

A MESSAGE FROM NICK BRAITHWAITE



Dear Colleagues,

I have recently been tending to my sunflower seedlings (pictured right) and thinking about the growth process ahead of them. They are currently in their infancy – just centimetres tall – small shoots and leaves appearing from the soil. However, they will no doubt grow and flourish into beautiful, striking flowers, benefiting the environment around them and warming the hearts of all who see them flourish. This reminds me of the OU and our sustainability mission. We too are currently seedlings, taking the first steps towards fulfilling our sustainability ambitions, and the flowers of our successes will set seeds for the generations that follow.



Carbon Literacy Training

We often say sustainability is everyone's job. To support colleagues to understand the carbon costs and climate impacts of everyday activities, we are inviting colleagues to sign up for Climate Literacy Training.

The training provides participants with the knowledge and motivation to make a positive shift and catalyse action to reduce emissions and environmental impact on an individual, team and organisational basis. You will also receive a certificate once you complete the training.

If you are interested in taking part, please let the Sustainability Team know using [this short form](#). Please note, you must have your line managers approval to undertake the training (email evidence required), however, I strongly encourage line managers to afford staff this training opportunity as it will support your team, unit, and the University's sustainability ambitions.

Additionally, now that unit plans have been submitted, colleagues that would like to discuss environmental impacts and aspects training (to understand which areas of work within your team/unit have an environmental impact) can [email the Sustainability Team](#) requesting a meeting.

Climate Ambassadors Scheme

STEM Learning and the University of Reading are working together to launch [Climate Ambassadors](#). This will enable anyone working on climate-related issues to devote a small fraction of their time each year to help in sharing knowledge and understanding.

I am pleased that we are supporting this project and I encourage you consider becoming a Climate Ambassador.

You might help in a range of ways, from working with your local schools to reduce their carbon footprint to delivering CPD for teachers on climate change. There are thousands of schools and colleges across the UK that need our help. You can join our Climate Ambassador team by completing [this 2-minute form](#).

Proactive solutions

As we continue our work on our sustainability ambitions, the Sustainability Team welcomes suggestions of proactive solutions from colleagues. We need to ensure we are working top-down, bottom-up and middle-out, in a coordinated and supported approach. If you would like to make a proactive solution suggestion that you can support us with or know of any best practice we can apply, [tell us here](#).

Couch to Carbon Zero

I recently came across the 'Couch to Carbon Zero' campaign which is a ten-day sprint challenge launching on 25 April. Once signed up, you will receive a daily video (just a few minutes long) into your inbox that will inform and empower you to make a positive change in the everyday choices you make that make a big difference. Sign up via [Couch to Carbon Zero website](#) to join the challenge.

I hope you all have a peaceful and restful long weekend... and if it involves any chocolate, you will maybe make a note to look into the sustainability backstory.

With optimism,

Nick

Prof. Nick Braithwaite

Executive Dean, STEM Faculty and VCE Sponsor for Sustainability

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