

Environmental Sustainability Newsletter



The Environmental Sustainability (ES) Good Newsletter aims to keep readers engaged with initiatives to improve ES on campus and research into ES at the University and beyond.

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2025/26 academic year. This newsletter is packed full of new content.

Read our previous ES Newsletters: [June 2025](#), [November 2024](#), [June 2024](#), [February 2024](#), [June 2023](#), [October 2023](#).

Please send any news stories, events, funding opportunities or involvement opportunities that you would like to be included in future newsletters to srbmh@manchester.ac.uk.

Associate Dean Update

Associate Dean update May 2026

Welcome to the 7th edition of the FBMH Environmental Sustainability (ES) Good Newsletter. It is packed full of inspiring news.

The University is progressing well with its ES agenda, and we are coordinating efforts across Faculties and the central ES team to maximise outreach and efforts to engage everyone on campus and beyond.



[Find out more](#)

Making Manchester into a Swift City

Rachel Zanetti, final-year Biology student, is raising awareness of the decline in swifts for her Environmental Sustainability Project (ESP). Her campaign encourages staff and students to play a part in supporting swift populations in Manchester, from recording swift nests on Swift Mapper to putting up swift boxes in houses.

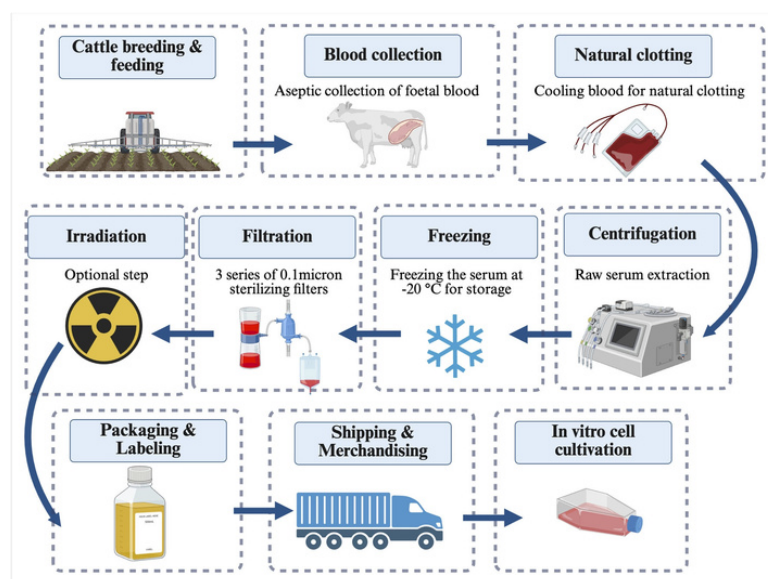
[Find out more](#)



The sustainable transition toward FBS alternatives: Greening cell culture

Foetal bovine serum (FBS) is commonly used for culturing animal cells in the lab. However, the production of FBS introduces environmental, financial and animal welfare concerns. Third-year PhD candidate Helena Meng explores sustainable FBS alternatives in her review paper with Philip Day (Reader, Division of Evolution, Infection and Genomics).

[Find out more](#)



Read previous student blogs on our [Social Responsibility blogsite](#)

FBMH PS Development Network Tree Trail Walk

Tuesday 16th June, 1 - 2 pm

The [Professional Services \(PS\) Development Network](#) brings together PS staff through various meetups, events and training opportunities.

For its next session, the network is hosting a lunch time walk, where a student will be leading us along a section of the [University Tree Trail](#).

All PS staff are welcome to attend. More details will follow soon - join the [PS Development Network Teams channel](#) for updates.

[Find out more](#)



FBMH Environmental Sustainability Showcase

Wednesday 10th June, 12:00 - 2:30 pm

Thursday 11th June, 12:30 - 2:30 pm

Join the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health and the SMS Belong Project Wellbeing Team for our fourth annual Environmental Sustainability Showcase. We will be celebrating the Faculty's Quads (Michael Smith and Stopford) with workshops, competitions, games, and instructive stalls from our Eco-champions to be more sustainable at home.

We welcome all University staff and students to join us. Book your free place via the Eventbrite link below.

[Find out more](#)

The poster for the Environmental Sustainability Showcase is a green and white design. At the top left is the University of Manchester logo. To the right is the text 'Faculty of Biology, Medicine & Health' and the 'EDI Team School of Medical Sciences' logo. The main title 'Environmental Sustainability Showcase' is in large, bold, black letters. Below it is the subtitle 'Celebrating biodiversity on campus and sustainability at home' and the text 'All staff & students welcome'. The poster is divided into two sections for Day 1 and Day 2. Day 1 is hosted by SBS Quad Guardians on Wednesday 10th June 2026, from 12:00-2:30 PM, at the Michael Smith Lounge. It includes pallet workshops, a quad gardeners competition, quad tours, and a choir performance. Day 2 is hosted by the SMS Belonging Project Wellbeing Team on Thursday 11th June 2026, from 12:30-2:30 PM, in the Stopford Quad and Common Room. It includes eco workshops, sustainable bathroom and kitchen exhibits, a quad tour, a picnic and games, and a choir performance. There are three circular images: a quad garden, a green roof, and a person holding soil. A QR code for tickets is also present, along with a small image of a table with a plant and a bowl of food. At the bottom right, it says 'Questions? Contact srbmh@manchester.ac.uk'.

Albatross Lecture 2026: Nature and Climate Justice

Wednesday 24th June, 2 - 4 pm

This year, the Albatross Lecture from Sustainable Futures will be delivered by Dr Mya-Rose Craig, aka Birdgirl, who will explore how environmental movements can become more inclusive and equitable.

The event will be followed by a panel discussion, Q&A and a networking session. Sign up via the Eventbrite link below.



[Find out more](#)

Sustainability in Healthcare Conference 2036

In March, the University hosted its first student-led Sustainability in Healthcare Conference in University Place. Through a live panel discussion, three workshops and five interactive exhibitions, medical students and eco champion volunteers explored what a sustainable healthcare system could look like in ten years, and how we could get there.

[Find out more](#)



Faculty

LEAF Gold Awards this year

Congratulations to the following labs for achieving Gold level LEAF accreditation this year.

Lab	PI	LEAF Champions
05-072 Stem Cell Biology	Georges Lacaud	Mathew Sheridan
AV 2nd Floor Labs	Beatriz Bano Otalora David LyonsGiuseppe D'Agostino Simon Luckman	Jenna Hunter
Ballestrem Lab	Christoph Ballestrem	Najd Alzuabi
Brain Tumour Biology	Gerben Borst Petra Hamerlik	Kate Allen Oliver Crutchley
Centre for Nanotechnology in Medicine (CNTM)	Cyrill Bussy Kostas Kostarelos Marilena Hadjidemetriou Sandra Vranic Thomas Kisby	Yu Siong Ho
Epigenetics of Haematopoiesis	Daniel Wiseman Kiran Batta	Hasse Addinsell
Harte Lab	Michael Harte	Idil Mitsadali
Manchester Fungal Infection Group	Margherita Bertuzzi Lydia Tabernero Michael Bromley Paul Bowyer Sara Gago Michael Bottery	Jamie Tindale

New LEAF SharePoint site

We are excited to launch a new University-wide LEAF SharePoint Site to bring together all LEAF resources in one central, accessible hub. This unified space will make it easier for all lab users, regardless of Faculty, to find the support and materials they need as they work towards LEAF accreditation.

A special note of thanks to Lydia Wunderley and Josie Hendon who created the original BMH SharePoint site and Kathryn Downey who created the original FSE LEAF SharePoint.

[Find out more](#)

Supporting sustainability in labs: reflections from LEAF auditors

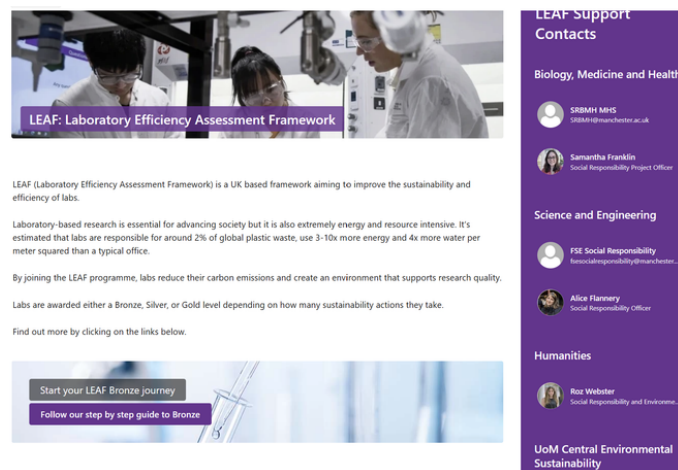
Graduate Teaching Assistants play a key role in supporting laboratory sustainability by acting as LEAF auditors, helping labs across FBMH achieve Bronze, Silver or Gold LEAF status. Hear from Lea and Jeremy, who reflect on their personal journeys as lead auditors and how this role has transformed their understanding of sustainability.

[Find out more](#)

Why we're warming up: a review of the freezer Chill Up movement

Nearly two years after the Chill Up movement began in the Faculty, many labs have started raising their ultra-low temperature (ULT) freezers from -80°C to -70°C to reduce energy use and support more sustainable lab practices. This review explores progress to date, sharing key reflections, emerging insights, and practical considerations from labs that have made the switch.

[Find out more](#)



The RECLAIM project for sustainable healthcare and medical training

The Manchester Surgical Skills and Simulation Centre (MSSSC) runs the RECLAIM initiative, which collects donated, out-of-date or unsuitable surgical items from Manchester Foundation Trust (MFT) hospitals and repurposes them for surgical training.



[Find out more](#)

Making a Difference Awards 2026

The University celebrated outstanding contributions to social responsibility on Wednesday 6 May 2026 at its annual Making a Difference Awards ceremony, recognising the achievements of staff, students, alumni and external partners creating positive change locally, nationally and globally. Several environmental sustainability-related contributions were recognised, including Dr Rob Chuter (FBMH), who received a Highly Commended award for the project 'Leading environmental change in Radiotherapy'. Further information on all winners is available on the University website.



[Find out more](#)

The SHS Environmental Sustainability Champion Network

The School of Health Sciences (SHS) ES Champion Network brings together staff and students through a wide range of activities and initiatives throughout the year. From welcome week stalls with eco-friendly giveaways to interactive stalls at the Universally Manchester Festival, the network promotes practical ways to live, work, and study more sustainably.



[Find out more](#)

Eco Champion Coordinators making a difference with sustainability and wellbeing campaigns

Sara Shaqiri (4th year MSci Genetics student) and Yixuan Dong (3rd year BSc Biology student) are Eco Champion Coordinators working with Dr Maggy Fostier to lead a group of Eco Champion volunteers. Together, they run monthly themed campaigns to engage students and staff in various sustainability and wellbeing activities. From pumpkin painting to repurposing old lab coats, they are truly making a difference while helping advance the Faculty's and University's sustainability goals.

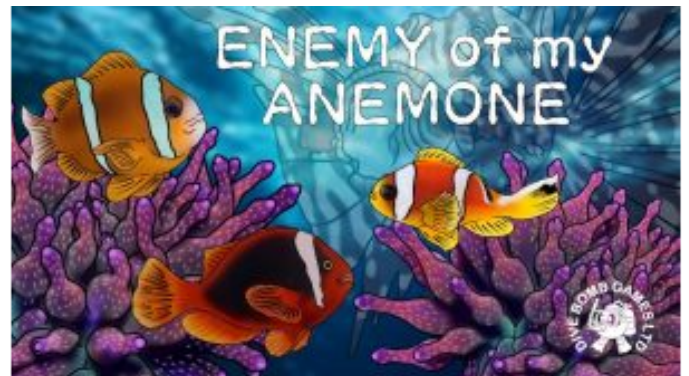
[Find out more](#)



From the sea to your sofa: Enemy of my Anemone card game

Dr Andrew Angus-Whiteoak, Technical Operations Manager in the Faculty, has created Enemy of my Anemone - a marine biology-inspired card game designed to bring ocean ecosystems to life. The game invites players to protect clownfish, defend their anemones, and outmanoeuvre rivals, while reflecting real ecological relationships such as symbiosis and predator-prey dynamics. This project offers an engaging and accessible way to raise environmental awareness among the public.

[Find out more](#)



262 kg donated through the Reverse Advent Calendar Campaign 2025

The Reverse Advent Calendar is an annual initiative by the Manchester Central Foodbank to facilitate the collection of essential items during the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Last year, researchers from the Faculty joined in the food bank's efforts and collected a total of **262 kg** of items. This made up **37** three-day meal packages, totalling **333 meals**.



[Find out more](#)

World Wildlife Day 2026: Medicinal and Aromatic Plants

World Wildlife Day is celebrated on the 3rd of March each year. This year, the theme was Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, putting a spotlight on their culinary and medicinal uses, as well as their contribution to healthy ecosystems.



**WORLD
WILDLIFE DAY**
3 MARCH

[Find out more](#)

March Towards Zero Waste: Global Recycling Day and International Day of Zero Waste 2026

Earlier in March, two annual observances gave us a chance to reflect on our waste management practices: Global Recycling Day and International Day of Zero Waste.

From recycling better to using reusable containers, everybody can play a part in making the University a cleaner environment.



[Find out more](#)

FBMH Heroes: Joanna Woodburn

Joanna Woodburn, Technical Operation Manager in the Michael Smith Building, has received special recognition in the 'Service Excellence' category in the FBMH Heroes Awards.

She was nominated for her outstanding support, dedication, and commitment to people, as well as her involvement in the Lab Goods 4 Reuse scheme.



[Find out more](#)

University

From waste to reuse: How the Bee Bowl is transforming The Market

Following the success of the Bee Cup, the Bee Bowl scheme was launched last year at The Market in University Place. Staff and students can borrow these reusable bowls for both eating in and taking out, saving £1 in their orders and helping contribute to a lower carbon footprint by cutting down on single-use containers.

[Find out more](#)



University of Manchester retains global top 10 spot for sustainability in QS Rankings

In the latest QS World University Sustainability Rankings, the University continues to rank among the global top 10, placing 10th worldwide and 5th in the UK. This recognition highlights the University's ongoing commitment to addressing environmental, social and governance (ESG) challenges through its research, teaching and operations.

[Find out more](#)



University awarded Fairtrade University two-star status

The University has been awarded two-star Fairtrade University status by the Fairtrade Foundation and Students Organising for Sustainability (SOS-UK).

The scheme recognises institutions for championing fair trade principles across procurement, catering and community engagement. Building on its one-star award in 2023, the University's achievement of two stars in 2025 marks an important milestone and reflects its ongoing commitment to sustainability and ethical practice.

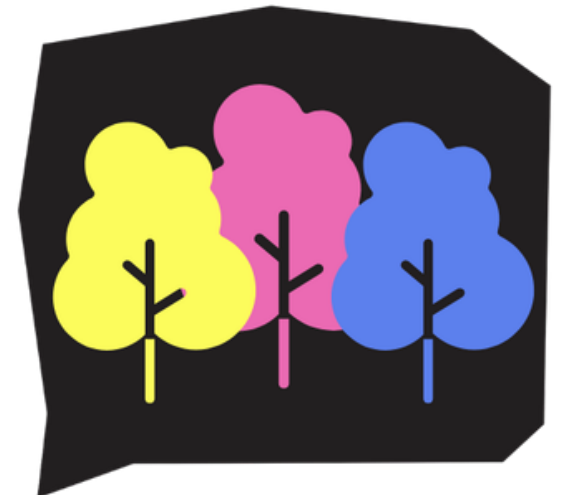


[Find out more](#)

No Time to Waste and CommuteUoM

In celebration of World Sustainability Day, the University has launched two new initiatives to encourage sustainable behaviours among staff and students: No Time to Waste and CommuteUoM.

Through these platforms, you can earn Green Points that can be redeemed for vouchers by completing eco-friendly actions. These range from recycling and low-carbon travel to supporting local charities.



[Find out more](#)

Three stars for excellence: University catering celebrates top sustainability status

The University's catering services, from UniCafe outlets to HospitalityOnCampus and Food In Residence, has been awarded a 3-star accreditation in the 2025 Food Made Good Standard. This certification reflects the University's progress in prioritising plant-based meals, promoting healthy menus to staff and students, and reaching Net Zero goals.



[Find out more](#)

Sunny campus engagement project launches

Since September 2025, the University announced that the Medebridge Solar Farm will provide us with 65% of our electricity demand. To raise awareness of this achievement, the Sunny Campus Engagement Project has been launched. This initiative encourages staff and students to plant sunflowers from late March, helping populate the campus with sunflowers to welcome new students in the 2026/27 academic year.

[Find out more](#)



Major sustainability milestone - Main Campus hits zero landfill

Sending waste to landfill is one of the most carbon-intensive waste treatment methods. After years of planning and a strong commitment to sustainability, the University has now diverted all waste from landfill as of March 2026.

This Zero Landfill success marks a major step towards a more circular future on campus. A huge thank you to the Estates Team, the Environmental Sustainability Team, and our waste contractors for making this possible.

[Find out more](#)



Commuter survey - tell us how you commute to work and win £50

The central Environmental Sustainability Team would like to hear how University staff travel to and from work. Whether you walk, wheel, cycle, drive or take the bus or train to work, your feedback will help the University make staff travel easier, more convenient and more sustainable. The survey will take no more than 5 minutes, and you will get the chance to win a £50 Love2Shop voucher.

[Find out more](#)

Take our 2026 Commuter Survey, to have your say on issues affecting your journeys to and around campus and to be entered into the prize draw!

£1500 of Love to Shop vouchers up for grabs



More University news items of interest:

- [Exploring ethical, sustainable and effective foetal bovine serum alternatives for in vitro mammalian cell culture](#)
- [How loud is clean energy? Manchester-led study explores potential impact of underwater noise from tidal energy](#)
- [Greater Manchester leads the way with award-winning procurement and sustainability initiatives](#)

External

“Bee The Change”

"Bee The Change" is a free interactive game developed by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA).

Through a selection of hidden object games and short quizzes, learn about the small actions you can take to be more sustainable in the kitchen, at home and on the road.



[Find out more](#)

Useful Links and Resources

- Sign up to the **UoM Sustainable Future Newsletter** to find out the latest research news and our seminars/training sessions.
- Sign up to the **UoM Climate Network Newsletter** to find out about all the Climate events in Manchester, apps and publications
- Become a [LEAF champion](#) (FBMH PGR students and research staff), a green champion (FBMH PGR students and staff – [email Maggy](#)) or a FBMH [6R champion](#) (UG)
- Useful eco-guides: [Easy Eco actions for all in Manchester](#), plastic focused guides: [6R for practicals and labs](#), [6R for home and campus](#)
- BBC Radio 4 podcasts ([39 Ways to Save the Planet](#), [Costing the Earth](#), [The Climate Question](#), [Rare Earth](#))
- Sign up to the Planet Bee Newsletter created by students: [website](#) and [Instagram](#).
- UoM free [open access course](#) on public health and the UN sustainable development goals
- [Green QEPEP toolkit](#), a guide for ES projects in a clinical/community setting.
- SUustainable MCR - [how to do a digital cleanup](#) and [digital waste informative posters](#).

Social Media:

X (formally Twitter):

- [UoM Biology, Medicine and Health](#)
- [UoM Sustainability](#)
- [Social Responsibility](#)
- [FBMH Social Responsibility and Public Engagement](#)

Instagram:

- [UoM Biology, Medicine and Health](#)
- [UoM Sustainability](#)
- [Social Responsibility](#)

LinkedIn:

- [Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health](#)

To find out more about Environmental Sustainability: visit the Faculty's [intranet page](#), [website](#) or contact srbmh@manchester.ac.uk. For more information on Environmental Sustainability at the University watch this [short film](#) or visit their [website](#).

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please contact srbmh@manchester.ac.uk

[Read our previous ES Newsletters.](#)