

Mike Berners-Lee, Hon DSc

Monday 27th July 2026

Orator: Rachel Sandby-Thomas, Registrar

Chancellor,

Our Honorary Graduatand this morning is one of the world's foremost experts on carbon footprinting, climate change and sustainability. I am delighted to introduce MIKE BERNERS-LEE.

Mike studied Physics at Oxford and is currently a Professor in Practice at Lancaster University's Environmental Centre and a Fellow of its Institute for Social Futures. His research focuses on carbon metrics, sustainable food systems and the environmental impacts of technology. He has pioneered methodologies in carbon accounting, particularly in assessing upstream carbon emissions from supply chains; his work combines process-based life cycle analysis with environmentally extended input-output analysis to provide comprehensive assessments of greenhouse gas emissions.

He has put his research to practical use through Small World Consulting, the company which he founded in 2002. Now considered a world leader in carbon measurement and carbon accounting, Small World works with organisations of all sizes and sectors, from tech giants to SMEs, advising them on sustainability practices.

Mike Berners-Lee is a scientist who understands how business organisations work – he has a Master's degree in Organisation Development and Consulting, as well as practical experience as Director of Small World Consulting. He translates complex sustainability challenges into practical decisions that business leaders can act on immediately. He is also committed to public engagement, making complex subjects comprehensible and accessible: his first book, the groundbreaking *How Bad Are Bananas?* published in 2010, raised awareness of the then comparatively new concept of carbon footprints and was also a useful and enjoyable read.

His latest book, *The Climate of Truth*, stresses the importance of honesty in politics and business, critiquing political and industrial misinformation that hinders climate action: students have praised it for containing practical careers advice for positive climate impact. Mike has also made many speaking, radio and television appearances to promote public awareness of sustainability and climate change, notably, appearing alongside



Sir David Attenborough on BBC One and in BBC Two's Horizon programme 'Feast to Save the Planet' (2021). He operates at both national and regional level: last year, for instance, he was guest speaker at the Blue Earth Summit, a UK impact driven event bringing together investors and business leaders, and also chaired the first National Emergency Briefing, a forum convening leading experts, policy makers and concerned citizens to encourage decision-makers to step up their response to our climate and nature crisis. Regionally, he works with organisations such as Lancashire Climate Action Forum and Futureproof Cumbria and frequently speaks at local community meetings. Through his many public engagement activities, Mike has both stimulated and helped to shape public discourse on sustainability and climate change.

For us at Warwick, where sustainability is a strategic priority, fundamental to our long-term vision, it is a particular pleasure to welcome Mike. He has recently been the recipient of two important awards – the Business of Science Leadership Award for Sustainability Award (2023) and the Planet Earth Award by the Alliance of World Scientists (2025). We are delighted to add our own award this morning.

Chancellor: in the name of the Senate, I present to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Science *honoris causa*, MIKE BERNERS-LEE.

