



## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# THE DESIGN COUNCIL URGES BUSINESS AND DESIGNERS TO TAKE CLIMATE ACTION AT DESIGN FOR PLANET FESTIVAL

Media preview 8 November, 9am, RSVP to [designcouncil@modusbpcm.com](mailto:designcouncil@modusbpcm.com)

The Design Council announces the return of its award-winning Design for Planet Festival - urging and supporting the UK's 1.97 million-strong design community to address the climate emergency.

The 2022 festival will be streamed from Tuesday 8 November – Wednesday 9 November 2022, to coincide with COP27, providing a series of free virtual events and live broadcasts.

Supporting *Design Declares* recent campaign, this year's theme of ACTION will help designers and businesses make their sustainability plans a reality, with free education for all at the forefront of the festival. From practical workshops to panel discussions, the festival aims to mobilise the UK's design community to take necessary steps to address the climate crisis.

Guests will join some of the most influential people in design and business, not just to inspire, but to develop collective action.

Speakers to include Biologist and Wildlife Filmmaker, *Patrick Aryee*, Circular Fashion Designer *Phoebe English*, Model and Ecologist *Zinnia Kumar*, Architect and Systems Thinker *Michael Pawlyn*, Architect and Circular Design Pioneer *William McDonough* and many, many more. The full lineup is now available [HERE](#).

The online festival is free to all designers, universities, students and businesses alike – with [registrations now open](#).

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The full line up of speakers and workshops for the upcoming *Design for Planet Festival 2022* **has now been released**. The aim of the festival is to mobilise the UK's powerful design and business communities to create ways out of the climate crisis.

Faced with the climate and biodiversity emergencies, the scale of what the UK needs to design – and re-design – to achieve net-zero targets by 2050 is immense. As the United Nations' annual climate change conference, COP27, gets under way in Egypt, the **Design for Planet Festival will bring together leading minds from the design and sustainability landscape to provide free information, tools, practical workshops and stimulating conversation**, in a bid to accelerate design innovation across the UK.

The festival will feature over **60 experts from many diverse disciplines of design**, from biodiversity and materials to supply chains, energy, food waste and much more.

**Minnie Moll, Chief Executive, the Design Council said:**

*“Even in the last few months we have witnessed more shocking impacts from the climate crisis – it’s our responsibility to maintain urgency about the huge changes we need to make in the UK and beyond.*

*Now is the time for Action - the theme of this year’s Design for Planet Festival. It is our responsibility to act now and provide free education and inspiration to business and the design community, in a bid to accelerate design innovation across the UK. We urge businesses and the design community to participate in the Design for Planet Festival to share and gain new knowledge that will improve our futures.*

*80% of the environmental impact of a product is determined at the design stage, by offering a free toolkit of information, resources and stimulating conversation we hope to drive positive action across our industry and beyond.*

*We have an incredible line-up of speakers to challenge and inspire businesses and designers alike. In collaboration with Innovate UK, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and Northumbria University, we are keeping climate action the top of the agenda.”*

Attendees will hear from visionaries across a range of design disciplines and business sectors leading the way in sustainability and climate-action and learn more about prioritising the welfare of the planet.

**The Design for Planet Festival will be hosted by Biologist and Wildlife Film Maker, Patrick Aryee** – who, after training in Molecular & Cellular Biology, went on to work for the BBC’s Natural History Unit alongside Sir David Attenborough.

**A selection of Keynote Speakers include:**

William McDonough, Architect  
Michael Pawlyn, Architect and Systems Designer  
Anab Jain, Co-founder Superflux, Speculative Design Studio  
Phoebe English, Circular Fashion Designer  
Sarah Ichioka, Strategist, Writer and Curator  
Daze Aghaji, Youth Climate Justice Activist  
Sara Vaughan, Innovator and Podcaster  
Nicola Matthews, Tony’s Chocolonely

**Free workshops include:**

How to apply circular design principles (with Ellen MacArthur Foundation)  
How to design for sustainable supply chains in fashion (with White Weft)  
How to become a B Corp (with B Corp)  
How to design a green website (with Microsoft)

How to make your business carbon literate (with The Carbon Literacy Project)  
How to measure carbon in your business (with xtonnes)  
How to design for disassembly & repairability (with The Restart Project)  
How to reduce manufacturing waste at the design stage (with Autodesk)  
How to retrofit a home (with Zero Carbon Britain Hub and Innovation Lab)  
How to rewild (with Umbrellium)  
How to plan your ESG reporting (with PA Consulting)  
How to think about Life Cycle Analysis (with Ross Atkin Associates)  
How to design with ancestral knowledge (with DWS Creative)  
How to design with nature (with Biohm)  
How to design for all (with The Royal National Institute of Blind People)

Please see the full list of speakers and events [HERE](#).

Design for Planet is part funded by Innovate UK. It is organised in partnership with Northumbria University and Newcastle Gateshead Initiative and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

Sign up today to the Design for Planet Festival [HERE](#).

**- ENDS -**

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#### **Notes to Editor:**

#### **#DesignForPlanet**

The Design Council's flagship event was held at the V&A in Dundee last year, and brought together 120 sustainable design leaders, 6,000 online attendees and was awarded gold in the GOV Design Awards 2022.

For further information, images and press access please contact:

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**Speaker Biographies can be found [HERE](#).**

**About the Design Council:** The Design Council is the UK's national strategic advisor for design, championing design and its ability to make life better for all. It is an independent and not for profit organisation incorporated by Royal Charter. The Design Council uniquely works across all design sectors and delivers programmes with business, government, public bodies and the third sector. The work encompasses thought leadership, tools and resources, showcasing excellence, and research to evidence the value of design and influence policy. Their Design for

Planet mission was introduced in 2021 to galvanise and support the 1.97 million people who work in the UK's design economy to help achieve net zero and beyond.

[www.designcouncil.org.uk](http://www.designcouncil.org.uk)

**About Northumbria University:** Northumbria University, Newcastle is a research-intensive, modern university with a global reputation for academic excellence. Northumbria is one of the largest universities in the UK with over 35,000 students from 137 countries. Northumbria has recorded the biggest rise in research power of any UK University in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021 exercise - moving up 27 places to 23rd.

[www.northumbria.ac.uk](http://www.northumbria.ac.uk)