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

October 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

More than 350 colleagues, students, charities, schools and tenants attended The Open University's first Surplus Stationery Event in September, helping to give thousands of unwanted stationery and office supplies a new home rather than sending them to waste.

- **To support future reuse,** Estates maintains a list of charities and schools that can benefit from surplus items. **If you have relevant contacts, email gogreen@open.ac.uk** to add them to the mailing list.
- You could also **run a mini stationery swap in your own unit or area**.
- And **before ordering new supplies, check what's already available** and only order what you genuinely need.

Small changes like these can reduce waste, save money and make better use of the resources we already have. Read the full story.

News, resources & engagement opportunities

- **A new partnership launched to strengthen climate action in Milton Keynes**. The Milton Keynes City Climate Partnership will bring together public, private and voluntary sector organisations to strengthen climate and sustainability action across the city. Established by Milton Keynes City Council, it will share expertise, develop projects and identify opportunities

for investment, with working groups focused on the economy, energy, emissions, environment and engagement.

- FASS expertise features in **two recent OU/BBC co-productions**. Buried follows Michael Sheen as he investigates claims of toxic chemical dumping in Wales, with Vicky Johnson among the OU academics contributing to the programme. Wilderness with Simon Reeve travels from Papua New Guinea to Mongolia, with Emil Dauncey serving as an academic consultant, supported by Media Fellow Trudi Macagnino.
- **New research from Siqi Liu, Dr Wei Jiang and Professor Andrew Stark, published in the Journal of Business Research,** examines how media coverage affects investor reactions to negative environmental, social and governance (ESG) stories. The study finds that greater media reach can intensify negative market reactions, particularly for businesses with weaker ESG performance in controversial industries, while stronger ESG performance can offer greater protection.
- **Paul Astles and Charlotte Bonner recently published an article in Governing Matters, exploring why sustainability should sit at the heart of effective school governance.** The article highlights how climate action plans can help schools turn ambition into practical action, and shares examples of how sustainability can be embedded across governance, school development and pupil engagement. Read the article on pages 22-23.
- **The Green Skills resource list now includes The Green Skills and Jobs Guide: Driving the Net Zero Transition. The ebook** explores the skills, jobs and careers needed to support the move to net zero, with international case studies and guidance for individuals, organisations and policymakers.

Dates for your green diary

- Join the **Go Green webinar: Ecosia and the OU – 1 year of climate impact** on Thursday **22 October at 12 -1pm** for a closer look at the impact our searches have had since we switched last October. Hear from Fred Henderson of Ecosia about their newest projects and learn about tree initiatives closer to home (whichever Nation you are in) that you can get involved with. Sign up via this form and we will send a Microsoft Teams link nearer the time.
- **EAUC events** are free for OU staff to attend (you can sign up here)

Community of practice meetings:

- Offsetting community of practice meeting, 19 October

- Waste community of practice, 3 November

- Environmental management system (EMS) meeting, 5 November

Regional meetings:

- Glasgow regional meeting, 20 October

- Edinburgh regional meeting, 21 October

- Join the Research Tuesday webinar**: Creating the 'greenest' football club in the world on Tuesday 27 October, 10 - 11am** to explore how Forest Green Rovers became a global sustainability case study. Hear from Prof Martin Kitchener (Cardiff University Business School) as he examines how environmental strategy was developed and embedded within a professional football club. Register to watch online, or complete this form if you'd like to attend in person in Milton Keynes.

Help us share your positive news

- **We're delighted to welcome Teresa Cox to the Sustainability Office as Senior Manager, Curriculum!** Many colleagues will already know Teresa through her leadership of the Responsible Futures working group and her key role in coordinating evidence for the University's successful accreditation. We are hugely grateful for the passion, dedication and expertise Teresa has brought to this work over the years, and we're excited that she has joined the Sustainability Office full-time from October to help drive sustainability across the curriculum and student experience.
- **Zoë Ayres, Head of Laboratory Facilities in STEM, has been named in The Analytical Scientist Top 40 Under 40,** an international list recognising the next generation of leaders in analytical science. Zoë Ayres champions sustainability, accessibility and inclusion in science, and highlights the role analytical science can play in environmental sustainability, from greener scientific methods to research into better materials for the planet.
- **New PhD student Rodolph Tanga,** supervised by Natalia Szablewska (Law School) and Aqueel Wahga (Business School), **recently presented at the European Association of Climate Law conference.** His research explores how EU climate regulation can influence environmental governance beyond the EU, using Nigeria's gas sector as a case study.
- **STEM has five laboratory areas with LEAF certification underway**. Four already have been awarded bronze, with another undergoing the audit process. One laboratory has already also achieved silver certification and applied for gold. The STEM laboratory team will continue to look at accrediting more labs, with a commitment to continuous improvement on sustainability.

Sustainability is Everyone's job

- **The Sustainability Skills Survey from SOS-UK is back for 2026**. Colleagues are encouraged to share it with students between 26 October – 15 November 2026. Institutions receiving more than 100 responses will receive a bespoke data report.
- The Digital Education for Sustainability research group presented a joint paper at the **Symposium on Education for Sustainable Development and the Core Curriculum** hosted by the University of Westminster in mid-September. If you would like to join the DES Research group, please contact Leigh-Anne Perryman or Mark Gaved.

Get involved

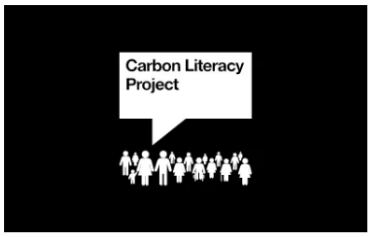
Become an EAUC Member

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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