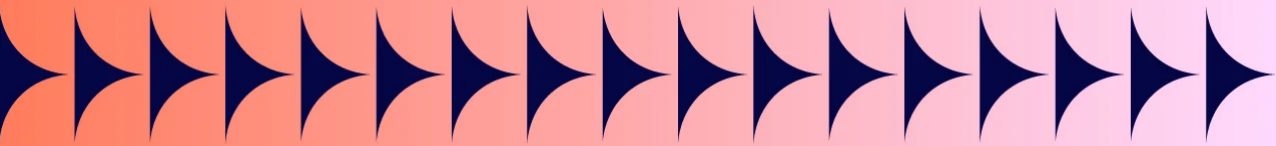


Welcome to this bite-sized edition of the Sustainability Newsletter.

April 2026



We hope it provides an easy-to-read overview of sustainability activities across the OU. If you'd like to dive deeper into any topic, just click the links within each story.

Sustainability Spotlight

April marks Earth Month – a time to raise awareness of environmental challenges and explore the small, everyday actions that can collectively make a big difference. Lizzie McCauley, the Library's Digital Services Development Officer and experienced Carbon Literacy Facilitator, has brought together a [set of quick sustainability wins](#). These are **simple, practical steps that anyone can take to reduce their environmental impact**, whether at work, at home, or while studying.

News, resources & engagement opportunities

- **Two recent event recordings are now available to watch, highlighting how sustainability is being embedded across the curriculum.** One session shares updates on the [Responsible Futures accreditation](#), with Teresa Cox and colleagues from Open SU, LDS and our faculties showcasing collaborative work in teaching and operations. The second, an [SOS-UK workshop on Decolonising and Decarbonising the curriculum](#), explores climate justice and intersectionality, illustrating how education can support more inclusive climate action.
- **The OU's Student Union recently ran a Hedgehog Friendly Campus session** and organised a fundraising raffle for the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, supporting their vital work caring for sick and injured hedgehogs and advocating for their protection. Want to make a

difference too? [Click through to find out how you can help hedgehogs in simple, practical ways.](#)

- **Colleagues at The Open University in Wales helped to deliver the first-ever Pan-Wales University Hackathon**, held from 4-6 March. [The format enabled students from across the UK to take part](#), working in teams to design solutions inspired by the seven well-being goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- **Victoria Nightingale's PhD research is exploring how HR teams can support employees to raise and develop environmental ideas in the workplace**, shining a light on how organisations can better enable an effective environmental voice in people practice. [Colleagues are invited to learn more and share the research opportunity.](#)

Dates for your green diary

- As part of Earth Week, colleagues are invited to the **Milton Keynes Environmental Hustings on 23 April 2026**, hosted by MK-CAN at the Open University and chaired by Professor Stephen Peake. Representatives from the Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat and Green parties will discuss their plans for local climate and environmental action ahead of the Milton Keynes elections. The event runs 17.15-18.30 (doors from 16.45, Berrill Lecture Theatre), with informal networking afterwards. No registration is required, just arrive on the day and provide your name and email address at the door.
- **The OU in Wales is hosting a 'Social Responsibility Series'**. The series of multi-disciplinary interactive sessions will apply approaches from EDI, Sustainability and Wellbeing to address aspects of our relationship to people, planet and self. [The next session looks at 'The Value of Objects'.](#) (5 May)
- **The Inner Development Goals Transition Forum** is hosting a webinar ['Applied IDG in Education'](#). The webinar will look at what works in learning environments, based on a real university IDG course and insights from 100 interviews with IDG practitioners across the globe. (20 May).
- **EAUC events** are free for OU staff ([you can sign up here](#)). Upcoming sessions include the [Travel & Transport community of practice](#) (6 May), [Sustainability communications community of practice](#) (3 June) and the [Energy & water community of practice](#) (9 June).
- **AUDE events** are free for OU staff, with events including a tour of [Canada Water: a new sustainable district in Central London](#) (12 May) and a webinar on [the UK Net Zero Carbon Buildings Standard](#) (13 May)

Help us share your positive news

- **The Open University has signed up to work towards becoming a Fairtrade University**, marking an important step in our commitment to ethical and sustainable consumption. While we are not yet accredited, we will be developing and delivering an action plan over the coming period to meet the award criteria. Updates on progress and opportunities to get involved will be shared over the coming months, you can find out more about the [Fairtrade University Award on the SOS-UK website](#).
- The OU's 10-week, 100-hour course [Climate Change: Transforming Your Organisation for Sustainability](#) microcredential offers a practical, evidence-based introduction to climate science alongside tools and insights you can apply in your role. The next course starts **4 July 2026**, and OU staff may be eligible for a [Staff Fee Waiver](#) with senior manager approval, making this a valuable development opportunity not to miss.

Sustainability is Everyone's job

- The [Greening Education Partnership \(GEP\)](#) is a global, multi-stakeholder initiative aimed at transforming education systems to address the climate crisis and support sustainable development. The partnership mobilizes countries, civil society, youth, educators, and international organizations to align education systems with the needs of a greener, more sustainable world across four key areas: Greening schools, Greening Curriculum, Greening Teacher Training & Education Systems, and Greening Communities. **Please let the Sustainability Office know if you get involved with their events.**
- **A Sustainability Planning, Action & Reporting Kit (SPARK) [high level report is now available](#)**, bringing together a snapshot of unit's and school's sustainability goals submitted through the tool. This overview reflects high-level information captured at a specific point in time and is not intended to be a comprehensive report. The sustainability team will shortly be inviting units to 1-to-1 catch-ups to explore further sustainability actions and opportunities. For any questions in the meantime, please contact sustainability@open.ac.uk.

Get involved



Become an EAUC Member

To access resources and invites to regional meetings



How Bad Are Bananas?

Play this game at your next team away day or event



Carbon Literacy Training

Upskill, resell and make a pledge to take workplace action.



LinkedIn

Join The Open University's Sustainability LinkedIn Group.



Go Green

Join our Go Green network and workshops.



Responsible Futures

A framework to embed sustainability in the curriculum

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