



AUDE Sustainability Briefing Paper

March 2018

Purpose

The EAUC provide the AUDE Sustainability Group with an update on current and future activities taking place within the sector relating to sustainability and estates.

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 - Full list of forthcoming webinars and events

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Legislation

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

Introduction of the EU Circular Economy package

On the 19th December 2017 EU institutions finally reached a legislative agreement with regards to the Circular Economy Package. The legislation covers four key areas; waste, packaging waste, landfill and WEEE.

As a result, municipal recycling targets have been set at 60% by 2030 for EU member states, supported by a target of 55% by 2025. Another key agreement concerned waste to landfill setting a 10% target of by 2035.

The next key publication landmark will be a European Strategy for Plastics in early 2018. Further details can be found here, <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2017/12/18/council-and-parliament-reach-provisional-agreement-on-new-eu-waste-rules/>.

UK enjoys greenest year in 2017

This year the UK enjoyed its greenest year to date. Key sustainability achievements included, the greenest summer ever, the first ever working day without coal power generation and a record market share for low-carbon sources of the UK's electricity mix.

However the UK is not on course to meet its fourth or fifth carbon budgets. It is hoped that the release of the Clean Growth Strategy by BEIS will help the UK reach the required levels of emission reductions by 2032.

Read the full story here, <https://www.edie.net/news/6/UK-enjoys--greenest-year-ever--in-2017/>.

MPs back deposit return scheme

MPs will mount an inquiry into reducing waste from plastic bottles as widespread demand for a deposit return scheme in England grows, Scotland are already beginning to implement their own system. The focus of the inquiry will look into solutions to the problem and part of the tabled solution would include a bottle deposit return scheme.

As it stands the UK's plastic bottle recycling rates fall well behind their European counterparts, the UK currently recycles 57% of their plastic bottles compared to 90% in Germany.

The full details on the inquiry can be found here, <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environmental-audit-committee/news-parliament-2017/disposable-packaging-coffee-cups-and-plastic-bottles-17-19/>.

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EU ministers table new position on renewable energy

On the 18th September energy ministers in the EU drafted their common positions on clean energy in draft legislation ahead of talks in 2018. This agreed a general approach for the Renewable Energy Directive, the Governance of the Energy Union Regulation and the Electricity Market Design Directive and regulation.

MEPs have nearly finalised their own common positions on renewables and governance but the lead committee on market design is still yet to vote on its draft report. Two other crucial clean energy laws, energy efficiency and energy performance of buildings are also in the pipeline.

The full story can be found here, <https://www.edie.net/news/11/EU-ministers-stumble-towards-joint-position-on-future-energy-laws/>.

Gove unveils new regulatory body

Michael Gove, Environment Secretary, announced the launch of a consultation to establish a new regulatory body that could replace the EA. The announcement was made as part of ongoing changes to the Brexit Bill as it makes its way through parliament, the new body will aim to set the UK at the forefront of instigating environmental change.

The consultation is due to be released in early 2018, with discussions still to take place surrounding what role it might have in Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.

<https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/gove-unveils-plans-for-new-regulatory-body/>

BEIS release clean growth strategy

On the 12th October 2017 the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) released their first key publication regarding decarbonising the UK since the two departments were combined.

The strategy aims to grow the UK's national income while cutting greenhouse gas emissions. It highlights some of the opportunities and challenges presented by this task and outlines how innovation and investment are key to meeting the UK's emission reduction targets.

The full publication can be found here, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-growth-strategy>.

Scotland announces first energy strategy

As of the 20th December 2017 the Scottish government have also announced their own "Scottish Energy Strategy". The strategy highlights six energy priorities for a whole-system approach that considers both the use and the supply of energy for heat, power and transport.

The high-level strategy has been broadly commended for its ambitious targets including aiming to provide all of Scotland's heat, transport and electricity consumption by renewables by 2030.

The full publication can be found here, <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/12/5661>.

FiT to close in 2019

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The Feed-in-Tariff subsidy for renewable energy installations will close in April 2019 in line with the UK's departure from the EU. Support for installations already in place will continue to be honoured with £557 million set aside.

It's currently estimated that no new low carbon levies will be introduced until 2025, as these will only be introduced where it can be clearly demonstrated they will help to reduce bills.

The 2017 Budget

On the 22nd November 2017 Phillip Hammond delivered the 2017 budget, below are a few key points surrounding the key environmental changes.

- £540m pledged for EVs and charging infrastructure
- Tax breaks for North Sea oil and gas
- Tax on single use plastics
- Budget 2017: Tax hike for diesel cars and new £220m Clean Air Fund

More details can be found here, [https://uk.practicallaw.thomsonreuters.com/w-011-6301?transitionType=Default&contextData=\(sc.Default\)&firstPage=true&bhpc=1](https://uk.practicallaw.thomsonreuters.com/w-011-6301?transitionType=Default&contextData=(sc.Default)&firstPage=true&bhpc=1).

Activities

Sustainability Leadership Scorecard

EAUC is delighted to confirm that, with the generous support from HEFCE, we are working with AUDE to further develop the Green Scorecard to cover sustainability issues beyond the estates function.

We are working very closely with AUDE, who lead on the Green Scorecard, and ARUP, who designed the Green Scorecard. Our collective aim is to provide a useful management and developmental tool for our members. Building on the Green Scorecard, the Sustainability Leadership Scorecard will be within the same tool, remain free to the sector and be voluntary for institutions to use. Institutions select the areas of work they wish to review including functionality to map progress against the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The Green Scorecard will remain live and useable through this period of development, your institutional logins remain unchanged.

We aim to have the new developments in place by April and we will be providing workshops at the AUDE and EAUC Conferences to provide our members with further information and guidance.

The SDG Accord - Update

The Accord is the University and College Sector's Collective Response to the Sustainable Development Goals. First it is to inspire, celebrate and advance the critical role that education has in delivering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the value it brings to governments, business and wider society.

Resources on the Accord are now available on the Sustainability Exchange - you will find resources to support and inspire you on your SDG journey - broken down into each of the

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SDGs 17 goals. There will be examples of best practice, research about the SDGs in post-16 education and eventually reporting data and metrics on progress. [View here.](#)

An SDG Accord Task and Finish group has been established to create a simple reporting mechanism for signatories of the SDG Accord. The group consists of executive level members from education, academics, sustainability staff, sustainability networks and is also being fed into by AUDE, WWF, the Office for National Statistics and UN DESA. Reporting guidelines will be released in the next few weeks.

The UN High Political Forum is happening in July whereby institutions will then report back on how they are embedding the SDGs. We have now facilitated two SDG webinars and are working with UN DESA to create a framework for the mapping. View the webinars [here.](#)

[Sign up here to the Accord](#) and find out more about the Institutions, Individuals and Support Organisations who have signed, and to join the Learning Network please click [here.](#)

Current Activities Update

- **Review and Update of the EAUC Resilience Guide for Governors** – A panel of twelve Chairs of University Boards and 2 Vice Chancellors have responded to EAUC's call to review our Guide which was published 3 years ago. Led by the University of Edinburgh, Department for Social Responsibility and Sustainability, the EAUC project benefits from formal input from UUK, CUC and LFHE. Edition 2 of the Guide will be launched early summer this year.
- **Next Stage for the Living Lab Programme** – NUS has been contracted to support the EAUC researching the next stage of support and funding for this agenda with huge potential for sector sustainability. Central to the research will be the EAUC Living Lab Community of Practice. To join the Community of Practice group please email <mailto:info@eauc.org.uk>
Click [here](#) & [here](#) to view institutions approaches to working with Living Labs
Click [here](#) for a link to the EAUC Living Lab research papers
- **Making the Business Case** - With support from senior sustainability leaders at ten member institutions, this project is building a business case framework to enable members to build an evidenced and bespoke case to institutional leaders. The work will be profiled at the June EAUC Conference and is led by the University of Edinburgh, Department for Social Responsibility and Sustainability.
- **Risk Project** - EAUC are working with the Higher Education Business Continuity Network (HEBCoN), the HE Risk Network, and a Working Group of Members to identify environmental risks facing the sector (such as climate change), and develop guidance on how to best engage relevant stakeholders and take effective action to adapt and/or increase institutional resilience. This project is supported by AECOM who are providing technical insight and staff capacity.
- **EAUC Future Business Council** – As a high level interface between sector and employer senior executives, the EAUC-led Council meets in May to review its initial two lines of enquiry. 1. Graduate attributes – developing a common understanding of what these need to be so that employers and universities are aligned in their inclusion of what is needed for 'graduate-ness' and sustainability, and 2. Governance and board membership - building a greater understanding of how universities operate, and seeking means by which new Board members with sustainability credentials from businesses can be appointed onto Boards. A web space to capture and share the work of the Council is now planned.

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Sustainability in Education Report

The Further and Higher Education sector is making a collective call to Vice Chancellors and Principals to put their money where their mouth is when it comes to sustainability and social responsibility.

The third annual 'Sustainability in Education' report from the National Union of Students (NUS), Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC), University and College Union (UCU), Association of Colleges (AoC) and the College Development Network (CDN) is now out.

The research shows 1 in 3 respondents reported sustainability as a strategic priority for the institution they work at, up 7% from 2016, yet only 1% of respondents felt their institution was doing all it could to progress environmental and social responsibility. These findings are reflective of the broader societal shift in understanding of the importance of sustainable development and the role everybody has in delivering this. However, they also show sustainability in Higher and Further Education is prevented from meeting its full potential by the lack of resources dedicated to the effort in many institutions. Read more [here](#).

Resources and News

SSN Analysis Report - Scottish Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Reporting

The Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN) have published their [2016/2017 Analysis Report](#) based on the annual submissions from the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties (PBCCD) reports, which were submitted for the deadline of 30 November 2017.

The analysis report covers all 180 Scottish Public Bodies and their action on climate change, including carbon emissions, projects, governance, procurement, adaptation and wider influence activities.

A headline outcome from the analysis includes the 8% reduction in emissions from the public bodies, attributed to successful carbon reduction projects, an increase in use of renewable energy, and the electricity grid becoming less carbon intensive. [Find out more here](#).

University for the Creative Arts reduces carbon emissions by more than a third

The University for the Creative Arts (UCA) has reduced its carbon footprint from energy consumption by more than a third since 2010, saving 2,286 tonnes of carbon emissions per year.

The 37 percent reduction means that UCA has achieved its 2020 target emissions rate three years early, made possible by the introduction of 26 energy-reducing projects over the last eight years. Savings have been achieved across each of UCA's four campuses in Canterbury, Epsom, Farnham and Rochester.

Scott Keiller, Sustainability Officer at UCA, said: "Since establishing targets to significantly reduce our emissions in 2010, we have worked incredibly hard to achieve the savings we are now observing. Reaching our absolute emissions reduction target for 2019/20 in the 2016/17 year – a saving equivalent to cutting annual emissions of 560 average UK households – is testament to the commitment of the University to safeguard the climate for present and future generations." [Find out more here](#).

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University of Bristol and University of Edinburgh latest to announce fossil fuel divestment

Two UK universities have joined the growing number of institutions that have committed to divesting from the fossil fuel industry.

The University of Bristol announced it has divested all investments in companies that derive more than five per cent of their income from the most carbon intensive sectors of the fossil fuel industry. Meanwhile University of Edinburgh announced that it will complete its transition out of fossil fuel investments within three years.

Bristol's divestment follows a pledge made last year to focus investments in the energy sector to companies which are having the greatest impact on reducing carbon emissions. The decision followed a campaign by the University's Fossil Free Society which praised the move as 'one of the clearest and most wide-ranging in Britain'. [Find out more here.](#)

Environmental Audit Committee launches inquiry into 25-year Environment Plan

The Government published its long-awaited 25-Year Plan for the Environment on 11 January 2018. The Plan sets out a number of 25-year goals and a combination of new and existing strategies, targets, mechanisms and commitments in order to meet those goals. The Government proposes to update the Plan every 5 years and to report annually on progress to Parliament.

The Environmental Audit Committee launched an Inquiry on 1st Feb to examine key decisions around the Plan's overall ambition and approach. The Committee is likely to hold one oral evidence hearing, followed by a hearing with the Government. The Committee will also scrutinise the Plan's proposals in specific areas as part of its regular work programme. EAUC has responded to the consultation on behalf of members. [Find out more here.](#)

Fairtrade Universities

Last year, in partnership with the Fairtrade Foundation and with support from the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges, NUS launched a Fairtrade award for universities and colleges in 12 pilot institutions.

Their research shows that the ethical standards of products matter to 89% of students, and 90% of students say that they want to buy more products that don't harm the people who produce them. Students associate high ethical standards with Fairtrade, and want to see more Fairtrade products on campus.

The Fairtrade University and College Ceremony will take place at the EAUC conference as well as a workshop.

Read more [here](#) including insight from University of Edinburgh, University of Brighton and Middlesex University.

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Events

2018 EAUC Annual Conference

The 22nd Annual Conference will take place on 19-21 June 2018 at Keele University with Carbon Credentials as the headline sponsor. The theme of next year's conference is 'Collaborations for Change' and will include an academic stream.

Delegate registration is now open with 80 early bird tickets available. View our packages [here](#).

The Conference will cover every area of campus life, from the post-16 education sector. Delegates include those responsible for sustainability leadership, environmental management, governance, estates and facilities, finance and procurement as well as teachers, lecturers, curriculum designers, post-graduate researchers and of course students.

The Campus Conference will take place alongside the Academic Conference - building a unique and powerful cross discipline and sector opportunity to achieve the Global Goals and research and education fit for tomorrow.

Collaborations for Change

Inspired by SDG#17, a successful approach to leading sector change for sustainability requires a new commitment to partnership and cooperation. These must be inclusive partnerships, built upon principles and values, a shared vision, and shared goals that place people and the planet at the centre. They are needed across every part of our learning institutions and between us and wider local, national and international stakeholders.

In the context of significant political and sectoral challenge, change and opportunity, this conference repositions sustainability as a foundation to build new collaborations for change between academic and operational staff, students and employers, and institutional and sustainability leaders.

Book your place now [now](#).

Other events

[Living Labs Community of Practice Virtual Meeting](#)

12 March 2018, Location: Virtual via Zoom

[Promoting Sustainable Behaviours Sharing Series: Community Growing Projects](#)

14 March 2018, Location: Virtual via Zoom

[EAUC-Scotland Forum Meeting & AGM 2018](#)

16 March 2018. Location: Fife College, St Brycedale Campus

[Constructing an Urban Future: The sustainability and resilience of cities](#)

18 March 2018, Location: Abu Dhabi University, Abu Dhabi

[Midlands Regional Meeting](#)

19 March 2018, Location: University of Birmingham

[Learning through Listening - Creating open spaces for interdisciplinary dialogue](#)

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19 March 2018, Location: Keele University

8th UNICA GREEN Workshop: Implementation of SDGs in Higher Education

21 March 2018, Location: Vrije Universiteit Brussel – Belgium

RCE Severn Workshop

22 March 2018. Location: The Growth Hub, University of Gloucestershire

Social Media Training

22 March 2018, Location: The University of Strathclyde

Exploring Low Carbon Heat in Scotland's Universities and Colleges

26 March 2018, Location: Queen Margaret University, Musselburgh

Yorkshire and Humber Regional Meeting

26 March 2018, Location: Charles Street (Institute for Education), City Campus, Sheffield Hallam University

Transport Community of Practice Meeting

28 March 2018, Location: University Park campus, University of Nottingham

Project set-up Training: Identifying Outcomes & Indicators (Monitoring & Evaluation Series)

29 March 2018, Location: Edinburgh

Promoting Sustainable Behaviours Sharing Series: Student End of Term Waste

4 April 2018, Location: Virtual via Zoom

Past Events

You can view all previous webinars at the following link -

<http://www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk/exchanges> or subscribe to our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheEAUC?blend=1&ob=5>

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.

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