

Sustainable practices for digital learning - questionnaire results

Nina O'Reilly | Action Research Project

Q1a - How familiar are you with the concept of digital sustainability?



Q1b - Please share any details via the free text box.

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I should know more due to my professional role but I also feel the institution where I work provides enough resources for me to state I am extremely familiar with the concept

I feel that usually this is framed within the context of hardware and responsible procurement and disposal. It rarely seems to encompass our 'consumption' of all things digital that are more web-based therefore less tangible. Sometimes there are big numbers published e.g. how much energy AI is currently consuming but I don't see any evidence that we are changing digital practices or really have any understanding of what the social justice impact of our digital practices are.

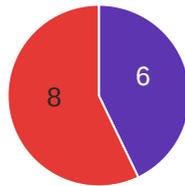
I recently attended a training on carbon literacy which covered off the impact digital emissions and prompted me to look into ways in which I can "clean up" my digital footprint.

I do have some concept of digital sustainability, but would like to have strategies to help be do more.

Q1b - Please share any details via the free text box.



Q2a - Are you aware of any guidelines or tools for reducing online carbon emissions?



● No ● Yes

Q2b - Please share any guidelines or tools you are aware of.



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General guidelines around encouraging people not to print - which does not always help those with accessibility issues btw ...

Clearing up data/cloud space e.g. emails, pages, documents etc.
Work 'offline' where possible
Ecosia search

Government Digital Sustainability Alliance (GDSA) and Defra
Mindfulness and awareness of multiple devices carbon impact
Repair and update rather than buy new and throw
Use Sharepoint point rather than email to share files
Buy second hand, recycle
Communicate only when needed
Audio calls rather than video
Delete old emails and unnecessary data
Reduce video resolution
Only important data in The Cloud

<https://www.websitecarbon.com/>

Turn off you PC when you leave the office! I think that's about it!

<https://www.wholegraindigital.com/blog/website-energy-efficiency/>

<https://www.websitecarbon.com/>

- Limiting the number of tabs you have open.
- Clearing out cloud storage regularly.

a website that explains the carbon cost of specific tasks. eg sending email

Q3a - How would you rate your confidence in sharing sustainable best practice for online learning with fellow staff, ie academics, technicians, professional staff?

Somewhat confident [36%]

Unconfident [64%]

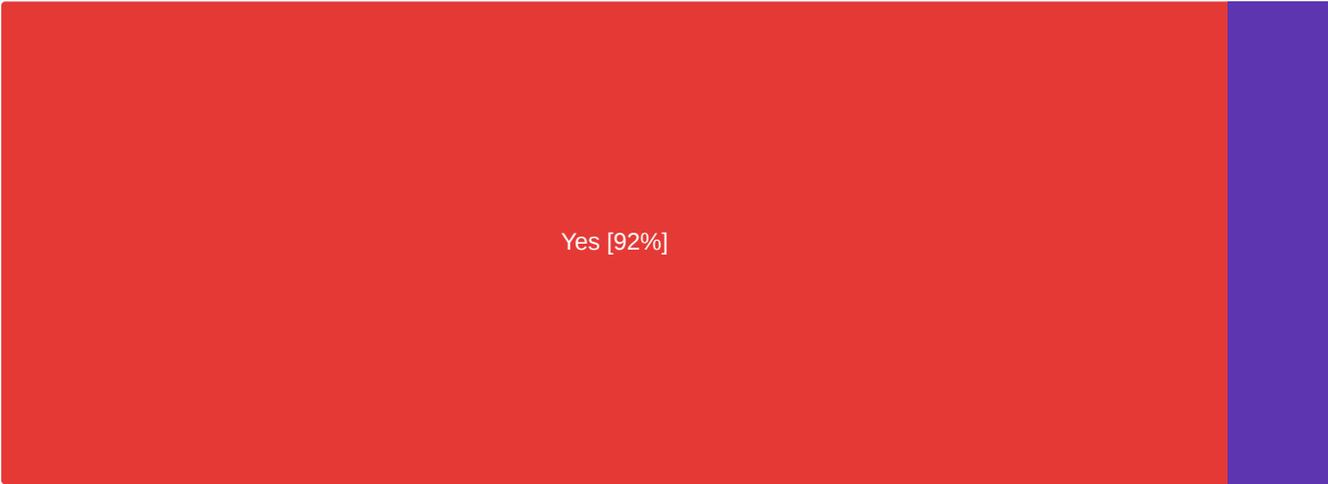
Q3b - Please share any details via the free text box.

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Industry and services are making it too easy to want 'fuller and better' resolution, access, communications

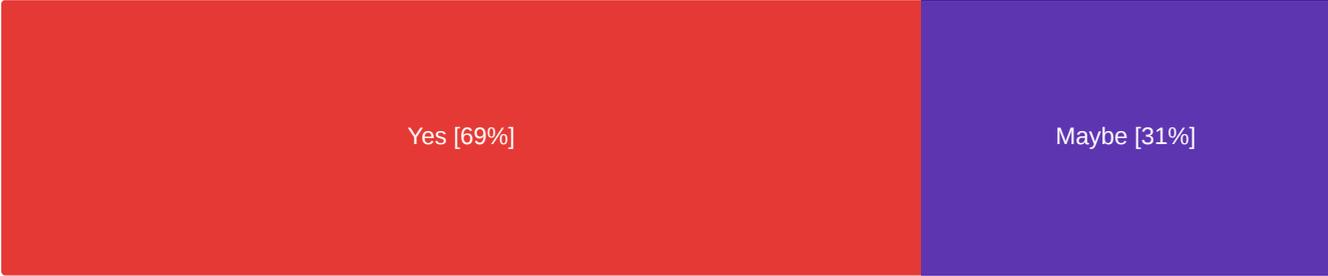
Definitely an area that we need to become more knowledgeable about.

Q4 - Would you be interested in training or guidance for best practice in reducing emissions in online course build and design?



Yes [92%]

Q5 - Would you be interested in being further involved in further projects around sustainable practice for online learning at UAL?



Yes [69%]

Maybe [31%]

Q6 - If you have comments or suggestions about this research or its topic please add them here.

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Really great initiative NIIna - I'd be really interested in seeing the results of your survey and helping you get something 'off the ground' regarding this topic...

IT at UAL should provide means to be transparent data usage across colleges, courses, and at individual level for accountability and ownership.

I think this is a really important topic that almost no-one knows enough about. It would be great to have some resources to improve our knowledge and practice.

Is there a reason as to why this is framed as Online learning, rather than digital learning practices? People delivering via a blended mode - or who would describe their teaching as face-to-face may not feel this is relevant to them, although they are probably engaging in a lot of digital teaching.

Have you spoken to the new Climate Justice coordinator person in the Exchange? Can't remember their name, but they are in the Academic Enhancement team. Might be a useful contact.

Good luck - really interested to hear more about this piece of work as it develops.

Digital & Technology group may be a good touch point if you'd like to know more around carbon footprint of our cloud hosting solutions

More guidance would be helpful

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