



Write for Us

'The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The second best time is now.'

—Chinese proverb

Thank you for expressing interest in writing a contribution for The Kingfisher!

Our Mission

We are a team of postgraduate natural science, computer science and language students who are passionate about the environment. The intent of this magazine is to inform readers about how complex environmental issues actually are and bridge the communication gap between scientists and policymakers. Environmental conservation is much more than what appears on the surface – behind every issue is a cohort of interconnected, deep-rooted social, political and economic concerns as well. Our goal is to highlight these factors and have its readers consider things they may have not before.

Aside from the everyday reader, we hope that our articles provide insight and are able to possibly advise companies, institutions and cities to become more environmentally friendly.

Articles / Pitches

You can submit articles under one of the three overarching themes on our website: Sustainable Cities, Environment and People.

Sustainable Cities: These articles are meant to hold (specific) cities accountable in areas they need to improve on and then bring in possible solutions to how these improvements can be achieved. **Or** articles highlighting how certain cities can be leading examples for others in their green initiatives. This is done by providing a platform to organizations, companies and projects already working towards these solutions in these respective cities. Once we write an in-depth article on this, we hope to share it across social media in order to spark action amongst locals in that area.

Ex. Re-greening Bristol's Urban spaces might call for an interview with Jane Memmott, a Professor at the University of Bristol who specializes in such projects. One can also draw inspiration from leading cities globally, such as Singapore, and make recommendations to what Bristol can implement themselves.

Ex. Cleaning up Bristol trash: highlight the issue and critique why the Bristol Council waste service is not working. Then perhaps contact University of Bristol student societies, as well as local organizations (ie. Bristol Waste Company or Clean-Up Bristol Harbour) to give their cause a platform.

Our magazine is currently starting locally in the UK with city sections, however, if you would like to write about communities in your home country, you are welcome to pitch the idea! As you may expect, making specific recommendations requires knowledge of that city.

Environment: These are articles that can tackle any environmental issue out there. Is there something you are passionate about? Pitch it to us! It would definitely be valuable for freelance writers to write about environmental issues in their country of origin/where they live, or if you have experience in an area, to share your expertise. However, if you are passionate about any subject and willing to do in-depth research, in order to publish a high-quality, accurate article, you are very welcome to!

Our website organizes environmental articles based on climates (ie. Grasslands, forests, mountains, deserts, poles, oceans, etc.) and then further into geographical location (Oceania, Europe, North America, South America, Africa and the Poles). However, make sure your topic is very specific in geographical location, so that when giving advice, it can be useful to those that live there.

Ex. You want to do a topic on Killer Whale conservation: Do not do it on killer whales in general – they live all over the globe. Focus on one species (if they tend to migrate) or perhaps a population, such as the pod off the coast of Portugal.

Ex. You want to write about changes in intensive agriculture. Focus on one country, and if the country is big, one area in it. This is because climate, ecology, economics and societies are so vastly different, that not all solutions apply.

People: These articles aim to highlight how humans are affected by environmental issues. Articles can focus on the ‘health’ of communities; i.e. how the rights and survival of indigenous communities are affected by natural resource exploitation or on the ‘health’ of individuals; i.e. how pollution and changing climate can affect our own health. Are you a writer with a medical or science background? This section may be for you!

Ex. Thawing permafrost releases long-frozen pathogens that may trigger outbreaks.

Ex. Illegal wildlife trade is what made the COVID-19 pandemic possible.

These articles can be more general and do not need to be linked to one city or country as in the other two sections.

Article Content

We only publish well-researched and high-quality articles in our magazine. It is important to give credit where credit is due. Please provide a list of your references when submitting your article for review in the following format.

Research Paper: Author’s last name, first name (Date published) Title of paper. *Journal*. **Volume, issue, pages.**

Website: Author’s last name, first name. (Date published) ‘Title of the Article or Individual Page.’ Title of the Website. *Name of the Publisher*. [Date accessed]. <URL>

We aim for articles to be around 800-2000 words, in order to consider and expand on all other factors playing into the issue. We really emphasize touching on the political, economic and social aspects when you write about an environmental issue. We cannot view these issues in isolation.

A very rough outline of an article may look like:

1. Identifying the Issue
2. Talking about all the factors playing into it
3. Why it is important
4. What are possible, specific solutions that can be implemented.

Interviews with local organizations and specialists are encouraged! Our current team is able to translate German, Spanish, Portuguese and English.

Stylistic Format

Please submit your articles in the following format:

1. Title in **bold** (size 16)
2. By [**Writer Name**], Freelance Writer (size 11)
3. Main body text (size 11; Calibri or Times New Roman font, justified), separate articles into shorter paragraphs to avoid large blocks of text.
4. Preamble (first paragraph) is a short 1-2 sentence 'hook' which lays out the tone for the rest of the article. (size 11; **bold**)
5. Photo Captions (size 10; description | [Source] / [Credit])
6. Attach any images as separate JPG or PNG files, whilst making clear in your article where they are intended to be located and their matching photo caption.

Once you send us your pitch, we will discuss it with you and send you on your way! You can take the article in whichever direction you desire and even focus on aspects regarding your own knowledge (i.e, economics, politics, society, ecology, etc.). Deadlines are subject to discussion.

We emphasize open communication in the editing process, so that the writer and editors come to an end article we are both satisfied with!

If you have any other questions, feel free to email us!

Your Co-Editors-in-Chief,
Julia and Isabel