**AUDE Sustainability Briefing Paper**

**September 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

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# [Release of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/release-of-intergovernmental-panel-on-climate-change-report)

# [UK hydrogen strategy](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-hydrogen-strategy)

# [Green Jobs Taskforce Report](https://www.eauc.org.uk/green_jobs_taskforce_report_every_job_in_the_uk)

# [Procurement teams must consider wider benefits of public spending](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/procurement-teams-must-consider-wider-benefits-of-public-spending)

# [Advice on the draft environmental principles policy statement](https://www.theoep.org.uk/report/advice-draft-environmental-principles-policy-statement)

G7 Finance Ministers Agree Historic Global Tax Agreement

[Public urged to Plant for our Planet in a new campaign launched](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-urged-to-plant-for-our-planet-in-a-new-campaign-launched-today)

## [Activities](#_Activities)

* [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
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* [Carbon Literacy Training by EAUC](https://www.eauc.org.uk/carbon_literacy_training3)
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# Legislation

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

# [Release of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/release-of-intergovernmental-panel-on-climate-change-report)

Described as “a code red for humanity”, [the latest report](https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/) from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has warned that major changes due to global heating are inevitable and irreversible with devastating consequences for all life on Earth. The IPCC is the leading world body for assessing the science related to climate change, its impacts and potential future risks, and possible response options.

In advance of its publication, the UK Government issued a [press release](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/wind-of-change-for-the-humber-region) marking new investment in the offshore wind industry. The announcement said that Siemens Gamesa and GRI Renewable Industries will receive grant funding from the government’s £160 million Offshore Wind Manufacturing Investment Support scheme to further develop manufacturing facilities in the Humber region. EAUC’s response to the IPCC release is available [here](https://www.eauc.org.uk/evidence_is_irrefutable_collective_action_t) and this highly significant report can be found [here](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-working-group-i/).

**UK hydrogen strategy**

The UK Government [published](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-hydrogen-strategy) its long-awaited hydrogen strategy. It sets out the UK Government’s approach to developing a thriving low carbon hydrogen sector in the UK to meet the ambition for 5GW of low carbon hydrogen production capacity by 2030. It is expected to support over 9,000 UK jobs and unlock £4 billion investment by 2030. A booming, UK-wide hydrogen economy could be worth £900 million and create over 9,000 high-quality jobs by 2030, potentially rising to 100,000 jobs and worth up to £13 billion by 2050. By 2030, hydrogen could play an important role in decarbonising polluting, energy-intensive industries like chemicals, oil refineries, power and heavy transport like shipping, HGV lorries and trains, by helping these sectors move away from fossil fuels. Low-carbon hydrogen provides opportunities for UK companies and workers across our industrial heartlands.

With government analysis suggesting that 20-35% of the UK’s energy consumption by 2050 could be hydrogen-based, this new energy source could be critical to meet our targets of net zero emissions by 2050 and cutting emissions by 78% by 2035 – a view shared by the UK’s independent Climate Change Committee. In the UK, a low-carbon hydrogen economy could deliver emissions savings equivalent to the carbon captured by 700 million trees by 2032 and is a key pillar of capitalising on cleaner energy sources as the UK moves away from fossil fuels. Full information is available [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-hydrogen-strategy).

# Green Jobs Taskforce Report

The Green Jobs Taskforce published its report, issuing a call to action on how the UK can deliver a green industrial revolution with government, business and the education sector working together. Some of the key recommendations include:

* publishing a detailed Net Zero Strategy and using policy to promote good green jobs, skills and competitive supply chains
* industry, the education sector and the UK government working together to ensure green careers advice and pathways into good green jobs;
* building on the UK government’s skills reforms to support people to work in the new green economy

# 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. Find out more [here](https://www.eauc.org.uk/green_jobs_taskforce_report_every_job_in_the_uk).

# Procurement teams must consider wider benefits of public spending

The Cabinet Office [published](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/procurement-teams-must-consider-wider-benefits-of-public-spending) guidance which emphasised how public spending should help drive wider benefits, from job creation to helping protect the environment. The new public procurement guidance makes clear that, while securing the best value for money is crucial, procurement teams must not simply award contracts to the lowest bidder – especially when wider economic benefits can be proved. Under the new measures, by September, prospective suppliers bidding for contracts above £5 million a year will need to have committed to the government’s target of net zero by 2050 and have published a carbon reduction plan. Firms which fail to do so will be excluded from bidding for the contract. Further information is available [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/procurement-teams-must-consider-wider-benefits-of-public-spending).

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# Advice on the draft environmental principles policy statement

The Office for Budget Responsibility [published](https://obr.uk/frr/fiscal-risks-report-july-2021/) its report on the medium-term outlook for the public finances and risks to long-term fiscal sustainability. The report covers three large and potentially catastrophic, risks in depth – of which climate change is one. The other two relate to the economic and fiscal impact of the coronavirus pandemic and the vulnerability of public finances to global interest rates, inflation and an extreme case of a loss of investor confidence. Full information is available [here](https://www.theoep.org.uk/report/advice-draft-environmental-principles-policy-statement).

**G7 Finance Ministers Agree Historic Global Tax Agreement**

Following the G7 meeting in London, finance ministers have agreed a deal on global tax reform that will mean the largest multinational tech giants will pay their fair share of tax in the countries in which they operate. As part of the deal, finance ministers agreed to the principle of a global minimum rate that ensures multinationals pay tax of at least 15% in each country they operate. Finally, ensuring markets play their part in the transition to net zero, the group also committed to make it mandatory for firms to report the climate impact of their investment decisions – and concrete steps to crack down on environmental criminals. Additional information is available [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/g7-finance-ministers-agree-historic-global-tax-agreement).

**Public urged to Plant for our Planet in a new campaign launched**

As part of World Environment Day, the Government [launched a new campaign](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-urged-to-plant-for-our-planet-in-a-new-campaign-launched-today) to get the country planting more trees and flowers. The campaign – backed by organisations such as The Wildlife Trusts, Woodland Trust, National Trust, Horticultural Trades Association and Royal Horticultural Society – is asking individuals and communities to play their part in helping reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and supporting nature recovery by planting flowers and trees, restoring community spaces and getting out into nature.

On the same day, Government has announced 8 million in funding to boost conservation projects in the UK Overseas Territories on World Environment Day. They will help protect a number of rare species and vulnerable habitats across the globe from the threats from invasive species. Find out more [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-environment-day-over-8m-boost-for-international-conservation).

# Activities

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

The countdown to COP26 has started and the Race to Zero Campaign now includes over 730 higher and further education institutions from around the world. We are glad to see more and more EAUC members committing to the Race to Zero criteria!   
  
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. If your institution hasn't joined the campaign yet, we urge you to commit today by [completing this form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdvJ143l4eFYCgnP7Xkc-FasAvpWhkbr25W1qmDiz1j2PCgOQ/viewform).   
  
Find out more about the Race to Zero Campaign [here](https://www.sdgaccord.org/race-to-zero-for-universities-and-colleges).

Join the Race to Zero Showcase Webinars

These webinars will give you the opportunity to hear from leading institutions who have committed to the Race2Zero campaign. They will be sharing their plans and initiatives to hit their institutional targets.

* 27 October 11:00am - 12:00pm: [Hear from](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7676) Plymouth Marjon University and Dumfries and Galloway College.
* 4 November 11:00am - 12:00pm: [Hear from](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7677) The University of Strathclyde and The University of Hull.

**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**

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. Below is a summary of where EAUC are involved in the planning. 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.

**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 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. This work will commence in November 2021 and additional information will be available in due course.

**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.

# Events

**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. We are very excited to announce that our colleagues Claire de la Motte & Claire Mitchell are now 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:

20th October and 28th October - [Click here to book](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7376)  
10th November and 17th November - [Click here to book](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7377)  
19th January and 26th January 2022 - [Click here to book](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7669)  
9th February and 16th February 2022 - [Click here to book](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7670)

**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 Academy**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/next_generation_sustainability_leadership_progr) – We are still accepting applications for a second cohort of members to enrol in the popular EAUC Leadership Academy programme designed for those involved in leading change in the higher and further education sectors. You will be curious about how concepts of sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals can be used as the compass and the fuel for change through the teaching/learning, research/innovation and/or campus/community/service efforts of your institution. 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)

## Full list of forthcoming webinars and events

#### [**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

#### **[Midlands Sustainable Education Network](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7637)**

16 September 2021 11:00 – 13:00

[**Wales Branch Meeting**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7645)

5 October 2021 10:00 – 11:00

#### [**South West England Regional Meeting**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7659)

5 October 2021 14:00 – 15:00

#### [**London Regional Meeting**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7616)

7 October 2021 11:00 – 12:30

#### **[Roundtable meeting for EAUC Key Contacts and Fellows](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7574)**

7 October 2021 14:00 – 15:30

#### [**South Central England Regional Meeting**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7661)

14 October 2021 10:00 – 11:00

#### [**Biodiversity Community of Practice**](https://www.eauc.org.uk/shop/mms_single_event.php?event_id=7634)

18 October 2021 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.*