

# SEEDS 2026

INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE  
ECOLOGICAL ENGINEERING  
DESIGN FOR SOCIETY

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2026



LEEDS  
BECKETT  
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West of  
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of Suffolk

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GLOBAL EDUCATION

 **cifal**  
City of London

# CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

## International SEEDS Conference 2026

Sustainable Ecological Engineering Design  
for Society

12th Annual Conference

THEME: Looking at 2026 through the  
eyes of 2015: Intelligence beyond  
technology

GEDU House – Stratford, London, UK

01, 02 & 03 September 2026\*

\*01 – online, 02 & 03 – in-person



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# FOCUS

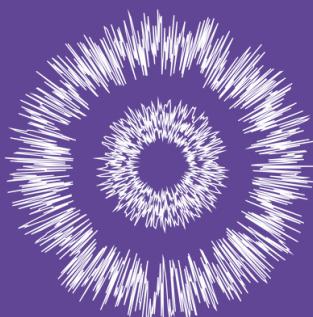
Eleven years have passed since the international Sustainable Ecological Engineering Design for Society (SEEDS) conference was first held by the Leeds Sustainability Institute's centre of research in 2015. SEEDS sustained its longstanding aim to promote research on how to reduce negative impacts on the environment while providing for the health and wellbeing of the society. However, even these many years can not explain the significant growth seen (and yet to be seen) in 2026, which is mostly attributed to inventive processes, models of artificial intelligence, and advancements in technology. Often more than not, the race for change is associated with a widespread neglect for sustainable practices, and much uncertainty resides in the impact on both, the environment, and the people, being and continuing to be driven by such a race to artificial intelligence dominance.

Amidst a change of technological advancements, we now yet again find ourselves overlooking various scenarios that challenge the core tenets of Sustainable Ecological Engineering Design for Society. The rise of artificial intelligence needs to be navigated in ways not to cause the intellectual defeat of the human individuals forming industries' social systems, nor to the sustainability commitments to our environment.

## This year we ask:

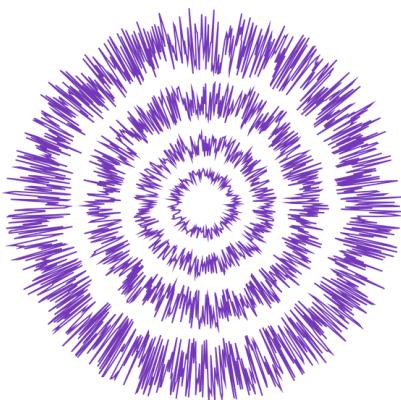
What are the perspectives of artificial intelligence from sustainability and social impact? How can research deepen the depth of our (as yet elusive) understanding of the rate of advancements against our ability to meet our environmental and societal commitments? And most importantly, how can AI help us (or slow us) from achieving these goals?

This question will be critically investigated in this conference by trying to reach sensible answers to some of the complex questions, for, as Professor Stephen Hawking worded it many years back, “the rise of powerful AI will either be the best or the worst thing ever to happen to humanity. We do not yet know which”.



To advance these arguments, the conference themes will encompass:

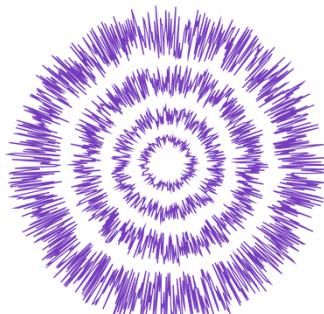
- **Technological Influence on Sustainability:** The impact of technological advancements on sustainable practices and behaviours.
- **Technology and policy:** The changes in policy and their role in challenging existing traditional practices in housing building, ecological engineering, and market powers on sustainability adoption.
- **Technological Decisions and Indecisions:** Adverse effects of artificial intelligence and inactions on (or neglection of) ecological engineering and sustainability.
- **Contextual Sustainability Narratives:** Narratives that align longstanding sustainability goals with existing technological priorities.
- **Interdisciplinary Exploration of Sustainability:** Sustainability and ecological engineering through diverse perspectives and tailored approaches.



Themes and topics expected to be covered by the conference:

- AI for Building and Environment Design
- Energy-Efficient Modelling, Simulation and BIM
- Integrating Urban and Natural Environments
- Building Performance Analysis and Evaluation
- Green Technologies and Sustainable IT Systems
- Renewable Energy
- Studying Energy Behaviour and Lifestyle with AI
- Occupant Behavioural Analysis and Change
- Human energy-use patterns
- Behavioural studies
- Energy-saving strategies.
- Project Management
- Circular economy
- Consequences of AI on people
- AI energy/material demands and impacts
- Sustainability, Ethics and Responsibility
- Community Building AI in the built environment
- Copyright and Intellectual Property Issues in AI and data/content ownership

*SEEDS is interested in sustainability in the broadest sense and will consider all papers related to the built and natural environment and processes related to operating within the sector.*



# KEY DATES

**19 January 2026**

Call for abstract submissions

**16 February 2026**

Abstract submission deadline



**13 March 2026**

Notification on abstract

**01 May 2026**

Full paper submission deadline



**25 May 2026**

Notification on full paper

**15 June 2026**

Final paper submission deadline



# AUDIENCE

The SEEDS community is a confluence of experienced and early career researchers from across the world and from diverse disciplines.

This melting pot encourages exciting conversations and opportunities to collaborate.

Members of the SEEDS community, who have met during previous years of the conference, are now working on projects and submitting research papers together.

Submissions are encouraged from researchers at all levels, including doctoral students.

So, if you're passionate about your research and eager to connect with a diverse community of like-minded individuals, the International SEEDS conference is for you.



# CHAIRS

## Conference Chairs 2026



Dr Ali Saad



Professor Chris Gorse

## Co-Chairs



Professor Saheed Ajayi



Professor Colin Booth



Professor Mohammad  
Dastbaz



Professor Darryl Newport



Dr Alison Pooley

# ACCOMMODATION AND TRAVEL

This year, the committee universities (Leeds Beckett University, MLA College, Loughborough University, University of Suffolk and University of the West of England, Bristol) are collaborating with GEDU and Cifal to deliver the International SEEDS Conference 2026.

The SEEDS conference will be hosted at GEDU House in Stratford – a modern and vibrant area of East London. Stratford is home to one of London's best-connected stations, with a network of tube trains, buses and long-distance trains heading to Central London and beyond.

The RISE Awards and gala dinner will be hosted at One Birdcage Walk, an elegant venue in Westminster overlooking the beautiful St James's Park.

If arriving internationally, London City Airport is only 4 miles from Stratford and both Stansted Airport and Heathrow Airport are within approx. 30 miles.

There are plenty of accommodation options within the Stratford vicinity including the following:

- Travelodge London Stratford (<0.1 miles)
- Holiday Inn Express London – Stratford (0.1 miles)
- Yotelpad London Stratford (0.5 miles)
- IBIS London Stratford (0.5 miles)

# FORMAT AND PRICING

The conference will follow a hybrid delivery model. The first day of the conference (1<sup>st</sup> September) will be online only and the following two days (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> September) will be held in-person at GEDU House – Stratford, London.

There will be a gala dinner and the RISE awards ceremony hosted at One Birdcage Walk, Westminster on the evening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> September which you are welcome to attend as part of the full conference pricing option.

	<b>Full Conference</b> (1, 2, 3 Sept, Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony)	<b>In-person day only</b> (2 or 3 Sept)	<b>Online Only</b> (1 Sept)
<b>Standard Early Bird</b> (on or before 1st July 2026)	£350	£200	£150
<b>Student Early Bird</b> (on or before 1st July 2026)	£200	£125	£100
<b>Standard</b>	£450	£250	£200
<b>Student</b>	£300	£175	£150

# THE RISE AWARDS

Leeds Beckett University, The University of Suffolk, The University of the West of England, Bristol, Loughborough University and MLA College are delighted to present the 2026 RISE Awards, kindly sponsored by Global Education (GEDU), which holds stewardship of CIFAL London.

These highly regarded awards seek to recognise, celebrate and showcase exemplar case studies from the Built Environment sharing emerging best practice in Research, Innovation, Sustainability and Enterprise for new and innovative products, technologies, processes, projects and schemes. Celebrating diversity and the unique skills, knowledge and perspectives that different groups bring to the field is at the heart of the RISE awards; bringing together academic, industry, third sector and community groups in a unique celebration of all those who are helping to change the way we build and live in the future.

Submissions are encouraged across 12 different categories (see page 13/14), and poster entries are FREE. Previous winners have come from an array of environmental specialisms, across various companies and professions, from diverse backgrounds – what matters to us is that entrants display the passion and dedication to do things better, pushing industry forward and driving up standards.



The closing date for entries is **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2026** with the winners being notified in the week commencing Monday 08<sup>th</sup> June.

Awards will be presented at the prestigious gala presentation evening on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2026** at **One Birdcage Walk, Westminster, London**.

The RISE Awards are an opportunity for you to showcase your initiatives with your peers and bring your expertise to a new audience. The awards dinner provides an opportunity to develop future industry, academic and third sector collaborations.

## HOW TO ENTER

Entries can be made for a project, process, product or a service. To enter, please produce an A2 sized poster outlining your product, process, project or service that addresses one or more of the category themes detailed below. Your poster should include text, images and, where possible, facts and figures that will provide the judges with tangible evidence of performance and outcomes against your strategic aims.



Victor de Jesus Photography

Key Points to think about for your poster submission:

- **What need did the product, process, project or service fill**
- **Why is it different/ special/ unique?**
- **What challenges were faced and how were they overcome?**
- **What did it achieve? What are the current and future benefits?**



Please send in your A2 posters to  
[LSIConference@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:LSIConference@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)



Victor de Jesus Photography

## RISE Awards – Poster Themes

Award	Category	Descriptions / Entry Requirements / Examples
1	Field and Laboratory Research	Entries could include: Work on Products, Components Buildings, Engineering Systems; Manufacturing , Building Services and Energy Management Systems.
2	Design, Innovation and Creativity	Entries could include: Design, Innovation and Creativity within sustainability, across commerce and third sector services
3	New Technologies and Materials	Entries could include: Innovative use of digital technologies, systems and materials.
4	Sustainable Developments	Entries could include: Energy and Resource Efficiency, Building Performance, Renewables, Energy Generation, Services and Building Systems, Building Materials and Processes, Wind, Solar, Hydro, Biomass, Geothermal and Energy.
5	Heritage Award for Restoration/Retrofit	Entries could include: Restoration, Heritage Construction and Traditional Building methods, Energy Efficiency, Planning for Whole-life Sustainability .
6	Behaviour Change	The judges are looking for change that creates a positive impact on behaviour, culture or sustainable practice.
7	Social Value	The winner will be the organisation that best demonstrates its ability to bring value and benefit to society.

...continued on next page

## RISE Awards – Poster Themes (continued)

Award	Category	Descriptions / Entry Requirements / Examples
8	Enterprise	Entries are encouraged from organisations and groups that demonstrate a commitment to embedding enterprise, knowledge and understanding in the field and practice
9	Collaborative Working	The winner will be the project that best demonstrates teamwork through early involvement of stakeholders, cross team collaboration, strong communication (and tools used where applicable, e.g. BIM) and full team integration.
10	Education and Training	Entries are encouraged from organisation committed to and implementing education and training that underpins the development of knowledge and skills equipping the workforce and society for the future.
11	Fire and Safety	Never before has the integrity of our buildings and their ability to withstand the impact of fire, explosions and resist the passage of smoke been so important. Entries are encouraged from those developing products, processes and systems that contribute to more sustainable, resilient and safe buildings and practice.
12	Health, Safety and Wellbeing	Though constant efforts are made to improve standards, our industry remains one of the most dangerous in which to work. Processes and systems that improve health and safety are sought as well as innovation that enhances the quality of life of the construction worker. Where new ground has been broken with regard to the health and safety of the construction worker and professionals, evidence of this will be rewarded.

# THE RISE FOR SCHOOL AWARDS

This year, we are continuing to invite younger students to also think about ways we can create a sustainable future for our planet.

The RISE for Schools competition encourages school students to make their voices heard about their research and ideas on how to make a more sustainable world. Ideas in the past have included ways to tackle climate change, develop new materials for construction, reduce plastic use and save water. This year, in particular, we want schools to think about ***whether science and technology could help us to live more sustainably or does it make it worse?***

Pupils of any age can enter and they will be awarded for their efforts.

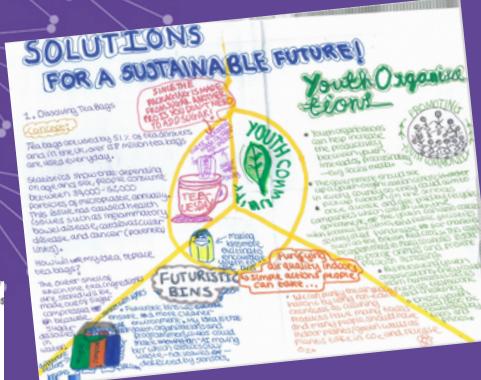
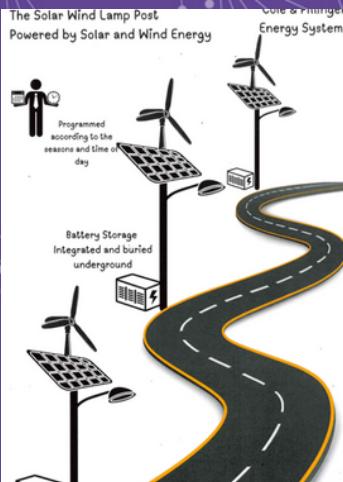
Scan the code below or [click here](#) to find out more information including how schools can enter:



# RISE FOR SCHOOLS



The Solar Wind Lamp Post  
Powered by Solar and Wind Energy





[international-seeds.co.uk](http://international-seeds.co.uk)



[International SEEDS Conference](#)



[lsiconference@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:lsiconference@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)



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