

Net-Zero Exchange – Key Achievements

[Net-Zero Exchange](#) (NZX) is a HEIF funded knowledge exchange project that began in September 2023 and ended in March 2026. The project is built upon the successful £2.6m [Low Carbon Devon project](#) (2018-2023) which supported Devon enterprises to shift to a low carbon economy through accessing research, business support, events, workshops and internships at the University of Plymouth.

Some of the Net-Zero Exchange project's key achievements include:

- **Established brand, reputation and extensive researcher/enterprise network (~3000 people)**



Established a brand with a reputation for delivering high quality professional education, events and outputs both from a funder perspective and with the large number of enterprises who have engaged with the project. The project has established a network of ~ 3000 researchers/enterprises through a social media following of 2308 [LinkedIn](#) and 690 [Instagram](#) followers. The project also established a strong and effective Steering Group, with ~20 University of Plymouth academics and ~20 external stakeholders with Net-Zero expertise.

- **Net-Zero Professional Education (614 learners in total)**

Designed, developed and delivered the following courses to 614 learners in total, therefore demonstrating a market for the following topics/subjects. These learners were mostly from businesses across Devon and Cornwall, from a range of sectors (manufacturing, defence, tourism, health, technology) and sizes (SMEs and larger employers).



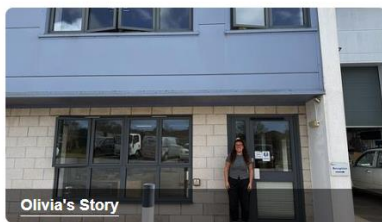
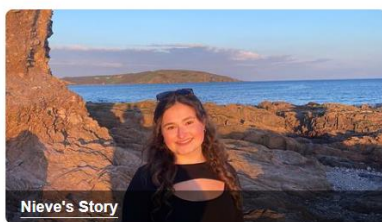
- 3-Hour Short course - [Net Zero and Climate Change – Getting Started as Individuals and Enterprises](#) (held online every quarter, 370 learners in total). Delivered on 5 occasions.
- 12-Hour Short course - [Net-Zero Action: Strategic Action Planning for Sustainable Change](#) (held in person, 33 learners in total). Delivered on 3 occasions.
- 60 Hour Short course – [Skills Bootcamp: Future Climate Leaders](#) (held in person, blended, 51 learners in total). Delivered on 4 occasions.
- 12-Hour Carbon Footprinting (held once, in person, 11 learners).
- [B Changemakers](#) (held twice, in person, 50 learners).



- 6 Hr How to Fall in Love with the Future/[Reimagining the Future](#) (held twice, in person, 38 learners).
- 6 Hour [Stand out to Customers: Elevate your Sustainability Communications](#) (held once, in person, 11 learners).
- 4 Hour [Plugging In: Connecting People to the Power of Community Renewable Energy and Community Energy in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly](#) (held twice, in person, 50 learners).



Here are a collection of case studies / testimonials from our recent [Skills Bootcamp: Future Climate Leaders](#) course:



- **Knowledge Exchange events (947 people registered)**

Held [11 knowledge exchange events](#) (with 947 people registered), on wide ranging topics, showcasing UoP academic colleagues, including product carbon foot printing, heat pumps, port carbon emissions, behaviour change, AI x sustainability and local area energy planning.



- **Net-Zero Internships (18 Student/Graduates)**

Delivered [18 student/graduate internships](#) (~3 months) on topics like carbon footprinting, Net-Zero road mapping, social media marketing and energy audits.



- **Net-Zero Research & Innovation Business Collaboration (9 Business Assists, 30+ hours)**

Held an open call ([Net-Zero Solutions Fund](#)) for enterprise research collaborations and approved 4 ongoing projects including projects on the building industry, carbon sequestration, living walls and SME Net-Zero roadmaps.



Adopting Net-Zero Solutions in the South West's Building Industry:

Bradford's Building Supplies collaborated with Dr Hanne [Knight](#), [Dr Nigel Jackson](#) and [Dr Christopher Agyapong Siaw](#)



Measuring Carbon Capture in Controlled Growing Units:

Cornish Essential Oils collaborated with Dr Paul Davey and [Dr Stuart MacVeigh](#)



Living Walls for Net Zero:

Exeter Science Centre collaborated with [Dr Thomas Murphy](#)



A Roadmap to Net Zero for Devon-based SMEs:

[Dr Stavros Karamperidis](#) and [Dr Rong Huang](#) collaborated with Nick Hurst and the Plymouth Manufacturers' Group



Also, supported 5 intensive business research collaborations (30 hr+) through two Business Research Fellows, researching natural building materials/living wall systems (supervisor [Prof Steve Goodhew](#) and [Dr Joao Alencastro](#)) and nature-based carbon offsetting (supervisor [Dr Paul Lunt](#)).

- **Net-Zero Consultancy (3 concepts developed)**

Held an open call for academic consultancy and supported three concepts 1. Imagery for Net-Zero (The Net-Zero Awareness Pack) – [Prof Jackie Andrade](#) and [Dr Jon Rhodes](#), 2. Plymouth Carbon Consultancy – [Dr Tim Daley](#) 3. Competency Day Retreats in the Sustainability Hub – [Dr Sue Langford](#).

The first has led [to the development](#) of a working agreement with board game developer Focus Games; Jackie and Jon are now being supported by [Dr David Mozley](#) in RP&I to protect the IP and generate research impact from this work, seed-funded by NZX.



- **Funding Successes (£1443k in total)**

In addition, the NZX project has successfully brought in contracts worth a total of £1.4m:

- (£573k) Higher Education Innovation Fund – [Net-Zero Exchange](#) – (the original funding)
- (£24k) Devon County Council – [Financing Net-Zero Internships](#)
 - To deliver 4 x 3-month Internships for Devon enterprises.
- (£41k) Devon County Council - [Skills Bootcamp: Future Climate Leaders \(24/25\)](#)
 - To deliver 20 learners through the 60 Hour Future Climate Leaders course

- (£200k) Cornwall Good Growth (Shared Prosperity Fund) – [The Future is Green](#)
 - To deliver 50 learners on Net-Zero specialist training (Green Skills)



- (£344k) Cornwall Good Growth (Shared Prosperity Fund) – [Entrepreneurial Futures \(Net-Zero\)](#)
 - To deliver [14 Net-Zero Internships](#), to deliver 2 knowledge exchange events and 4-6 business research collaborations



- (£46k) Devon County Council – [Skills Bootcamp: Future Climate Leaders \(25/26\)](#)
 - To deliver 22 learners through the 60 hour Future Climate Leaders course
- (£169k) Cornwall Good Growth (Shared Prosperity Fund) – [The Future is Green 2](#)
 - To deliver 40 learners on Net-Zero specialist training (Green Skills)
- (£46k) Cornwall Council – [Skills Bootcamp: Future Climate Leaders \(25/26\)](#)
 - To deliver 22 learners through the 60 hour Future Climate Leaders course.