

Network for Transformational Change: Guidance

The network will play a critical role in bringing diversity and transparency to shape the future of sustainable research computing in the UK. The Network will provide a diverse, inclusive, and safe forum for discussion of emerging challenges and opportunities and add authority to advice issued through voted recommendations. Network delegates will commit to rules of engagement to ensure open and inclusive dialogue.

The Network will provide a forum for thought leadership, providing a space for creative thinkers from across the spectrum of DRI users and managers. Network members will bring wisdom and expertise from across the academic community, DRI facilities, and external stakeholders. Through the network they will share and develop ideas to deliver the transition to net zero.

There will be drop-in sessions at for questions to the project about both the champions and the network on April 16th and 23rd at 12:00 on [Teams](#), Meeting ID: 352 590 053 033, Passcode: WX2J2pu9

Network recruitment

The Network membership must represent a broad range of expertise and experience with a target membership of 150 people. The envisaged network will be composed of nominated key stakeholders, community members recruited through an open call and invited international domain specialists. By design, the professional, organisational, academic, and geographical diversity of the UKRI DRI community, and the societal diversity, including age, gender, and ethnicity will be represented. Membership will include representation from the private sector as well as from all parts of UKRI.

Targeted recruitment activities will be used to mitigate and diversify issues after initial recruitment, with capacity building exercises if needed. In particular stakeholder mapping undertaken as part of the knowledge translation framework along with identification of existing groups and activities (e.g. industry bodies, existing UKRI DRI activities, the Wellcome Trust, and signatories of the [Concordat for the Environmental Sustainability of Research and Innovation Practice](#) and endorsers of the [Heidelberg Agreement on Environmental Sustainability in Research Funding](#)) will enable targeted calls to action and engagement strategies to be devised to involve these communities with NetDRIVE activities and represent them within the network.

Network delegate activities

Through an online discussion forum and monthly drop-in meetings, personal insights will be shared and viewpoints challenged or validated as appropriate. Discussion points will be informed by the Net Zero DRI Scoping project (Juckles et al., 2023), community activities, and emerging questions. Network members will be able to further express their views by participation in working groups, task forces and focus meetings. New partnerships and collaborations will be forged. To promote open and free discussion the Chatham House Rule will apply to all discussions and conflicts of interest clearly declared. During quarterly progress meetings existing discussions will be reviewed and formulated into key learnings and outcomes which will then be formally turned into advice and recommendations during the in-person 2 to 3 day Annual General Assembly of the network.

Network Meetings

There will be an initial 2-hour on-line meeting on Wednesday June 25th.

There will be an annual General Assembly (GA) of the Network at which the network may vote on proposals including resolutions and recommendations to the project or to UKRI. Proposals for discussion and voting should be circulated two weeks ahead of a GA. If needed, an exceptional GA may be called with 4-weeks' notice and held online.

Assessment of Applicants

Applicants will be assessed on their knowledge and understanding of their selected thematic focus, on their ability to communicate, challenge and engage, and their role in representing a significant stakeholder or stakeholder group.

If a theme, career stage, or stakeholder group is not adequately covered by the applications received, places will be reserved for a second round of recruitments.

Support for Delegates

Network delegates will not be paid for time spent at meetings: applicants should ensure that attendance at meetings is consistent with existing roles and responsibilities.

The NetDRIVE project has fund of £100k for three Annual General Assemblies (AGAs) of the network. The resources will cover costs meetings held in person over 2 to 3 days. This will cover accommodation for keynote speakers, venue hire, catering, travel support, one evening meal, and discretionary support for delegate travel and accommodation where needed.

There is an additional £30k set aside for facilitation costs at the Network AGAs.

Working Groups

Applicants for the network can also indicate whether they want to join one of the two initial working groups:

Working Group on Ethics and Sustainable Progress to Net Zero (WGESP)

“we need to measure the human impact and use this to evaluate how we manage change”
(CIPD, 2024)

WGESP will develop an ethical framework for transformational change by reviewing existing frameworks for ethics and exploiting survey results to analyse the human impact of changes impacting on the DRI.

The WGESP will consist of approximately 10 people who between them will represent the diversity of perspectives and experiences to advise on the full breadth of NetDRIVE activities.

Working Group on Monitoring and Reporting (WGMAR)

WGMAR will develop a framework for monitoring and reporting on community progress towards net zero implementation, working with the community project funded to run an annual survey. This will provide essential information on the practical success of actions introduced by NetDRIVE in terms of measurable or inferred impact on emissions.

WGMAR will also investigate options for monitoring and reporting on the impact of net zero activities on research excellence and throughput.

References

CIPD: Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (2024). How can change and transformation be more ethical? <https://www.cipd.org/uk/views-and-insights/thought-leadership/insight/transformation-ethical/> [accessed 2024/11/20].

Concordat for the Environmental Sustainability of Research and Innovation Practice, <https://www.ukri.org/news/ukri-welcomes-cross-sector-environmental-sustainability-concordat/> [accessed 2025/03/24].

Juckes, M., Bane, M., Bulpett, J., Cartmell, K., MacFarlane, M., MacRae, M., Owen, A., Pascoe, C., & Townsend, P. (2023). Sustainability in Digital Research Infrastructure: UKRI Net Zero DRI Scoping Project final technical report. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.8199984>

Weber, P. M., Bendiscioli, S., Wallon, G., von Ahsen, U., de Beaufort, A. M., Boland, M., Dekkers, F., Dunon-Bluteau, D., Farley, M., Fox, A., Guillot, S., Lannelongue, L., Łazarowicz-Kowalik, M., Rouse, B., Samuel, G., Sanchis, T., Simon, S., Tata, M., van der Goot, G., & Watt, F. M. (2024). The Heidelberg Agreement on Environmental Sustainability in Research Funding (1.0). Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13938809>