**AUDE Sustainability Briefing Paper**

**April 2021**

# 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.

# Summary

## [Legislation](#Legislation)

* [Wales has set out its legal commitment to achieve net zero emissions by 2050](https://gov.wales/wales-commits-net-zero-2050-sets-out-ambitions-get-there-sooner)
* [Waste prevention programme for England published 2021](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/waste-prevention-programme-for-england-2021)
* [Major blueprint to create green jobs and slash emissions from industry, schools and hospitals](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-blueprint-to-create-green-jobs-and-slash-emissions-from-industry-schools-and-hospitals)
* [Environmental Audit Committee inquiry into Green Jobs](https://www.eauc.org.uk/eauc_attended_the_environmental_audit_committee)

## [Activities](#_Activities)

* [The Climate Commission for UK University and College Students & Leaders Updates 2021](https://www.eauc.org.uk/climate_commission_updates)
* [COP26 Update](https://www.eauc.org.uk/cop26_eauc)
* [Launch of the Carbon Offsetting Briefing and Carbon Coalition for Universities and Colleges](https://www.eauc.org.uk/universities_and_colleges_consider_carbon_offse)
* [Race to Zero for Universities and Colleges](https://www.sdgaccord.org/race-to-zero-for-universities-and-colleges)
* [SDG Accord Report 2021: Reporting Updates](https://www.sdgaccord.org/)
* [Green Gown Awards 2021 Open](https://www.greengownawards.org/green-gown-awards-uk-ireland)

**Additional information**

* [Sector](https://www.greengownawards.org/green-gown-awards-uk-ireland) representation
* New guidance on education for sustainability development
* [EAUC supports the Kickstart Placement Scheme](https://www.changeagents.org.uk/kickstart-education)

## [Events](#_Events)

* [EAUC Sustainability Leadership Programmes](https://www.eauc.org.uk/next_generation_sustainability_leadership_progr)
* [Carbon Literacy Training by EAUC](https://www.eauc.org.uk/carbon_literacy_training3)
* [Full list of forthcoming webinars and events](https://www.eauc.org.uk/events)

# Legislation

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

**Wales has set out its legal commitment to achieve net zero emissions by 2050**

The Welsh Government has set out its legal commitment in February 2021 to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 but is pushing to “get there sooner” as it gets ready for COP26 (26th United Nations’ Climate Change Conference of the Parties) in November. The move comes following a [recommendation report](https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/the-path-to-net-zero-and-progress-reducing-emissions-in-wales/) by the independent Climate Change Committee (CCC), that revealed net zero emissions, previously thought unachievable and unaffordable by experts, was now possible with ambitious policy and a ‘Team Wales’ effort.  
  
The new evidence from the CCC says greater reductions within the industrial sector will help achieve this goal, as a large proportion of Welsh emissions come from a small number of big emitters, such as Port Talbot steelworks. The report also draws attention to the interdependency of UK and Welsh actions and targets. The UK cannot reach net zero without action in Wales, but equally Wales needs the UK Government to step up to the challenge and ensure a swift, fair and equitable transition to a low carbon future. Find out more here - <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/the-path-to-net-zero-and-progress-reducing-emissions-in-wales/>

**Waste Prevention Programme for England published**

The Waste Prevention Programme for England sets out key proposals for embedding resource efficiency across sectors like automotive and construction, and moving towards a more circular economy. In reacting to its publication, the [Aldersgate Group](https://www.aldersgategroup.org.uk/latest#resource-efficiency-crucial-for-meeting-net-zero-driving-resilience-and-creating-jobs) welcomed the much-needed focus on transforming production and consumption through re-use, repair and re-manufacture, and stressed that it will be pivotal to integrate these ambitions across the economy. These plans form part of a new wide-ranging [Waste Prevention Programme for England](https://consult.defra.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/waste-prevention-programme-for-england-2021) which sets out how the Government and industry can take action across seven key sectors – construction; textiles; furniture; electrical and electronics products; road vehicles; packaging, plastics and single-use items; and food - to minimise waste and work towards a more resource efficient economy. This includes steps to use resources more efficiently, design and manufacture products for optimum life and repair and reuse more items. A consultation on the Government’s fight against single-use plastic waste is [currently underway](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/waste-prevention-programme-for-england-2021). More information is available here: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-unveils-plans-for-wide-ranging-waste-prevention-programme

# Major blueprint to create green jobs and slash emissions from industry, schools and hospitals

An ambitious blueprint to deliver the world’s first low-carbon industrial sector and over £1 billion to cut emissions from industry, schools and hospitals has been announced by the Business and Energy Secretary in March 2021. The new strategy will be underpinned by supporting existing industry to decarbonise and encouraging the growth of new, low carbon industries in the UK to protect and create skilled jobs and businesses in the UK, as well as giving businesses long-term certainty to invest in home-grown decarbonisation technology, such as that which can capture and store carbon emissions from industrial plants - rather than outsourcing industrial activity to high-emission countries around the world. Further details can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-blueprint-to-create-green-jobs-and-slash-emissions-from-industry-schools-and-hospitals>

[**Environmental Audit Committee inquiry into Green Jobs**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/eauc_attended_the_environmental_audit_committee)

Following on the Green Jobs overall national conversation, [EAUC is heavily involved in the skills and training needed](https://www.eauc.org.uk/kickstart_scheme_placements_update) to achieve the UK’s longer-term climate and environmental ambitions and what planning and work is taking place to meet these requirements. EAUC believes now is a great opportunity for colleges and universities to innovate and blur these boundaries and to stop the insular thinking of vocational versus academic. In light of this, EAUC have made the following recommendations:

* That Climate Skills Action Plans should be mandated for all universities and colleges to complete. This would signal the Governments prioritisation to skills and net zero and help institutions identify where they need to fill climate skills gaps in their curricula and staff training. Skills Development Scotland have done this on a national scale to create pathways to upskilling every sector to help employers and skills providers ensure they meet the skills needed as each sector advances towards net zero.
* Update and develop new qualifications to encourage retraining and lifelong learning through a joined up approach between private sector and government. This could increase the availability of short-term retraining courses, with clear pathways into employment as an incentive for workers.
* Bring back mandatory carbon reporting for universities in England to boost carbon literacy and increase awareness of the issue across the university, by giving the Office for Students the mandate to do so.

In January 2021 [EAUC released the response](https://www.eauc.org.uk/consultations) to the Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) on Green Skills and are confident that some of the recommendations listed then are now being considered further, such as the early considerations of the establishment of a National Skills Commission to encourage the coordination of different government departments and work with businesses, local institutions.

If you’d like to find out more click here: <https://www.eauc.org.uk/eauc_attended_the_environmental_audit_committee>

# Activities

**The Climate Commission for UK University and College Students & Leaders Updates**

[The Climate Commission for UK College and University Students and Leaders](https://www.eauc.org.uk/climate_commission)was launched in November 2019 with the aim to produce a clear, consistent and cohesive response to the Climate Emergency. Since the beginning of the year, the [HE Climate Action Toolkit](https://www.eauc.org.uk/climate_action_toolkit) was launched, a range of events had taken place, including the [AoC Conference](https://www.aocannualconference.co.uk/) where the [FE Climate Action Roadmap](https://www.eauc.org.uk/fe_roadmap) was outlined. Climate Commissioners Jim Longhurst and Manveer Gill presented at the [AUDE Annual Conference](https://www.aude.ac.uk/events/annual-conference/) (15th April). The Climate Commission are working on clearer outlines on targets and what is included within each. We will be consulting with the sector on this in the coming months. Read more about the Climate Commission updates and next steps here: <https://www.eauc.org.uk/climate_commission_updates>

**COP26 Update**

COP26 is being held in Glasgow in November 2021. EAUC are working hard to ensure universities and colleges, and their role in society have a high profile at the event. Much of this is still in planning and we will keep members informed as more information comes through. [Here is a summary](https://www.eauc.org.uk/2021_updates) of where EAUC are involved in the planning. The Education Day at COP26 is not yet confirmed when this will take place in the agenda.

**Launch of the Carbon Offsetting Briefing and Carbon Coalition for Universities and Colleges**

The EAUC and the COP26 Universities Network have launched [new guidance on offsetting to support the development of further and higher education offsetting policies](https://www.gla.ac.uk/media/Media_770459_smxx.pdf). The [COP26 Universities Network](https://www.gla.ac.uk/research/cop26/) are a growing group of more than 50 UK-based universities and research institutes working together to help deliver an ambitious outcome at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow in November 2021. Climate experts from six leading UK HE institutions contributed to this guidance to support universities and colleges in their journey to reach net-zero. Authors of the briefing stress that these institutions have an opportunity to demonstrate leadership in the move towards a net-zero future. Ambitious plans to reduce carbon emissions will need to be accompanied by some offsetting activity.   
  
As a result of the recommendations from the guidance EAUC are piloting a sector-wide offsetting initiative called [Carbon Coalition](https://www.eauc.org.uk/carbon_coalition). Discover more here: <https://www.eauc.org.uk/universities_and_colleges_consider_carbon_offse>

[**Race**](https://www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk/sustainability_leadership_scorecard_annual_repo) **to Zero for Universities and Colleges**

The Global Climate Letter for Universities and Colleges has been the official route for universities and colleges to be part of the Race to Zero campaign. In an attempt to align it more strategically the commitments made by institutions around the world (with UK institutions at the forefront of the initiative), the Global Climate Letter is now officially recognised as the [Race to Zero for Universities and Colleges Campaign](https://www.sdgaccord.org/race-to-zero-for-universities-and-colleges) run in partnership with Second Nature and UN Environment. A list of current signatories can be found [here](https://www.sdgaccord.org/race-to-zero-for-universities-and-colleges-sign). There are currently 72 UK signatories.   
  
By joining the Race to Zero, you will help demonstrate both the higher and further education sector’s commitment to the net zero agenda as well as your institution’s leadership on a global level at COP26 in November 2021.  
  
There are over 25,000 universities and numerous colleges across the world, together we make a huge impact and can be a force for change. We need to take action now.

### By joining you are committing to the following Race to Zero criteria:

* Pledge: having a 2050 or sooner net zero target
* Plan***:*** explain what steps will be taken toward achieving net zero
* Proceed: taking action towards net zero
* Publish: commit to report progress annually

Find out more here: <https://www.sdgaccord.org/race-to-zero-for-universities-and-colleges>

**SDG Accord Report 2021: Reporting Updates**

The SDG Accord Reporting 2021 has launched on **Monday 29th March and will be open until Friday 7th May** for all institutional signatories to complete. If you require further information, please [contact EAUC](mailto:TAXENTE@EAUC.ORG.UK?subject=SDG%20Accord%20Reporting%202021). On behalf of the Global Alliance, EAUC will collate the data and it will become the SDG Accord Annual Report 2021 which will be presented at the UN High-Level Political Forum in July 2021. This report gives an overview of the post-16 education sector and how it is contributing to the SDGs globally. Find out more about the reporting and pledge your institution to become a signatory if it is not one yet here: <https://www.sdgaccord.org/>

# Green Gown Awards 2021 Applications Open

# We are delighted to announce the Green Gown Awards UK & Ireland 2021 are now open for applications. The Awards provide an opportunity for institutions across the UK and Ireland to be recognised for their excellent efforts in undertaking innovative and inspiring sustainability work to create a brighter future for their students.

[All categories have been updated to include challenges and opportunities that have happened due to the pandemic. The new category, Building Back Better](https://www.greengownawards.org/categories-criteria-2021) recognises the impact that the pandemic has had on institutions and challenges and opportunities that have been created to drive an environmental and just sustainable recovery in a fair and inclusive way.

**UK Green Building Council Net-Zero Whole Life Carbon Roadmap & Net-Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment**

Prof. John French – Deputy Chair, EAUC represents EAUC on the [UKGBC Net-Zero Whole Life Carbon Roadmap](https://www.ukgbc.org/ukgbc-work/net-zero-whole-life-carbon-roadmap/) Steering Group. Institutions are being asked to sign up to the World Green Building Council Net-Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment at <https://worldgbc.org/thecommitment>

**Embodied Carbon in Buildings**

EAUC are leading a network of institutions in developing tools, resources and common understanding in this area. An initial meeting has taken place and further events will be coming shortly. This is being led by University of Warwick, University of Bath and UCL. If you would like to be involved please contact [Fiona Goodwin](mailto:fgoodwin@eauc.org.uk).

**Risk & Adaptation**

EAUC and Loughborough University held a 2 day event focussing on risk and adaptation on 19th & 20th April. Further details and slides from the event will be shared at <https://www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk/adaptation> which also has the EAUC guides to adaptation and risk.

# New guidance on education for sustainability development

The launch of new guidance on [Education for Sustainable Development](https://documents.advance-he.ac.uk/download/file/9603) in higher education, jointly published by QAA and Advance HE is intended to help UK higher education institutions to incorporate Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) within their curricula.  
  
The guidance comes at a time of increased urgency to tackle the climate crisis and its interconnected development needs. As the UK prepares to host the COP26 UN Climate Conference later this year in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the higher education sector has a key role in helping address sustainable development issues.  
  
QAA and Advance HE brought together a group of experts representing academic, business and student communities, with the aim of supporting all students to acquire the skills necessary to develop values and take actions to transition society towards a sustainable future. EAUC's very own Board Members, Jim Longhurst, EAUC Board Chair, University of the West of England and Professor Simon Kemp, EAUC Trustee, University of Southampton have contributed to the development of this guidance. The guidance gives advice and support on curriculum design, as well as teaching, learning and assessment approaches.

**EAUC supports the Kickstart Placement Scheme**

EAUC, Change Agents UK (CAUK) and SOS-UK are working together to support the Further and Higher Education sector create new and exciting fully-funded 6-month paid positions for 16-24 year old's this year through the [government's Kickstart scheme](https://www.changeagents.org.uk/kickstart-education). We believe this is an excellent opportunity to support the creation of meaningful work placements that could be transformative for young people - and will help organisations to increase diversity and bring fresh ideas in these challenging times. This could be a fantastic opportunity for your own alumni to gain access to invaluable work, and for you to gain great input from their unique perspectives and experiences. Institutions can still apply for a placement.

# 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](https://www.eauc.org.uk/next_generation_sustainability_leadership_progr) and gain a greater understanding of leadership practices with relevance to sustainability.

[**EAUC Emerging Leaders Programme**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=6685) (October 2021 to May 2022) - Now in its fourth year of running, the newly refreshed [EAUC Emerging Leaders Programme](https://eauc.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=98f0114cf6b7e6577e2520425&id=48acaf2f57&e=38dc7f8917) that will be delivered online will help equip and revitalise early career sustainability professionals with the essential skills and knowledge they need to deliver change in their organisations. The course is appropriate for any sustainability professional whatever sector or organisation they are working in. Find out more [here](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=6685).

[**EAUC Leadership Academy**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/next_generation_sustainability_leadership_progr) – (May to June 2021) Addressing the numerous changes and concerns faced by the further and higher education sector especially over the last 12 months, the EAUC Leadership Academy will give you peer-to-peer opportunities to discuss and debate current trends, barriers and institutional achievements with fellow members. The Academy is designed to support and inspire your professional and personal development by providing the following courses:

* Strategic Leadership Sessions
* Coaching and Mentoring
* Leadership Workshop Sessions

Find out more about it and register your interest [here](https://www.eauc.org.uk/leadership_academy_2021)[.](http://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=6299)

**Carbon Literacy Training**

EAUC are pleased to be working in partnership to promote Carbon Literacy training. Our online Carbon Literacy course is a blended learning experience, with self-study elements alongside 2 half days virtual training, and is **relevant climate change learning for everyone**. It is a great way to gain a solid awareness of climate change, and the climate impacts of our everyday actions. The engaging and interactive training allows delegates to map their own carbon footprint and gain an understanding and motivation to reduce personal and work-place emissions. [Find out more](https://www.eauc.org.uk/carbon_literacy_training3) and book your place below:

8th September and 15th September - [Click here to book](https://eauc.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=98f0114cf6b7e6577e2520425&id=5dd6bd7e92&e=38dc7f8917)

13th October and 20th October - [Click here to book](https://eauc.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=98f0114cf6b7e6577e2520425&id=7740eb112c&e=38dc7f8917)  
10th November and 17th November - [Click here to book](https://eauc.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=98f0114cf6b7e6577e2520425&id=79583cc7ad&e=38dc7f8917)

## Full list of forthcoming webinars and events

**[Midlands Sustainable Education Network](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7426)**

22 April 2021 10:00 - 12:00

#### **[Travel and Transport Topic Support Network](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7390)**

28 April 2021 14:00 – 15:30

#### [**Waste Management Topic Support N**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7399)**etwork**

4 May 2021 14:00 – 16:00

#### [**Health and Wellbeing Topic Support Network**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7464)

6 May 2021 10:00 – 12:00

[**Sustainable Construction Topic Support Network**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7499)

12 May 2021 10:00 – 12:00

#### [**Waste Community of Practice Meeting**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7432)

24 May 2021 10:00 – 11:00

#### [**Energy & Water Community of Practice Meeting**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7449)

24 May 2021 11:00 – 12:30

**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