Net Zero and Sustainability Short Course

Introduction

NOCN is a market-leading awarding organisation that has been providing qualifications, assured short courses, various courses 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/

Course Specification

NOCN Group have produced this online Short Course to promote understanding of climate change, sustainability, Net Zero, and the role of innovation in responding to global environmental challenges. The course is designed to introduce learners to the science behind climate change, the systems that contribute to it, and the practical actions being taken across society to reduce emissions and build a more sustainable future.

The purpose of this course is to develop learners' understanding of the causes and impacts of climate change, including greenhouse gases, tipping points, ecosystem services, sustainability, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Learners will also explore the role of energy systems, including fossil fuels and renewable technologies, and consider how energy use connects to global inequality, development, and environmental responsibility.

The course also focuses on solutions and accountability. Learners will examine what Net Zero means, how carbon can be removed, and how to recognise credible climate commitments. They will consider the shared responsibilities of governments, businesses, and individuals, as well as the practical steps needed to decarbonise different sectors.

This course is intended for learners who want to build their awareness of climate change, sustainability, low-carbon technologies, and future green career opportunities. It is suitable for those interested in understanding how engineering, design, transport, construction, manufacturing, and product innovation can help reduce emissions and support the transition to a more sustainable economy.

Course Content / Objectives (examples)

Module 1: Understanding Climate Change

- Module 1 grounds learners in the science of climate change, from the greenhouse gas effect and key greenhouse gases to tipping points and the deeply unequal ways that climate impacts are felt around the world. It introduces ecosystem services, the concept of sustainability, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as a framework for understanding the intersection of people, planet, and prosperity.

Module 2: Understanding Energy

- Module 2 shifts focus to energy. Learners explore how fossil fuels formed and why dependence on them persists. How renewable and non-renewable energy systems work and how global energy use maps onto questions of inequality and development.

Module 3: Solutions and Accountability

- Module 3 moves onto the territory of solutions and accountability and unpacks what Net Zero actually means, how carbon is removed, and what credible versus flawed climate commitments look like in practice. Learners engage with the Paris Agreement, the triangle of responsibilities shared between

governments, businesses, and individuals, and the practical question of "what would it take to decarbonise?"

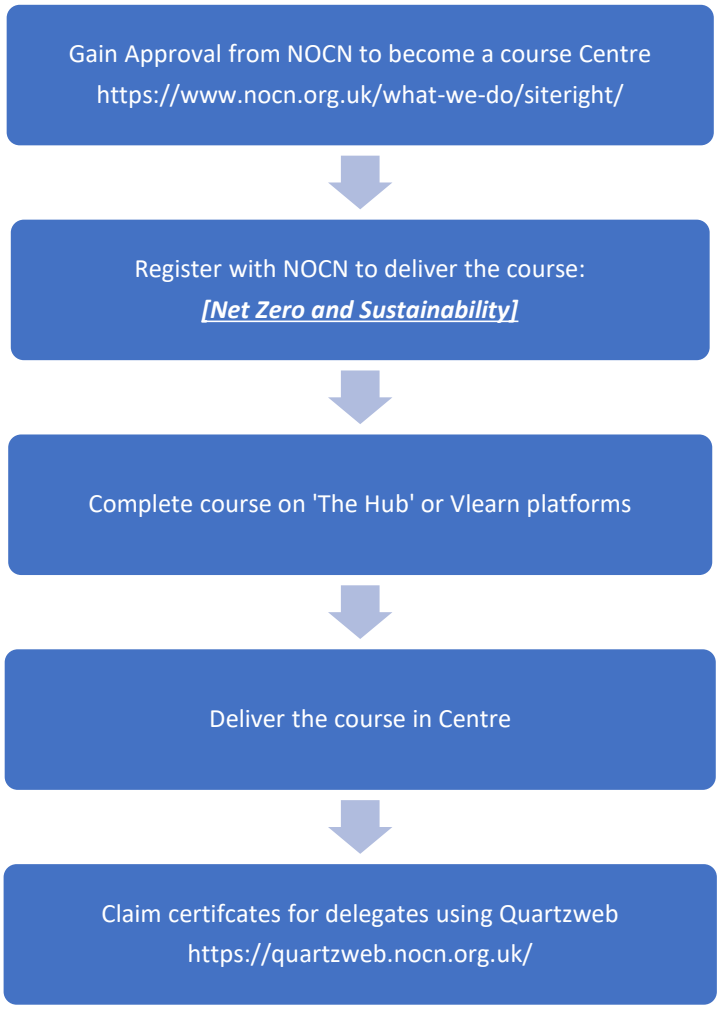
Module 4: Engineering and Design Implications

- Module 4 focuses on engineering and design as levers of change. It examines the hidden footprint of materials, manufacturing, and the principles of the circular economy, and the role that innovation in transport, construction, and product design plays in reducing emissions. It also gives an insight into the types of jobs that may be available in this area.'

Course Approval

Prior to advertising or delivering this Assured Course, organisations must first gain Centre Approval from NOCN as well as gaining approval for each individual Assured Course. For further information regarding gaining approval, please contact the NOCN Onboarding Team at onboarding@nocn.org.uk.

Approval, Readiness, Deliver and Certification Process



Trainer Requirements

This course is delivered online either on 'The Hub' or Vlearn platforms and as such there are no tutor or trainer requirements.

Resource and Equipment Requirements

In order to deliver the course, the Centre must have access to and make use of the following resources and equipment:

Requirement	Detail
Training Environment	• **Can be done in the centre or any suitable environment due to it being online**
Tools/Equipment	• **Laptop or computer with access to the internet**
Personal Protective Equipment (minimum)	• **N/A**
Delivery	• **Online self study**
Testing	• **Knowledge checks and quiz as part of the course**

Course Delivery

Approach 1: Business to Customer (B2C) Model
This course is designed to offer a flexible, online learning experience that allows learners to access training directly through our website. Learners can enrol individually and complete the course at their own pace, including the final quiz, which is delivered and marked entirely online. The course duration is generally seven hours, including time for the quiz, which tests learners' understanding of the material. Learners can access NOCN-assured training resources directly through 'The Hub' platform on our website, ensuring they have the most up-to-date materials. This approach enables any number of learners to participate simultaneously, providing convenient access to quality training resources for a broad audience. Learners can access this course without needing to be with a registered centre.

Approach 2: Business to Business (B2B) Model
This course is designed to offer a flexible, online learning experience that allows learners to access training directly through our website. Learners can enrol individually and complete the course at their own pace, including the final quiz, which is delivered and marked entirely online. The course duration is generally seven hours, including time for the quiz, which tests

learners' understanding of the material. Learners can access NOCN-assured training resources directly through the vLearn platform, ensuring they have the most up-to-date materials. This approach enables any number of learners to participate simultaneously, providing convenient access to quality training resources for a broad audience.

Assessment

There is no formal assessment for the assured course there are knowledge checks throughout and a small quiz to ensure learning took place.

Quality Assurance

The Quality Assurance requirements of Assured Course delivery can be found within the Assured Course Quality Manual, available on the NOCN website.

Progression

This course is for CPD purposes only and not entry onto further qualifications or employment.

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