**AUDE Sustainability Briefing Paper**

**July 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)

* [Green Jobs Taskforce Report Independent Report launched](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/green-jobs-taskforce-report)
* [The Environmental Audit Committee](https://committees.parliament.uk/work/1346/mapping-the-path-to-net-zero/) has launched an inquiry into Mapping the path to net zero
* [The Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee](https://committees.parliament.uk/work/1343/net-zero-governance/) has launched an inquiry on net zero governance
* [The Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee](https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/6617/documents/71408/default/) published its report on Climate Assembly UK: where are we now?
* Update on the [Skills and Post-16 Education Bill](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-to-revolutionise-skills-and-training-opportunities)
* The Scottish Government launch the 10-year National Strategy that will drive Scotland’s economic [transformation](https://www.gov.scot/news/delivering-economic-transformation/)
* [Natural England](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/biodiversity-30-metric-launched-in-new-sustainable-development-toolkit) has unveiled the Biodiversity Metric 3.0

## [Activities](#_Activities)

* [The Climate Commission for UK University and College Students & Leaders Updates 2021](https://www.eauc.org.uk/7034)
* [Race to Zero for Universities and Colleges](https://www.sdgaccord.org/race-to-zero-for-universities-and-colleges)
* Carbon Targets, Reporting and Language
* [COP26 Updates](https://www.eauc.org.uk/cop26_eauc.)
* [Carbon Coalition](https://www.eauc.org.uk/carbon_coalition)
* Science Based Targets
* [Sustainability Leadership Scorecard Update](http://www.eauc.org.uk/sustainability_leadership_scorecard)
* [SDG Accord presented at the High-Level Political Forum](https://sdgacademylibrary.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/HESI+Special+Event,+Driving+collective+action+for+the+SDGsA+The+role+of+further+education_+Building/1_uld2qz16)
* [Green Gown Awards Finalists Announced](https://www.greengownawards.org/green-gown-awards-uk-ireland)
* [International Green Gown Awards Winners 2021](https://www.greengownawards.org/international-green-gown-awards)

## [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:

[**Green Jobs Taskforce Report Independent Report launched**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/green-jobs-taskforce-report)

This independent report from the Green Jobs Taskforce brings together evidence on the skills needed for our transition to net zero. It sets out the Taskforce’s recommendations for how government, industry, the education sector alongside other stakeholders can work together to grasp the opportunities of a green industrial revolution and meet the challenges of supporting high carbon sectors, their workers and the communities they support through the transition to net zero.

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and the Department for Education convened this Taskforce of 17 individuals from diverse backgrounds in industry, academia, unions, and the education and skills sector to come together to advise government, industry and the education sector. The full report can be accessed [here](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1002112/green-jobs-taskforce-report__1_.pdf).

[**The Environmental Audit Committee**](https://committees.parliament.uk/work/1346/mapping-the-path-to-net-zero/) **has launched an inquiry into Mapping the path to net zero**

[The Environmental Audit Committee](https://committees.parliament.uk/work/1346/mapping-the-path-to-net-zero/) has launched an inquiry into Mapping the path to net zero. This committee workstream, comprising a series of related evidence sessions, is focused on the strategies for delivery of the Government’s net zero strategy.

In line with its remit "to consider to what extent the policies and programmes of government departments and non-departmental public bodies contribute to environmental protection and sustainable development" and to audit their performance against targets by Ministers, the Committee plans to examine whether the Government’s present strategies to meet its net zero targets are adequate to meet its policy ambitions. The Committee will collaborate closely with the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee in that Committee's own inquiry into Net Zero Governance, announced on 24 June 2021. The Committee also intends to work collaboratively with other departmental select committees monitoring carbon-intensive departments and their net zero strategies.

The announcement follows the Climate Change Committee’s warning that time is running out for realistic climate commitments.

<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/1346/mapping-the-path-to-net-zero/>

[**The Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee**](https://committees.parliament.uk/work/1343/net-zero-governance/) **has launched an inquiry on net zero governance**

[The Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee](https://committees.parliament.uk/work/1343/net-zero-governance/) has launched an inquiry on net zero governance, which will examine the leadership and co-ordination which will be needed by government to deliver on the UK’s commitment to reach net zero by 2050.

The Committee’s inquiry will examine BEIS’s leadership role in delivering net zero, how effectively the Department is driving co-ordinated action across Whitehall and the role that devolved administrations and local and regional authorities can play. The inquiry will also examine the Government’s success in engaging with public sector bodies, regulators, businesses and citizens on net zero and the role and oversight of net zero performance metrics in Government. The BEIS Committee will be working closely with the Environmental Audit Committee on this inquiry and inviting guests from other select committees engaged in work on net zero. The BEIS Committee also welcomes evidence for this inquiry on the effectiveness of current parliamentary scrutiny arrangements for climate change. [Read the call for evidence for more information about this inquiry](https://committees.parliament.uk/call-for-evidence/513/net-zero-governance/). Evidence can be submitted until Friday 27 August 2021.

<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/1343/net-zero-governance/>

[**The Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee**](https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/6617/documents/71408/default/) **published its report on Climate Assembly UK: where are we now?**

The report calls for a net zero strategy public engagement strategy, and that that the Net Zero Review be published as soon as possible, and at the very latest, alongside the Net Zero Strategy, expected in September.

Over the past two decades the UK has achieved a 40% reduction in carbon emissions. This has largely been achieved within the power sector, through the closure of coal plants and the increases in renewable energy capacity. It was revealed that decarbonising other sectors, such as food, transport, and home energy, will have a more tangible impact on individual citizens, and the Climate Change Committee (CCC) suggests that behavioural changes will play a crucial role in the success or otherwise of the net zero transition. Climate Assembly UK (CAUK) identified that continued public engagement and education was a vital component in the UK’s journey towards net zero, and agreed that “informing and educating everyone” should be the number one underlying principal throughout the transition.

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/6617/documents/71408/default/>

**Update on the** [**Skills and Post-16 Education Bill**](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-to-revolutionise-skills-and-training-opportunities)

A [Skills and Post-16 Education Bill](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-to-revolutionise-skills-and-training-opportunities) which will support a Lifetime Skills Guarantee to enable flexible access to high quality education and training throughout people’s lives was released. The legislative measures include:

* + enabling a new student finance system to transform the current student loans system, which will give every adult access to a flexible loan for higher-level education and training at university or college, useable at any point in their lives
  + employers will have a statutory role in planning publicly-funded training programmes with education providers, through a “Skills Accelerator” programme
  + the Secretary of State for Education will be given more powers to intervene in colleges that fail to meet local needs, and to direct structural change where needed to ensure the provider improves.

Work is also ongoing with businesses of all sizes to support them to offer more, high-quality apprenticeship opportunities. To help with this, the government is offering cash incentives for employers of £3,000 for each new apprentice they take on until the end of September.

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2868/publications>

**The Scottish Government launch the 10-year National Strategy that will drive Scotland’s economic** [**transformation**](https://www.gov.scot/news/delivering-economic-transformation/)

[The Scottish Government](https://www.gov.scot/news/delivering-economic-transformation/) has published a 10-year National Strategy that will drive Scotland’s economic transformation as the country recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic and transitions to a net zero economy. Working to unleash entrepreneurial potential and grow Scotland’s competitive business base, this strategy will prioritise investment in the industries of the future and deliver new, good and green jobs.

Business leaders, academics and economists have been appointed to a new Advisory Council to help shape this strategy, which is expected to publish late autumn. Drawing on their extensive experience and contacts, members will use their insight to bring forward bold ideas that will transform the economy. People across Scotland are also being encouraged to share their views on how the country can work together to deliver greater, greener and fairer prosperity.

<https://www.gov.scot/news/delivering-economic-transformation/>

[**Natural England**](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/biodiversity-30-metric-launched-in-new-sustainable-development-toolkit) **has unveiled the Biodiversity Metric 3.0**

Natural England unveils the Biodiversity Metric 3.0 to help developments achieve biodiversity net gain and give back to nature. As proposed in the Environment Bill, biodiversity net gain must be measured using a recognised biodiversity metric. The new [Biodiversity Metric 3.0](http://nepubprod.appspot.com/publication/6049804846366720) will provide a way of measuring and accounting for nature losses and gains resulting from development or changes in land management.

A government consultation on biodiversity net gain secondary legislation and regulations is due to launch later this year. The new tools have received expert input from Natural England, Defra and industry to support the government’s 25 Year Environment Plan commitment to expand net gain approaches to deliver wider benefits for people and nature from development.

The government’s 25 Year Environment Plan encourages moving towards environmental net gain for all residential and infrastructure projects and makes up a key part of our landmark Environment Bill, which will ensure that the environment is at the heart of all government policy making, including meeting net-zero by 2050.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/biodiversity-30-metric-launched-in-new-sustainable-development-toolkit>

# 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. The HE Climate Action Toolkit was the subject of a series of global events, such as the [ClimateExp0](https://www.climateexp0.org/), as well as at a British Embassy event in Slovakia for Rectors of all Slovakian universities, as well a series of other events such as the Enactus UK’s Leadership Summit, and the GuildHE Spring Conference 2021.

The Student Climate Commissioners are working with the UK Youth Delegates on developing a statement from UK students which will feed into the Conference of Youth (COY16) which then feeds into COP26. Workshops will be held in August and September.

The Climate Commission is liaising with the new Climate Change and Sustainability Unit in the Department of Education.

More information is available [here](https://www.eauc.org.uk/7034).

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

The [Race to Zero for Universities and Colleges](https://www.sdgaccord.org/race-to-zero-for-universities-and-colleges) is the official route for universities and colleges to be part of the global Race to Zero campaign. EAUC are the secretariat and 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) with over 700 signatories worldwide. There are currently 98 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.  
  
The Race to Zero criteria is set by an expert advisory board and chaired by University of Oxford.

Race to Zero Signatories were invited to present their approaches at the [EAUC Virtual Global Climate 2021 Conference](https://www.eaucconference.org.uk/).

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

**Carbon Targets, Reporting and Language**

EAUC are working with our Fellows 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. The aim is for this to provide a clear position for the sector ahead of the spending review and COP26.

**COP26 Updates**

EAUC are providing regular updates on COP26 activities which can be accessed [here](https://www.eauc.org.uk/cop26_eauc.). EAUC are working with various partners to ensure the higher and further education sector has a high profile in the lead up to and at COP26. We engage with the Together for our Planet team to develop a college and university pack which will become a series along with a schools pack (already available [here](https://together-for-our-planet.ukcop26.org/schools-pack-resources/)) to be the Education for our Planet campaign. WWF and the Scouts are leading on global youth action at COP26.

**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>

**Science Based Targets (SBT)**

EAUC are working with global partners to develop a steering group to formulate a SBT framework for universities and a verification route. There is currently no specific framework available for universities and no verification route. We are working with the leading institutions on this from the UK, notably University of Cambridge, University of Nottingham and University of Surrey. More details will follow.

**Sustainability Leadership Scorecard**

EAUC and AUDE are working on developing a new host partner for the [Sustainability Leadership Scorecard](http://www.eauc.org.uk/sustainability_leadership_scorecard). We are in talks with JISC as a potential as well as another IT provider. The Sustainability Leadership Scorecard remains available for users throughout this process. Once the new provider has been confirmed we will provide a timescale for the next Annual Report.

**SDG Accord**

The EAUC presented the SDG Accord Annual Report for the 4th year at the [UN High-Level Political Forum on 7th July 2021](https://sdgacademylibrary.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/HESI+Special+Event,+Driving+collective+action+for+the+SDGsA+The+role+of+further+education_+Building/1_uld2qz16). The report includes a summary of challenges and barriers and successes from signatories. The Annual Report and further case studies will be available at our website - <https://www.sdgaccord.org/>

# Green Gown Awards 2021 Finalists Announced

We are proud to announce this year's Green Gown Awards UK & Ireland Finalists.

After a tough judging session, the applicants have been whittled down to 90 Finalists across 15 categories, representing 51 institutions. Our Finalists emphasise an institution’s role in enabling and empowering young people to tackle pressing global issues to ensure they have a better tomorrow.

[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. Read more [here](https://www.greengownawards.org/green-gown-awards-uk-ireland).

[**International Green Gown Awards Winners 2021**](https://www.greengownawards.org/international-green-gown-awards)

The winners of the [2021 International Green Gown Awards](https://www.greengownawards.org/2021-international-green-gown-awards-winners) were announced on 7th July 2021 in an online bilingual ceremony hosted by UNEP representatives and took place at the UN High-Level Political Forum. The International Green Gown Awards celebrate the exceptional sustainability initiatives being undertaken by universities and colleges across the world and are endorsed by [United Nations Environment](https://www.unep.org/) and supported by [The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU)](https://www.acu.ac.uk/), [L’Agence universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF)](https://www.auf.org/), [The Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI)](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdinaction/hesi) and [International Association of Universities (IAU)](https://www.iau-aiu.net/).    
  
Established as the most prestigious recognition of sustainability best practice within the education sector globally, the International Green Gown Awards provide benchmarks for excellence and are aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We would like to take the opportunity to say congratulations to the EAUC/AUDE members whose projects were among the winning sections – [Keele University](https://www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk/green_gown_awards_2020_keele_university_finalis2) (Sustainability Institution of the Year) and [University of Gloucestershire](https://www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk/green_gown_awards_2020_university_of_gloucester) (Next Generation Learning & Skills). Find out more [here](https://www.greengownawards.org/2021-international-green-gown-awards-winners).

International Green Gown Awards Finalists, Highly Commended and Winners were invited to present their projects at the [EAUC Virtual Global Climate 2021 Conference](https://www.eaucconference.org.uk/)

# 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 AUDE 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) – (September 2021 - February 2022) 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 highly popular programme, is now accepting applications for a second cohort of EAUC/AUDE members interested in enhance their professional and personal development by accessing 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:

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

#### **[South Central England Regional Meeting](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7590)**

5 August 2021 10:00 - 11:00

#### [**[Yorkshire and Humber Regional Meeting](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7390)**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7635)

#### [1 September 2021 10:00 - 11:00](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7390)

#### [**North East England Regional Meeting**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7615)

8 September 2021 14:30 - 16:00

#### [**North West England Regional Meeting**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7597)

9 September 2021 10:00 - 11:00

#### [**Transport Community of Practice Meeting**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7633)

9 September 2021 14:00 - 15:00

*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.*