

A MESSAGE FROM NICK BRAITHWAITE



Dear colleagues,

It has been a little while since my last sustainability [bulletin in April](#), and with this week being [Net Zero Week](#) in the UK, it seemed timely to be in touch.

Net Zero Week is an opportunity for people and organisations to think about what they can do to support the nation's net zero ambitions – something we have all been doing since sustainability became a strategic goal for the University.

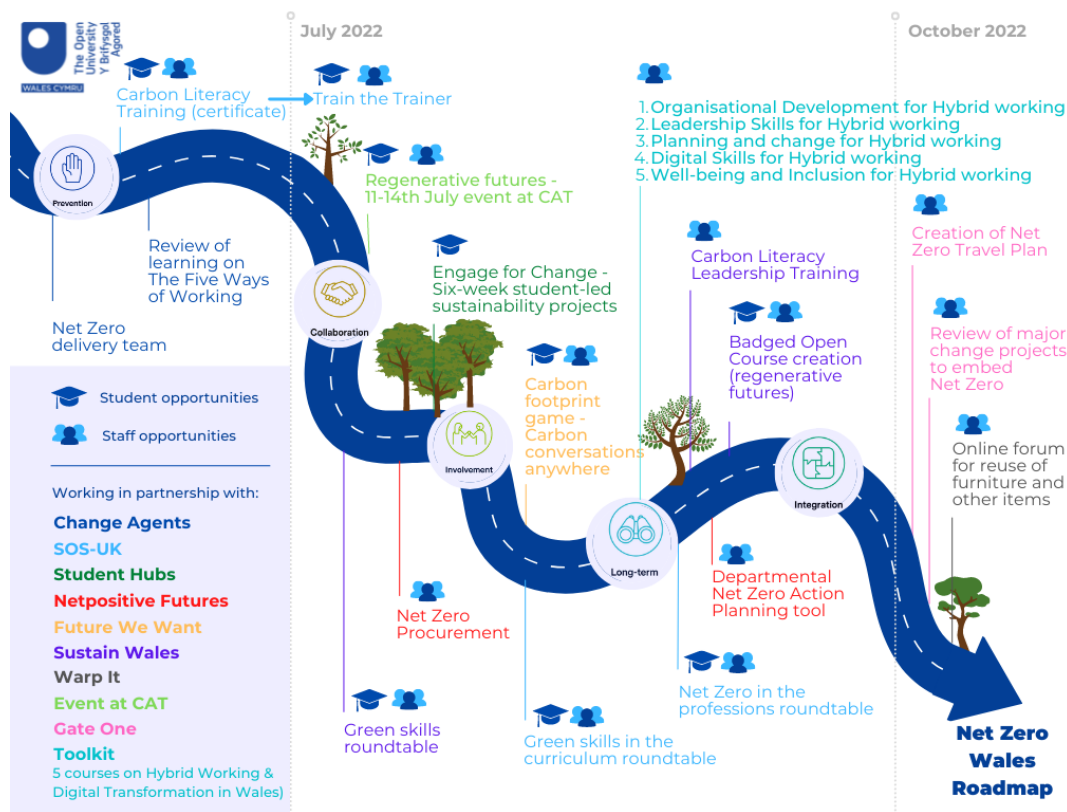


I am pleased to announce that Dr Victoria Hands has been formally appointed as Director of Sustainability, following an extended period covering this role as a consultant. Victoria's expertise has been crucial in raising our game in Sustainability for the OU as Business and the OU as Educator. Victoria and I cannot deliver our Sustainability obligations and ambitions alone - Sustainability has to be part of everyone's job for us to make a big difference.

The Open University in Wales (OUiW) are working towards net zero and have secured funding from [HEFCW](#) for the academic year of 2021/2022. This funding will support the transition to Net Zero and Digital Transformation, including student-facing activity.

This OUiW project enables activities in Wales that will blaze a trail and benefit the wider OU, following successful roll out locally. This unique opportunity allows us to offer tailored training on net zero knowledge, skills, and behaviours and to generate collaborative action plans in line with the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act](#), and in accordance with the sustainable development principle and the [Five Ways of Working](#) (long-term, prevention, involvement, collaboration, and integration).

Our roadmap to Net Zero in Wales (below) sets out a series of engagement activities and tailored resources that will enable OUiW to adopt more sustainable, inclusive, accessible, and healthier practices for students and staff. Opportunities to upskill and engage with learning resources are listed below and include opportunities for both our students and our staff.



We are extremely keen for interested colleagues anywhere in the OU to be involved in this project and there are a range of ways you can get involved in:

Net Zero and Regenerative Futures event, 11-14 July 2022 (Online and in person at the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT), Machynlleth, Wales)

This is a four-day eco-sabbatical to listen, collaborate and co-create opportunities for integrating regenerative and carbon positive skills into key sectors. We're inviting sustainability pioneers, practitioners and people with sustainability and net zero responsibilities in their workplaces to share their perspectives, listen, discuss and experience time in nature together in a series of conversations.

You can join some of the discussions through live streaming, or receive the recorded sessions via email at a later date by [registering here](#).

Carbon Literacy Training

Carbon Literacy training is designed to support understanding knowledge of decarbonisation. You'll be joining over 32,000 people who have been certified as Carbon Literate by the Carbon Literacy Project.

Students Organising for Sustainability UK (SOS-UK) is an approved trainer and is working with the OU to deliver this pilot. The course is a total of eight hours of online learning, comprising of four hours of self-study activity, four hours of interactive training, and a final evidence task that leads to Carbon Literacy certification.

We run the course twice a week on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday afternoons. Other days can be made available for groups upon request including Saturday afternoons. [Sign up for Carbon Literacy Training here](#).

More opportunities

For more opportunities to get involved in working towards net zero including a Net Zero Professions roundtable; Creation of a Net Zero Travel plan; Net Zero Procurement activity; development of a Departmental Sustainability Action Planning Tool and implementing a furniture re-use tool, please visit the [Working Towards Net Zero intranet page](#).

It is continually encouraging to hear of great sustainability-related work and projects going on around the University and this demonstrates how we can all get involved to make a difference.

With optimism,

Nick

Prof. Nick Braithwaite

Executive Dean, STEM Faculty and VCE Sponsor for Sustainability

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