

The Climate Path



FOUNDATIONAL PATHWAY

Understanding the climate and environmental emergency is no longer optional. Every profession, every organisation and every sector has a role in protecting human health and the natural systems upon which it depends. The Foundational Pathway provides the shared knowledge needed to understand these challenges, communicate effectively, make informed decisions and support meaningful action.

Approximately 15 hours • Self-paced • Virtual • On-demand • Expertly curated

The Vision

The Climate Path (TCP) is an independent, expertly curated collection of trusted learning designed to build climate and environmental literacy across professions, organisations and industries. Rather than creating new educational content, TCP identifies, evaluates and connects the highest-quality existing learning into coherent educational pathways that are evidence-based, accessible and practical.

Every resource has been selected because it contributes to a deeper understanding of the challenges facing society and the opportunities to create healthier, more resilient organisations and communities.

Why a Foundational Pathway?

The climate and environmental emergency is increasingly recognised as one of the defining challenges of the twenty-first century. Climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution are not isolated problems—they are interconnected drivers of risks to human health, healthcare systems, economies, infrastructure, food security and societal resilience.

Regardless of profession or industry, effective action begins with a common understanding. The Foundational Pathway provides that shared knowledge before learners progress to sector-specific pathways such as healthcare, veterinary medicine, engineering, food systems and textiles.

What you will explore

The pathway begins with scientific evidence underpinning climate change before exploring planetary boundaries, planetary health and Earth-system tipping points. It then examines

the importance of biodiversity, nature and the ocean, the impacts of air pollution, waste and microplastics, the consequences for human health and the value of systems thinking in creating effective responses.

Learning Outcomes

By completing this pathway learners will be able to:

- Explain the interconnected nature of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
- Understand the scientific principles underpinning climate change, planetary boundaries, planetary health and Earth-system tipping points.
- Describe why environmental change matters for human health, wellbeing and organisational resilience.
- Recognise the importance of biodiversity, healthy ecosystems, the ocean and clean air in sustaining planetary and human health.
- Explain the impacts of pollution, including air pollution, waste and emerging contaminants such as microplastics.
- Apply systems thinking to identify opportunities for positive action within professional practice.

Foundation Path Structure

1. Understanding the Climate and Environmental Emergency
2. Climate Science, Planetary Health, Planetary Boundaries and Tipping Points
3. Nature, Biodiversity and Ocean Systems
4. Pollution: Air, Waste and Microplastics
5. Human Health Impacts
6. Systems Thinking and Taking Action

Aligned with internationally recognised frameworks

The Foundational Pathway aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Planetary Health, the Planetary Boundaries framework, the Global Tipping Points framework, the Paris Agreement, WHO guidance and the Lancet Countdown. It also supports learning across CPDmatch's educational themes including climate change, biodiversity, pollution, public health, leadership, quality improvement and sustainable practice.

The Outcome

Successful completion provides a shared foundation of climate and environmental literacy that supports better decisions, more confident leadership and meaningful action. Learners

will be equipped to engage critically with new evidence, communicate effectively across disciplines and continue their journey through specialist Climate Path pathways.

A Foundation for Every Path

This pathway is intended to become the common starting point for every Climate Path programme. Whether working in healthcare, industry, education, engineering, government or the voluntary sector, participants begin with the same evidence-based understanding before developing expertise relevant to their own field.

Last update: 30 July 2026