



SENSORY

GARDEN COMPETITION

DEADLINE WEDNESDAY 2ND MARCH



To mark the centenary of the death of our garden loving ex-mistress Elizabeth Welsh, we have opened a competition to design the new sensory garden planned for the college.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE SUSTAINABILITY TEAM

Green Impact Excellence Team Briefing



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE



STUDENTS
ORGANISING FOR
SUSTAINABILITY
UNITED KINGDOM

This document aims to equip University of Cambridge Green Impact (GI) teams with the knowledge of how to complete a **successful Excellence project**. In this document you can find out more information on:

1. What is Excellence?
2. Who takes part?
3. What is an Excellence project?
4. How does Excellence work?

2. What is Excellence?

- Green Impact Excellence is a single project that allows teams **who have achieved a Silver award within the Green Impact workbook** in previous years to take a break from the 'normal' workbook.
- The Excellence framework gives teams the **opportunity to work creatively** on bigger-picture sustainability initiatives in partnership with other staff, students and in some cases, the wider community.
- It is a great chance for you and your team to do **one project 'in-depth'** and contribute something bigger to the organisation

3. Benefits for your team

- You can use this as an opportunity to kick start a sustainability idea that is **bigger than your GI workbook**, focusing on a topic of particular interest for your team.
- **Widen the reach of your Green Impact** – you can engage people outside of your team - you could work with another GI Team, other staff, students or your community.
- Demonstrate to other staff and students **the sustainability commitment of your GI team**

4. What does an Excellence project look like?

Your project can be developed in collaboration and with support from the Sustainability Team, however the most successful projects will result from issues that are particularly relevant to the team itself, or where there are existing skills or interest within the team.

For ideas on topic and scope, you can read about the 2021/2022 Excellence award-winners online:

- [Girton Sensory Garden](#)
- [MRC Epidemiology ULT Freezer Centralisation](#)
- [Jesus College Recycling Centralisation Programme](#)

There are no limitations on the subject area for a GI Excellence project, other than it aims to improve the environmental/sustainability performance of the organisation and/or increase others' engagement with sustainability

5. How will you be judged?

Projects are assessed in these categories:

- A) Showing a **level of impact**, ideally based on measurable metrics and KPIs.
- B) **Involving stakeholders** in the project, ideally including a range of people within and/or outside of the department or institution.
- C) **Demonstrating innovation**, with the project ideally tackling an area not covered by actions in the Green Impact Bronze-Gold workbook, or exploring existing topics in greater depth.
- D) **Generating lessons learnt** and **new good practices** that can be shared with other teams.

The are judged by a subject expert in the Sustainability Team following this criteria for each category

- 0 - does not meet criteria
- 1 - Marginal
- 2 - Meets expectations
- 3 - Exceeds expectations

Teams are required to score 10/12 in order to be awarded an Excellence project.

6. How does Excellence work?

You will be supported by your organisation to develop a strong project idea and complete it throughout the Green Impact year. In order to complete your project, you must complete just four stages.

1. **A project title/focus** – you will need to determine what your project will focus on first. Discuss this with your organisation lead to ensure it is focussed enough to become a strong project. You will not get assessed on your project title.
2. **A project plan** - you can use the template document we will provide to summarise your project aims, objectives, KPI's and create a simple SMART action plan.
3. **A project update** - again, use our template to give a quick summary of where your project is up to at the half way point.
4. **A project report** and case study – a final report of your project and where it succeeded, where it faltered and what potential there is for developing this further.

7. Key Dates

- A project title/focus by 11th November 2022
- A project plan by 10th December 2022
- A project update by 24th February 2023
- A project report by May 2023 (Date TBC)