



PART OF **nocn** GROUP

QUALIFICATION SPECIFICATION

NOCN Level 2 Award in Sustainability

Qualification No: 610/3413/7

Operational Start Date: 06/11/2023

Version: 1.0

To know more about NOCN:

- Visit the NOCN website: www.nocn.org.uk
- Call the Customer Service Team: **0300 999 1177**

Introduction

NOCN is a market-leading awarding organisation that has been providing qualifications for a wide range of Centres, including FE colleges and training providers, for 30 years both in the UK and internationally.

We work with Centres to deliver a high quality and flexible service for learners to underpin our passionate belief in the power of education and its impact on communities and individuals.

We offer all the advantages of being with a national awarding organisation with a diverse portfolio of qualifications, alongside providing a personalised, bespoke, service to our Centres and learners.

As an accredited Leader in Diversity, we are proud of our reputation as a provider of fully accessible, trusted, and flexible qualifications.

About NOCN Group

NOCN is part of NOCN Group, a progressive educational charity whose core aims are to help learners reach their potential and organisations thrive. The group includes business units specialising in regulated UK and international qualifications, end point assessment, endorsed programmes and assured short courses, Smart job cards, assessment services, consultancy, and research.

NOCN Group shares a joint purpose to offer learners, training providers, employers, and FE Colleges a fully integrated range of learning and skills development products and services.

Information about all our courses and qualifications is available from our website:

www.nocn.org.uk/

Qualification at a Glance

Title	Size
<p>NOCN Level 2 Award in Sustainability</p>	<p>GLH – 24</p> <p>TQT – 30</p> <p>Credit - 3</p>
Purpose	Target Audience
<p>The purpose of this qualification is to equip learners with the knowledge to understand environmental challenges and the strategies and technologies used to support sustainability in various sectors.</p>	<p>This Level 2 qualification is primarily designed for learners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • aged 16-19 years • aged 19+ • who want to develop their sustainability knowledge.
Content Overview	Entry Requirements
<p>This Level 2 qualification provides learners with knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the impacts and implications of human activities. • net zero • sustainability practices and technologies. 	<p>There are no formal entry requirements for learners undertaking this qualification.</p>
Assessment	Additional Resources
<p>This qualification is assessed by a mandatory assignment comprising two interlinked components.</p> <p>The qualification is graded pass / fail.</p>	<p>Supporting resources are coming soon for this qualification on NOCN's vLearn platform.</p>

Table of Contents

Introduction	2
1. Overview of Qualification	5
1.1. Entry Requirements	6
1.2. Progression Routes	5
2. Qualification Details	6
2.1 Qualification Structure	6
2.2 Total Qualification Time (TQT)	7
2.3 Assessment and Evidence	8
2.4 Fair and Equitable Assessment	9
2.5 Learners with Particular Requirements	9
2.6 Recognised Prior Learning	9
2.7 Assessment and Evidence for the components	9
3. Centre Information	10
3.1 Required Resources for Delivering the Qualification	11
3.1.1 Tutor Requirements	11
3.1.2 Assessor Requirements	11
3.1.3 Internal Quality Assurer Requirements	11
3.1.4 Continuing Professional Development (CPD)	11
3.1.5 External Quality Assurance	11
3.2 Offering the qualification	11
4. Component Information	12

Overview of Qualification

The NOCN Level 2 Award in Sustainability qualification offers the opportunity for learners to demonstrate knowledge of sustainability and the benefits and challenges of implementing sustainability in different contexts.

The qualification will help to prepare a learner to work sustainably in their chosen industry or progress to further learning at a higher level.

This qualification is for:

- full time learners on a study programme who are looking to move into employment.
- apprentices working towards end point assessment.
- any learner who is looking to improve their knowledge of sustainability.

This qualification has been developed in response to the UK's goal of reaching NetZero by 2050 and the United Nations 17 Sustainability Goals. The content is derived from IFATE's Sustainability Framework which is used by trailblazer groups to include and embed sustainability into apprenticeship standards.

1.1. Entry Requirements

There are no formal entry requirements for learners undertaking this qualification.

Learners must be in a position to demonstrate the requirements of the qualification and have access to required assessment opportunities and relevant resources. Please refer to specific assessment requirements on individual components for more information.

Centres should undertake initial assessment activities with learners to ensure this is an appropriate qualification and they are capable of achieving the level they will be studying before enrolling them onto a programme of learning.

This qualification is available to learners aged **16** years or over.

1.2 Progression Routes

Achievement of the NOCN Level 2 Award in Sustainability confirms the learner has gained the knowledge required to:

- progress to the NOCN Level 3 Award in Sustainability in the Workplace
- progress onto further, higher level qualifications in sustainability and associated fields.
- progress to end point assessment

2. Qualification Details

2.1 Qualification Structure

The NOCN Level 2 Award in Sustainability is a **3-credit** qualification with a Total Qualification Time (TQT) of 30, including 24 Guided Learning Hours (GLH).

Learners **must** achieve all 3 credits from the mandatory component.

Mandatory Component

Unit Title	M/O	Level	Ofqual Unit Ref	Credit	GLH	Assessment
Sustainability Principles and Practices	M	2	A/650/9025	3	24	Presentation and report

2.2. Total Qualification Time (TQT)

Through consultation with users, TQT has been agreed by considering the total number of learning hours required for the average learner to achieve these qualifications.

TQT is split into two areas:

Area	Example of activities
<p>1. Guided Learning Hours (GLH):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> learning activity under the immediate guidance or supervision of a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training. includes the activity of being assessed if the assessment takes place under the immediate guidance or supervision of a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classroom-based learning supervised by a teacher Work-based learning supervised by a teacher Live webinar or telephone tutorial with a teach in real time E-learning supervised by a teacher in real time All forms of assessment which take place under the immediate guidance or supervision of an appropriate provider of training Exam time

<p>2. Other Learning Hours (OLH):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an estimate of the number of hours a learner will spend, as directed by (but not under the immediate guidance or supervision of) a lecturer, supervisor, tutor or other appropriate provider of education or training, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ preparatory work ○ self-study ○ any other form of education or training, including assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent and unsupervised research/learning • Unsupervised compilation of a portfolio of work experience • Unsupervised e-learning • Unsupervised e-assessment • Unsupervised coursework • Watching a pre-recorded podcast or webinar • Unsupervised work-based learning
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2.3. Assessment and Evidence

The qualification is a combination of externally set and internally assessed assessments.

Internal assessment activity must ensure evidence of achievement against **all** the requirements specified within each component.

Refer to the **NOCN Quality Assurance Manual** for further information on the Internal Quality Assurance process. This can be found on the NOCN website at www.nocn.org.uk

Centres must ensure that knowledge-based learning is at the correct level for the qualification.

Assessment activities must be robust in that the assessment decisions are made based on evidence, which is valid, authentic, current, sufficient, and reliable regarding the assessment taking place:

- Valid** The validity of an assessment decision is ensuring that the right thing has been assessed in the right way to deliver an accurate assessment result.
- Authentic** The assessment process must ensure that all evidence of achievement is authentic in that it has been created solely by the learner (unless otherwise required) and has not been plagiarised. If work was not authentic, it would undermine the entire the assessment process and overall qualification system.
- Current** The assessment process must ensure that the evidence used to claim qualification or unit achievement reflects current industry/qualification practice. This can be done by ensuring that the evidence is relevant at the time of the assessment as well as ensuring that the assessor has used the most-up-date assessment documentation.
- Sufficient** The Assessor must review assessment evidence to judge whether the learner has generated enough evidence at the right level to confidently cover all relevant learning outcome or assessment criteria requirements. The Assessor must also ensure their records of the assessment are complete, legible, and accurate.
- Reliable** The Assessor must ensure that they are making reliable and consistent assessment decisions across their learners and with other Assessors within the Centre. Assessment decisions must also be consistent over time

and across academic/programme cycles. This can be supported by attending standardisation activities.

External Assessment (externally set and internally assessed)

Learners will be required to complete the assessments created by NOCN for the unit. Once the learner has completed the tasks, they are to be assessed internally by appropriate Centre staff. The assessment consists of two parts, a project report followed by a presentation with follow up questions from the tutor/assessor.

The learner will have four weeks on completion of the course content to produce a short ten-minute presentation consisting of no more than ten slides (not including introduction or cover slides). The learner will present their presentation and the tutor/assessor will have 30 minutes to conduct a question-and-answer session. The learner will be asked a maximum of ten short answer questions during the session. Both the presentation and question and answer session must be recorded for quality assurance purposes.

The assessment documents are available from NOCN, and they include all information needed by the learner to complete the tasks. The assessment decisions are to be recorded on the assessment documents provided by NOCN. **The qualification is graded at Pass/Fail. The learner must achieve 49 marks (70%) across both the presentation and report to achieve a pass grade.**

2.4. Fair and Equitable Assessment

Assessment must be designed to be accessible and inclusive, and the assessment methodology must be appropriate for individual assessment, giving due consideration to any assessment requirements attached to individual components.

2.5. Learners with Particular Requirements

If you are a NOCN Recognised Centre and have learners with particular requirements, please see the **NOCN Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations Policy and Procedure** found on the NOCN website at www.nocn.org.uk

This policy gives clear guidance on the reasonable adjustments and arrangements that can be made to take account of disability or learning difficulty without compromising the assessment criteria.

The NOCN Centre Approval process requires the Centre to hold policy statements on Equal Opportunities, Diversity and Disability Discrimination, which will be reviewed by NOCN.

Please refer to the **NOCN Quality Assurance Manual** for further details.

2.6. Recognised Prior Learning

Recognising Prior Learning is an assessment process that recognises learning that has its origins in a learner's experience and/or previous formal and informal learning contexts. This includes knowledge and skills gained within school, college, university, and outside formal learning situations such as through life, employment, apprenticeships, and other work experiences.

NOCN is committed to the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and has developed a policy and procedures to inform and support Centres. This is available on the NOCN website at www.nocn.org.uk

2.7. Assessment and Evidence for the Components

Assessment materials are only available to Centres approved to deliver the qualification.

All current assessment materials are available from NOCN's vLearn platform. Existing Centres have access to vLearn, new Centres must contact their NOCN Business Development Manager. Centres must use current live assessment material, always download the most up-to-date version before a learner starts their assessment.'

Forms and guidance for gathering learner evidence against the individual assessment criteria are available for download in Word format on the NOCN website:

www.nocn.org.uk/support/nocn-support/quality-assurance/

3. Centre Information

3.1. Required Resources for Delivering the Qualification

As part of the requirement to deliver this qualification there is an expectation that staff undertaking roles as part of the delivery and assessment of the qualification have a demonstrable level of expertise.

NOCN expects that Tutors and Assessors are able to demonstrate the following competencies:

3.1.1. Tutor Requirements

- Be technically competent/subject matter experts, hold or be registered as working towards, a recognised education and training qualification, have experience of delivering training within this subject area. The minimum expectation is that the level of competence of the Tutor should be at the same level as the training that is to be delivered.

3.1.2. Assessor Requirements

- Be technically competent, have experience of carrying out assessment activities and hold, or be registered as working towards, a recognised assessing qualification. The minimum expectation is that the level of competence of the Assessor should be at the same level as the qualification being assessed.

3.1.3 Internal Quality Assurer Requirements

Each centre must have internal quality assurance policies and procedures in place to ensure that decisions made by Assessors are appropriate, consistent, fair, and transparent, and that they do not discriminate against any learner. The policies and procedures must be sufficient to secure the quality of the award, ensuring validity, reliability, and consistency.

NOCN expects that an Internal Quality Assurer is able to demonstrate the following competencies:

They should:

- Have an understanding of the subject area, have experience in carrying out internal quality assurance activities and hold, or be registered as working towards, a recognised Internal Quality Assurance qualification. The minimum expectation is that the level of competence should be at the same level as the qualification being quality assured.

NOCN supports and recognises Centres' internal quality assurance systems which support the above; any system should include standardisation and sharing of good practice.

Centre staff may undertake more than one role, e.g. tutor, assessor or internal quality assurer, but they **cannot** carry out any quality assurance on work that they have previously assessed.

Refer to the **NOCN Quality Assurance Manual** for further information on the Internal Quality Assurance process. This can be found on the NOCN website at www.nocn.org.uk

3.1.4 Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Centres are expected to support their staff, ensuring that their subject knowledge remains current and that their members of staff are up to date with regards to best practice in delivery, assessment, and quality assurance.

3.1.5 External Quality Assurance

Once recognised as a Centre, NOCN will allocate an External Quality Assurer. The External Quality Assurer will have ongoing responsibility for monitoring the Centre's compliance with the requirements of recognised Centre approval status.

The External Quality Assurer will make regular visits to all Centres. During these visits they will:

Monitor the Centre's compliance with the Centre approval criteria by reviewing course documentation, meeting managers, tutors, internal quality assurers, learners, and administrative staff.

Review the standard of the Centre's assessment and internal quality assurance practices and decisions to determine whether all assessment requirements are met to support safe and valid claims for certification.

Refer to the **NOCN Quality Assurance Manual** for further information on the External Quality Assurance process. This can be found on the NOCN website at www.nocn.org.uk

3.2. Offering the Qualification

Existing Centres

If you are already recognised to offer NOCN qualifications and would like more information about offering this qualification, please contact: business-enquiries@nocn.org.uk, alternatively use Horizon to add this qualification to your Centre.

New Centres

If you are interested in offering this qualification, but are not yet a NOCN Approved Centre and would like more information about becoming a NOCN Centre and offering this qualification please see **Become a Registered Centre** on our website <https://www.nocn.org.uk/customers/nocn-centres/> and click Become a Centre.

4. Component Information

Within the NOCN Level 2 Award in Sustainability qualification, the qualification consists of one Mandatory component. The qualification structure (**see section 2**) sets out the rules for achieving the qualification.

To achieve this qualification a learner must provide evidence of learning and achievement against all the assessment requirements within each of their chosen components.

A copy of the Mandatory component can be downloaded via the NOCN website.

- **NOCN Level 2 Award in Sustainability**



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