



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

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.

News, resources & engagement opportunities

- **Biodiversity tours** will resume in April 2026, offering staff and students the chance to explore campus habitats and learn more about local wildlife. Tours last approximately 1.5–2 hours. To express interest and request a booking, [complete this form](#).
- **The UCISA** is inviting colleagues to share their experience of sustainability within their organisation. Your input will help build a clearer picture of progress across the sector. Please [complete the Digital Sustainability in HE – 2026 survey](#) to take part. Survey findings will be shared at the virtual conference on Thursday 4 June, and you can book your place via [the SU:26 event page](#). (The OU is an institutional member, so you can create an account with your OU email address, log out, then log in again to register).

- Sustainability learning resources are now available to book [via My Learning Center](#), reinforcing that sustainability is everyone's responsibility. Staff can access a range of development opportunities, including **Carbon Literacy Training (upcoming dates: 29 April, 27 May, 24 June and 29 July)**, digital sustainability courses and resources, and the OpenLearn Sustainability Hub.

Dates for your green diary

- Join us for the next [Go Green event: Waste Management: Simpler Recycling](#), on Wednesday 22 April 2026 at 11.30 where we will be joined by the OU's Catering and Cleaning Contracts team to discuss more about the OU's waste policies. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the new rules for simpler recycling that are now being implemented and how this affects you.
- We're pleased to confirm that the [Estates Showcase](#) is back and will take place on the MK Campus on Wednesday 20 May 2026, from 10:00 to 14:00. Staff are welcome to drop in at any point during the event to explore the showcase and find out more about Estates activities.
- [EAUC](#) events are free for OU staff ([you can sign up here](#)). Upcoming sessions include the [Waste Community of Practice \(21 April\)](#) and the [Education for Sustainable Development Community of Practice \(21 April\)](#).
- AUDE events are free for OU staff, with the [AUDE Annual Conference 2026](#) taking place from 20–23 April. This year's conference theme, "Industrious and Wise," will inspire and encourage members to reflect on the topical and critical issues facing the sector and the wider world.

Help us share your positive news

- Veganuary 2026 has now concluded at The Open University, seeing strong engagement from across the community. You can find out more about the uptake, discover how colleagues took part, and watch recordings of the sessions [via the sustainability website](#). To keep the momentum going, staff are also invited to join the [Plant-Powered People Viva Engage community](#) to continue learning, share experiences and discover ways to support more sustainable food choices.

Sustainability is Everyone's job

- [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

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