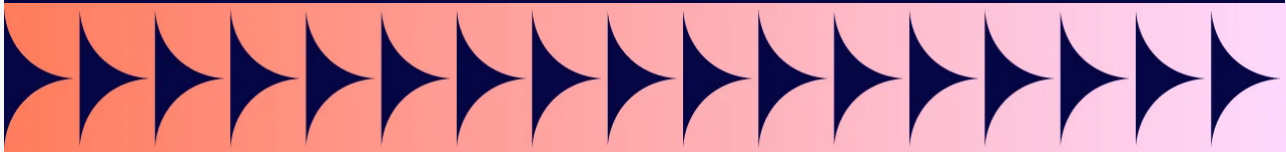




Welcome to this bite-sized edition of the Sustainability Newsletter.

July 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

Think before you prompt. AI can be a helpful tool, but every prompt has a digital footprint. Before using AI, take a moment to ask whether it is the right tool for the task, whether the answer needs AI at all, and whether your prompt can be kept focused and efficient.

Skill up with digital sustainability. OU colleagues can access [An Introduction to Digital Sustainability](#) through My Learning Centre. The Jisc course explores the environmental impact of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, before looking at positive solutions and best practice.

News, resources & engagement opportunities

- In July, The OU hosted a **Net Zero Week Event: Getting organisational buy-in for clean energy and low carbon strategy**. The discussion explored everything from supply chain collaboration and green technology adoption to employee engagement, skills development and leadership buy-in. [Watch the recording and read about the ten key takeaways here.](#)
- There is a **unique opportunity for students** to put forward project ideas and work in the sustainability space that gains visibility and network straight into Veolia business through this global competition. [Please share this with students where possible and applicable.](#)

- This year's **EAUC Annual Conference** took place in Swansea, with the Sustainability Office and OU in Wales supporting funded places for locally based OU students. Korrina and George contributed to a workshop on the Inner Development Goals, led by Dr Victoria Hands and Katy Boom, while OU PhD candidate Victoria Nightingale also joined the event. [Read on to hear what our students thought of the experience.](#)

Dates for your green diary

- Save the date: The OU is working with Cycling Citizens MK to host a **Cycling Summit on 15 October** 2026 at the OU's MK Campus. The summit will look at the future of cycling in MK and beyond. [Follow our Go Green Viva Engage page for updates.](#)
- **EAUC events** are free for OU staff. Upcoming sessions in the autumn include [Comms Community of Practice](#), [Energy and water community of practice](#) and [Biodiversity community of practice meetings](#). Colleagues can check the EAUC events and webinars page for full details and to register.
- The next **OU in Wales Social Responsibility Series session** takes place on **23 July** and will explore interdependence in nature, mutual aid and interdependence in Disability Justice movements. The Social Responsibility Series brings together themes across EDI, Sustainability and Wellbeing, using examples as a springboard to consider ways of relating, working and being in community together. Register here: [Course: OU in Wales Social Responsibility Series](#)

Help us share your positive news

- The Sustainability Office has updated the OU's sustainability policies, commitments and reports, including information on ethical banking. You can find the latest versions on the [Sustainability webpages](#).
- We also recently shared a new story [celebrating colleagues' donations to MK Food Bank](#), showing how small acts of generosity across our OU community are helping to provide practical support for local people.

Sustainability is Everyone's job

- We've just completed the 2026 **Responsible Futures Accreditation** audit this July. Results will be published towards the end of September, we would like to thank all colleagues and students who supported our work during the audit and the months leading up to it.
- The Open University 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.

Get involved



Become an EAUC Member

To access resources and invites to regional meetings

HOW BAD ARE BANANAS?

The Carbon Footprint Games

How Bad Are Bananas?

Play this game at your next team away day or event

Carbon Literacy Project



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

Responsible Futures

A framework to embed sustainability in the curriculum

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