



# OXFORD NET ZERO

Oxford Net Zero is a growing network and collaboration of leading researchers from across the University of Oxford, providing advice and expertise to national governments, global industry leaders and international organisations in the global race to net zero.

**PROGRAMME SUMMARY**  
**2023**



# OUR PEOPLE

## DIRECTORS

Prof Myles Allen • Prof Sam Fankhauser • Dr Steve Smith

## CO-INVESTIGATORS

Dr Aoife Brophy • Dr Ben Caldecott • Prof Tom Hale  
Prof Cameron Hepburn • Prof Mike Kendall • Dr Radhika Khosla  
Dr Javier Lezaun • Prof Michael Obersteiner • Prof Lavanya Rajamani  
Prof Ros Rickaby • Prof Nathalie Seddon • Dr Thom Wetzer

## FELLOWS AND RESEARCHERS

Dr Selam Kidane Abebe • Kaya Axelsson • Dr Conor Hickey • Camilla  
Hyslop • Stuart Jenkins • Dr Tom Kettlety • Alexis McGivern  
Dr Sara Nawaz • Dr Jessica Omukuti • Dr Aline Soterroni  
Dr Jose Maria Valenzuela • Jessica Zionts

## SENIOR ASSOCIATES

Dr Abrar Chaudhury • Prof Doyne Farmer • Dr Steve Hatfield-Dodds  
Tim Kruger • Charmian Love • Dr Nicola Ranger • Prof Juliane Reinecke  
Martyn Millwood Hargrave • Dr Gireesh Shrimali • Prof Charlotte Williams

## ASSOCIATES

Dan Barlow • Mirte Boot • Dr Emily Cox • Kate Cullen • Emily Faint  
Jimmy Jia • Francois Lafond • Eli Mitchell-Larson • Tom Maidment  
Fulvia Marotta • Dr Sugandha Srivastav • Ingrid Sundvor • Tristram Walsh

## PROGRAMME TEAM

Cath Ibbotson • George Hope • Heather Waller

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# OUR VISION

Oxford Net Zero aims to transform policies and practices at multiple scales to co-achieve net zero emissions and sustainable development.

Our translational research initiative provides an integrated view of the scientific, ecological, economic and social challenges through sustained engagement with business, civil society and national and international policymakers.

## OUR IMPACT AREAS

### INTEGRATED INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COMMUNITY

- Greater diversity in excellent net zero research
- Enhanced overall level of research excellence at Oxford, in particular on interdisciplinary topics
- Oxford and network of international partners established as a global research centre with inclusion of Global South members

### TRANSFORMATIVE RESEARCH

- Increased credible and relevant research available to inform pathways and visions of a net zero future
- Raised awareness of coverage and robustness of targets in run up to COP28 and beyond; increased understanding of international progress toward global net zero as set out in Paris Agreement
- Long-term, sustainable funding opportunities identified and realised

### POLICY, BUSINESS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ON NET ZERO

- Increased engagement with global stocktake of the Paris Agreement reflecting science of net zero
- Visibility of key climate solutions and effective net zero pathways increased across stakeholders
- Increased awareness and establishment of high quality net zero targets across sectors

## TRANSFORMATIVE RESEARCH - HIGHLIGHTS

- Created a collaborative culture of co-authorship from the beginning of the programme, as demonstrated through [‘The Oxford Principles for “Net Zero Aligned Carbon Offsetting”](#)’.
- Generated over 100 publications relating to our impact areas in 2021-22, including in Nature Climate Change, Nature Communications, and a Royal Society Policy Paper.
- Published paper in Nature Climate Change [‘The meaning of net zero and how to get it right’](#) which has been accessed over 50,000 times online, cited in policy documents and picked up by 48 news outlets.
- Published paper in year 1 on [‘National ‘fair shares’ in reducing greenhouse gas emissions within the principled framework of international environmental law’](#) which was relied upon by litigants to the European Court of Human Rights in two climate cases.

### AT A GLANCE



- Led development of the “Starting Line” criteria of procedural steps for all actors in the UN Race to Zero. Provided input to the [‘Pivot Point’](#) report from UN Climate Change High Level Champions.
- Brought together over 1,000 academics and climate policy experts in the Climate Neutrality Forum held in Berlin, Oxford and Milan to identify sensitive intervention points (SIPs) for climate neutrality. The SIPs were presented at COP26 in partnership with JPI Climate.
- Guidance cited as evidence in landmark Dutch court ruling against Shell.



## TRANSFORMATIVE RESEARCH - HIGHLIGHTS

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- Launched the [Net Zero Tracker](#) (NZT) in October 2021, in collaboration with the New Climate Institute, Data-Driven EnviroLab, and the Energy & Climate Intelligence Unit. It published Net Zero Stocktakes in [March 2021](#) and [June 2022](#). NZT has quickly become the leading global data source for quantity and quality of net zero targets for countries, cities, regions, and companies. Its data is used in high-profile situations regularly, including by the UK Prime Minister at COP27. NZT is a global citizen science project, bringing together a community of over 200 trained volunteers across three continents.
- Co-led the development of the flagship [State of Carbon Dioxide Removal](#) report, the world's first comprehensive global assessment of the current state of Carbon Dioxide Removal. Executive Director Steve Smith was coordinating lead author. The report was picked up globally in the media, including by the BBC, the Times, Reuters, AFP, Scientific America, India Today, the Daily Mail, Nature, Carbon Brief and Business Insider. Its launch event attracted 555 attendees.



## ENGAGEMENT ON NET ZERO - HIGHLIGHTS

- Engaged a wide audience at [COP26](#) in Glasgow and [COP27](#) in Sharm El Sheikh. Our team took part in at least 17 events at COP26 and 16 events at COP27, and featured extensively in international media.
- Provided input to the UNFCCC's Global Stocktake (GST) process through Prof Lavanya Rajamani, who was appointed an advisor to the co-facilitator of the technical dialogue of the GST. Prof Rajamani was lead author on the paper '[Designing a Meaningful Global Stocktake](#)'.
- Contributed technical author (Kaya Axelsson) to the ISO Workshop Agreement on [Net Zero Guidelines](#), providing guiding principles to support voluntary initiatives and standards that are based on a wide and exhaustive consensus process.

### AT A GLANCE



- Published a [mapping of Net Zero Standards and Voluntary Initiatives](#) across 33 organisations.
- Continued to develop the interactive digital platform with partners WBCSD (the Climate Drive), which was launched at COP27.
- Partnered with B Corp Climate Collective and SME Climate Hub to launch the [ONZ Tools Library](#). The Tools Library provides hundreds of free practical tools to help businesses, policy makers and organisations. Resources have been used over 33,800 times.
- Continued to contribute to the University of Oxford's Sustainability Strategy including in the development of policy on academic flying.



## ENGAGEMENT ON NET ZERO - HIGHLIGHTS

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- ONZ Fellow Jessica Omukuti was appointed to the UN High-Level Expert Group (HLEG) on Net-Zero Emissions Commitments of Non-State Entities. Recommendations for the UN Secretary General strongly featuring equity and justice launched at COP27.
- Continued to work with C2ES in the international law space, engaging and influencing heads of delegations and diplomats.
- Created inaugural Executive Education [course for public servants](#), which has enrolled over 100 learners so far from 38 countries. Played a key part in the Smith School's Executive Education programme and courses for businesses by Saïd Business School.
- Played a pivotal part of Oxford University's True Planet Campaign, awarded a Gold Circle of Excellence award for Best Communications Initiative by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.
- Continued to deliver a vibrant student internship scheme, receiving a gold standard award from the Careers Service for quality, volume and consistency of internship. Feedback indicates this provides an entry into the field of climate and has been beneficial for early stage career development.
- In 2021, hosted an online seminar series in partnership with the Oxford Martin School, [The Road to Net Zero: Climate in the Balance](#). The series, featuring our co-investigators, engaged nearly 3,000 viewers.
- In autumn/winter 2022-3, hosted a hybrid seminar series featuring and led by ONZ Fellows, which gained an audience of over 1,350 over the series. The invited speakers showcased some of the international partnerships which have been forged by our Fellows.



## REACH OUT TO US

[netzeroclimate.org](https://netzeroclimate.org)  
[netzero@ouce.ox.ac.uk](mailto:netzero@ouce.ox.ac.uk)  
[@OxfordNetZero](https://twitter.com/OxfordNetZero)

