What is a sustainability champion?

THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE SUSTAINABILITY TEAM

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1. Purpose

- Sustainability Champions are a network of volunteers who act as key contacts for sustainability issues and encourage others to make small changes in their workplace or place of study.
- The main purpose of this network is to support the implementation of the University's Sustainability Policies and Strategies by increasing awareness and action at departmental or college level and promoting the adoption of positive behaviours.

2. Role description

- Helping to raise sustainability awareness, facilitating action and encouraging the adoption of positive behaviours;
- Promoting and driving changes to departmental policies and practices;
- Actively leading peers in participating in University wide sustainability initiatives like Green Impact;
- Acting as a principle contact regarding environmental issues and actively reporting local environmental incidents;
- Proactively bringing questions, suggestions and concerns to the Sustainability Team;
- Distributing environmental information and advice;
- Providing advice to staff, on sound environmental practices and policies;
- Assisting the Sustainability Team in the collation of information and data;
- Acting as a point of contact for the Sustainability Team in case of operational environmental issues, environmental reviews and assisting with identifying appropriate contacts;
- Being an active participant in a network of Sustainability Champions seeking advice and sharing ideas and information.

3. Support

Sustainability Champions are part of an active network who will share knowledge and best practice. On-going support and assistance will include:

- Provision of resources such as informational posters.
- Information for dissemination such as Greenlines, the University’s sustainability newsletter;
- Adhoc emails advertising events, opportunities and job openings;
- Organisation of workshops, meetings and site-tours;
- Advice and guidance on how to implement new environmental practices within workplaces, departments or colleges;
- Answers to questions or queries from peers;
- Provision of data and statistics;
- Individual training opportunities;
- Support with delivering environmental training in line with the departmental environmental training needs;
- Support to undertake an energy survey of buildings and potential funding for a variety of energy saving measures and local environmental compliance checks;
- Access to the Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges (EAUC).
4. Training

While the Sustainability Team will endeavour to provide bespoke training where possible, there are many other avenues through which Sustainability Champions can access skills and development opportunities in sustainability.

- We recommend that all our Sustainability Champions take our **Sustainability Induction module** to get a clear view of what the University is doing and it's associated goals and commitments.
- As we run SOS-UK's Green Impact programme, we have access to the **SOS-UK Green Impact Webinar Series**. They run a monthly webinar on a variety of sustainability topics.
- **EAUC (The Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges)** offer a number of training courses and communities of practice around sustainability topics. They also facilitate Carbon Literacy training at cost.
  - **Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges** - we are a member of the EAUC and so you can register online to access all member-only resources.
- In terms of a repository of shared resources like podcasts, webinars, programmes, news and events, the EAUC also delivers **the Sustainability Exchange**.
- **IEMA Skills & Training (£)**. The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment also offer a number of accredited courses that Sustainability Champions could apply to take as part of their personal and professional development.
- If our Sustainability Champions are even more serious about advancing their Sustainability Education, **CISL (The Cambridge Institute of Sustainability Leadership) (£)** offer a wide range of courses that result in a variety of certifications from Master of Studies Degree, Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate.

5. Communication

- Historically the Sustainability Team has used an **email distribution list** to contact our Sustainability Champions.
- When new Sustainability Champions are inducted, they are automatically added to this list.
- From Michaelmas 2022 we will be setting up a **dedicated Microsoft Teams** to talk to our Sustainability Team networks across the University.
- This will also allow Sustainability Champions to chat to each other, **share best practice** and more efficiently access resources.
- Like the mailing list, Sustainability Champions will automatically be added to this mailing list as and when they are **formally inducted**.
- Sustainability Champions are expected to follow the **user guidelines and code of conduct** associated with the MS Teams channel and Sharepoint file storage.