



# Annual Report 2021/22

## Summary

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# Engagement and events

EAUC-Scotland's Forum Meetings, Smaller Institutions for Sustainability Meeting (SISM) group, nine Topic Support Networks (TSNs), training opportunities and regional networks are our main vehicles for sector staff to share experiences and best practice, develop resources, and set mutual sector expectations and leadership.

**39**

**events facilitated**



**740**

**participants**



**95%**

**positive feedback**



**1508**

**educational contacts**



**84%**

**of Scottish FHE institutions represented**



## Carbon Literacy Training

Understanding of sustainability throughout campus communities is crucial for holistic leadership and actions across institutions. Over the past 12 months, EAUC Scotland has delivered Carbon Literacy Training accredited by the Carbon Literacy Project to 135 participants over 9 training cohorts.

"Many thanks for the carbon literacy training you delivered. It has helped me enormously to reduce my own carbon footprint, investigate ways I can reduce this within my department, the wider college and my friends and family."

**Email feedback from Carbon Literacy Training participant**

**Carbon Literate  
Organisation  
Platinum**

Recognising EAUC and EAUC Scotland's commitment to Carbon Literacy Training, the Carbon Literacy Project has awarded EAUC Platinum status as a Carbon Literate Organisation. EAUC Scotland is the only Scottish organisation or branch to have achieved this level of award.

We regularly advertise [Carbon Literacy Training sessions](#) on our website. [Get in touch](#) to discuss bespoke training for your institution.



# Towards a net zero FHE sector

Since 2015/16, Scottish universities and colleges have been required by the Scottish Government to collate and report their greenhouse gas emissions data through Public Bodies Climate Change Duty (PBCCD) Reporting. The EAUC-Scotland team ensures that the FHE sector receives the appropriate support and guidance.

EAUC Scotland facilitated a fourth successful iteration and expansion of the PBCCD Reporting Peer Review through EAUC-Scotland's Sustainability for Smaller Institutions Meeting (SISM) group. This year, 19 institutions engaged with the Peer Review, including 13 colleges and 6 universities. The Peer Review allows participants to share experiences and best practices with each other, as well as check reporting data for errors or omissions ahead of formal submission. The growth in participation from 9 institutions in 2019, 13 institutions in 2020, to 19 institutions this year demonstrate the value participants receive from this facilitated support.

Recognising the work of EAUC Scotland supporting Scottish universities and colleges PBCCD reporting and wider activities to lower sector emissions through knowledge-sharing and training, the team were awarded the Gold Scottish Green Apple Award for Environmental Best Practice by The Green Apple Environment Awards.



EAUC-Scotland has continued to collaborate with APUC and wider stakeholders to increase awareness of the greenhouse gas emissions associated with procurement, and to create frameworks for strategic action to improve reporting of these emissions by supply chain organisations and influence them to reduce emissions. EAUC Scotland were part of an APUC working group to develop its draft Scottish University and College Sectors Supply Chain Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy 2022 to 2030. EAUC Scotland also continue to support APUC's Climate Emergency Procurement Working Group, with a key outcome over the past year the development and publication of sector guides for seven Primary Impact Areas of Climate Change (PIACC). These guides include sector strategic approaches to energy; construction; catering; furniture; information technology and services; laboratories; and travel & transport.

## Key Achievements

- 8 TSN events facilitated covering scope 3 emission areas
- Supported the APUC with development of draft Supply Chain Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy 2022 to 2030 and new sector resources
- Co-developed sector paper on sustainability and internationalisation with Universities Scotland VP Internationals for Sustainability Working Group
- Embedding of sustainability within Universities Scotland governance structures

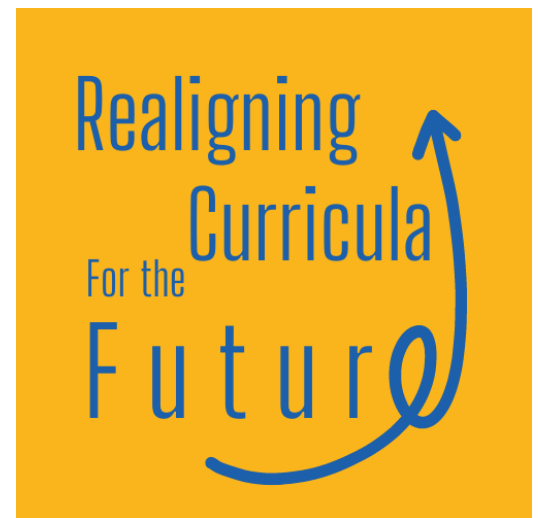
# Progressing Education for Sustainable Development

## Key Statistics

- 3 Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) TSN events hosted with 168 participants
- 92% of ESD event attendees believe EAUC-Scotland is helping them develop their skills and knowledge
- 96% of Annual Review Survey respondents either Agree or Agree Strongly that their institution tries to embed the concept of sustainability within its learning and teaching activities

## Realigning Curricula for the Future

EAUC-Scotland has launched the Realigning Curricula for the Future series, which aims to create collaborative networks of teaching staff who are working to embed ESD in their curriculum in the same subject across different institutions through facilitated discussion and presentations. The initial subjects the series will address are Hairdressing and Beauty, Law, Art and Design and Mathematics. The first session, on Hair and Beauty had 13 attendees who found the event useful to their practice.



“Thank you for this morning, was great to hear from other lecturers in hair and beauty about sustainability.”

**Feedback to EAUC Scotland from New College Lanarkshire CQL in Hair and Beauty**

## Key Partnerships

EAUC-Scotland has been developing their strategic approach to ESD over the last year, particularly developing relationships with sparqs, SOS-UK, and the Quality Assurance Agency on both a Scottish and UK level. EAUC-Scotland are co-delivering an QAA Collaborative Enhancement Research Project on monitoring and evaluating ESD with all the aforementioned partners, alongside the Universities of St Andrews, Edinburgh and the Highlands and Islands, which will take place from March 2022 to May 2023.

EAUC Scotland and Learning for Sustainability Scotland have also successfully approached College Development Network to support the development of an introduction to sustainability course open to all college staff in Scotland. The training course is expected to be available to the sector by summer 2022.



# Partnerships and collaboration

## Spotlight on: Central and South Scotland College Partnership

EAUC-Scotland, in partnership with Borders College, Forth Valley College and West Lothian College, has developed a new shared-services framework to increase sustainability staffing capacity within each of the college partners. Known as the Central and South Scotland College Partnership, the three colleges are funding for 18 months a shared 1 FTE Sustainability Project Manager based within EAUC Scotland to deliver sustainability projects and develop sustainability strategies within each college, and also to share ideas and experiences between the three for the benefit of all. EAUC Scotland is also expected to gain increased knowledge of college operations and opportunities and challenges relating to sustainability. If the pilot is successful this could be a model offered to the sector to improve staffing capacity where there isn't the opportunity to fund a role fully internally, as well as improve the capacity of institutions to access EAUC Scotland support.

25

new sustainability resources published



14

Peer Mentoring Pilot participants



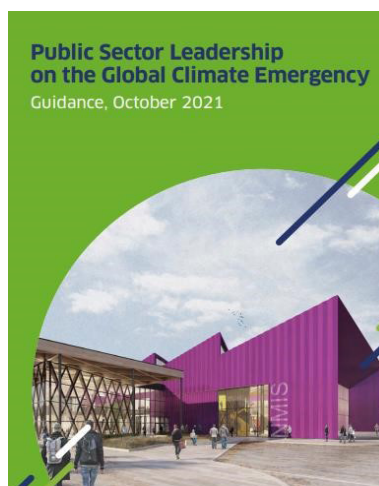
1,508

EAUC Scotland Newsletter subscribers



## Public Sector Leadership on the Global Climate Emergency Guidance October 2021

This year EAUC-Scotland has worked with Scottish Government and Sustainable Scotland Network partners to co-develop the Scottish Government's Public Sector Leadership on the Global Climate Emergency Guidance October 2021. This is the first known document of its kind from Scottish Government and it aims to engage the leaders of Scotland's public bodies in the key role they have to play in the crucial period to 2030 in the shared national endeavour to tackle the global crises of health, climate emergency and biodiversity loss.



62

non-FHE organisations engaged



340,000 content views on Twitter





# Showcasing Sector Leadership

## Race to Zero

There have been 20 new Race to Zero for Universities and Colleges signatories taking the total to 69% of the Scottish FHE sector. These institutions have pledged to reach zero GHGs as soon as possible in line with global efforts to limit warming to 1.5C. The campaign has been formally recognised by the United Nations Environment Programme in its Race To Zero campaign for COP26.



## The SDG Accord



There have been 4 new SDG Accord signatories taking the total to 33% of the Scottish FHE sector. The SDG Accord commitment was developed by the Global Alliance for adoption by tertiary education institutions worldwide, with an annual reporting requirement which feeds into the United Nations High Level Political Forum.

## Green Gown Awards

Green Gown Award applications from Scotland made up 17% of the total in 2021 with six Scottish overall Winners / Highly Commended including:



- Benefiting Society Award – Dumfries and Galloway College – Making the most of the coast – marine plastic (Winner)
- Campus of the Future – Dumfries and Galloway College – Reimagining the learning environment (Winner)
- 2030 Climate Action – University of Edinburgh – Positive Futures: Addressing the climate crises through a whole institution approach (Winner)
- Student Engagement – University of St Andrews – The Third Generation Project (Winner)
- Next Generation Learning and Skills – University of Edinburgh – Students as Change Agents (Highly Commended)
- Sustainability Institution of the Year Award – University of St Andrews – Net Zero 2035: Towards a climate positive future in partnership with our students (Winner)



Green Gown Awards 2022

in association with



UK Research and Innovation



# Engagement with COP26



UN CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
UK 2021

EAUC-Scotland developed and delivered a range of activities during this programme to ensure a strong presence and contribution from the Scottish FHE sector in the run up to, during and after COP26.

## Key Achievements

- COP26 and Student Engagement event - this joint event between ESD TSN, Community Engagement TSN and Student Leaders TSN received the largest attendance of an EAUC-Scotland event outside our conferences, including 28 participants from 22 non-Scottish institutions.
- 3 EAUC-Scotland staff members and 6 Scottish-based Board Members / EAUC Fellows had Observer Status passes for the COP26 Blue Zone, attended COP26 events and reported their experiences at the EAUC-Scotland Winter Forum.
- The EAUC Scotland COP26 webpage was created, listing details of sector events.
- EAUC COP26 'asks' were developed with priority themes on Net Zero; Investment; Leadership; and Education and Skills.





# Looking forward

"Over the last year, the attention of the public has well and truly turned towards the plight of our planet. From the key messages given at COP26 to the latest IPCC report, there is an abundance of scientific information available for us all to dissect and gain an understanding of how the environment is faring in these devastating times. Inevitably, questions have been asked about what organisations and individuals can do to help our world and EAUC Scotland has proven itself to be a solid point of reference, continuing to aid universities and colleges to come together, to understand and contextualise the latest reports and policies and, crucially, giving a place for members to share their valuable and often pioneering work. A key focus moving forwards for EAUC Scotland is for this valuable and critical information to reach as many students in the college and university sector as possible, as they are after all, the generation who will continue the fight to recover the health of our planet."

**Christine Calder, EAUC-Scotland Advisory Group Convenor**

## Aviation Workshops

Building on the Travel Better Package, our work with the Universities Scotland VP Internationals Group and the new Scottish Government Guidance, EAUC Scotland has been developing a workshop series focusing on aviation within the HE sector expected to be delivered in summer 2022. The goal of the workshops is to develop sector-wide responses to the specific issue of aviation within Higher Education, in collaboration with key stakeholders with a focus on both the challenges and rewards of reducing air travel.

## Key Activities for Year 3

1. Development of Introduction to Sustainability training for all Scottish college staff, in partnership with CDN and Learning for Sustainability Scotland
2. Publication of PBCCD Sector Analysis Reports for FHE, FE and HE
3. Regional Workshop Series
4. QAA Collaborative Enhancement Project exploring monitoring and evaluating sustainability in the curriculum (in partnership)
5. Aviation and Higher Education Webinars
6. Autumn Topic Support Network Series
7. PBCCD Reporting Peer Review
8. EAUC Scotland Conference (early 2023)

**For more details of our 3-year programme Accelerating action and leadership in Scotland's colleges and universities to respond to the climate emergency visit our website.**

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Twitter: @EAUCScotland

Website: [www.eauc.org.uk/scotland](http://www.eauc.org.uk/scotland)

Email: [scotland@eauc.org.uk](mailto:scotland@eauc.org.uk)

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