How many unwanted phones do you have lying about? With many people getting new phones over Christmas, why not get rid of your old phones in January?

From 12th January, there will be a mobile phone amnesty where we will be collecting unwanted phones and donating them to a company called ‘second hand phones’. They will reuse or recycle phones that otherwise would be collecting dust in the depths of our cupboards - what a great idea! This initiative is open to all staff and students who can donate work or personal phones. There will be 4 secure bins around campus for you to bring your phones to. They are located:

- Sustainability Office – 31 Cromer Terrace
- Security Office - 175 Woodhouse Lane
- Cleaning Services Office – Hillary Place
- Leeds University Student’s Union

A huge thank you to all staff and students who donated clothes in this year’s Shwop at Work initiative. Across the four Shwopping events to have taken place at the University over the years, we have managed to collect 225 bags of used clothing; that’s an estimated 6,975 garments in total. This is an absolutely fantastic result and means the University will remain top of the Shwopping leader board once again!

Oxfam will now sort the clothing and turn your donations into cash to fund their work fighting poverty. Any clothes that Oxfam do not sell in their shops will be reused or recycled. For example, some clothing may go to Frip Ethique, a social enterprise project in Senegal providing employment for disadvantaged women, whilst other items could be turned into mattress stuffing or car seat filling.

By supporting the Government’s Pollinator policy of urban habitats being key for bees’ survival, the University of Leeds currently has one bee apiary, 35 bee hotels and a number of pollinator-rich planting sites on campus. We are working with key stakeholders across the city and beyond to ensure that the work we do supports this strategy and Leeds ‘leads’ the way by being a pollinator-friendly city.

To start the New Year, on January 23rd, Dr. Sophie Evison from the Faculty of Biological Sciences here at the University will be holding a public lecture about her research into bee diseases and the threats facing bee populations in the UK. These lectures are free and open to everyone both in the University and wider community. If you would like more information or would like to get involved, please contact sustainability@leeds.ac.uk.

Christmas Shutdowns aim to turn off as much unneeded equipment as possible over the Christmas break, in line with the University’s Carbon Management Plan. This year it will run officially from December 23rd – 5th January, so please ensure all unnecessary electrical equipment is turned off! With a well supported shutdown we can make significant savings in energy and carbon emissions for very little effort, so thanks for all of your help and we’ll keep you informed of how we did in the New Year! There will also be some prizes in place for the most effective shutdowns!