



The Sustainable Ocean (SO) Community stems from the need to address key ocean challenges related to Sustainability and is part of the 'Pathways to Sustainability' (PtS) strategic theme. We are an inclusive and inspiring platform where scholars and stakeholders from a broad range of disciplines meet to facilitate innovative transdisciplinary research and education.

In this August 2023 newsletter you find

- Welcome words of our new leadership team member Cale Miller
- Introduction to a new SO funding scheme for (short-term) community building initiatives – stay tuned for the official opening of the call in September (via mail)!
- Announcement of junior researcher/MSc project opportunity – apply now!
- Call for nomination of experts for the development of third World Ocean Assessment – apply before 31 August!
- Short summary of all upcoming SO related funding opportunities and events

Announcements

| Impacts of offshore electrolysis on the marine environment

Globally, governments are planning for combined offshore wind parks and electrolysis to produce green hydrogen as an energy carrier to decarbonize hard-to-electrify sectors and to create energy storage capacity (source [IEA](#)). Although there are significant technical and economic challenges for large-scale offshore electrolysis, countries around the North Sea aim for 40 GW offshore electrolysis capacity in 2030. Such capacity would require significant amounts of ultra-pure and cool water, resulting in the discharge of brine and heat into the North Sea. This may have – potentially negative – impacts on marine environments, depending on the combined effects of changes in ambient temperatures, salinity and oxygen concentrations around the discharge plume. Dedicated impact assessments are needed to inform spatial planning for large-scale electrolyzers, but are unfortunately still lacking.

Researchers of the Sustainable Ocean Community with (some) experience in modeling temperature and salinity characteristics are invited to work together with researchers of the Energy in Transition Community to better understand the potential impacts of offshore electrolysis in the North Sea. The contribution of Sustainable Ocean researchers is expected to complement a transdisciplinary research consortium under development. Further, the consortium envisages that part of the research can be performed in form of a master thesis- and/or junior researcher project.

Are you interested in this topic and looking for a research opportunity? Please contact the Energy in Transition Community (energy.transition@uu.nl)!

| Third cycle of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment

The Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects (Regular Process) is a global mechanism established by States after the 2002 United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa. It aims to regularly review the environmental, economic and social aspects of the state of the world's oceans, both current and foreseeable. Its purpose is to contribute to the strengthening of the regular scientific assessment of the state of the marine environment in order to enhance the scientific basis for policymaking.

The official call for nomination for the Pool of Experts in the third cycle of the Regular Process has been launched. The Application deadline is 31 August 2023. For further information see <https://www.un.org/regularprocess/content/pool-experts>. We would love to hear in case you are nominated or chose to self-nominate!

Upcoming Events

Sep 14

PtS Lunch Café: Innovation in Sustainability Education

Location:
Academiegebou
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Several colleagues from different faculties, including [Jeroen Oomen](#) and [Flora Roberts](#), will deliver pitches on how to establish new educational initiatives centered around sustainability. Following the presentations, a lunch will be served, providing an opportunity for in-depth discussions regarding the future of Sustainability education at Utrecht University. More detailed information can be found [here](#).

The PtS (Lunch) Cafés provide an easy way to get to know, inform and inspire each other within and Beyond the Sustainable Ocean community. You don't need

to be actively involved (yet). Fancy a drink, snack, and a chat? Join us, we look forward to see you there!

Oct 9-10

Location: [Hotel NH Zandvoort](#)

“Three major transitions are currently taking place on the North Sea, that form the heart of the challenge for the North Sea: the nature transition, the food transition and the energy transition. This Agreement focuses on the heavily interwoven nature of these transitions, thereby creating opportunities for an integrated policy with a focus on the longer term.” On May 8, immerse yourself in a journey through the diverse perspectives and interests emerging from this agreement. We extend an invitation to all master students passionate about marine sciences and policy to join. Stay tuned for details and registration.

Opportunities

Deadline Feb 15

For whom:
interdisciplinary
teams of UU and
NIOZ scholars

Seed Fund

Up to 10k euro per initiative
Through the [seed funding scheme](#), PtS looks to stimulate interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary interactions and create impact guided by the ‘rigor meets relevance’ principle. It can be used for e.g., the organisation of meetings, workshops and other events; travel and accommodation costs; student assistants; trainers and coaches; visiting fellowships; education, outreach and communication activities.

Deadline Feb 1

For whom:
previous awardees
of incubator
projects

Signature Projects

The [Signature Project Grant](#) is the PtS instrument to spur radical innovation in university practices with the aim of enhancing our impact. Signature Projects are challenge-based, interdisciplinary in nature (preferably cross-community) and directed at fostering the radical innovation that PtS seeks to achieve.

Our SO community, together with the [Critical Pathways Community](#), is currently preparing a proposal to apply for a signature project following up on the Whose Ocean incubator project. If you would like to get involved, please directly contact Erik van Sebille (e.vansebille@uu.nl)!

Deadline Feb

New Incubator Projects

For whom:
previous awardees
of incubator
projects

up to 8k euro for a period of max 12 months

For What: building new inter- and transdisciplinary collaborations to jointly explore innovative project ideas (eventually resulting in a signature project)

The [Incubator Project Grant](#) is the PtS instrument to invest in community building, offering interdisciplinary teams of UU scholars the opportunity to take the time to collaborate on innovative interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary ideas. It aims at facilitating new collaborations, building trust and understanding each other's perspectives, and further developing project ideas for larger follow-up Signature Projects.

Contact us if you have ideas for new SO incubator projects – we can help you to further develop your idea and connect you to other potential collaborators!

About this newsletter

The Sustainable Ocean Community is an initiative born out of the imperative to tackle critical challenges in ocean sustainability. Aligned with Utrecht University's 'Pathways to Sustainability' strategic theme and formed in collaboration with NIOZ, we strive to be an inclusive, diverse, and inspirational national platform. Our mission is to unite scholars and stakeholders across disciplines to craft and implement regional solutions for urgent global ocean and sustainability issues.

Contact

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[Sustainable Ocean Website](#)

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