

AUDE Sustainability Briefing Paper December 2019

Purpose

The EAUC provides the AUDE Executive and AUDE Members with an update on current and future activities taking place within the sector relating to sustainability and estates.

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Legislation

The EAUC provides legal updates on issues relating to the sector. The latest edition includes:

Time for action: building a competitive and inclusive green economy

The Aldersgate Group published its manifesto report, *Time for action: building a competitive and inclusive green economy*, setting out key priorities for the new government following the General Election. The report – which received significant input from business and civil society organisations – calls for the next government to deliver a step change in policy ambition to put the UK on a credible pathway to achieve net zero emissions and urgently reverse the decline in the state of the natural environment. **The** manifesto argues that tackling climate change and environmental degradation should therefore be a central priority for the new government and sit at the heart of the UK's economic policy. The next five years should also be about accelerating innovation in low carbon technologies and business models, supporting the UK's economic competitiveness during the net zero transition and driving job creation as industries evolve and new supply chains are created. Further details can be found here:

<http://www.aldersgategroup.org.uk/latest#general-election-2019-next-five-years-crucial-to-deliver-climate-and-environmental-goals>

The Environment Bill - progress and loopholes

The Environment Bill landed for its first reading in the House of Commons on Tuesday, 15th October. The first reading is a formal stage that takes place without any debate. The next step is a second reading in which MPs debate the overall principles of the Bill. The date for this has not yet been set, and will likely be delayed due to a probable General Election in the next few weeks. This was a mammoth Bill, and it focused on 4 key areas for improvement, and gave detail on the new regulatory body the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP). More information is available here:

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2019-2020/0003/20003.pdf>

Government outlines review of education emissions reduction targets

In the response to the reports from the Committee for Climate Change (CCC), the government acknowledged the CCC's point that the UK is on track to miss current required projections for the fourth and fifth carbon budgets (2023-32). They responded to this by stating 'that the foundations in the Clean Growth Strategy provide the right basis for future action, and that these foundations must be further developed into firm policy, ambitious implementation and a co-ordinated approach across all sectors. They also recognised 'an inspiring step change in public concern over the effects of climate change, as evidenced by the wave of activism we have seen in recent months – not just in the UK, but across the globe'. There was little new information in relation to education, other than investment in building, heat and ventilation skills and some information about public bodies and carbon reduction. Further details can be found here: https://www.eauc.org.uk/government_outlines_review_of_public_and_higher

Scottish Circular Economy Bill

Councils need to see more investment from Holyrood ahead of the Scottish government's Circular Economy Bill, according to the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA). The group has warned that improvements in recycling and resource management will be impossible if local authorities do not have the funding to transition to the new schemes which the bill will include.



COSLA's statement comes as the Scottish government begun a consultation on its Circular Economy Bill, running until 19th December, which looks to cut waste and develop a new approach to pushing the circular economy agenda. If you'd like to find out more click here: <https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/investment-needed-for-scottish-circular-economy-bill/>

Producers to pay “full costs” of disposal

The government has confirmed that it will require producers to pay the “full net costs” of their waste products under the much-anticipated Environment Bill which was laid before parliament yesterday. And, it explained that councils will be required to collect a consistent set of materials at the kerbside, rather than using a consistent method – and this will include food waste.

According to Defra, the waste and resources section of the Bill is intended to deliver on the Resources and Waste Strategy 2018, by introducing new powers and amending existing legislation.

The Bill covers areas such as extended producer responsibility; a deposit return scheme; charges to be applied for specified single-use plastics (not just carrier bags); consistent kerbside recycling collections; and, requirements for certain businesses and public bodies to present material for recycling. For more information click here: <https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/producers-to-pay-full-costs-bill-confirms/>

Activities

The Climate Commission for UK University and College Students & Leaders was launched

The Climate Commission for UK Higher and Further Education Students and Leaders established by Association of Colleges, EAUC, GuildHE and Universities UK was launched on Wednesday, 13th November 2019 – marking the start of a yearlong drive to drastically increase the contribution of universities and colleges to the fight against climate change. The short-term Climate Commission will develop an Action Plan in response to the government's stated climate emergency and draw together a strategic sector-wide approach to the Climate Framework. Read more about the objectives and next steps here: https://www.eauc.org.uk/climate_commission

Adapting universities and colleges to a changing climate: Making the case and taking action

Climate change is not only a risk in itself to operational, teaching and research activities, but also a multiplier of many other risks. It is vital that considerations of climate change risks and how these risks can be minimised (through adaptation actions), do not become siloed within the remit of Sustainability or Estates Teams.

Developed by a Working Group of FHE sustainability and risk professionals, led by EAUC and HEBCoN (the Higher Education Business Continuity Network) with the support of adaptation specialists from AECOM, these two Guides published in summer 2019 highlight why, and how, to effectively embed considerations of climate change risk within your existing risk and business continuity procedures. Discover more here: <https://www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk/adaptation>

Sustainability Leadership Scorecard – Annual Report 2019

AUDE (the Association of University Directors of Estates) and EAUC (the alliance for sustainability leadership in education) have launched the first annual Sustainability Leadership Scorecard Report, to give an overview of the UK and Ireland Higher and Further Education sector's activity and performance on



sustainability. The first annual Sustainability Leadership Scorecard Report summarises data submitted by 45 institutions in the UK and Ireland. Institutions using the tool are clearly able to point to concrete gains from use of the tool, whether in terms of benchmarking to similar institutions, gap analysis, or better high-level reporting of sustainability information. Key findings from the report can be found here:

https://www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk/sustainability_leadership_scorecard_annual_repo

SDG Accord Report 2019: Progress towards the Global Goals in the HE and FE Sector

A global alliance of the world's universities, colleges and sustainability networks has launched the second annual SDG report; 'Progress towards the Global Goals in the University and College sector'. Presented at the UN High Level Political Forum in New York, the research shows increasing prioritisation of Climate Action (SDG 13) in universities and colleges and recommends their leaders commit to Net Zero Carbon Emissions or risk falling behind institutions that recognise the seriousness of this situation. The full report can be accessed here:

https://www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk/sdg_accord_report_2019_progress_towards_the_glo

Events

EAUC Sustainability Leadership Programmes

With the wider education sector starting an active and committed fight against climate change, developing expertise and confidence as a strategic sustainability leader is crucial. Alongside this, developing personal management capabilities to deliver objectives in line with organisational strategy is paramount to successfully managing this process.

We're inviting members to join our well-established leadership programmes and gain a greater understanding of leadership practices with relevance to sustainability.

EAUC Emerging Leaders Programme (January to June 2020) - receive guidance and support on expanding your networks, both internally and externally, deliver projects with impact with full support, facilitation, and tools being provided alongside a bespoke virtual learning environment.

EAUC Leadership Lab (15 - 17th January 2020) - a transformational leadership and personal development programme that focuses on leaders, future leaders and change agents to support the sustainable development of their own institution in a way that also contributes to delivery against the sustainable development goals. The focus is on personal and professional development to support strategic leadership.

This also includes the first year subscription to the Leadership Academy.

EAUC Leadership Academy - bringing together leaders within the sector with other experts and thought leaders, Academy members will be able to join Leadership Masterclass Webinars and facilitated Online Discussion Forums on topical emerging trends.

Find out more about it and book your place [here](#).



EAUC Annual Conference – Climate2020

This major event will bring together the key stakeholders from UK and Ireland universities and colleges in recognition that we should be at the forefront of the climate damage limitation movement. As the founding partner of the Climate Commission for UK Higher and Further Education Leaders, the conference will also provide unique insights into the work of the Commission, and outline opportunities for delegates to contribute in the lead up to the UN Climate Change Summit COP26 in Glasgow in November 2020.

This year, we will focus the conference around the main theme of **CLIMATE** and we will be looking for ideas within the subject areas outlined [here](#) and we would like to invite you and your team to submit a workshop/session proposal for a chance to share best practice across the sector and a 10% discount off your delegate package. Please keep an eye on the [Conference page](#) for the upcoming Agenda and updates on our speakers.

Full list of forthcoming webinars and events

[EAUC Leadership Lab](#)

15 – 17 January, Location: University of Cambridge

[Emerging Leaders Programme](#)

January to June, Birmingham

[Sustainability Sharing Series: Sustainable events and conferences](#)

5 February 2020 11:00 - 12:00, Location: Virtual

[Sustainability Sharing Series: Wildlife on Campus](#)

4 March 2020 11:00 - 12:00, Location: Virtual

[Midlands Sustainable Education Network](#)

13 March 2020 10:00 - 15:00, Location: Nottingham Trent University

To keep up to date on the latest news and events ensure you contact us at info@eauc.org.uk. Your institution may already be an EAUC Member, enabling you to access all of the benefits of Membership.

Produced by EAUC for AUDE Members