# Green Greenwich:

## Showcasing our University of Greenwich Community

### Meet Dr Elinor Thompson: Developing Innovative Energy Solutions

## ABOUT

Elinor Thompson is a microbiologist whose research has included molecular biology, developmental and cell biology, biochemistry, bioenergetics, imaging and spectroscopy, largely to explore membrane proteins but with collaborations spanning mathematical modelling and animal development.

## WORK

Elinor Thompson is a microbiologist and plant biologist whose research focusses on cell and molecular biology, largely relating to photosynthesis and membrane proteins. Elinor is running the plant biology aspects of projects that are implementing semi-transparent and flexible solar panels on existing farm growth facilities. This means dual yields for farmers, as light continues to reach the crop as well as electricity being generated.

The team are testing new types of solar panels and monitoring the health of different types of crop. As part of a trial in Kent, panels have been attached to the sides of soft-fruit glasshouses or over polytunnels, providing renewable energy supplies without using more land.

The same space is used to produce electricity and grow crop, making food production more sustainable.Farms can generate clean energy on remote sites, solar panels do not take up any additional space, and a greener growing process is ensured for crops.

## SDGs