



Jar in Action

2024-2025

Sustainability issues touch our lives in many ways. **Fusion** is running a project where we are asking a variety of people to construct art works in the form of glass jars and their contents which encapsulate their creative response to what 'sustainability' means to them.

Call for jars to year 3 University of Edinburgh Biomedical Science Cohort Community.

001 – Tom Pratt – transmutation

Lead, gold



002 – Kerri Foubister – Overconsumption

Stones, sellotape

The incessant quest for material goods. Overconsumption contributes significantly to climate change. The extraction of resources and the depletion of natural reserves. Consumer goods generate substantial waste with it usually ending up in landfills or polluting our oceans. The rocks represent the forever changing quick fashion trends of the month, the 17 different products that will change your life that are secret advertisements. The jar barely being able to contain the infiltrating destruction.

By redefining societal standards and pressures of success, we can change perceptions surrounding wealth and happiness.



003 – Mike Kerr – Lab Waste – Why?

Glass bottle, assorted plastics

We have to safely render a lot of lab waste from classes. In the past we would use ore glass which could be washed, recycled and re-used. There is enough plastic out there without us adding to it.



004 – Ruth Deighton – Tech: no?

Cement, self-adhesive felt pads, cocktail sticks, dish sponge, paint & components from broken toy

How effective is technology at helping us sustain the earth's biosphere? Does it use more resources than it can preserve? Are those in control of it more interested in escaping to other worlds? This jar represents the "Silent Running" outcome: where all that remains of biodiversity is kept in glass domes out in space and scheduled for destruction because it is deemed economically unnecessary. Tech is helping trees survive in a sealed environment, but its misuse is also responsible for exiling them there.



005 – Linda Collins – Thanks!

Medicine packaging (mixed plastics) and foil

United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3 is: Ensuring healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages.

The packaging in this jar represents the medicines that sustain our healthy life & wellbeing. Billions of people rely on Biomedical Sciences for the understanding and treatment of health conditions and diseases. For ensuring that we can live healthy lives and maintain our wellbeing – thanks biomedical sciences!



006 – Mateo Rodriguez Gentile – Using Plastic to Forget

Lids of used pens, paper from a lab report

We used so much plastic/paper to learn in university – which, on most times, teaches us valuable skills and knowledge. But on other times, as most people, we end up forgetting – but the "waste" produced remains, always.



Heriot Watt University workshop

The workshop took place on 3rd Sep 2024 as a part of the welcome week activities in Heriot Watt University for Y1 students enrolled in the programmes of MA Geography Society and the environment, and BSc Geography. The Jars were displayed for the whole term in the crush area in the central building of the Energy Geoscience Infrastructure and Society building and they attracted attention from wider students and staff. They were particularly attractive to parents and prospect students during both our school open days on 28th Sep and 26th Oct. The activity and the exhibited jars were praised in the university meeting to evaluate student experience for their impact in promoting the sense of belonging among students.

007 – Emma Lawson – Nature

Wood, cork, plastic

Trying to sustain wood and plastic.



008 – Emma Warner – Mesh

Ribbon, tin foil, wire, rope

Climate Change and increase in wastage causes more fish to become trapped in nets and rubbish in the ocean.



009 – Andrew Robertson – Heart of the Forrest

Rubber ball, bamboo, wooden acorns, fake flower, sticks, fake leaf.

Explores all the natural resources from the forests that are being lost to deforestation and climate change.



010 – Saara Archer – Fatal Famine

Dried grains, dried natural materials eg stick, leaves, etc.

This shows how unsustainable farming will be fatal and negatively impact our food security.



011 – Olivia Woods – Great Pacific Garbage Patch

Paper bag, ribbon, bouncy ball, tinsel, string, tin foil, tea cake wrapper, paper.

Explores the impacts of plastic pollution, entanglement and ghostfishing on the environment.



012 – Amy Johnson – Travel Together

Lego, bubble wrap, ribbon

More sustainable ways to travel instead of travelling by cars.



013 – Ruby Kant – Trapped in the Sea

Mesh, rope, shells

The depiction of the unsustainable waste in the oceans.



014 – Berfin Atici – Electrical

Wires, mesh, plug

Mesh was used as an electrical wall and sustaining electricity.



015 – Lawrence Mills – Tangled

Rope, wire, barley, cork

Looks like a plant growing on a beach.

