The Net Zero sprint
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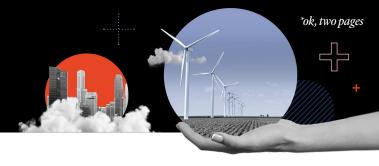
Businesses globally are adopting Net Zero emissions goals in response to changing regulatory environments. Understanding and managing carbon footprints is vital for achieving corporate social responsibility and aligning with global decarbonisation goals.

The Net Zero sprint equips you with the essential knowledge and tools to navigate the complexities of carbon accounting, reporting, and reduction strategies within your organisations. This sprint explores the fundamentals of carbon emissions, international and national regulatory frameworks, and the principles of effective emissions management.

Over four modules, you will engage with leading experts in the field, explore industry case studies, and develop practical skills. The course involves a hands-on project where you will apply your learning to devise a strategic plan for decarbonising your organisation.

Assumed knowledge

Broad knowledge of business processes and management, some understanding of business supply chains.

Time commitment

The core sprint content is self-paced, comprised of videos, additional readings, and workbook activities. We recommend setting aside between 30-60 minutes a day to work on core content.

There are three online live sessions of around 2 hours each, which are recorded. Online networking events are optional, but a great chance to meet your cohort!

+ Gain real world, industry-informed knowledge about Net Zero targets and carbon reporting.

+ Understand the importance of acting on climate change, and the value for business in reporting.

+ Develop emissions reductions strategies for your organisation.

+ Engage confidently on the topic of carbon reporting and emissions reduction inside and outside your organisation.

+ Explore different industry best practices in carbon accounting and emissions reduction.

+ Work on a decarbonisation project for you and your organisation.

+ Receive a University of Sydney badge, your personal carbon reporting credential.

Learning outcomes

01	Describe national and international goals for decarbonisation.
02	Define the greenhouse gas emissions for an organisation and list the associated sources of those emissions.
03	Identify actions that an organisation can take to reduce emissions associated with major emissions sources.
04	Prepare an emissions report and a credible strategy for decarbonising an organisation.

What is involved?

The sprint will involve three live streamed lectures (one at the beginning, one in the middle, and one to conclude the course). Online modules will be released over the course of 2 weeks. Each module will include pre-recorded video content, reading material, and a workbook containing activities that build skills in support of the final project. Each module will also include opportunities for self-paced online learning, and peer-to-peer discussion.

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Modules

Module 1
Introduction & background

In this module you'll learn about climate change and its implications for the modern world. We'll cover the basics of climate science, break down emissions into Scope 1, 2, and 3, and explain their significance for corporate environmental responsibility. This module introduces climate policies at global and national levels, and Australia's response to climate challenges. This module lays the groundwork for understanding the critical role businesses play in mitigating climate change and the importance of strategic adaptation to future-proof operations.

Module 2
Carbon reporting

This module highlights the benefits of emissions reporting for organisations. It discusses global standards for reporting and Australia's National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting scheme as key frameworks for emissions inventory. Participants will learn to identify, calculate, and manage their scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions. This knowledge equips businesses to make informed decisions about reducing their environmental impact, enhancing operational efficiency, and aligning with global sustainability goals.

Module 3
Systems and targets

How do you develop a strategic approach to managing climate risk, setting emissions reduction targets, and decarbonisation strategies? It involves integrating climate risk into governance, strategy, and risk management processes, and identifying clear metrics and ambitious targets to drive emissions reduction. The module will help participants adopt science-based targets aligned with the Paris Agreement.

Module 4
Decarbonising strategy

Now that you've identified your emissions and set targets, its time to commit to a decarbonisation strategy. But what does that involve for your business? Module 4 will help you identify effective measures for reducing your emissions, increasing your energy efficiency and preparing your organisation to achieve Net Zero.

Assessment

The final project requires participants to reflect on concepts and skills learned throughout the sprint, considering how they might be applied to real world organisations. Participants are encouraged to think about their project in relation to their own organisation or experience, but this is not mandatory.