

A MESSAGE FROM NICK BRAITHWAITE



Dear Colleagues,

As you will no doubt be aware COP26 is in its second week in Glasgow. I therefore thought it would be worthwhile to make this edition of our sustainability bulletin a 'COP26 special'. I hope you enjoy reading about our involvement and satellite activities related to the summit.



Green zone event

On the 7th of November, we held a 90-minute event, 'Ancient Knowledge and Modern Thinking: Climate Perspectives in Folk Art', in the Glasgow Science Centre in collaboration with Glasgow Life. We sent a panel of OU contributors who explored the connections between culture, citizens, and climate by examining three works of art from Glasgow Museums' World Cultures collection and three Citizen Science tools developed by researchers at The Open University.



The team involved in the Green Zone presentation (Janice Ansine, Advait Siddharthan, Mark Brandon from STEM and Carol Brown-Leonardi from FASS) put on a fabulous performance. It was an engaging show from start to finish: authoritative because they clearly knew what they were talking about, and totally captivating because their passion for communication shone through. The session included a Q&A with 100 local and 650 remote participants.

(And backstage, a number of colleagues from OUIS and the OU Sustainability coordination team did a great job in getting the event into the programme and ready.)

You can [watch the recording here](#) and try out the Citizen science tools for yourself using the links below.

X-Polli:Nation - <https://xpollination.org/>

iSpot - <https://www.ispotnature.org/>

Treezilla - <https://treezilla.org/>

COP26 Observers

Professor Stephen Peake heads up [our delegation of nine OU official COP26 observers](#) (week one delegates pictured right) who are attending to represent the OU and feedback on their experiences. We were keen to select observers from across the institution with different skills, roles, and perspectives. Each observer will be working with MarComms to produce different outputs which will be shared as appropriate with colleagues and our wider audience so please do keep an eye out for these over the coming weeks.



If you want to get a snapshot of their time at COP26, check out our [COP26 diary](#). For real-time updates of their time at COP26 (including celebrity speeches on climate), make sure you are following the OU's Social media accounts below.



Internal Satellite events

Go Green have been supporting our COP26 offering with a range of engaging sessions open to all staff. You can now catch up on my [discussion with the COP26 Green Zone speakers](#) and we have more internal events upcoming including:

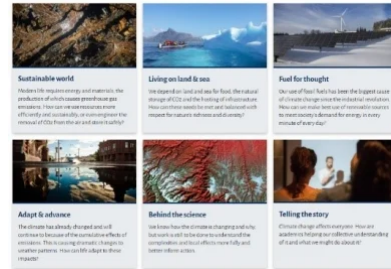


- [‘A Welsh view of COP26’](#) on Nov 12 at 2 – 3pm. Join us to hear the thoughts of an OU COP26 observer and see how the ideas and themes from the conference are relevant to Wales in terms of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. This session is open to all staff at the OU – either those based in Wales, or who have an interest in learning more about the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- [‘What happened at COP26?’](#) (1) on Wed 17 November at 12.30-1.30pm. Join us to hear about our official COP26 Observers time at COP26 and ask them any questions you have.
- [‘What happened at COP26?’](#) (2) on Tues 30 November at 12-1pm. Following on from the above event, we are joined by more of our official COP26 Observers to discuss their time at COP26 with colleagues.

Innovation Showcase

Two teams from the OU have been selected for inclusion in the #COP26Universities Network Innovation Showcase, led by Strathclyde University. The pieces selected are [AeroSolar Dek House and Building System](#) by Derek Taylor and [Beauty and Utility](#) by the Floodplain Meadows team.

Find out how these and other academics and partners, across the UK and beyond, are informing action and aiding adaptation to our changing climate by viewing the full [online exhibition](#).



OU and BBC 'The Green Planet' Pre-Screening

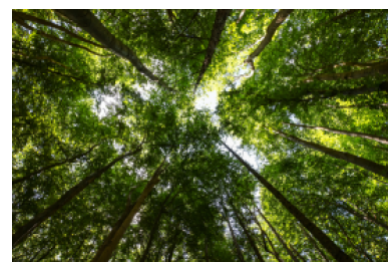
One of the episodes of the new OU/BBC co-production The Green Planet was given an early preview at a special screening for COP26 on 31st October. In this five part landmark series, Sir David Attenborough travels from the rainforests of the tropics to the wilderness of the frozen north exploring ways in which plants have learnt to survive and thrive in almost every environment. The series has taken three years to produce and the OU academic consultants are Prof. David Gowing, Dr. Yoseph Araya and Dr. Julia Cooke. Subject to confirmation you can see The Green Planet for yourself on BBC One and iPlayer in early January 2022 when you can also order a copy of one of our hugely popular OU posters produced to support the series.



Green Planet Poster: Image Credit - Paul Williams/Getty Images/BBC Studios

Sustainability Webpage

We are dedicated to creating and sharing knowledge and learning, to realise social and environmental justice. To support our work, we have created a new [sustainability webpage](#) as a hub to signpost visitors to all our sustainability activity. This includes: news stories, sustainability-related qualifications and free courses, research, partnerships and engagement, and our own business commitments on sustainability. These pages will to be developed with relevant content from across the institution. If you would like us to signpost your content, please get in touch.



COP26 Hub on OpenLearn

In support of activities around COP26, the [COP26 Hub on OpenLearn](#) features existing free courses and a series of articles written by people from across the OU community sharing their different perspectives on climate change.



COP26 Universities Network Experts Database

In support of activities around COP26, the [COP26 Hub on OpenLearn](#) launched on the 20th September. The Hub, led by Derek Goldman from the OU in Scotland and supported by Andy Lane from Engineering and Innovation, STEM, features existing free courses as well as a series of articles written by people from across the OU community over the next 6 months.



The OU is also a member of [EAUC](#). With over 200 universities, colleges and learning and skills organisations as members, EAUC is leading the way in bringing sustainability to the business management and curriculum of institutions across the UK and Ireland, and further afield. As a colleague of the OU you can sign up to EAUC and access the benefits including networking, knowledge exchange and guidance.

It has been fantastic to see the wealth of support, expertise and materials from across the University come together to support our COP26 activities. I am deeply encouraged by this effort as we develop our sustainability strategy and work together for climate safety.

With continued optimism,

Nick

Prof. Nick Braithwaite

Executive Dean, STEM Faculty and VCE Sponsor for Sustainability

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