



Students at the Heart of Knowledge Exchange (SHoKE)

Students at the Heart of Knowledge Exchange (SHoKE) is an innovative platform, enabling students to apply problem-solving techniques and make a personal social impact by collaborating with our partner organisations.

At the Heart of our project is a diverse, rapidly growing community of several hundred volunteer students who are personally motivated to make a positive difference in the world, through Knowledge Exchange activities with our partners.

Projects typically focus upon organisational challenges relating to social value initiatives and sustainability. Teams perform ideas generation, scoping, analysis and research, formally presenting their findings at the end of the project with a presentation and report.

Challenge 1

Understanding youth engagement in Huntingdonshire around climate change

- Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) are developing an environmental strategy which will set out how the council will achieve net zero, as well as providing a framework for activity around climate change.
- HDC has surveyed residents, but there has been limited engagement with young people in the district, and HDC is concerned that their views may not be taken into account in the development of the environmental strategy.
- HDC also wants to understand how young people in the district can be encouraged to take climate positive actions to be part of a wider ambition for the district as a whole to be carbon neutral.
- Work has been undertaken through the County Council's academic partnership with Cambridge University, CUSPE, to understand how young people can be engaged with climate issues at a Cambridge wide level, and HDC are keen for further analysis of this CUSPE dataset to inform actions they can take at the district level for young people in Huntingdonshire.

Challenge 2

To Identify Best Practice for Community Toolkit for Climate Action

- Huntingdonshire District Council has an ambitious target to achieve carbon net zero by 2040. To do so there is an active role that organisations, businesses, and individual residents need to take, and all will need advice and support on the most impactful way to do this. There is a need to identify best practice models and/or toolkits to support a local community to create and measure a carbon reduction action plan, which supports organisations and residents alike.
- Based on research, the identification of potential elements that could form a toolkit to support a local community to create and measure a carbon reduction action plan.
- Support local communities to understand the local challenge of net zero and the potential active steps they can take to reduce their carbon footprint, along with the impact their actions will have on carbon emissions.
- To stimulate the development of community carbon reduction plans which support a net carbon zero Huntingdonshire.
- Toolkits and models primarily to be focussed on lower-level actions that can be undertaken by an individual or a localised community.