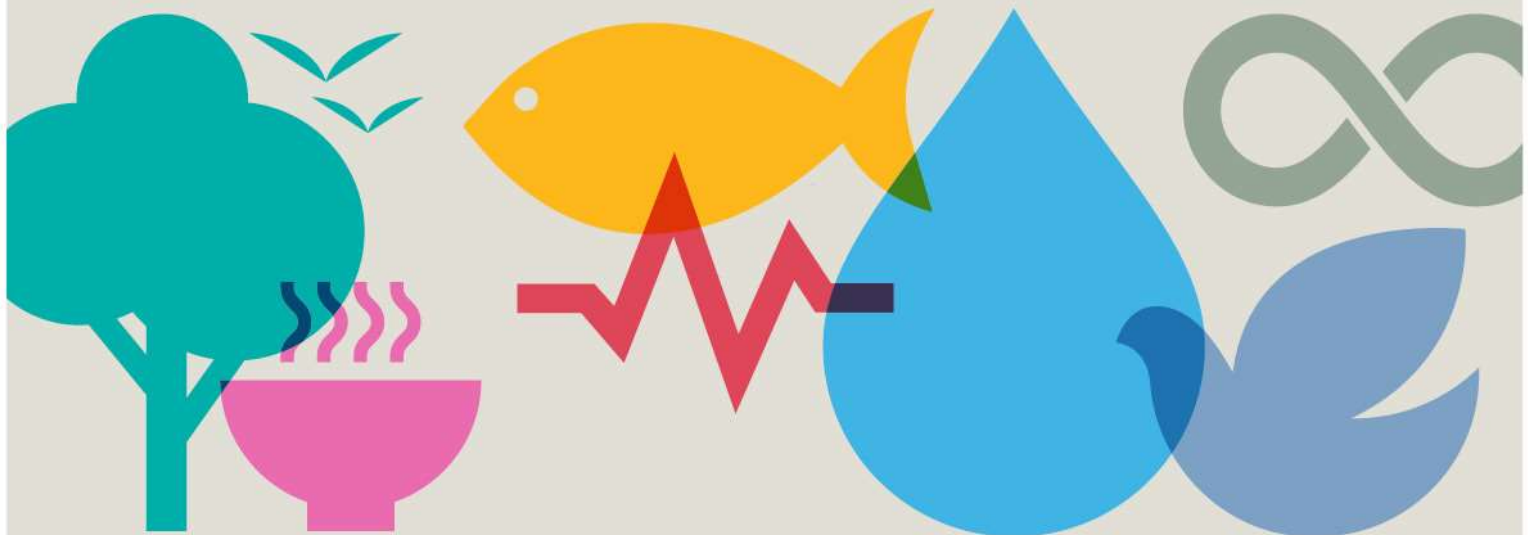


# Summary Report of the South Coast Sustainability Online Research Forum

TUESDAY 27 APRIL 2021



## 1. Introduction

Sustainability is not only a global issue, but also a local one. Therefore, it is urgent for those of us living on the South Coast to work together to tackle the climate emergency, achieve net zero emissions and protect biodiversity and achieve a sustainable food system. With that in mind, the Sussex Sustainability Research Programme (SSRP) at the University of Sussex organised an online research forum to promote greater cooperation between university researchers and the local community.

The aims of the research forum were:

- To inform participants about University of Sussex findings from research related to local sustainability issues.
- To hear the views of stakeholders about how further research could help address local sustainability priorities.
- To intensify the dialogue between researchers and stakeholders on how new research and research partnerships can catalyse greater sustainability in the region.
- To gain a better understanding of what organisations are looking for/need when working with researchers and what barriers there are to this and how to tackle these
- To gather the people and organisations to form a community of action to take forward next steps

In this brief report we record who attended, and in particular, the important sustainability topics identified for greater cooperation between stakeholders and Sussex researchers.

## 2. Sustainability Topics Cited by Local Stakeholders

(Where researchers from University of Sussex could provide helpful input to advance sustainability issues on the South Coast. Where researchers and stakeholders should work together).

### Part A: The climate emergency and the green recovery

- Analysis of costs of alternative heating models for housing in Brighton-Hove
- Knowledge on how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from buildings through conservation and new fuels and technologies
- Information about emissions of industrial processes
- Understanding how behavioural change/societal change affects sustainability goals
- Identifying relevant and applicable metrics for sustainability
- Information about future climate in the region (climate change scenarios) as input to regional plans for land/landscape management
- Input to a “circular economy road map” for the region
- Input to local economic recovery packages
- Developing a local knowledge repository on climate and sustainability issues
- Developing ideas on how to better and more widely communicate sustainability ideas to citizens of the region
- Encourage research that contributes to the needs of stakeholders
- Consider organising an annual event for recognising/stimulating collaboration across greater Brighton

## Part B: Biodiversity and the food system

- How to reduce food poverty
- Identifying local food supply chains and mapping food flows into/out of region
- How to increase food production in the region, especially from sustainable agriculture
- Improving metrics to evaluate regenerative agriculture
- Understanding the interface between healthy soils and healthy people
- Better understanding of the local fish and marine economy
- Identifying policies that promote diversity and make the local food system accessible
- Integration of farming into the landscape
- Understanding trade-offs involved with land use change, e.g. re-wilding vs food production vs housing
- Cooperation between gardening societies and biodiversity field researchers
- Carrying out a biodiversity audit of the region
- Providing input to Downland Estate planning
- Mapping carbon sequestration potential of the landscape
- Promoting the idea of community wealth

## 3. Stakeholder Groups in Attendance

130 researchers and stakeholder signed up to attend South Coast Sustainability (60 from the University of Sussex and IDS and 70 from stakeholder organisations).

Over both Part A and Part B, 76 people attended in total (42 from the University of Sussex and IDS and 34 from stakeholder organisations).

The local stakeholder organisations that were represented include:

- Adur & Worthing Councils
- Brighton & Hove Buses and Metrobus
- Brighton & Hove City Council
- Brighton & Hove Food Partnership
- Brighton Food Factory
- Creed Management Solutions
- East Sussex County Council
- Fork and Dig It
- GETECH plc
- Happenstance Films
- Hydrogen East
- Lewes Town District Council
- Net Zero East
- One Church Brighton / Sustainable Food Trust
- Shoreham Port
- South Downs National Park Authority
- Southern Water
- Sussex Mycelium
- Sussex Wildlife Trust
- The Living Coast UNESCO Biosphere

The majority (76%, 26 out of 34) of the representatives in attendance from stakeholder organisations were invited via existing Sussex Sustainability Research Programme (SSRP) relationships and through directly contacting the specific individuals we were connected to.

For future activity on researcher-stakeholder engagement activities, we will build our network even further to ensure we engage even more important stakeholders in the region.

## 4. Research Presentations

### **Part A: The climate emergency and the green recovery**

*Time to ramp up partnerships between researchers and stakeholders on sustainability*, Joseph Alcamo, Professor of Environmental Systems Science, Director of the Sussex Sustainability Research Programme (SSRP), University of Sussex

*The sustainability strategy of the University of Sussex*, Samantha Waugh, Sustainability Manager, University of Sussex

*How can science help with sustainability locally?* Andy Arnold, Environment Team Manager, East Sussex County Council

*Opportunities for increasing soil carbon in Sussex*, Dave Goulson, Professor of Biology, School of Life Sciences, University of Sussex

*Building local partnerships for Net Zero*, Ralitsa Hiteva, Research Fellow, Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU), University of Sussex Business School

*Home energy conservation: reducing emissions in Brighton and Hove*, Marie Claire Brisbois, Lecturer in Energy Policy, Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU), University of Sussex Business School

*Towards a local Green New Deal*, Tim Foxon, Professor of Sustainability Transitions, Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU), University of Sussex Business School

*A green stimulus for housing*, Donal Brown, Research Fellow, Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU), University of Sussex Business School

*Assessing alternatives for decarbonising heat*, Esra Sorguven, Senior Lecturer in Fluid Mechanics and Thermodynamics, School of Engineering and Informatics, University of Sussex

*Working together for sustainability in the region*, Councillor Phélim Mac Cafferty, Leader of Brighton & Hove City Council

## **Part B: Biodiversity and the food system**

*Time to ramp up partnerships between researchers and stakeholders on sustainability*, Joseph Alcamo, Professor of Environmental Systems Science, Director of the Sussex Sustainability Research Programme (SSRP), University of Sussex

*The sustainability strategy of the University of Sussex*, Samantha Waugh, Sustainability Manager, University of Sussex

*How can science help with sustainability locally?* Sarah Dobson, Programme Manager: The Living Coast, Brighton & Lewes Downs UNESCO Biosphere

*Diverse land use for diverse benefits*, Christopher Sandom, Senior Lecturer in Biology, School of Life Sciences, University of Sussex

*The UK Food Systems Doctoral Training Academy: Opportunities for local stakeholders to get involved*, Pedram Rowhani, Senior Lecturer in Geography, School of Global Studies

*How understanding bee behaviour can improve pollination services*, Beth Nicholls, Research Fellow, School of Life Sciences, University of Sussex

*Transdisciplinary research towards sustainable agri-food systems in Brighton & Hove*, Adrian Ely, Reader in Technology and Sustainability, Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU), University of Sussex Business School

*Access to growing spaces in Brighton - lessons from Covid-19*, Bonnie Holligan, Lecturer in Property Law; and Helena Howe, Lecturer in Law, School of Law, Politics and Sociology, University of Sussex

*Circular economy for reducing food waste and food poverty - the context of South East England*, Shova Thapa Karki, Senior Lecturer in Entrepreneurship and Sustainability, University of Sussex Business School

*Working together for sustainability in the region*, Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP, Brighton Kemptown