**AUDE Sustainability Briefing Paper**

**February 2022**

# 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

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* Carbon Emissions Alignment & Science-Based Targets
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* [Carbon Coalition](https://www.eauc.org.uk/carbon_coalition)
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# Legislation

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

# Independent Review – Tenant Farmers

[The Environment Secretary](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-working-group-launched-to-support-tenant-farmers) has announced an independent review dedicated to looking at how tenant farmers and tenancies can be better supported as farming in England is reformed to be more sustainable.

**The Office for Environmental Protection is now fully vested in England**

The watchdog will advise ministers and government departments and hold them and other public authorities to account against their environmental responsibilities and the law. As they became a fully independent legal entity, they have released its strategy and enforcement policy for [public consultation](https://consult.theoep.org.uk/oep/the-oep-strategy-and-enforcement-policy/).  Their strategy explains how the OEP will exercise their functions in relation to England and UK-wide 'reserved' matters (they may also receive a remit to consider devolved environmental matters in Northern Ireland, subject to the Northern Ireland Assembly giving its approval to the commencement).

**COP Presidency Priorities**

The COP26 President Alok Sharma delivered a speech at Chatham House, setting out the UK’s priorities for its COP Presidency. In [a press release](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cop26-president-warns-glasgow-climate-pact-will-remain-words-on-a-page-unless-countries-deliver-on-their-promises) issued ahead of the event, Mr Sharma emphasised the need for countries to work together to deliver on the promises made in Glasgow, otherwise the Glasgow Climate Pact will remain words on a page. To listen to the full speech, please go [here](https://twitter.com/COP26/status/1485582710609518599).

**The UK Government** [**published**](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-publishes-uks-third-climate-change-risk-assessment) **the UK’s Third Climate Change Risk Assessment**

This recognises the unprecedented challenge of ensuring the UK is resilient to climate change and sets out the work already underway to meet that challenge. The report finds that for eight individual risks, economic damages could exceed £1 billion per year each by 2050 with a temperature rise of 2°C, with the cost of climate change to the UK rising to at least 1% of GDP by 2045. It also outlines the further progress that the UK government will seek to deliver through National Adaptation Programme (NAP3), which is set to be brought to in Parliament in 2023.

**Green Jobs**

The Government published its [response](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5802/cmselect/cmenvaud/1010/report.html) to the Environmental Audit Committee’s report on green jobs. Following its publication, there was a marked stakeholder [reaction](https://www.edie.net/news/11/Government-glosses-over-MP-s-recommendations-for-strengthening-green-jobs-plans/) to the fact that the response did not engage with the recommendations of the Committee, nor did they commit to any new timescales.

**Public Transport in Towns**

[The Built Environment Committee](https://committees.parliament.uk/work/6493/public-transport-in-towns-and-cities/) has launched an inquiry into public transport in towns, considering the impact of technological and digital developments on travel behaviours, future trends in public transport innovation and how public policy may be shaped in light of these trends.

# Activities

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

1099 universities and colleges have signed the Race to Zero to date, with 144 institutions from the UK.

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 COP27 in November 2022.   
  
Find out more about the Race to Zero [here](https://www.educationracetozero.org/home).

**Carbon Emissions Alignment and Science-Based Targets**

EAUC are working with the sector to develop a draft proposal to have sector clarity and consensus on carbon targets, forms of reporting and language on carbon targets. This will provide a guide for institutions and have examples of how different institutions report on their data. The draft proposal will go to consultation with the wider EAUC membership, AUDE members and UUK members. You can find more information [here](https://www.eauc.org.uk/advancing_sector_emissions_alignment_project).

We are working closely with the Department of Education to ensure this aligns with the Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy.

This work will also feed into the Science-Based Targets framework we will be developing with key leaders in the sector who have already adopted this approach. EAUC is currently developing guidance and verification processes to ensure universities who have used science-based targets (SBTs) to track and report their progress in reducing emissions can apply methodologies that are appropriate to higher education. EAUC’s work with the science-based target initiative will ensure universities are applying the SBT methodology consistently, have a framework against which to reference standards, best practice, reporting and a route to verification. You can find more information [here](https://www.eauc.org.uk/eauc-led_science-based_target_guidance_and_veri).

**Department of Education Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy**

The Department of Education launched their [draft strategy](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1031454/SCC_DRAFT_Strategy.pdf) at COP26. The strategy includes all education providers in England – from Early Years to Universities. They are undergoing a consultation with the sector and the final strategy will be launched in April 2022. They have working groups for the 5 key areas and members are represented by:

* Climate Education – Jim Longhurst (UWE & EAUC Chair)
* Green Skills – Laurence Frewin (South Devon College & EAUC Trustee)
* Education Estates – John French (Cambridge & EAUC Deputy Chair)
* Operations & Supply Chain – Fiona Goodwin (EAUC Deputy CEO)
* Data & Research – Iain Patton (EAUC CEO)

Sector bodies such as AUDE also sit on relevant groups (Jane and Andy on Education Estates). GuildHE, Universities UK and Association of Colleges also have representatives sitting on each group.

There is an overarching student group which 3 Climate Commissioners sit on, Manveer Gill, Amy Brazier and Katie Major.

There is an overarching user group which Fiona Goodwin sits on. They have also recently set up an International focused group which Fiona Goodwin sits on.

To gain wider feedback they are running a survey but they also welcome feedback directly or you can send to Fiona Goodwin who can pass it on:

DfE is running an anonymous survey to gather feedback on our Sustainability and Climate Change Draft Strategy. We will use the results from this survey alongside feedback from working groups to inform the final developments of the strategy before publication in April 2022.

Please read our [draft strategy](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1031454/SCC_DRAFT_Strategy.pdf) and then take part in our [anonymous survey](https://dferesearch.fra1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6rmKf55aYSrcMUS). Responses must be submitted by 23:59 on 20 February.

By submitting your response, you are consenting for us to use your answers as part of our analysis of the public’s opinion on the draft strategy.

**Carbon Coalition**

The EAUC Carbon Coalition is a consortium of UK and Ireland higher and further education institutions that have joined together to offset their emissions leveraging their combined buying power and knowledge. We are just finishing the pilot and evaluation. EAUC are working with TEC to go through the required purchasing frameworks to ensure it meets all university and college procurement rules and aim to have the Carbon Coalition open for the wider sector in the next academic year.

The Carbon Coalition have also created Principles on Offsetting and an education presentation to explain what carbon credits are. All details of the pilot and all supporting documents are available at <https://www.eauc.org.uk/carbon_coalition>

A funding bid has been submitted to the Environment Agency to set up a framework and pilot for using university and college land for carbon credits. Thank you to all who provided letters of support in very short notice. We should hear if we are successful in June.

**Sustainability Leadership Scorecard**

EAUC and AUDE are working with a new host partner for the [Sustainability Leadership Scorecard](http://www.eauc.org.uk/sustainability_leadership_scorecard). The Sustainability Leadership Scorecard remains available for users throughout this process. We are looking to have user testing in April and are looking for volunteers to do this please.

**The SUMS Group Partners with EAUC to Deliver In-Depth Expertise in Sustainability to the Education Sector**  
  
Higher Education specialist, the SUMS Group (SUMS), is partnering with sector leader in sustainability, EAUC, to deliver expert sustainability support to colleges and universities across the UK and beyond.   
  
As universities and education providers strive to move towards net-zero carbon emissions, there is a need for specialist consultancy to support them to meet their objectives and receive maximum impact for their efforts.  This partnership will enable EAUC to deliver specialist sustainability support through SUMS’ recognised expert consulting and procurement divisions, giving members and clients of both organisations direct access to the expertise they need.  
  
EAUC will provide SUMS members and clients with access to expert practitioners in key facets of sustainability such as:

* Leadership, staff and governance
* Estates, community and operations
* Partnerships, society and engagement
* Learning, research and student engagement

Full details [here](https://www.eauc.org.uk/new_partnership_with_sums_to_support_the_sector).

**Green Gown Awards**

The 2022 UK & Ireland Green Gown Awards, in partnership with UKRI, open for applications on 1 April. Deadline for stage 1 is 6th June. Full details can be found at <https://www.greengownawards.org/green-gown-awards-uk-ireland>.

The International Green Gown Awards, in partnership with Allianz Global Investors, will be announced on 5th July at the UN High-Level Political Forum. Full details at <https://www.greengownawards.org/international-green-gown-awards>.

# Events

**Annual Conference**

8-9 November 2022 – Loughborough University. Further details at <https://www.eauc-conference.org/>

**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. The course ensures an understanding of how climate change is affecting us now and into the future, opportunities to better communicate climate issues at work and at home and introduces social aspects such as climate justice.  
  
To date, EAUC delivered and overseen the training and certification as Carbon Literate of 121 people from over 40 institutions across UK & Ireland, including 28 Universities, 7 Colleges and 7 Other related organisations. Our colleagues Claire de la Motte & Claire Mitchell are Certified Trainers. Through their dedication and support, we ensure that EAUC members have access to this valuable and pivotal training! [Find out more](https://www.eauc.org.uk/carbon_literacy_training3) and book your place below:

23rd May & 26th May - [Click here to book](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7853)  
15th June & 20th June - [Click here to book](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7858)

**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. We're inviting AUDE members to join our well-established [leadership programme](https://www.eauc.org.uk/next_generation_sustainability_leadership_progr) and gain a greater understanding of leadership practices with relevance to sustainability.

**EAUC Leadership Lab 2022**

The Leadership Lab will resume in person in 2022. This transformational leadership and personal development programme to develop expertise and confidence as a strategic sustainability leader involved in co-creating thriving, sustainable communities through your work in universities/colleges and wider societal contributions. Chair:  Professor Wendy M. Purcell, Harvard University  
  
The course 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. For more information, please [contact us](mailto:cmotte@eauc.org.uk?subject=Leadership%20Lab%20Interest).

## Full list of forthcoming webinars and events

#### [**Ireland Branch Meeting**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7810)

14 February 2022 11:00 - 12:00

#### [**Energy & Water Community of Practice Meeting**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7772)

17 February 2022 11:00 - 12:00

#### [**Biodiversity Community of Practice**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7821)

23 February 2022 10:00 - 11:00

#### [**GuildHE Climate and Sustainability Programme**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7855)

24 February 2022 - 19 July 2022

#### [**Midlands Sustainable Education Network**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7826)

25 February 2022 10:00 - 12:00

#### [**ESD toolkit workshop**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7815)

1 March 2022 15:00 - 16:30

#### [**Health and Wellbeing Topic Support Network**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7882)

17 March 2022 10:00 - 12:00

#### [**Managing Climate Risk Community of Practice**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7841)

17 March 2022 14:00 - 15:00

#### [**Connecting Civic to Climate Action**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7851)

22 March 2022 14:00 - 15:30

#### [**Hair and Beauty and Sustainability: Realigning Curricula for the Future**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7872)

23 March 2022 10:00 - 11:00

#### [**Waste Community of Practice**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7833)

31 March 2022 10:00 - 11:00

#### [**Law and Sustainability: Realigning Curricula for the Future**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7874)

20 April 2022 10:00 - 11:00

#### **[FE Network Meeting](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7852)**

28 April 2022 10:00 - 12:00

#### [**Yorkshire and Humber Regional Meeting**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7888)

24 May 2022 10:00 - 11:00

#### [**Art and Design and Sustainability: Realigning Curricula for the Future**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7875)

25 May 2022 10:00 - 11:00

#### [**London Regional Meeting**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7878)

16 June 2022 10:00 - 13:00

#### [**Mathematics and Sustainability: Realigning Curricula for the Future**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7876)

22 June 2022 10:00 - 11:00

*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.*