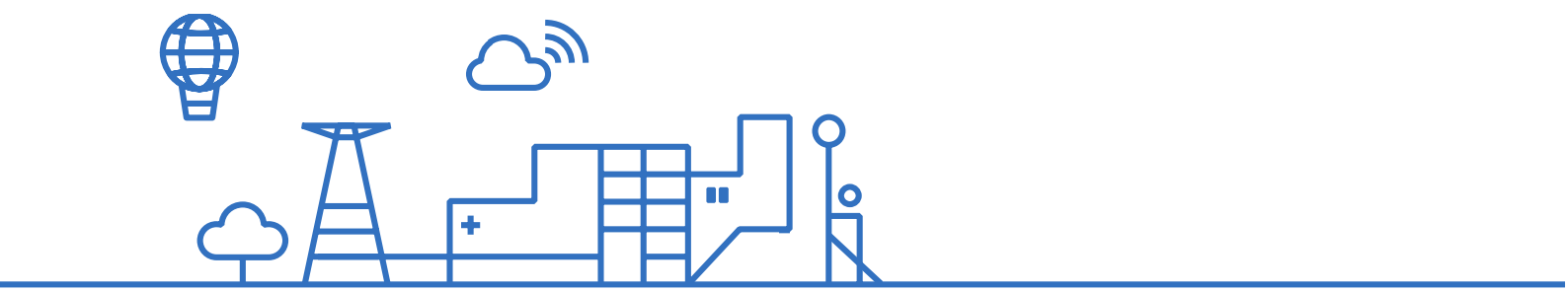
IEMA Transforming the world to sustainability

Pathways to Net Zero

Course Specification



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1. ABOUT US

IEMA is the membership body for more than 18,500 environment and sustainability professionals worldwide.

We support individuals and organisations in setting and achieving globally recognised standards for sustainable practice, in turn driving the development and uptake of sustainability skills.

We add value for our members by providing the knowledge, connections and recognition necessary to lead change within organisations at all levels.

We are independent and international. We apply the combined expertise of our members to provide evidence and influence decision-making, working towards our vision of transforming the world to sustainability.

2. BACKGROUND

The IEMA Pathways to Net Zero course gives clear, consistent guidance on best practice on response to the climate crisis, the course aims to provide supervisors and leaders with a strategic and operational overview of environmental sustainability as it affects their specific industry and work area.

3. COURSE DURATION

14 Guided Learning Hours/2 days.

4. WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

This course is ideally suited for supervisors and managers across all sectors and has no formal entry requirements; however, it is strongly preferred that the candidate is in a practising role that will allow them to deeply understand the areas explored over the duration of the course.

5. MATERIALS AND CERTIFICATION

A full range of training materials are available for this course.

This course comes with structured Learner Workbooks, a Trainer Guide and an online assessment produced by IEMA.

This course is IEMA Certified and certificates are provided by IEMA to learners who have successfully completed the course. Dual branding of certificates to include training partner logos is available as an option.

Please contact training@iema.net for further details.

6. ASSESSMENT

The assessment for IEMA Pathways to Net Zero course consists of an online 20-question multiple-choice test.

The test is completed through the IEMA assessment portal and candidates are sent a link upon registration to the assessment.

7. TRAINER REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the trainer requirements set out in the policy manual, Guide to becoming an IEMA Training Centre, trainers delivering this course must have recent relevant experience in the environmental/sustainability sector and demonstrate technical competence in this area.

8. LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Why net zero?
2. Responding to net zero
3. Greenhouse gas accounting – a primer
4. Carbon neutrality
5. Net zero methodologies
6. Developing a decarbonisation plan
7. Net zero across the value chain
8. Communicating net zero

There are eight Learning Outcomes for IEMA Pathways to Net Zero which correspond to the sections of the course:

LEARNING OUTCOME	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA (THE LEARNER CAN...)	PRESCRIBED CONTENT (THE LEARNER WILL BE FAMILIAR WITH...)
1. Why net zero?	• Explain what is net zero and related terms • Explain the urgency of the underlying climate science driving the net zero agenda • Explain the main international policy context for responding to the climate crisis • Explain the UK policy context and drivers	• Summary of scientific consensus on climate action and principal recommendations of the IPCC AR6 Climate Change 2021 report and explanation of the key greenhouse gases • Climate model predictions and scenarios including carbon budgets and reduction pathways necessary to keep warming below 1.5 globally (and the necessity for net zero) • International agreements and governance for net zero including the Paris Agreement 2015 • Differences for a net zero approach between global level, state level entities and individual actors (e.g., companies) • Introduction to outline terms including net zero, carbon neutral, climate neutral, climate positive (and negative) • Introduction to carbon offsets and carbon removals • UK context – Climate Change Act, SECR and ESOS
2. Responding to net zero	• Explain the risks and opportunities of net zero including on future business viability, reputation, supply chain vulnerabilities etc • Explain the business and environmental benefits of low-carbon goods and services • Explain the requisite corporate governance, resourcing and accountability for delivering net zero	• What makes a robust net zero claim? • An overview of supporting initiatives, standards and frameworks including Race to Zero (UNFCCC) • Race to Zero Breakthrough Initiatives (from different sectors) • Risks and opportunities across the value chain from the transition away from fossil fuels (including risks from stranded assets) • Building capacity for net zero – required governance, senior leadership – getting buy-in • Developing internal capacity for delivering net zero – role of training, internal communication, procurement, finance, IT coalitions etc

3. Greenhouse gas accounting: a primer	• Explain how to establish a greenhouse gas inventory across all three scopes • Explain the main principles of greenhouse gas accounting (including using activity data and emission factors)	• Explain different types of carbon footprint (basic overview – corporate, product/lifecycle, country-level, individual etc) • The main principles of establishing a greenhouse gas inventory and the differences between Scope 1, 2 and 3 • Greenhouse Gas Protocol corporate standard and supplementary guidance (inc. Scope 2 standard, Scope 3 Value Chain standard) and other relevant standards including ISO 14064 and other carbon accounting standards • Databases of emissions factors (Defra, ICE etc) • Be able to explain the difference between location-based and market-based carbon accounting for Scope 2 emissions and why dual disclosure is important • Basics of putting together an initial Scope 3 screening (e.g., using the Quantis Evaluator tool) • Improving Scope 3 data over-time (e.g., moving from spend based to activity-based carbon calculations)
4. Carbon neutrality	• Explain what carbon neutral means and its application for organisations, products and services	• Understanding the difference between net zero, carbon neutral • Carbon neutrality – outline methodology using PAS 2060 as a reference
5. Net zero methodologies	• Explain how to establish science-based targets (methodologies) • Explain how to establish a net zero strategy (near- and long-term targets)	• Science-based targets – calculating • Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi) and its Net Zero Standard • Carbone4 Net Zero Initiative • Sector-based methodologies

6. Developing a decarbonisation plan	• Implement a decarbonisation plan with suitable targets and milestones to deliver on a science-based target and/or net zero objective	• IEMA Pathways to Net Zero (November 2020) and the Greenhouse Gas Management Hierarchy • Developing a decarbonisation plan to deliver on net zero • Avoiding and eliminating emissions – examples and key considerations • Reducing emissions and energy management – examples and key considerations • Substituting emissions – examples and key considerations • Compensation and neutralisation – examples and key considerations including nature-based solutions. The role of carbon offsets alongside reduction strategies • Use of financial mechanisms such as internal carbon pricing • Dealing with uncertainty with longer-term targets (costing, technologies, processes) • Examples of decarbonisation strategies from different sectors including decarbonising property, transport, industrial processes etc • Purchasing renewable energy – certification requirements
7. Net zero across the value chain	• Explain how to reduce greenhouse emissions where these are influenced but not directly controlled (Scope 3)	• Collaborating with your supply chain and other partner organisations on data collection, target setting and decarbonisation. The benefits of managing this with wider sustainability risks (modern slavery, conflict/critical minerals/environmental issues etc). • Approaches for working with the value chain (e.g., CDP supply chain reporting processes)
8. Communicating net zero	• Explain how to communicate externally about responses to the climate crisis, net zero and making robust green claims	• Communicating on a net zero objective and its progress – what good practice looks like • Communicating the environmental benefits of low-carbon goods and services • Green claims fundamentals and examples and how to avoid greenwash • Relevance of net zero to reporting frameworks including CDP and TCFD

9. PROGRESSION AFTER THIS COURSE

Learners wishing to progress after this course should consider taking the following course:

IEMA Foundation Certificate in Environmental Management

CONTACT US

IEMA, The Old School House, Dartford Road, March, PE15 8AE UK
Tel: 01522 540 069
Email: training@iema.net
Web: www.iema.net/training

Thinking about quality training that focuses on environmental and sustainable solutions? IEMA provides IEMA Certified and Approved courses through our Training Centres. Whether you're looking for individual training or global business solutions, our team is on hand to help.

Visit iema.net/training
IEMA – Transforming the world to sustainability

IEMA
+44 (0)1522 540069 | info@iema.net | iema.net
IEMA, City Office Park, Tritton Road, Lincoln, LN6 7AS