

NetDRIVE Call for Demos and Posters – Autumn Gathering November, 2026

Galvanising Collective Action towards Sustainable Computing

The rising carbon emissions of research computing make a significant contribution to global emissions, in particular via the high energy demands of artificial intelligence, data centres and spatial computing.

In that light, NetDRIVE invites abstract submissions for **poster presentations** and **demonstrations** at the NetDRIVE Autumn Gathering, hosted by the **Digital Cultures Research Centre**, UWE Bristol, at Watershed on 4–6 November 2026.

The gathering focuses on galvanising collective action towards more sustainable digital research infrastructure (DRI) and is part of the NetDRIVE initiative, which provides advice to UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) on the transition to net zero.

Posters and demos must engage with the [UK DRI Net Zero Roadmap](#) and at least one of the meeting objectives listed below. Contributions need to show how the proposed 300-word abstract informs, supports, or advances sustainable digital transformation and progress towards net-zero DRI.

Meeting objectives

Abstract submissions need to align with one or more of the following objectives:

1. Create the conditions for galvanising the NetDRIVE community toward collective action.
2. Identify barriers that limit coordinated change across institutions and sectors.
3. Share stories, demonstrations, and emerging research practices.
4. Develop next steps for advancing sustainable research computing together.
5. Situate NetDRIVE within wider environmental efforts.

We note that wider environmental efforts may include the following:

Circular economy - designing out waste and keeping resources in use through reuse, repair, refurbishment, and recycling of digital hardware alongside regeneration of natural systems. This includes **Fabrication circularity** which considers the full lifecycle of hardware components, from raw material extraction through manufacturing to end-of-life recovery (see for example: [Ellen Macarthur Foundation](#))

Decentralised technology governance - distributing decision-making power over digital infrastructure so that communities have a voice in how it is designed and run (see for example [Stern, 2011](#)).

Discard studies including e-waste - addressing the power dynamics of discarded electronic devices and infrastructure, and the environmental and social consequences of this (see for example: [Akese and Little, 2018](#); [Liboiron and Lepawky, 2022](#))

Land, biodiversity, water, wind and solar stewardship - considering the trade-offs and responsible management of land use and biodiversity in relation to renewable energy (see for example: [Gallaher et al., 2026](#); [IEA, 2025](#))

Intersecting Digital Rights, Environmental justice and critiquing digital solutionism - addressing the unequal burdens of environmental harm caused by the disproportionate impact of digital infrastructures on marginalised communities and places. Accountability might include **life-cycle transparency** that make visible the environmental costs of digital technologies at each stage of their life cycle, from extraction to production, use and disposal, alongside **ethical and low-carbon sourcing** procuring materials, energy, and services in ways that minimise carbon emissions and uphold fair labour and environmental standards. Approaches that consider disability and racial justice are key (see for example: [Booker, 2025](#); [Costanza-Chock, 2020](#); [Kazansky et al., 2022](#); [Kunstman 2020](#); [Laaksonen et al., 2026](#))

Permacomputing - applying principles from permaculture to computing in order to design resilient, regenerative, and low-resource digital systems that work within rather environmental limits (see for example: <https://permacomputing.net>)

Decomputing – seeks to reduce reliance on computational solutions where they harm social and labour relations and to develop alternative, convivial approaches. Decomputing centres land and communities in the Global South and other marginalised groups who disproportionately bear the environmental costs of computing (see for example: [Mcquillan, 2026](#) and Mcquillan's [website](#))

What we invite

Posters

Posters should present research, projects, emerging ideas, case studies, methods, tools, or concepts relevant to sustainable computing and net-zero digital research infrastructure.

Accepted poster presenters will be expected to prepare a visual poster and be available during session breaks to discuss their work with participants. Accepted posters will be displayed during the meeting, and a prize will be awarded for the best poster.

Demos

Demos should be interactive or practice-based contributions that showcase tools, methods, prototypes, dashboards, applications, experimental approaches, or more speculative, playful or immersive demonstrations or games for advancing sustainable computing.

A technical producer will be available to support demo installation and deinstallation during the event. Wi-Fi, power supply, a desk, and a chair will be provided. Demo presenters should specify any additional equipment they will bring or may require as part of their submission. We cannot guarantee that all requests can be met.

Who should submit

Submissions are welcome from researchers, research software engineers, technical professionals, infrastructure specialists, policy practitioners, community organisers, creative practitioners, including artists, and others working with or critiquing sustainable digital research infrastructure.

Submissions from early-career researchers, technicians, and creative practitioners are especially encouraged, as are contributions that bridge technical, policy, and / or community perspectives.

Key dates

- Poster and demo abstract submission deadline **Friday 11 September 2026, 5pm**
- Notification of acceptance **Wednesday 30 September 2026**
- Confirmation of participation **Tuesday 6th October 2026**
- Event dates **4–6 November 2026**

Registration is free but required for accepted presenters.

Submission requirements

Submit your poster or demo abstract via the online submission form: [NetDRIVE Call for Demos and Posters – Autumn Gathering November, 2026 – Fill out form](#)

You may wish to prepare your submission in a Word document before completing the form. The submission form will ask for:

- Submission type: ****poster**** or ****demo****.
- Title of submission.
- Full name, organisation, and email address of the lead author or presenter.
- Names and organisations of any co-authors.
- Abstract of up to 300 words
- Up to ****five keywords****
- List the meeting objective(s) with which the submission aligns.
- A short statement of how the contribution engages with the UK DRI Net Zero Roadmap (upto 200 words).
- **For demos only**, please provide
 - a list of the equipment you will bring (e.g. headphones, cables, headsets, laptops etc)

- any installation requirements beyond Wi-Fi, power supply, desk and a chair
- any spatial requirements, indicating the approximate or ideal square footage for your demo
- any support you might require with installation
- confirm you are happy to provide a risk assessment for your Demo ahead of the event

Abstract guidance

Abstracts should be written in English and should:

- Introduce the subject of the proposed poster or demo in a maximum of 300 words.
- Summarise the contents of the contribution.
- Explain any unique, original, or innovative aspects.
- Clearly indicate relevance to the NetDRIVE meeting themes.
- Explicitly reference and engage with the UK DRI Net Zero Roadmap.
- Describe how the contribution informs, supports, or advances sustainable digital research infrastructure and progress towards net-zero DRI.
- Contributions might include case studies, tools, methods, insights or emerging concepts that support net-zero digital research infrastructure.

Note: Abstracts that do not clearly articulate their link to the UK DRI Net Zero Roadmap may be considered ineligible.

Assessment criteria

Submissions will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- Contribution to sustainable computing.
- Relevance to the meeting objectives.
- Relevance to the UK DRI Net Zero Roadmap.
- Quality, clarity, and originality of the contribution.
- Potential to support collective action across the NetDRIVE community

Demo preparation guidelines for accepted presenters

Demo presenters should ensure that their contribution is suitable for installation and presentation in the event setting. Demos may include dashboards, applications, prototypes, tools, methods, experimental systems, creative artefacts, or practice-based demonstrations, such as games.

Please identify in your submission:

- The equipment you will bring (e.g. laptop, cables, headphones, headsets etc)
- Any technical support you require with installation.
- Any installation, space, access, or timing constraints for your demo.

- Whether the demo requires participant interaction.
- Whether the demo can be left running or requires the presenter to be present throughout
- Please confirm you are happy to provide a risk assessment for your Demo ahead of the event. We can provide a template if you don't have one.

Wi-Fi, power supply, a desk, and a chair will be provided. A technical producer will be available to support installation and deinstallation at the event.

Contact

For questions about poster or demo submissions, please contact the organising team at dcrc@uwe.ac.uk with 'NetDRIVE Gathering Query' as the subject heading