

Net Zero Carbon Supplier Tool

One-year Action Research Project

In November 2022, following an initial [pilot](#), Nottingham Trent University (NTU) and NETpositive Futures launched a one-year Action Research Project (ARP), joining together over 30 UK higher education institutions to collaborate on a shared goal of building sustainable supply chains.

Introduction

The [Net Zero Carbon Supplier Tool](#) (Tool), developed by NTU and NETpositive Futures, helps universities to build sustainable supply chains by engaging with suppliers to understand their carbon footprint and helping them to develop carbon reduction action plans for free. Not only does the Tool allow a universal, simple way to engage with large number of suppliers on sustainability, but through the collation of supplier carbon data it allows universities to develop a robust supply chain carbon footprint, based on actual carbon data, to inform their scope 3 reporting and help them progress to net zero.

The Action Research Project (ARP)

The ARP which commenced in October 2023, brings together sustainability and procurement professionals from over 30 Universities to deploy the Tool in their own supply chains and collectively build sustainability engagement across shared supply chains and share their knowledge and experiences to shape and embed net zero into procurement activity.

The aims of the ARP are:

1. Support University Supply Chain Carbon Footprints:

Deploy the Net Zero Carbon Supplier Tool across the 32 Action Research Project partners' supply chains, obtaining robust carbon emission data to inform Scope 3 supply chain emissions reporting and building knowledge of net zero and sustainable procurement

2. Support Suppliers on Net Zero Carbon:

Increase the number of suppliers receiving a tangible benefit from the Net Zero Carbon Supplier Tool through the production of free bespoke carbon reduction plans and helping suppliers understand and tackle net zero

3. Guidance:

Develop guidance on how the Net Zero Carbon Supplier Tool can support net zero supply chains through utilising the shared knowledge of Procurement and Sustainability professionals from across higher education

4. Functionality and User Experience

Improve the Net Zero Carbon Supplier Tool's functionality and user experience for suppliers and Action Research Project partners

5. Data Driven Decisions

Investigate how the Tool data can support sustainable procurement decision-making

6. Stewardship

Share the knowledge and learnings from the Action Research Project with the higher education sector and beyond

Committed to uniting to tackle climate change, we have produced a [six-month progress report](#) and will continue to share the outputs of the Tool and lessons learnt.

For more information email admin@netpositivefutures.co.uk

Net Zero Carbon Supplier Tool

Now used by over 30 universities across the UK

