

# Annual Report 2022



**EAUC - The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education**  
**The Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges**  
**Registered Company Number 05183502**  
**Registered Charity Number 1106172**

Front Cover Image of the University of Worcester, EAUC Educational Member and  
[Finalist of the 2022 UK & Ireland Green Gown Awards](#)

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## Company Information

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### Charity Information

EAUC - The Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges  
Registered Charity number 1106172  
Registered Company number 05183502  
(England and Wales)

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### Company Secretary

F L Goodwin

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### Registered Address

EAUC  
PO Box 3284  
Gloucester  
Gloucestershire  
GL1 9HL

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### Auditors

J W Hinks LLP  
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors  
19 Highfield Road  
Edgbaston  
Birmingham  
B15 3BJ

### Senior Statutory Auditor

James Cruse ACA, FCCA

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### Banker

The Co-operative Bank  
PO Box 250  
Delf House  
Southway

# Chief Executive & Chair's Message

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Arguably 2022 was the first year since the pandemic we were able to operate 'as usual', despite continuing to see changes across our sector as we better understand the long term impacts of Coronavirus.

The dialogue surrounding the sustainability agenda is changing too. Increasingly it's recognised as an opportunity for post-pandemic recovery and for national economic prosperity as well as for global environmental regeneration and social justice. But we face stark challenges – IPCC reports highlight the urgency and scale at which we need to change across all aspects of society. The tertiary education sector has long recognised this. EAUC membership retention remains high at 95% and this year we welcomed 33 new members, mostly from colleges in England continuing a trend from last year.

This report outlines the breadth of work delivered by EAUC across 2022 to support our members, either directly through projects, programmes, events, training, communities of practice, regular communications, resources and support, or indirectly through the policy and advocacy work we do with sector stakeholders, working to create a more enabling environment for sustainability action. We welcomed the Department for Education's first sustainability and climate change strategy and continue to work in collaboration with others across the sector to support the mainstreaming of ambitious and impactful. sustainability action. There's a lot to celebrate. Highlights this year have included:

- working alongside the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Challenge and the Royal Anniversary Trust to develop a standardised carbon emissions framework
- the continued work delivered by EAUC Scotland to accelerate action and leadership in order to respond to the climate emergency
- the innovative work being delivered by the Carbon Coalition alongside a pilot project to create carbon credits using university and college land
- Bringing together our members in our first face-to-face conference since 2019

We thank our funders for enabling much of this work: the Department for Education, the Scottish Funding Council, the Environment Agency's natural environment investment readiness fund (NEIRF) and the UN Environment Programme as well as our Green Gown Award and annual conference sponsors.

We also saw the departure of our CEO, Iain Patton, after over 17 years in the role. Our thanks and best wishes go to Iain in his future endeavours. Our thanks also go to deputy CEO, Fiona Goodwin, who stepped into an interim CEO role whilst we undertook the recruitment process for a permanent replacement. Charlotte Bonner joined us in February 2023 and is leading on developing a new strategy for the organisation.

There is still much to do and we want to ensure our new strategy both drives and supports the tertiary education sector to achieve what it's capable of: equipping learners for their futures and shaping society for the better. We look forward to working with our members, fellows, strategic partners, funders and broader stakeholders to both develop and deliver this work.

We know that EAUC's success is dependent on the communities, networks that we're a part of and convene. As always, thank you for your continued commitment and support.



**Charlotte Bonner, Chief Executive**



**Professor James Longhurst, Chair**

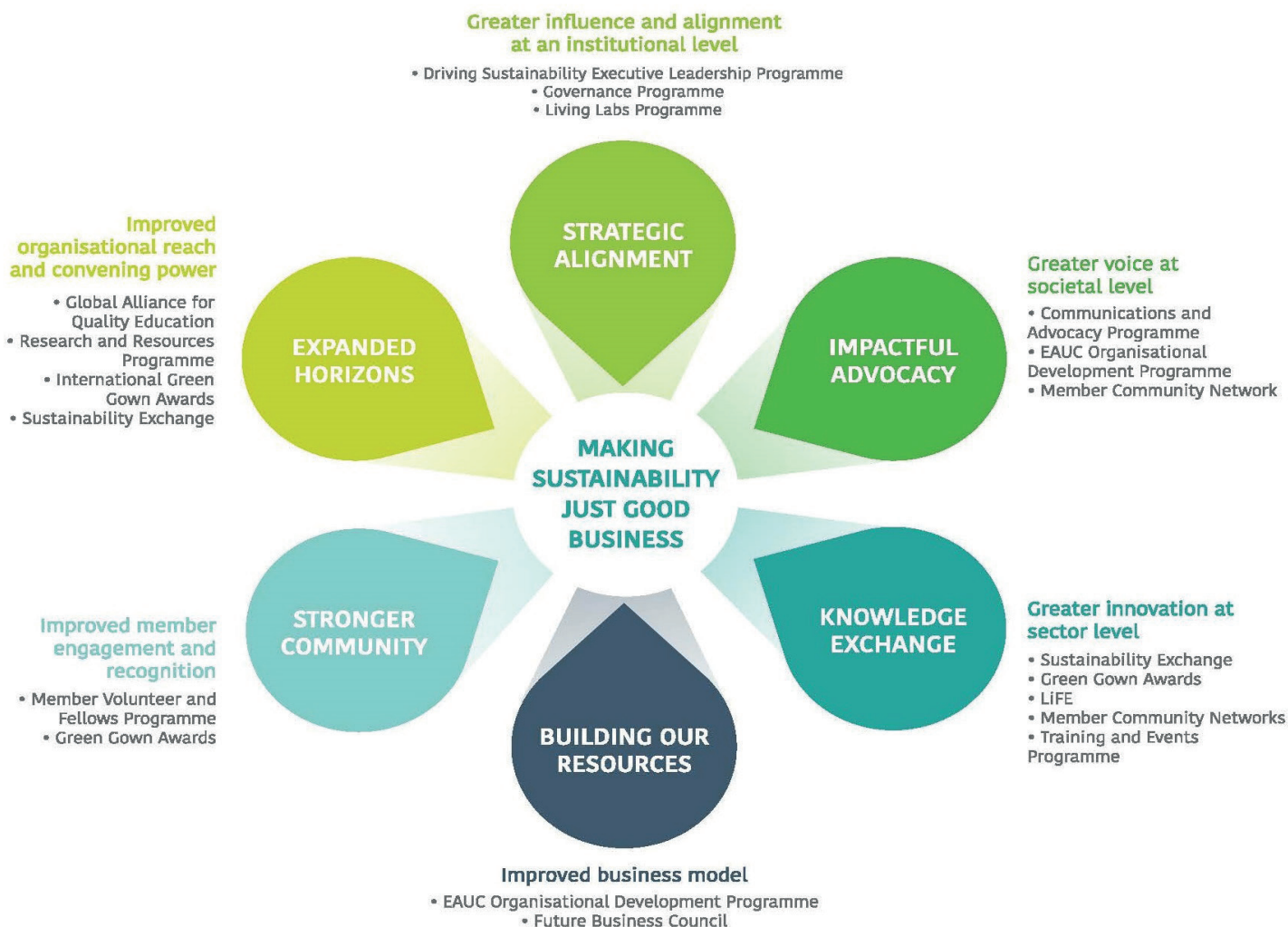
# EAUC: Our Strategy

EAUC - The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education is the environmental and sustainability champion within Further and Higher Education in the UK and Ireland. Our passion is to create a world with sustainability at its heart. That's our vision - we exist to lead and empower the post-16 education sector to make sustainability 'just good business'.

EAUC is a not-for-profit, member based charity run by members for members. From starting out as a voluntary organisation in 1996, we have grown to represent over 2 million students and nearly 400,000 staff, with a spending budget of over £25 billion. We help leaders, academics and other professionals to drive sustainability into the heart of their post-16 education institutions.

Launched in 2017, our 2017-2021 strategy aimed to offer the necessary support for the challenges institutions face today. We created six goals to underpin the structure and following member's feedback we have undertaken numerous activities to support each one. We will be developing our next strategy during 2023 as well as developing our approach to equity, diversity and inclusion.

## OUR STRATEGY 2017 - 2021



# Our Members

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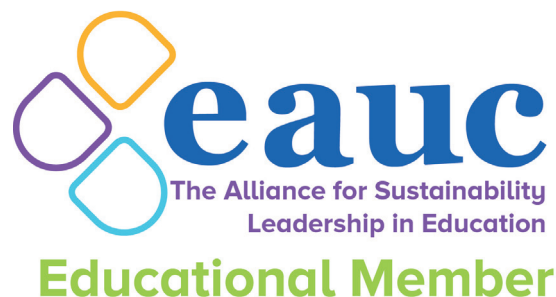
We are proud to convene and support organisations committed to advancing sustainability in and through education.

## EDUCATIONAL MEMBERS IN 2022

**261** Institutions Represented

**95%** Retention Rate

**33** New Members



## COMPANY MEMBERS IN 2022

**11** Companies Represented:  
4 Company Members  
5 Company Affiliates  
2 Company Partners

**90%** Retention Rate



## STRATEGIC PARTNERS IN 2022

As a Member organisation, we actively seek out strategic partners who can help us do more for our university and college members.

In 2022, our network included 196 Strategic Partners, joining together the leading sustainability and education organisations across the UK and Ireland, and around the world.

**196** Strategic Partners

# Scotland Focus

## EAUC Scotland Programme Year 3: April 2022 - March 2023



Delivered by our team in Scotland and funded by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC), this programme supports all Scottish FHE institutions to develop a skilled and informed, holistic approach to sustainability within governance, operations, learning and teaching, and engagement activities.

### Leadership at all levels

621 attendees joined 33 EAUC-Scotland events

24% increase in educational contacts vs 2020

Delivered Carbon Literacy Training to 58 participants

3 new SDG Accord signatories

3 new Race to Zero for Universities and Colleges signatories

### Skills, Knowledge & Data

Published 2020/21 FHE, FE and HE sector reports for PBCCD Reporting

Expanded the Public Bodies Reporting Peer Review to 19 institutions

Supported APUC's Supply Chain Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy 2022 - 2030 development

96% of event attendees believe EAUC Scotland is helping them develop their skills and knowledge

### Partnerships and Collaborations

Engaged with 91 non-FHE organisations through events or engagement calls

90 non-Scottish FHE attendees at EAUC Scotland events

Directly engaged with 8 partner network steering/working groups

### Teaching, Research and Engagement

4 Education for Sustainability & Community Engagement TSNs held

Delivered second Realigning Curricula for the Future event series

Working with partners on QAA Research Project on ESD Monitoring and Evaluation

3 education-related consultation responses submitted

### Supporting Wider Stakeholders

Supported SFC in the development of the Net Zero Framework and quarterly environmental policy briefings

EAUC Scotland provided feedback in the development of Scottish Government's inseting and offsetting guidance to public bodies

EAUC Scotland took part one awards panel

## Timeline of Key Project Outputs

- Summer 2022**
- Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Overview Report published and provided individual feedback to 17 institutions
  - Supported Kickstarter Placement within EAUC and EAUC Scotland
  - SFC funding bid process started with regional and online workshops for sector input
- Autumn 2022**
- Development and launch of the Introducing Action for Sustainability e-learning course with CDN and LFSS for all Scottish college staff
  - Published Saving Energy - a Guide for the FHE Sector
  - Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Reporting Peer Review Session
  - Delivery of Autumn TSN series
- Winter 2022**
- Launch of second Realigning Curricula for the Future event series
  - Reviewed the Key Principles of the Net Zero Carbon Public Sector Buildings Standard for Existing Buildings (led by Scottish Futures Trust)
  - Ongoing development of QAA Collaborative Enhancement Project with partners (completion June 2023)
- Spring 2023**
- Continued delivery of Carbon Literacy Training
  - Submitted funding bid to SFC to continue EAUC Scotland activities
  - EAUC Scotland Step-Change for Sustainability Conference held at TIC, University of Strathclyde
  - Published Business Travel Guide for the FHE Sector
  - Annual Survey of FHE Contacts, AGM and EAUC Scotland Annual Report

### Spotlight on: Central and South Scotland College Partnership

EAUC Scotland, in partnership with Borders College, Forth Valley College and West Lothian College, has continued its pilot shared-services framework to increase sustainability staffing capacity within each of the college partners. The pilot has been very impactful to date, with an estimated return on investment of 1:4 in its first year through achieved outputs including development of college sustainability strategies, successful pre-capital and capital funding applications and emissions reporting submissions. Later this year EAUC Scotland will be scoping the potential to expand the model more widely in the sector.

### Spotlight on: Business Travel Guide for the FHE Sector

In February 2023, EAUC Scotland published its Business Travel Guide for the Further and Higher Education Sector. The guide highlights the Scottish policy and social drivers for addressing business travel emissions, and showcases best practice in strategies, reporting and reduction activities.

The guide aims to inform institutions of policy expectations; provide inspiration and suggested actions to take forward; and signpost colleges and universities towards further resources. It achieves this through featuring a range of best practice case studies, an in-depth action plan section and significant section on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. It also includes a thorough discussion on each travel mode and how an institution might take this information to significantly reduce their business travel emissions.

Designed for the Further and Higher Education sector



2023



# Goal 1: Strategic Alignment

## GREATER INFLUENCE AND ALIGNMENT AT INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL



We embed sustainability within institutions to enhance employability, research, quality teaching, student experience, internationalism, efficiency, social responsibility, retention and growth.

### STANDARDISED CARBON EMISSIONS FRAMEWORK

The standardised carbon emissions framework (SCEF) for the further (FE) and higher education (HE) launched in 23rd January 2023. Funded by the Department for Education and developed by EAUC, in consultation with the Platinum Queen Jubilee Challenge participants (21 higher and further education institutes from across the UK) and key sector bodies such as UUK, AoC, BUFDG, AUDE, GuildHE, HESA.

A consistent approach is required for the sector to enable peer-to-peer comparisons as well as transparency for staff and students. The SCEF brings good practice and guidance, develops a fuller understanding of how institutions contribute to the climate emergency and enables them to take action. The Department for Education (DfE) is expecting institutions will start reporting their carbon emissions by 2024-2025 academic year.

The framework is based on the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol, which includes an interpretation of Scopes 1, 2 and 3 for what this means to an institution with a plain English interpretation. There are 3 different reporting levels (Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced) based on the maturity of data sets and boundaries.

Find out more [here](#).

### NEIRF – UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES LAND FOR CARBON

The Universities and Colleges Land for Carbon project utilises institutions' land to create Woodland Carbon Credits (WCC). A verified government-backed credits to help them achieve their net-zero targets through carbon sequestration. Receiving funding from the Environment Agency's Natural Environment Investment Ready Fund (NEIRF) this will develop a standardised framework in order to create a simple and cost-effective solution for institutions.

Students and staff will be involved in providing vital skills for collecting and monitoring data and to support the green economy, maximising their learning potential and utilising academic and scientific expertise to ensure best practise for the wider sector.

Find out more [here](#).



STANDARDISED CARBON  
EMISSIONS FRAMEWORK

Delivered by



NATURAL  
ENVIRONMENT  
INVESTMENT  
READINESS  
FUND



# Goal 2: Advocacy

## GREATER VOICE AT THE SOCIETAL LEVEL



We harness our longevity and reputation alongside that of our membership base to provide EAUC members with a credible and knowledgeable voice.

### ADVOCACY

- We worked closely with the Department for Education to support the implementation of their [Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy](#). We sit on a variety of steering groups to ensure the voice of further and higher education are heard.
- We continued expanding the partnership of the [Race to Zero for Universities & Colleges](#), welcoming more signatories throughout the year.
- We welcomed more signatories to the [SDG Accord](#), widening the global network of institutions.



Department  
for Education



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

### CONSULTATIONS

During 2022 EAUC responded to the following:

- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) proposals to ban commonly littered Single Use Plastic items in England
- Advance HE professional standards framework review
- Office for National Statistics (ONS) Defining and Measuring Green Jobs
- EAUC also lead the joint response with AUDE, UUK, GuildHE and AoC to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Net Zero Review

EAUC Scotland responded to a further 5 consultations.

Discover more [here](#).

 **AdvanceHE**



Office for  
National Statistics



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

# Goal 3: Research & Knowledge Exchange

## GREATER INNOVATION AT THE SECTOR LEVEL



We facilitate the wealth of experience and knowledge for our members to ensure ongoing creation and dissemination of knowledge in sustainability.



### WEBSITE METRICS

34K NEW SITE USERS

9K AVERAGE MONTHLY NEW SITE USERS

26K AVERAGE MONTHLY PAGE VIEWS

104K TOTAL PAGE VIEWS



### WEBSITE METRICS

33K NEW SITE USERS

8K AVERAGE MONTHLY NEW SITE USERS

16K AVERAGE MONTHLY PAGE VIEWS

64K TOTAL PAGE VIEWS



Green Gown Awards International

6 CATEGORIES

56 FINALISTS

9 WINNERS

19 COUNTRIES

110k Twitter Impressions in 2022  
92k Website Page Views in 2022

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Our first face to face annual conference since 2019, 'Conversations on Climate Action' took place at the University of Loughborough in November 2022.

We welcomed over 200 delegates from over 80 institutions, in addition to the sponsors and exhibitors. 93% of delegates said the event experience was either Excellent or Good, and we had positive feedback on all sessions.

We wanted the focus to steer us all towards greater interaction and networking, with longer 'Conversation' sessions wherein delegates had time to discuss and learn from one another; this was extremely well received therefore we will repeat this format at our next annual conference at the University of Bath in June 2023.

"Great conference, a real morale boost and fantastic for networking and discussing common problems and sharing solutions."

## CARBON LITERACY TRAINING

We started our Carbon Literacy Training (CLT) offer in January 2021, which has since gone from strength to strength. All 11 training courses in 2022 were fully booked, with 2 bespoke training sessions

Overall, we trained over 250 learners in over 80 institutions in 2022. We hope to see the Carbon Literacy offer continue to grow in 2023 with a senior leadership offer.

We are also proud that we are a Platinum Carbon Literate Organisation with all of our staff trained as well as having 6 team members trained to deliver the CLT.

Carbon Literate Organisation  
Platinum



# Goal 4: Maximised Resources



## IMPROVED BUSINESS MODEL

We have a strong, transparent business model with diverse income streams, maximised membership potential and strong brand recognition.



### CARBON COALITION

The Carbon Coalition is an offsetting initiative for the education sector. Following the successful pilot we have worked with London Universities Purchasing Consortia (LUPC) and The Energy Consortia (TEC) to develop a procurement framework.

We will be launching the new framework in June 2023 and institutions will have 2 windows throughout the year to process - in July and November so they cross over academic years.

We are also working closely with UKRI, the Wellcome Trust, Scottish Government and the Woodland Carbon Code to ensure best practice is supported across the sector and ensure institutions have the information that they need to ensure the best options are used for carbon sequestration. Find out more [here](#).



### SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP SCORECARD

The Sustainability Leadership Scorecard (SLS), in partnership with AUDE, was re-launched in 2022. The portal is easy for institutions to use and collaborate with colleagues to develop their self-assessment and develop an action plan.

The SDG mapping within the SLS continues to be accepted as evidence in Goal 17 for the Times Impact Rankings.

We will be resuming our annual report in 2023. Find out more [here](#).



### SUMS & EAUC SUSTAINABILITY CONSULTANCY

In 2022, we launched a new sustainability consultancy service, in partnership with SUMS Consultancy.

We are pleased that we have 11 of our Fellows as our Associate Consultants. We are pleased to be able to offer the sector excellent quality and affordable services to the education sector. It really is using the expertise we have in the sector, for the sector. Find out more [here](#).



# Goal 5: Stronger Community

## IMPROVED MEMBER ENGAGEMENT AND RECOGNITION



We encourage and enable members to work together and take the lead on projects to achieve greater synergy and success through collaboration.

**44**

Regional, Branch and Communities of Practice Meetings

**575**

**ATTENDEES**

**Partner meetings attended included**

Wrap, Aldersgate, UKUPC Responsible Procurement, Healthy Universities UK

**Popular topics included**

Scope 3, Net Zero, student engagement, and returning to campus

### MEMBER NETWORKS

The EAUC is committed to our Members' ability to exchange ideas, skills and experience. To encourage more specialist learning and information sharing, we operate numerous Communities of Practice (CoP) groups that support focused and efficient networking among Members.

In 2022, we set up two new networks for Members:

- Sustainability Communications Community of Practice
- Climate Risk Community of Practice

### MEMBER FEEDBACK FROM EAUC NETWORKING

"I think it's really helpful to have opportunities for discussion like this - just carving out a bit of time for questions and discussion makes a difference. We're all often in the same boat but it can be easy to try to just get on with it, when others may have some wisdom to share. I don't always have experience of some things being discussed but I can always take it back to my colleagues to flag things"

"Really enjoyed today's session and brilliant external speaker"

"Very useful to see how everyone else is approaching this and hearing from everyone regarding barriers and successes was great"

# Goal 6: Expanded Horizons



## IMPROVED ORGANISATIONAL REACH

We contribute to the wider sustainability agenda through local, national and international awards and alliances.

### SDG ACCORD

We are proud to have presented our annual SDG Accord report to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2022. This was as part of the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI) day. With 102 signatories contributing, the annual report provides an in-depth review of the SDGs and raises the profile of the university and college sector in this global space. Find out more [here](#).

The SDG Accord

The University and College Sector's Collective Response to the Global Goals

1895

Individual  
Signatories

62

Students' Union  
Signatories

331

Institutional  
Signatories

### RACE TO ZERO FOR UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

We continue to welcome new signatories to the Race to Zero, which is the official partner to the overarching Race to Zero campaign. This shows the impact that the education sector has on a global scale in meeting net-zero targets as soon as possible. EAUC provide the secretariat for this. Find out more [here](#).



1150

Institutions  
Involved

528

Institutions  
Committed

10,915,392

Students  
Represented

YEA! Global Summit  
5th July 2022

YEA!

• youth & education alliance

UN environment programme

50  
1972-2022

eauc  
The Alliance for Sustainability  
Leadership in Education



### YEA! GLOBAL SUMMIT

We delivered, in partnership with YEA!, United Nations Environment Programme and Tongji University, a global summit in July 2022. This brought together those institutions across the world who have committed to the SDG Accord, signed up to the Race to Zero or have been finalists in the International Green Gown Awards. By bringing together nearly 900 delegates we inspired and shared best practice from leading institutions globally.

# Carbon Report

It is our aim to minimise our carbon footprint as much as possible, however as it happens with any other organisation, we still have a carbon footprint. We used the Carbon Coalition to offset 88 tonnes in 2022.



## 2022 RESULTS

For the first time we have included our supply chain emissions using the [HESCET tool](#), which is now also available for our FE members to use. This means our carbon footprint has increased by 2414% and is now 88 tonnes for the 2022 period, with our supply chain accounting for 88%.

The carbon footprint of our supply chain is 77.6 tonnes. Along with our supply chain we also include water (0.18 tonnes) and business travel (1.4 tonnes) so our overall Scope 3 emissions are 79 tonnes. Our Scope 2 emissions (purchased electricity, heating and lighting) is 8.9 tonnes. We do not have any Scope 1 emissions and no other areas of Scope 3.

As we are a home-based organisation we have to estimate our electricity, heating and lighting. We have used this using the latest guidance on home-working from [Sustainable Scotland Network Reporting Guidance](#) to calculate our staff's electricity and heating usage based on hours worked from home. However, this does not include water so we have estimated these using average figures for the number of staff we have using Defra conversion factors. With this more granular calculation our Scope 2 emissions have increased by 207%.

Our staff full time equivalent (FTE) increased from 9.71 to 11.18. Our average carbon emissions per FTE is 7.869 tonnes.

For a full breakdown of results [please visit our website](#).

Carbon Summary	Staff FTE	Total carbon emissions (KgCO <sub>2</sub> )	Carbon emissions per FTE (KgCO <sub>2</sub> /FTE)	Income per annum £	Carbon emissions per unit of income (KgCO <sub>2</sub> /£)
2021	9.7	3,500	360	473,663	0.01
2022	11.18	88,010	7,869	837,426	0.11
% increase/decrease	15.17%	2,414%	2,083%	76.80%	1,322%

Breakdown of our carbon	KgCO <sub>2</sub>	%
Scope 2	8,948	10%
Scope 3	79,062	89.83%
Travel	1,445	1.64%
Supply Chain	77,600	88.17%
Water	18	0.02%
<b>Total</b>	<b>88,010</b>	<b>100%</b>

# Financial Review

During the financial period of 1 January to 31 December 2022 we made an overall surplus £210,083 (2021: overall deficit of £17,443) with an unrestricted surplus of £176,708 (2021: unrestricted deficit of £29,474). Due to the easing of covid restrictions meant that we were able to resume key income generation activities such as our annual conference and the Green Gown Awards Ceremony. In 2021 we only generated £3,238 for the annual conference due to being virtual but with the return of an in-person event we generated £91,359 in 2022.

We have a total available unrestricted fund of £293,000 to carry forward into 2023. After some challenging financial years, we were able to generate a healthy surplus in 2022. Much of this will be reinvested into the reserves that were so critical to our survival during the pandemic. We'll also be able to invest in building our staff team to support a number of longstanding and new programmes for our members.

We were pleased to confirm a further 1 year funding grant from the Scottish Funding Council starting in April 2023. This allows us to continue and further develop our support and leadership in Scotland. We also received funding from the Environment Agency for the Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund for the University and College Land for Carbon Project. This funding runs from 1 July 2022 to 31 March 2024. In 2022, we received funding from the Department for Education to develop the Standardised Carbon Emissions Framework. These resulted in an increase of 144% to our restricted income.

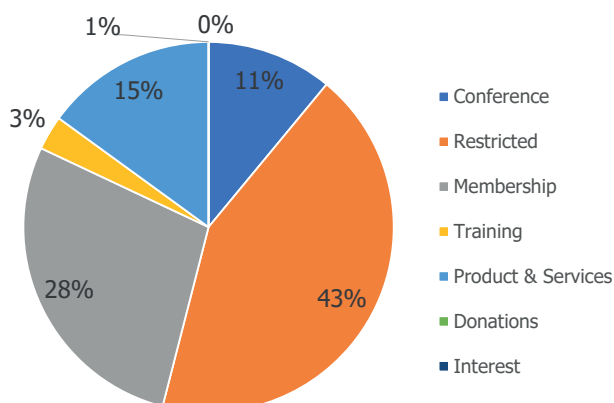
In addition to the increase in both restricted and unrestricted income we made significant savings in staff due to I A Patton reducing down to 2 days per week from January to June and left employment in June 2022 and C L Bonner starting as our new CEO in February 2023. Whilst F L Goodwin stepped up as Interim CEO during this period a saving was made on wages, with an overall 13% decrease in unrestricted expenditure. As a charity, all of our income and expenditure meet our charitable objectives.

## Future Plans - Looking to 2023

We will be using our reserves to invest in increasing our staffing capacity to deliver key new income generation activities such as the Carbon Coalition and the EAUC & SUMS sustainability consultancy partnership. Our Educational Membership remains strong with a 95% retention rate and we have already welcomed 9 new members in 2023. We are reliant upon our members to continue supporting our work and we remain dedicated in supporting our members in 2023 and beyond.

**Thank you to our Members for continuing to support us – without you we would not exist.**

Where our income comes from





This report was written and designed  
in-house by the EAUC team.

## GET IN TOUCH



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