Listen Up!
Use of Podcasts in Environmental Education

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Background
In the age of climate change it is necessary to continually innovate pedagogical practices in order to educate most effectively.
The podcast is an example of an emergent method of education, with 22% of Americans now listening to podcasts on a weekly basis (Celaya, 2019).

Research Question
What are opportunities and challenges of using podcasts as a medium for education and outreach about sustainability and the environment?

Internship
Interned at the UW Bothell Sustainability Office where I created a podcast miniseries: “Sustainable Living” focusing on sustainable personal choices.

Sustainable Living
@Common Caws for Sustainability

Ep 1: Sustainable Living Intro
Ep 2: Sustainable Apparel
Ep 3: Secondhand Shopping
Ep 4: Household Waste
Ep 5: E-Waste
Ep 6: Food Waste & Composting
Ep 7: Eating Sustainably
Ep 8: Water & Electricity
Ep 9: Transportation
Ep 10: Outdoor Recreation
Ep 11: Campus Involvement/Activism

Figure 1: Common Caws for Sustainability Podcast logo designed by Sarah Blechner

Methods
Research consisted of interviews with environmental podcast creators and a literature review on the subject.
Creating the podcast in my internship also gave me valuable insight towards my thesis.

Results
Podcast use in environmental education is effective as a platform to educate by in classrooms (Vatovec, 2009, Mohammad 2015, Nielson, 2018).
Podcast production itself can be used as tool for education (Besser 2021).
This finding is confirmed by my personal experience creating an environmental podcast.
Challenges with using podcasts for environmental education include podcasts not accommodating different learning styles and podcasts lacking visuals aids.

Figure 3: Data taken from Vatovec (2009)

Implications
If people are given effective and accessible environmental education they will have greater levels of environmental stewardship and will create a more sustainable society.

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