

Collecting evidence from across the University was a **collaborative approach** with OU staff and the Environment and Sustainability Working Group.

The Open University and Students Association were **audited by students** who volunteered two days of their time to review our collected evidence.



OU Students Association
Environment and Sustainability
Working Group

INTRODUCTION

Responsible Futures is certification of a whole institution's commitment to holistic sustainability spanning the formal and informal curriculum, applicable to both further and higher education. The Responsible Futures certification indicates the institution has an enabling environment for sustainability to thrive, rather than an endpoint.

OUR HIGH SCORES

We scored highly in many areas including...

- our high level champions committing their time to sustainability initiatives as well as future-proofing this work with the creation of a new role of Sustainability Representative on the Student Leadership Team.
- the number of staff available to support our work in these areas including ongoing input from our Digital Communications team.
- effective engagement from our working group, students, trustees and the Chief Executive in matters relating to Responsible Futures.
- sustainability is included in the induction of new staff, working group volunteers and students attending Welcome Week events.

LOOKING FORWARD

We want to thank students and staff for their invaluable inputs into our Responsible Futures Accreditation. Students and staff in the Environment and Sustainability Working Group organised and ran events, while across the Association staff are committed to our sustainability goals within our Strategy. Our Sustainability Representative, Jethro Tieman, is excited to continue the Association's work and score even higher in 2026.

OUR RESULT

We were successfully awarded Responsible Futures accreditation with a score of 233 out of a possible 355.

AUDITOR QUOTE

“ The Partnership has clearly made great strides towards attaining the Responsible Futures accreditation; it was amazing to see just how much evidence was shared with auditors and the work being done is just so interesting. I feel proud to be a student at the OU! ”

IMPROVEMENTS

Auditors and SOS-UK (Students Organising for Sustainability) provided valuable advice on where we can make a real improvement in our sustainability practices:

- we scored well on collaboration with OU departments particularly the Sustainability team and were recommended to increase collaboration on communicating sustainability information, events and opportunities on OU and Association channels.
- although commended for our focus on environmental sustainability we have been recommended to have a more holistic approach (including social and economic considerations) in our policy and in collecting student views.
- working to bring students and staff together to promote a collaborative approach to progressing issues relating to Responsible Futures.

MORE DETAILS

[Click here to read more.](#)