



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

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

Cut down on unnecessary “thank you” emails to help reduce digital carbon. A simple Outlook emoji reaction can acknowledge a message just as effectively, and with a much smaller footprint. If you'd like to encourage others, you can even add a gentle note to your email signature, such as:

“No need to thank me. [Thousands of tonnes of carbon](#) a year could be saved if UK workers sent one less ‘thank you’ email a day. Please accept my thank you in advance.”

News, resources & engagement opportunities

- Educators worldwide can sign up now until 31 March 2026 to [join the SDG Teach In](#), an annual campaign encouraging teachers and trainers to embed the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals into their learning activities.
- [New report from EAUC on the state of the sector](#) - The State of the Sector 2025 research provides the clearest, most up-to-date picture of sustainability across further and higher education in the UK and Ireland. Based on responses from over 120 institutions, it shows how sustainability is now embedded in strategies and expectations.
- The Association for Quality Economics is a student membership body emerging in 2026 following a collaboration between three Universities (OU, Southampton and Edinburgh) with Students Organising for Sustainability (a spin out from the NUS) and the Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges (the umbrella body for FE/HE sustainability).

There will be a formal launch at the Houses of Parliament on 21 April 2026.
[To learn more visit PSRB and the climate emergency.](#)

Dates for your green diary

- [Join Butterfly Conservation at the Milton Keynes campus](#) on Saturday, 7 March, 2026, 10:15am–1:00pm, for a hands-on introduction to UKBMS butterfly survey methods. Perfect for beginners and experienced recorders alike, this session will help build confidence, answer questions, and connect you with fellow enthusiasts.
- AUDE events are free for OU staff, with several climate-focused sessions coming up. Highlights include [Climate Adaptation across Glasgow City Region \(23 March\)](#), [Climate Adaptation Planning at the University of Nottingham \(24 March\)](#), [Climate Resilient Development at Oxford Brookes \(25 March\)](#), and [Responding to the Climate and Biodiversity Crisis \(1 April\)](#).
- [EAUC events](#) are free for OU staff ([you can sign up here](#)). Upcoming sessions include the [Biodiversity Community of Practice \(9 March\)](#), the [Ireland Branch Meeting \(11 March\)](#), the [Future of Tertiary Education in Wales workshop \(12 March\)](#), and the [EAUC Scotland Conference \(31 March\)](#).
- [Designing Circular Food Supply Chains: Upcycling Food Loss and Waste into Sustainable Feed](#) - Wednesday, 6 May, 14:00–15:00. A concise introduction to circular-economy approaches that transform food loss and waste into valuable resources. Ideal for anyone interested in sustainable food systems and exploring new ways to retain value in the supply chain.

Help us share your positive news

- New Sustainability learning materials are now available on My Learning Centre for [Sustainability](#) including a new Course: [An introduction to digital sustainability](#).

Sustainability is Everyone's job

- EAUC are developing new guidance on AI and sustainability and are looking for contributors from across the sector. [If you have insights or examples of best practice to share, you can get involved here.](#)
- [The UK and Ireland Green Gown Awards](#) return this year, with applications set to open on 14 April. Start thinking about the projects and initiatives you might want to put forward and share it with us: 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

The Open University is incorporated by Royal Charter (RC 000391), an exempt charity in England & Wales and a charity registered in Scotland (SC 038302). The Open University is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).



Walton Hall, Milton Keynes
MK7 6AA, UK
01908 274066
open.ac.uk

You received this email because you are subscribed to receive updates from the Sustainability Office.

[Unsubscribe](#)