

Carbon Literacy Training : the first year, in summary

Across the 2021-22 academic year, groups of staff and students have been engaging with Carbon Literacy Taster Workshops and certified Carbon Literacy Training through the Academy for Sustainable Futures.



Image: A group of international students in the Wellbeing Garden, following their Carbon Literacy Taster Workshop.

A few participants from the initial pilot of the full Carbon Literacy Training (CLT) process in the spring of 2021 and the first training cycle of the new academic year were keen to be developed as trainers themselves. As a result, a dedicated team of three staff and two students have been delivering the CLT course developed by the Carbon Literacy Project to Christ Church staff and students since autumn '21.

Early on, an additional need for a shorter, introductory workshop was identified and this was swiftly developed and rolled out to increase reach and accessibility, and to drive interest and engagement in the full training programme.

20+

students and staff certified by May 2022 with more imminent

120+

staff and students engaged so far with many more signed up

32,000+

people certified across 15 nations by the Carbon Literacy Trust

“A very good session, I learnt a lot and found it very interesting. Was delivered well and very interactive.”

— Christ Church student participant

“I found this incredibly helpful. Especially learning about CO₂e as I wasn't aware of that. Also found it helpful to figure out my carbon footprint.” — Christ Church staff participant.

The University's Sustainability Framework and strategy document 'Our Response to the Climate Emergency' identifies that one of our key responsibilities with respect to sustainability and climate change is as an educator. As such, our ultimate aim is to be an enabler of change and to develop the next generation of evidence-informed climate advocates.

The training, initially developed by Manchester Metropolitan University, consists of five modules run over eight hours of face-to-face sessions, with additional pre-reading and independent work. Successful completion of the course, including the submission of a short written piece outlining personal and professional commitments to change, results in certification for the participants as 'carbon literate' which the Carbon Literacy Trust defines as having “an awareness of the carbon dioxide costs and impacts of everyday activities, and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions, on an individual, community and organisational basis.”

The ambition for 2022 and beyond is to train additional staff and students across Christ Church to deliver introductory workshops and the full Carbon Literacy Training course, to their peers. In the longer term, staff from The Academy for Sustainable Futures will move away from delivering the training to facilitating its roll-out across the University, and perhaps beyond!

Find out more:

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