

## UKEO Sustainability

*“We believe that we have a responsibility to act quickly, transparently, and honestly to make the changes needed for a carbon-free and truly sustainable future. Our sector already does truly remarkable things in space that have a huge impact to life on Earth. By coming together as an industry, we can successfully catalyse a net zero space sector, and a sector which provides data and solutions for every other industry to use for their own journeys.”* **Lucy Edge – Chief Operating Officer, Satellite Applications Catapult**

### The Venue

The venue for the UKEO 2022 conference, The National Space Centre, is proactively working to improve its environmental impact and is working towards a net zero goal of 2050.

The centre houses over 700 solar panels that generate 12% of the annual electricity needed to run the centre, which saves over 29 tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup> every year.

There are 20 recycling points for visitors throughout the centre and all waste produced by the centre is sorted to ensure the maximum amount of waste is being recycled.

The centre has been working to transfer sustainability into their general operations with the removal of gas appliances from the kitchen and science laboratories and looking forward with plans to install EV charging points on site for staff and visitors.

### Conference Sustainability

The UKEO 2022 conference will be paperless, meaning that we are restricting the amount of paper used and given out during the conference and we are encouraging our exhibitors to do the same.

We will also be limiting our single-use consumables throughout the conference by reusing plastic badge holders from previous conferences and encouraging our delegates to bring their own lanyards. Instead of paper name badges, we will be providing ‘seed paper’ name badges made from recycled paper, which are fully compostable and can be planted as a memento of the conference.

All food provided during the conference will be locally sourced and prepared in house. Delegates will be encouraged to bring reusable water bottles and to make use of our water refill station available throughout the conference.

### Conference Footprint

Throughout the conference, we will be tracking our conference carbon footprint, which will include everything from our electricity usage to our delegates’ travel and ‘seed paper’ name badges. We are aiming to include as much information within the carbon footprint as possible so that we can get an overall picture of conference impacts to build on in the future.

To achieve this, we are collecting data before and during the conference to feed into our calculation. Delegates are asked to fill in a [travel survey](#) before attending the conference to allow us to factor our business travel - which is historically our largest emission source - into the conference footprint.

The ongoing conference footprint will be tracked and showcased throughout the day to highlight the times of day that the footprint increases, and the activities related to them, to create environmental talking points for delegates.

### **Green Group**

One of the groups leading the conference sustainability drive is the National Centre for Earth Observation's (NCEO) Green Group, a collection of research scientists from across the centre who share a passion for sustainability. Throughout the conference, members of the green group will be promoting their work with a stand near the brand-new Home Planet gallery. This stand will also host the live tracker of the conference carbon footprint.

We will be encouraging delegates to visit the Green Group stand throughout the conference where they can find helpful ideas and suggestions for reducing their own impact and contribute their ideas to projects they would like to see from the Green Group in the future.

### **Home Planet Gallery**

The National Space Centre has recently unveiled a brand-new interactive gallery focussing on Earth Observation (EO) and the science of climate change. The Home Planet gallery includes research and expertise from Airbus, NCEO and NERC and will be open to delegates throughout the conference.

Read more about the Home Planet gallery [here](#) or you can check out the video below.

[The Making of the Home Planet Gallery](#)

