

A MESSAGE FROM NICK BRAITHWAITE



Dear Colleagues,

I have been delighted to see the responses come into the sustainability inbox and Open Account e-form since my last bulletin (9 June).

So far, we have received over fifty responses about 'who is doing what' in relation to the [17](#)

[UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), which is helping us to understand the breadth of sustainability work happening across the OU. If you haven't yet let us know about your current or future sustainability projects, please do so via the [e-form](#). We are particularly keen to hear about any activities relating to COP26 – the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties, taking place in Glasgow later this year (1-12 November) and once again encourage academic colleagues to join the [COP26 Universities Network](#) and participate in their work.



OU Open Account - SDG articles

Last week, we began a series of OU Life articles highlighting some of the wealth of information we have captured about OU work related to the SDGs from the Open Account e-form. We kicked off the series with an SDG that is paramount to our University mission, [SDG4: Quality Education](#), and continue this week with the equally important [SDG13: Climate Action](#). This series will run for a further 15 weeks leading up to COP26, so, please do read the series to find out more about our impact, about each of the SDGs and how you can take action within your own role.

OU courses

In addition to the range of OU sustainability related core curriculum courses we want to map, we are delighted that three new microcredentials in environment and sustainability are being developed for our FutureLearn platform. These are 'Tackling the Climate Crisis: Innovation from Cuba', 'Climate Change and the Polar Regions: Tools for the Climate Crisis', and 'Climate Change: Transforming your Organisation for Sustainability'. These courses are being designed to enable the learners to take action and aim to inspire and equip learners with the skills to be able to make positive long-term change. The first presentation is scheduled for this autumn, aligning with COP26. If you have ideas for sharing knowledge on sustainability, then please do be in touch.

New ways of working

As we begin to think about the autumn, and our new ways of working, we'll be exploring together how sustainability can inform our daily actions, be embedded in our roles and influence our decision-making. Ann Marie Davenport, New Ways of Working Programme, says "Sustainability can be woven through all that we do. So, as we rethink how we want to work as an organisation, we have the opportunity to embed sustainable working practices, whether this is thinking about our carbon impact via building use and office design, or the technology we utilise, or how we commute, or the materials we use each day and how we dispose of them. It especially includes taking care of our own well-being and that of our colleagues within our wider eco-system."

It is with the desire for positive change, and by encouraging effective collaboration and co-creation across the University, that we will ensure that sustainability is a thread running through all that we do. Please do remember you can get in touch via sustainability@open.ac.uk to share your thoughts and ideas.

With continued optimism,

Nick

Prof. Nick Braithwaite

Executive Dean, STEM Faculty and VCE Sponsor for Sustainability

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