industry. We didn't know right until the day itself that we had won and it was brilliant." The Organic Prefabrication team are also leaving a lasting legacy on the competition as part of the work they created is being used to shape a mandatory element of Design Concrete in future years. Second prize was also taken by a team from Coventry University thanks to Melania Irofte, Mohammad Fouani, Natalia Bujek and Sasha Farnsworth's effort titled Flying Through The Fens. The impressed judges described the project's "very elegant and materially-efficient design inspired by the wings of birds and very achievable in concrete". Sharing reflections on the process, Sasha Farnsworth said: "We had to come up with the proposal as part of coursework and we didn't

have to enter the competition but decided to on a bit of a whim. As a group we all had our own specialities so came together as a well-balanced team and when we found out we'd got the prize it was really surprising. Entering a competition like this is so worthwhile as it provides you with an experience that you don't always get at university." The commendations didn't finish there with two further Coventry University groups also being shortlisted. They were: Alesha Mahon, Anxhela Delishi, Joscelyne Eugene and Rhia Nandra; and Dominika Czarnecka, Taya Eames, Tsvetelina Kirova and Zahrah Ahmad. Lecturer in Architecture and Architectural Technology Ahmed Al-Mallak, said: "This achievement stands out not just because of the collaboration between Architecture and Architectural Technology students but because of their genuine commitment to experimenting with design as a tool for societal and environmental change.The students showed how architecture can move beyond aesthetics to address pressing issues like sustainability. Their work reflects a deep interest in making a tangible, positive impact on the world, and that spirit of innovation and responsibility makes their success genuinely remarkable."

The Green Gown Award

Granter: The Green Gown Awards

Grantee: Coventry University

Award Description:

The creation of a green oasis in the heart of the city on the site of two former Coventry University buildings has been recognised with two major sustainability awards. The Green Gown Award, in the category of Nature Positive, and the Green Flag Award for Best Climate Adaption, were both won earlier this month. Coventry University demolished the Alan Berry and James Starley buildings to make way for the Peace Garden opposite Coventry Cathedral and Starley Gardens in Cox Street, transforming the spine of the campus into a green space for people and wildlife to co-exist. The Green Flag prize, is considered a 'best of the best' accolade as only projects to have won prestigious Green Flag Awards earlier in the year are open for consideration. It not only recognises the creation of a vibrant green space, but also its impact in the fight against climate change. The Green Gown Awards recognise exceptional sustainability initiatives being undertaken by universities and colleges across the UK and Ireland. Grounds and Public Realm Manager, Jamie Whitehouse said: "These are major awards for the university, as they demonstrate our commitment to creating a sustainable campus that transforms the grey to the green, which is welcoming to people and wildlife. "The awards recognise the hard work of the university Grounds team and the wider Estates team in creating an exciting, relaxing and stimulating external environment in which to live, study or work." The gardens include wildflower meadows, biodiverse friendly planting, tree planting, informal social spaces and a prominent sculpture by local artist George Wagstaffe. The new lawned landscaping on the former Alan Berry site also allows stunning views of Coventry Cathedral, hosts cultural events and is connected to the university's edible garden. The Environmental and Grounds Team works in collaboration with academic departments, such as the Centre of Agroecology, Water and Resilience (CAWR), and

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to deliver events like bee walks and hedgehog talks for the campus community. Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Latham CBE said: "Winning these awards is a major achievement for the Group and a validation of our commitment to building a greener, more sustainable campus. It underpins our ongoing dedication to working with local and global collaborators to tackle global sustainability challenges, address climate change and create better futures for our communities." Coventry University is working hard to become Net Zero by 2030, a target being supported by a grant of almost £13 million from the Department for Energy Security's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. The money will help towards the cost of installing around 1,300 new solar panels and connecting nine Coventry University buildings to the city's district energy network.

Green Flag Award for Best Climate Adaption

Granter: The Green Flag Awards

Grantee: Coventry University

Award Description:

The creation of a green oasis in the heart of the city on the site of two former Coventry University buildings has been recognised with two major sustainability awards. The Green Gown Award, in the category of Nature Positive, and the Green Flag Award for Best Climate Adaption, were both won earlier this month. Coventry University demolished the Alan Berry and James Starley buildings to make way for the Peace Garden opposite Coventry Cathedral and Starley Gardens in Cox Street, transforming the spine of the campus into a green space for people and wildlife to co-exist. The Green Flag prize, is considered a 'best of the best' accolade as only projects to have won prestigious Green Flag Awards earlier in the year are open for consideration. It not only recognises the creation of a vibrant green space, but also its impact in the fight against climate change. The Green Gown Awards recognise exceptional sustainability initiatives being undertaken by universities and colleges across the UK and Ireland. Grounds and Public Realm Manager, Jamie Whitehouse said: "These are major awards for the university, as they demonstrate our commitment to creating a sustainable campus that transforms the grey to the green, which is welcoming to people and wildlife. "The awards recognise the hard work of the university Grounds team and the wider Estates team in creating an exciting, relaxing and stimulating external environment in which to live, study or work." The gardens include wildflower meadows, biodiverse friendly planting, tree planting, informal social spaces and a prominent sculpture by local artist George Wagstaffe. The new lawned landscaping on the former Alan Berry site also allows stunning views of Coventry Cathedral, hosts cultural events and is connected to the university's edible garden. The Environmental and Grounds Team works in collaboration with academic departments, such as the Centre of Agroecology, Water and Resilience (CAWR), and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to deliver events like bee walks and hedgehog talks for the campus community. Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Latham CBE said: "Winning these awards is a major achievement for the Group and a validation of our commitment to building a greener, more sustainable campus. It underpins our ongoing dedication to working with local and global collaborators to tackle

global sustainability challenges, address climate change and create better futures for our communities.” Coventry University is working hard to become Net Zero by 2030, a target being supported by a grant of almost £13 million from the Department for Energy Security’s Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. The money will help towards the cost of installing around 1,300 new solar panels and connecting nine Coventry University buildings to the city's district energy network.

Tech for Good: Technology Social Enterprise of the Year

Granter: UK Social Enterprise Awards

Grantee: Research Centre for Intelligent Healthcare

Award Description:

A digital health social enterprise, created in the Research Centre for Intelligent Healthcare (CIH), has won Tech for Good: Technology Social Enterprise of the Year at the UK Social Enterprise Awards. Hope 4 The Community CIC (H4C) has been recognised for its innovative approach to improving the lives of people with long-term health conditions as well as those who care for them in the awards that celebrate the outstanding contributions made by businesses to address key social and environmental challenges. Founded in 2015 by Professor Andy Turner from the university's Research Centre for Intelligent Healthcare, and a team of four volunteers, H4C has developed evidence-based, self-management programmes that support people through the emotional and social challenges of living with long-term health conditions. These programmes, including the flagship Hope Programme, combine positive psychology, mindfulness and cognitive behavioural therapy to improve people’s confidence, skills and overall quality of life. H4C has supported more than 14,000 people through its in-person programmes, and during the COVID-19 pandemic, developed a digital platform to deliver services virtually, reaching more than 15,000 participants online. CIC research, Professor Andy Turner said: "This award is a proud moment for our team, especially given that it’s our 10- year anniversary this year. It demonstrates the power of combining lived experience, academic research and technology to create solutions that genuinely improve lives. Hope 4 The Community wins UK Social Enterprise Award led solutions with innovative technology. “Our journey from a small in-person programme to a scalable digital social enterprise reflects our commitment to meeting people’s needs while reducing pressures on the healthcare system.” CEO of Hope 4 The Community CIC, Gabriela Matouskova said: "Being named Tech for Good: Technology Social Enterprise of the Year 2024 underscores the impacts we’ve made by combining community-led solutions with innovative technology. “It also ties into the government’s 10-year plan for empowering people living with long-term conditions with digital tools, reinforcing the need to invest in evidence-based, innovative social enterprises that drive real change for both people and the planet.” With funding from NHS Charities Together and UHCW Charity, H4C co-produced an online self-management programme for people with long COVID, supporting more than 3,500 people across the UK and resulting in positive clinical outcomes. This initiative has since expanded with additional funding and is now licensed by the NHS across the Southwest of England. H4C has also made its digital platform available to PhD students in

low-to-middle income countries enabling 14 researchers to create and test health solutions, enhancing global accessibility to health and wellbeing programmes. In addition, H4C's collaboration with the Fire Fighters Charity resulted in a bespoke mental health support programme that has reached 1,669 participants from all 56 UK fire services. This year, H4C launched a new course designed to support firefighters transitioning into retirement. Further recognition of H4C's impact includes a UK Research and Innovation contract to co-produce a personalised Hope Programme for patients awaiting hip and knee replacements, as well as securing its largest contract with NHS England to contribute to the Southwest Digital Neighbourhoods initiative. This aims to enhance proactive healthcare through digital innovation.

Practice Voices

The following statements from stakeholders at College of Business and Law, Coventry University demonstrate our commitment to sustainable and responsible practices.

Coventry University's net zero target moving closer with connection to city's district energy network

Work is set to begin on connecting several Coventry University buildings to the city's district energy network.

A total of 11 university buildings will be joined to the network – a 6.6km underground system that transports heat from the city's waste incinerator to supply energy to major public buildings – which has only one sixth of the carbon emissions of natural gas.

It is part of Coventry University's efforts to be net zero by 2030 having been awarded a grant of almost £13million from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, which is funded by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, and delivered by Salix Finance Limited.

The grant has also seen around 800 solar panels installed across the city centre campus to help generate energy and reduce emissions, and it is hoped the full project could reduce the Group's carbon emissions by more than 1,300 tonnes per year – more than a fifth of its annual carbon emissions arising from
the use of fossil fuels.

The buildings being connected to the district energy network are:

- The Hub
- Alma building
- Cycle Works
- Elm Bank

- Sir Frank Whittle
- Student Centre
- Charles Ward
- George Eliot
- Priory building
- Priory Hall block H
- Priory Hall block J

The works get underway on Monday, 4 August, starting at the Sir Frank Whittle building and neighbouring Student Centre. Pedestrian access will
still be available around the buildings while works take place over the next few weeks. This will be followed by activity across the city centre in the coming months, which could see some roadworks until the project is completed in spring 2026.

Chief Executive of Coventry University Enterprise Ltd, Mark Cammies, said:

“Our efforts to be net zero by the end of the decade are moving along at pace and connecting our buildings to the city’s district energy network is the next step in that aspiration. There may be some disturbance to people travelling around parts of the city centre, however these will be kept to a minimum and the works, once complete, will benefit the city as a whole, not just the university.”

Eco-friendly futures championed at Green Week Sustainability Fair

On Tuesday, 18 February 2025, colleagues and students visited The Hub on Coventry University campus to learn more about sustainability in the Group and beyond.

Now in its eighth year, the Group’s annual Green Week Sustainability Fair provides colleagues and students with the opportunity to learn about the journey to net zero, explore the Group’s impressive range of green initiatives and discover how they can make a difference.

Delivered by the Sustainability team, this year’s event was no different, with a selection of sustainability-focused activities on offer and several external organisations including Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Act on Energy, Transport for West Midlands and Dr Bike in attendance. Fair attendees also had the chance to learn about the Group’s Fairtrade status and the impact this has on protecting the rights of producers.

Green Week Taste Trail

Making its first appearance at the Green Week Fair was the hugely popular Green Week Taste Trail. Created in collaboration with catering outlets across campus, attendees were tasked with collecting a map before making their way around participating outlets to sample their sustainable food and drink options. Highlights included Fairtrade hot chocolate, Avocado Maki and vegan quorn burgers.

Robert Everitt, Sustainability Assistant and co-organiser of the fair noted:

"I feel proud to be part of a community that embeds sustainability in everything we do. It was great to showcase this today and I'm delighted that the Taste Trail was such a huge success. The Sustainability Fair is always a great opportunity to promote how everyone can introduce more sustainable practices into their daily life, from disposing of their waste correctly to using eco-friendly transport to get to campus. With all of us making small changes, we can make a big difference together."

Solar panel tours

The fair also provided attendees with the opportunity to take a tour of The Hub's impressive 336 solar panels. Funded by the £13m Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme grant, the solar panels are delivering yearly savings of around £38,000 alongside cutting 27 tonnes of carbon, the equivalent carbon footprint of six average UK homes.

Staff Sustainability Champions

At Coventry University Group, sustainability isn't just a buzzword, it is central to all that the Group does and is fully embedded within the Group's mission, vision and ethos.

Colleagues interested in learning more can join the Staff Sustainability Champions network, where they can connect with like-minded individuals at online meetings. These interactive sessions are a fantastic way to share ideas, learn best practices and promote sustainability within our teams, buildings, departments and campuses.

Carbon Literacy training

Colleagues can become Carbon Literacy certified with training specifically delivered for Coventry University Group. Delivered by Students Organising for Sustainability UK (SOS-UK), the two-part course aims to raise awareness of climate change, with participants learning the basics of climate science and exploring practical actions that can make a difference. On successful completion of the course, participants will be able to:

- Understand the basic science behind climate change
- Realise the interconnectivity between social equity and climate change
- Understand what you and others can do to act on climate change
- Recognise how to strategise and build skills for communicating action on climate change

Carbon Literacy certification will be awarded following the successful completion of the Carbon Literacy course (subject to final evaluation assessment).

Additional Evidence

Clean Futures Accelerator programme showcases sustainable transport on Demo Day

A VR-controlled robot that can build battery modules is displayed in a sustainable transport showcase at Coventry University.

The second cohort of businesses trialling and refining green transport technologies as part of the Clean Futures Accelerator programme showcased their innovations at the Institute for Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering (AME).

The Clean Futures Accelerator, led by Connected Places Catapult alongside Coventry University and BCIMO, supports businesses in developing clean technology solutions for the transport sector. It is a part of the wider West Midlands Innovation Accelerator, focused on decarbonising transport, a major source of UK emissions.

So far, 20 companies that are leading efforts to reduce the sector's reliance on fossil fuels have completed the programme. It has created and safeguarded more than 54 jobs and attracted £129.6m in co-investment, including £21m in private investment and over £100m in commercial contracts.

Building on the success of the first cohort, 19 more businesses received up to £50,000, plus technical and commercial support, to develop sustainable transport solutions in clean vehicle manufacturing, infrastructure and alternative fuels over a six-month period.

One of the innovations is a Virtual Reality (VR)-controlled robot developed by Extend Robotics that can automatically put together battery modules and take apart car doors, improving efficiency and reducing the need for manual labour in automotive manufacturing.

The Founder, CEO and Chief Designer at Extend Robotics, Dr Chang Liu, said:
"Extend Robotics tackles industry challenges with a fully immersive VR-based human-robot interface, enabling users to intuitively monitor, manage, and train robots. With the AMAS solution, robotic and non-robotic experts can remotely teleoperate robots while maintaining an immersive, high-resolution, low latency Digital Twin view of the environment.

"Positioned to address labour shortages and risks in harsh working conditions, Extend Robotics has demonstrated tangible success in EV manufacturing, validating the practical impact of its technology."

Another is a custom-built Manufacturing Management System (MMS) by OX Delivers, which optimises electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing processes through automation and integration. The MMS addresses key industry challenges, particularly the inefficiencies and high costs associated with manual methods for defining and updating build instructions.

A founding member of OX Delivers, Natalie Dowsett, said:
"At OX Delivers, we understand there is need in the industry for better tools than are currently available for managing EV prototype development. OX is looking to manufacture in multiple countries in future, so an intuitive, cost-effective and scalable solution is critical to our success.

"As there is nothing else like this on the market, there may be scope for commercialisation of our Manufacturing Management System within the EV manufacturing industry. We are excited to look at ways to share this success."

Director of AME, Professor Marcos Kauffman, said:
"The Clean Futures programme is accelerating the development of sustainable transport technologies and supporting the UK's transition to net zero. We're excited to see the impact of this year's cohort as they bring their innovations to market, strengthening the West Midlands as a global hub for clean technology."

Other showcased innovations included:

- A digital twin model for battery chemistries to optimise performance.
- A precision measurement system for battery trays, ensuring compliance with safety and performance standards.
- An electrical control system for onboard EV chargers, improving efficiency and reliability.
- Automated tool for tolerance analysis of low-emission generators.

As part of the programme, Coventry University provides access to its AME and the Centre for Advanced Low Carbon Propulsion Systems (C-ALPS). These facilities and their expert teams play a major role in helping businesses develop their green innovations.

Empowering women within Kenya's growing e- mobility sector

A Coventry University researcher is working with two leading African technology and sustainability institutions to help women entrepreneurs and workers highlight their contribution to Kenya's fast-evolving electric mobility (e-mobility) sector.

E-mobility — the use of electric-powered vehicles and technologies — presents a transformative opportunity for low-income countries, not only to reduce carbon emissions but also to drive social and economic development.

While Kenya is well-positioned to benefit, due to its high use of renewable energy, the sector remains male-dominated. Globally, only one in five e-mobility workers are women, in Kenya, that figure drops to one in 25. Without deliberate inclusion, the benefits of the sector's growth risks being unevenly distributed, reinforcing rather than reducing gender inequalities.

Led by Associate Professor Esin Yoruk, this British Council-funded project brings together the African Centre for Technology Studies and the Kenya Climate Innovation Centre to address these gaps. Together, they are exploring how Kenya's e-mobility sector is evolving, and what it means for employed women and entrepreneurs, from accessing finance and training, to their involvement in shaping policy.

The project aims to build a clearer picture of the barriers limiting women's participation, such as cultural expectations, gaps in technical skills and limited representation in leadership roles. By generating evidence, the team is working to impact policies and business practices to make the sector more inclusive.

From a recent workshop in Kenya, the team have identified entrepreneurs operating their own businesses within the sector. They come from a wide range of professional backgrounds, including engineering, service, technical, marketing and management fields.

In parallel, researchers are documenting the roles of women employed across the e-mobility value chain, as managers, technicians, engineers, lecturers in e-mobility education, marketers and drivers. The research indicates that many women are making significant contributions in areas such as food delivery, safari tourism and public transport. Yet, more needs to be done to support these women and especially engage women in engineering and management areas.

Associate Professor Esin Yoruk, said:

"Our project seeks to understand and address the cultural, institutional and technical barriers that limit women's participation in Kenya's e-mobility space. By developing and piloting training programmes, we hope to enable women to take on leadership roles across the value chain, from design and production to entrepreneurship. We aspire to enhance women's skills, help them grow their companies and generate lasting socio-economic impact."

Outcomes of the research could inform both national and international policymaking, contributing to Kenya's climate targets while advancing gender
equity.

Associate Professor Esin Yoruk, said:
"Our work in Kenya builds on Coventry University's broader commitment to sustainability, innovation and inclusive entrepreneurship. By supporting women in emerging sectors, we're helping to shape a more equitable and resilient global economy."

This research is focused on ensuring that women's voices are reflected in the economic policies shaping Kenya's e-mobility future.

Coventry University Group joins University of Warwick and NHS organisations to tackle health inequalities in the local area

Coventry University, The University of Warwick and five regional NHS organisations are joining forces to tackle health inequalities in the region in a bid to improve life expectancy rates in Coventry.

Figures from Coventry and Warwickshire's Integrated Care Services Health Inequalities Plan show that life expectancy in Coventry is lower than the national average.

That is just one of the health inequalities the new Arden Health Partnership (AHP), which will bring university academics together with University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW), South Warwickshire University NHS Foundation Trust (SWFT), Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust (CWPT), The Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (CW ICB) and Health Innovation West Midlands (HIWM),to address local health challenges and apply for large scale funding.

Together they aim to measurably improve health and wellbeing outcomes and reduce health inequalities across the region by researching and implementing innovative healthcare services to match the needs of the population, listening to and prioritising the needs of patients, engaging with diverse communities, developing integrated, preventative care models that work for patients and communities, empowering the healthcare workforce through training, innovation and multidisciplinary collaboration, advancing precision population health through the strategic use of health and care data and removing barriers between academia, business and healthcare.

The AHP is a collaboration centred around the development of a brand-new HealthTech Campus in Solihull. This initiative is part of the £3.2 billion Arden Cross regeneration project, located near the HS2 Interchange, Birmingham Airport and the West Coast Main Line, a development that is hoped will bring thousands of jobs to the region.

A total of 8,917 learners were on Coventry University's healthcare courses in the last academic year and Professor John Latham CBE, Vice-Chancellor of Coventry University and Group CEO, hopes this collaboration makes an impact.

He said: "We know that one organisation cannot solve challenges like tackling health inequalities and improving health and wellbeing outcomes in our area on their own, so this collaboration is a commitment to working together to address regional health challenges. We know that there are significant health inequalities in our area and those in greatest need tend to have the poorest access to care. We need to have a different approach to tackle these inequalities and improve population health. That includes identifying which parts of our community traditionally do not engage with health services and understanding why."

"At Coventry University we are innovators and don't just want to create better futures for our students and colleagues, but for the people of Coventry and our whole region. That is why this collaboration is important as we hope our academics, and students, many of whom are on track to become the next generation of health care professionals, will get the opportunity to make a real- world impact by working with other academics, entrepreneurs and healthcare professionals on projects that will positively impact our city and beyond."

The Vice-Chancellor of The University of Warwick, Professor Stuart Croft, said:
"The Arden Health Partnership will create a positive change for the health and wellbeing of people in our local area. As we mark our 60th anniversary this year, we are reaffirming our commitment to making a better world through our world-leading research and education. This new partnership enables us to leverage our expertise, research capabilities and skills, alongside our NHS and academic partners to deliver real impact for our communities."

Chief Executive of NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board, Phil Johns, said:

"The Arden Health Partnership marks a new and ambitious step for Coventry and Warwickshire. By bringing together health, care, and academic partners in a way that connects research, education, and innovation directly with frontline practice, we are building stronger foundations to tackle the challenges facing our health systems including health inequalities and prevention and harnessing the opportunities of using digital technologies to support people to live healthier lives. This new partnership complements our existing Integrated Care System by creating stronger links between academic discovery and the delivery of high-quality health and care services. This partnership marks a new era for the system's health and care ecosystem – one defined by collaboration, co-production with communities, and a relentless focus on delivering high-quality, integrated, and preventative care that meets the evolving needs of our population."

"The Arden Health Partnership represents the kind of bold, joined-up thinking we need to tackle the complex health challenges facing our communities. By bringing together world-class academic expertise, frontline NHS insight, and system-wide collaboration, this partnership has the potential to drive real, measurable improvements in health outcomes and reduce inequalities across Coventry and Warwickshire. We're proud to be part of this bold collaboration."

Share

We share our successes and failures with each other to enable our collective learning and best live our common values and purpose.

Engagement Opportunities

College of Business and Law, Coventry University offers transparent engagement opportunities for members of our institution and community to contribute to our sustainability and responsibility efforts in the following ways:

- Annual reports
- Community events and consultation forums
- Feedback mechanisms (e.g., surveys, suggestion boxes)
- Open faculty and student meetings and town halls
- Partnerships with local organizations
- Student and staff volunteer programs
- Sustainability-focused research and collaboration Opportunities
- Boards and advisory committees

Communication Audiences

College of Business and Law, Coventry University communicates its policies and progress on sustainable development and responsibility with:

- Accreditation bodies
- Faculty and staff
- Prospective and current students

Sharing Voices

The following statements from stakeholders at College of Business and Law, Coventry University demonstrate our commitment to sharing and learning from sustainability and responsible management practices.

Coventry University celebrates success of research scholarships for Women in STEM

Coventry University scholars have praised the Women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) programme after a successful first year.

The scholarships, in collaboration with the British Council, are open to women from South Asia in a bid to encourage more women into the STEM fields.

Coventry University's first cohort in academic year 2023/24 saw six women studying at its campus. Before moving to Coventry, Asbah Batool from Pakistan had never lived or travelled alone, never lived in another country, and is now proud to have friends from all over the world.

Looking forward to the bright future ahead, Asbah Batool said:

"The best thing about the scholarship is being able to see things with my own eyes that before I could only read about. In Pakistan, we could read and watch material online but now I get to be directly involved in projects that I am passionate about for real. I'm working on them, I'm part of it and I'm passionate about it."

"In Pakistan STEM fields are not made for women. They're considered masculine fields and I have always been told that I don't need to go into STEM. However, my father inspired me and, as I have a very supportive family, I was encouraged to pursue a career that interested me, and I wanted to prove people wrong and go beyond my boundaries."

Echoing Asbah's experience and passion, Iqra Jilani said:

"It's great to be able to work on projects that have an impact and learn skills that I will eventually be deployed to use for something of a greater good and a greater impact."

After a successful first year studying for their Masters, Asbah, who is studying Research in Energy Storage Technologies and Iqra, who is studying a Masters by Research in Computational Science and Artificial Intelligence, have now been enrolled into the second phase and are working towards their PhDs.

Both women are keen to encourage younger girls back in Pakistan to pursue studies in STEM without having any doubts in themselves. Iqra has spoken about the scholarship at her university in Pakistan and says she had a great response from women who want to know how to apply.

Highlighting support from colleagues, Iqra Jilani said:
"I have benefited greatly from the support of my supervisor who identified my strengths and weaknesses straight away and was able to guide me to reach my full potential."

Associate Pro-Vice Chancellor Research Professor Elena Gaura, said:
"We're really pleased with the success of the first year of cohorts, we have four out of the six scholars from last year continuing to study for a PhD and we can't wait to see what our new students achieve."

After the success of the first year, a second cohort of students have just enrolled for the 2024/25 academic year.

Coventry University to host bamboo circus performance as part of UK Bamboo Summit

On Friday 20th September 2024, sustainability and circus skills will collide when Coventry University hosts the UK Imagine Bamboo Summit 2024.

The event will be held at the Delia Derbyshire Building and will explore how bamboo can enable the transformation of urban environments across the UK and provide innovative net zero solutions.

The fourth annual Imagine Bamboo Summit will bring together international bamboo specialists and entrepreneurs alongside engineers, pioneers, architects, academics, artists and environmental leaders to look further into the opportunities this extraordinarily sustainable material has for the UK. The event will also use the city of Coventry as a case study to explore what ambitious projects and research could look like.

Driven by the BSc Architecture course, the summit is kicking off a wider conversation across the design disciplines. Students from courses including BA Automotive and Transport Design, BA Fashion, BA Fine Art, BA Graphic Design, BA Interior Architecture and Design, and BA Product Design have come together to explore, share, design and build with bamboo and have also been involved in an Imagine Bamboo Exhibition working with artists to create a new installation in the Delia Derbyshire Gallery.

School of the Arts and Creative Industries Deputy Head, Craig Ashley said:
“Coming just after World Bamboo Day on 18 September, hosting this summit resonates with Coventry University Group’s ambitions around sustainability and environment. Exploring this amazingly strong, sustainable and flexible material through the creative disciplines we teach, the Summit and the wider programme is acknowledging the transformative potential of bamboo as a viable alternative. And it demonstrates the vital importance of collaboration between the creative arts and engineering in solving real world challenges around climate and the environment.”

As part of the summit, there will be special performances of the groundbreaking new outdoor circus theatre show BAMBOO by NoFit State Circus. Presented as part of Imagineer Production's Streets of Cov Festival, this spectacular high-impact, high-skill outdoor circus production using only bamboo and human bodies will take place outside Delia Derbyshire at 1.15pm and 5.15pm.

Assistant Professor for the School of the Environment, Dr David Trujillo said:

“I am very proud to be part of a team that has come together to host the UK Bamboo Summit in Coventry. I am very much encouraged to see how artists, architects, engineers, academics and entrepreneurs (amongst others) have come together to celebrate and promote this extraordinary resource. We not only believe that bamboo can play a significant role in replacing carbon-intensive materials, but also has a role in enabling a regenerative economy.”

During the summit, David will be giving a short talk about research in the UK into the structural use of bamboo and will also be giving a demonstration showing the potential of a new generation of materials called engineered bamboo products. The summit will explore how bamboo can provide innovative net zero solutions including: architectural and design innovation with a wow factor, decarbonisation of the construction industry, sustainable carbon-catching farming methods, environmental detoxification, design and business innovation, and education for future bamboo generations.

Creative Director and CEO, Imagineer Productions, Angus MacKechnie said:

“This event is just one of many milestones in our ongoing work with bamboo at Imagineer Productions. We believe bamboo is not only a sustainable resource but also a catalyst for creative expression, and the Bamboo Summit is a platform where these ideas can flourish. I can’t wait to see the exciting collaborations and bold new visions that will emerge from this gathering.”

Global Education Week

As Global Education Week gets underway, Professor Lynn Clouder and her colleagues in the Research Centre for Global Learning, reveal how Coventry University Group is fostering societal and cultural resilience for students around the world through education.

Education that promotes societal and cultural resilience involves exploring how we adapt and recover from global challenges such as economic instability, social upheaval and environmental changes. The world is becoming an increasingly hostile place, one where tragedy and disaster are becoming a terrifying new norm.

It is essential that, as educators, we not only recognise this but that we begin to enhance our understanding of societal and cultural resilience through our teaching and research.

Global Education Week is all about connecting people through dialogue, cooperation and mutual learning and education. With a focus on sharing experiences and perspectives, commitment to collaborative problem-solving programmes and interactions with international networks and collaborators, it is actively helping connect people for a more inclusive planet.

Developing competencies like critical thinking, problem-solving and cultural understandings, will enable our learners to thrive in our interconnected world. Education that promotes social cohesion and acceptance by developing global-minded citizens means that they not only understand cultural diversity but appreciate and value it. It also helps build flexibility among our learners by delivering teaching on how we can adapt to change in times of crisis, whether it be economic instability, health concerns or social conflicts. By integrating these elements into our education systems here at home, and with our partners around the world, we will be on a path to building more resilient, cohesive and accepting societies.

At Coventry University Group we have long understood the importance of education as a tool to develop communities. Through our Centre for Global Learning, we are actively encouraging our students and staff to engage with the world around them, to cultivate global citizenship and to develop critical literacy skills that address global challenges and support social justice.

Our teaching encapsulates what it means to be a global learner and blends theoretical knowledge and practical insights. Our International Relations course, for example, examines how resilience enables states, institutions and societies to endure, adapt and thrive amidst societal complexities. We are also committed to understanding how we can best support disadvantaged or marginalised groups. By addressing the unique challenges they face, we can help ensure that society is inclusive and create an equitable experience that values each student's background and promotes social integration.

Harnessing the full potential of international collaborations is also essential and, for the past four years we have been reinforcing our commitment to global academic partnerships through the 'Transforming Staff Doctorate Research' programme. This programme acknowledges our ongoing commitment to nurturing educational partnerships and enhancing higher education on a world-wide scale.

Our efforts, however, extend beyond the walls of the classroom. The Group’s research centres are proud to have been involved in several international projects aimed at cultivating a deeper understanding and appreciation of societal and cultural resilience while also delivering lasting positive impacts to communities around the world. Furthermore, the emphasis we place as an organisation on cross- centre research collaborations is another of our strengths and helps us leverage the skills of our research community as we look to drive innovation produce outcomes with lasting positive impacts. The Community Centred Educational Model for developing Social Resilience (ACES) project, for example, targeted social resilience among South-East Asia’s young people by investigating the impact of transformative education through playful approaches and experiences on developing social resilience. ACES concluded in 2023; however, our work in the region continues through the I-HEDU project, as we look to enhance disability- inclusive education across the country's higher education institutions.

Now, more so than ever before, is the time to create environments that educate and inspire as we look to equip our future leaders with the skills necessary to create resilient, inclusive and adaptive societies. Moreover, through our research, we must continue to influence policymakers at various levels to contribute to more resilient universities. We are incredibly proud of the work that is already taking place across the Group, but we can and must do more. At the end of the day, this isn't just about fostering cultural and social resilience; it is about creating better futures for those who need it most around the world.

Launching our new EDI Strategy: what is it and why do we have one?

Vice-Chancellor Professor John Latham CBE share his thoughts about Coventry University Group's new EDI strategy.

I am incredibly proud of our Group's willingness and ability to harness the power and potential of different cultures. Regardless of their background, abilities and experiences, we're committed to creating equal opportunities for all our students, colleagues and partners.

Diversity and inclusion will always be among our core values and we strive to implement policies and initiatives that promote equality and equity within the Group. You only need to look at our 2024 Equality Objectives and wider 2030 Group Strategy to understand the value we place on embedding a culture of equality, diversity and inclusion into everything that we do. No one person is the same and we're passionate about accepting everyone for who they are.

Why launch our new EDI strategy now?

This is a volatile period for many communities around the world and now, more than ever, is the time for us all to appreciate and embrace our differences. This new strategy will allow us to focus on attracting and developing a diverse and authentic workforce for our current and future needs. It's also about improving the experiences of those who already call Coventry University Group home.

We have achieved so much together to improve equality, diversity and inclusion but we can and must continue this journey with renewed vigour. I want our people to be proud of their workplace and of being a member of an organisation that understands and values difference.
Not just what embracing difference involves but also what it creates and the opportunities it affords us. This goes beyond religious beliefs, ethnic backgrounds or gender and we remain dedicated to being a good employer of people with disabilities or long-term health conditions. We recognise the barriers they face in the workplace and are committed to addressing these challenges head on. We also understand the historical inequalities of society and are committed to our push for equality and inclusion – from our perspective, access to a quality education should be a right, not a privilege.

This strategy isn't a nice to have, it's a must-have. It is about empowering people to make positive change and asking them to get involved. It's about being a holistic institution that welcomes difference rather than slamming the door in its face. Embracing different cultures and backgrounds among our students, colleagues and partners has always been key to our success and we will continue to embed an inclusive approach into everything we do.

Through their lived experiences and personal reflections, we'll not only raise the profile of our new EDI strategy but continue to prioritise an inclusive approach across all our entities.

SIGNATORY

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