

# Empowering freshwater communities



## Short Name

Empowering freshwater communities

## Formal Name

Empowering Underserved  
Communities through Freshwater  
Citizen Science

## Contact Person

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## Institution/Organisation

Severn Rivers Trust

## Website

<https://www.severnriverstrust.com/>

## Social Media



[@severnivers.trust](#)



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[@severn-rivers-trust](#)



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Citizen science allows us to connect  
communities with their environment in a  
meaningful, inclusive, and empowering  
way



## Summary

This project brings communities and rivers closer together through inclusive, hands-on environmental action. Focusing on Coventry, we will support underrepresented groups; particularly those from low-income, ethnically diverse, neurodivergent, and urban backgrounds, to become citizen scientists, monitoring the health of the River Severn tributaries. Volunteers will be trained to use low-cost sensors, take water samples, and visualise data using a bespoke dashboard.

By working closely with researchers in environmental chemistry, data science, and social science, we will explore how community-collected data compares with lab analysis and how it can be made more accessible and impactful. Co-designed workshops will build confidence in data interpretation and freshwater literacy, and community needs will shape every stage of the work.

This project will develop a scalable, inclusive model for citizen science, deepen public engagement with rivers, and create lasting pathways into environmental volunteering; helping to make river conservation more representative, trusted, and future-facing.