



Annual Report 2020

EAUC - The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education
Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges
Registered Company Number 05183502
Registered Charity Number 1106172

Front Cover Images University of Gloucestershire Green Gown Awards Finalist 2020

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Company Information

Charity Information

Registered Charity number 1106172
Registered Company number 05183502
(England and Wales)

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Miss F L Goodwin

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Chief Executive & Chair's Message

2020 was certainly a challenging year - professionally and personally - for all of us. With much of the country in lockdown due to the pandemic, this brought new challenges, but also new opportunities. As we start to see the light at the end of the tunnel we need to take stock and look at the learnings from the past year and how we can take some of the changes forced upon us into long term change.

As for many of our members, we faced some financial challenges as our key income generation activities could not take place as normal. However, we adapted to the circumstances and instead of a physical conference as normal, we went virtual. And we went virtual in a big way, with five packed days of conference. The added benefit of going virtual meant we were able to bring many new and diverse voices to the event making for an inclusive and global programme. It was especially powerful to bring together people from our international programmes - the SDG Accord, Race to Zero for Universities and Colleges and the International Green Gown Awards. We feel this richness and learning from others is a vital aspect of inspiration and insight for our members and will continue with a global virtual conference into 2021 and beyond.

Due to a reduction in income generation, we had to take steps to protect the charity, so we, therefore, took advantage of the Covid Job Retention Scheme (furlough) for our unrestricted funded staff. We took an equitable approach and members of staff were put on a rotational programme so we continued to provide support to our members so there was minimal disruption. We thank all the staff for the amazing efforts and continual passion and drive throughout this difficult phase. Whilst for many Zoom was a new tool, EAUC has been promoting virtual communications and events for many years to minimise travel and allow more members to engage. We provided further support to members (and staff!) at the start of the pandemic with informal weekly meetings just to share, talk and discuss concerns.

Even though there was much disruption we still delivered key activities for our members. The Climate Commission work continued to high-level sector dialogue, alignment and tools through the FE Climate Action Roadmap and the HE Climate Action Toolkit. These tools provide our members the support and direction for their journeys towards net-zero. Over the following pages you will see many of the new tools and other resources that we have created in this exceptional time.

We now need to build back better and catalyze on the 'new normal'. The pandemic has shown how resilient our members are, as well as our staff and trustees. We need to take this once-in-a-lifetime event, to recover, reset and reignite, and we look forward to seeing you at our new Networking Forum for members in September. We thank you all for your continued passion, commitment, diligence, and support.



Iain Patton, Chief Executive



Professor James Longhurst, Chair

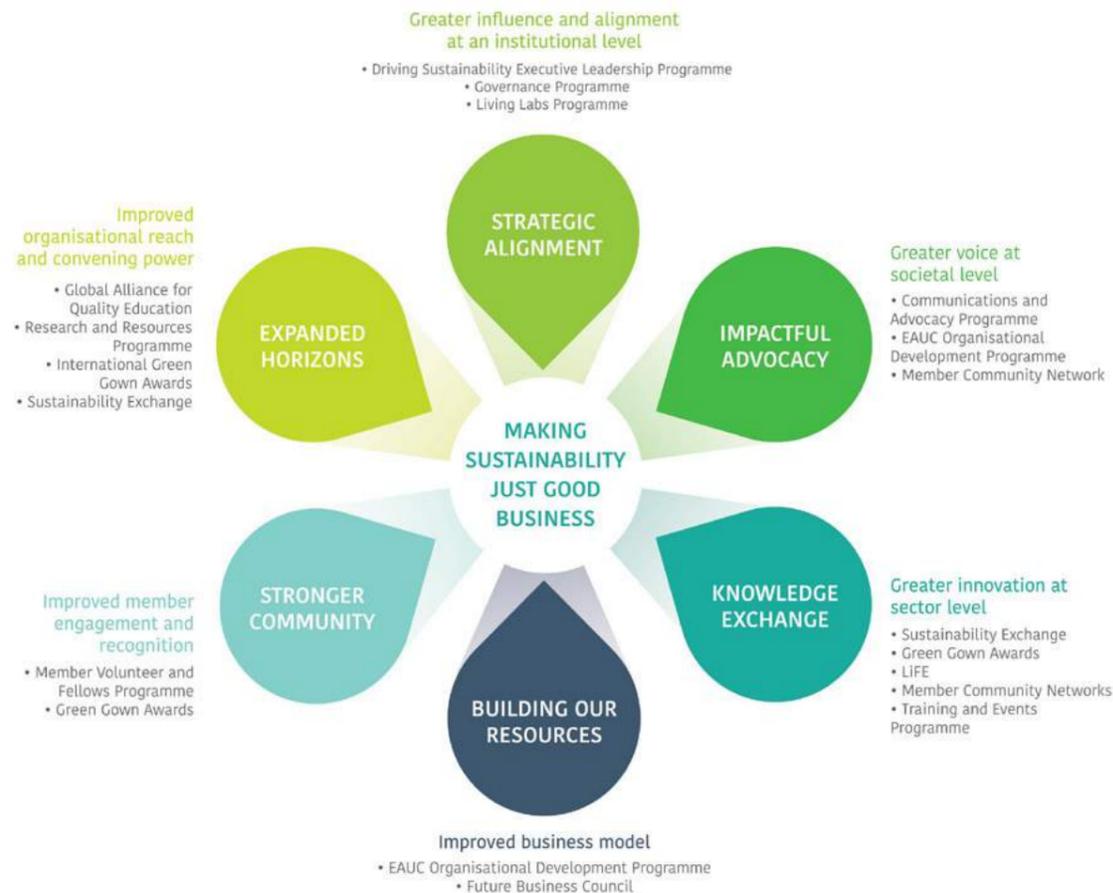
EAUC: Our Strategy

EAUC - The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education is the environmental and sustainability champion within Further and Higher Education in the UK and Ireland. Our passion is to create a world with sustainability at its heart. That's our vision - we exist to lead and empower the post-16 education sector to make sustainability 'just good business'.

EAUC are a not-for-profit, member based charity, run by members for members. From starting out as a voluntary organisation in 1996, we have grown to represent over 2 million students and nearly 400,000 staff with a spending budget of over £25 billion. We help leaders, academics and other professionals to drive sustainability to the heart of their post-16 education institutions.

Launched in 2017, our 2017-2021 strategy is aimed at offering the necessary support for the challenges institutions are facing today. This strategy is taking us through the steps to ensure we will transition to and remain, a future-focused organisation. We created six goals to underpin the structure and following member's feedback we are undertaking numerous activities to support each one.

OUR STRATEGY 2017 - 2021



Our Members

EDUCATIONAL MEMBERS

Our educational members are the reason that the EAUC exists. We are proud to represent and support **universities and colleges** from across the UK and Ireland.

214

INSTITUTIONS REPRESENTED

5586
INDIVIDUAL CONTACTS

94%
RETENTION RATE

COMPANY MEMBERS

The guiding principle for the EAUC company membership strategy is to develop intelligent dialogue between companies and our educational members and together to create a sustainable future

12

COMPANIES REPRESENTED

167
INDIVIDUAL CONTACTS

73%
RETENTION RATE

186 STRATEGIC PARTNERS

We believe in partnership and collaboration so we bring together the leading sustainability and education organisations across the UK and Ireland, and internationally to make our members voice a powerful one.

MEMBER FEEDBACK

“

Student involvement for the Green Gown Awards is a great platform for the students and the College to show what can be achieved together and to have that recognition from EAUC is great.

Ayrshire College

“

EAUC membership opens up a wealth of networking, knowledge-sharing and personal development opportunities. The EAUC team is always helpful and there is a really strong sense that they are working to help us achieve our goals.

Bath Spa University

“

The EAUC is an excellent forum for staying connected with other sustainability professionals in the sector, sharing knowledge, and staying abreast of broader sustainability trends in addition to your own specialism. I have found the EAUC as a resource to be highly useful in benchmarking, contextualising environmental progress in the sector, and sharing innovative practice back to my institution.

University of Liverpool

“

I greatly value the EAUC's guidance, networking, advocacy role and awareness raising. Great communication and support!

South Devon College

Scotland Focus

EAUC-Scotland Programme Year 1: April 2020 - March 2021



Delivered by our team in Scotland and funded by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC), this programme supports all Scottish FHE institutions to develop a skilled and informed, holistic approach to sustainability within governance, operations, learning and teaching, and engagement activities.

Leadership at all levels

498 attendees joined 26 EAUC-Scotland events

Launched Sector Briefings resources

3 new SDG Accord and 4 Race to Zero for Universities and Colleges signatories

Supported creation of the Scottish Colleges' Statement of Commitment on the Climate Emergency

Skills, Knowledge & Data

Published 2018/19 FHE, FE and HE sector reports for PBCCD Reporting

Expanded SISM's PBCCD Peer Review to 12 institutions

Supported APUC to develop resources on sustainable procurement of energy

Published report on Current FHE SDG Reporting Frameworks and Use in Scotland

Partnerships and Collaborations

Launched new Student Leaders Network and Health & Wellbeing TSN

Launched Peer-Mentoring Pilot

Engaged with 54 non-FHE organisations

Directly engaged with 10 partner network steering/working groups

Developing COP26 event webpage

Teaching, Research and Engagement

6 ESD & Community Engagement TSNs held

Delivered Learning for Sustainability Champions course to 2 colleges

New Student Leaders Network launched and 3 resources published

100 free student places at EAUC-Scotland Conference

Supporting Wider Stakeholders

Supported SFC through development of internal Net Zero strategy; developing funding criteria for infrastructure loans; and quarterly environmental policy briefings

Responded to six Scottish Government/Partner Consultations

EAUC-Scotland took part in one grants panel and one awards panel

Scotland Focus

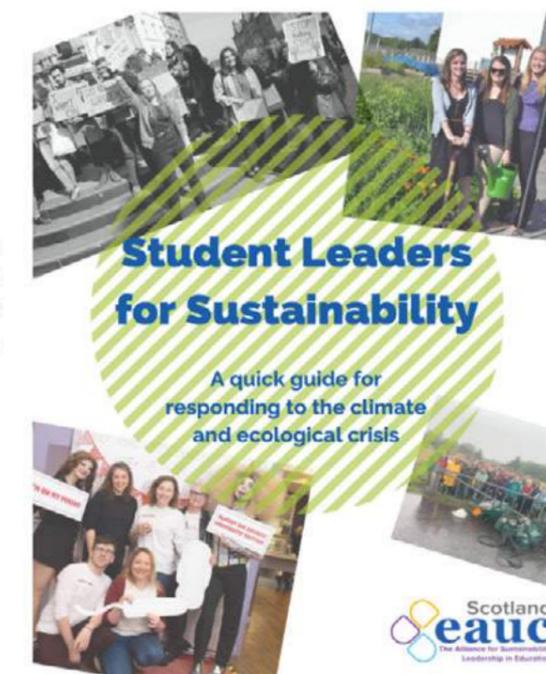
Timeline of Key Project Outputs

- Summer 2020**
 - Launched Sector Briefings Resources
 - Publication of Sector Progress Report on PBCCD Reporting Data
 - Individual Institutional Feedback on PBCCD Reporting
 - Topic Support Network and Regional Network Review
- Autumn 2020**
 - Developed new Student Engagement Strategy
 - Launched Student Leaders Network and published 3 resources
 - Supported sector Kickstarter Scheme and secured 2 places
 - Developed new Senior Management Engagement Strategy
- Winter 2020**
 - PBCCD Reporting Peer Review Workshop
 - Institutional Engagement Calls Scheduled
 - Co-drafted Scottish College's Commitment Statement
 - Report on FHE SDG Reporting Frameworks and Use in Scotland
- Spring 2021**
 - Creation of VP Internationals for Sustainability Working Group
 - EAUC-Scotland Degrees of Change Conference
 - Launched Sector Peer-Mentoring Pilot
 - Annual Survey of FHE Contacts, AGM and EAUC-S Annual Report

EAUC-Scotland's **first virtual conference - Degrees of Change** - was held in February 2021. Opened by Roseanna Cunningham MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, the conference recognised the leadership, innovation and partnership needed in realising the ambition for all Scottish universities and colleges to be net-zero carbon by 2045 at the latest. With three plenary sessions and three dedicated workshop streams for HE, FE and student audiences, the conference brought all elements of campus life together with contributions from expert speakers. Recordings of each session have been made available to all attendees, ensuring those unable to join on the day could catch up at a later date.



EAUC- Scotland Conference Degrees of Change



A YEAR IN REVIEW:

The Climate Commission was established with the **short term aim of developing an Action Plan in response to the UK government's stated climate emergency** and draw together a **strategic sector-wide approach** to the Climate Framework.

This year the **Climate Commission has engaged directly with 63 UK institutions** through the Climate Commission Council, with **further engagement at 9 Climate Commission events and 19 external events.**

Through evidence gathering sessions and focus groups the Climate Commission set a target that **institutions should aim for net-zero emissions for Scope 1 & 2 by 2030 and Scope 3 net-zero GHG emissions should be achieved no later than 2050 (or as per devolved Government targets), as per IPCC recommendations, as a minimum.** This is supported by the development of **three new sector resources:**

- **Further Education Climate Action Roadmap**
- **Higher Education Climate Action Toolkit**
- **UNESCO Futures of Education Student Report**



63

Institutions engaged in the Climate Commission Council

450+

Students have engaged with the Climate Commission

19

External events with Climate Commissioner speakers

12

Articles and blogs featuring the Climate Commission

LOOKING AHEAD TO COP26:

The Climate Commission will continue to build on its work to date engaging with and supporting institutions, sector staff and students to embed the Climate Action Roadmap and Toolkit across campus life.

For further information and get involved visit www.eauc.org.uk/climate_commission



Goal 1: Strategic Alignment

GREATER INFLUENCE AND ALIGNMENT AT INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL

We embed sustainability within institutions to enhance employability, research, quality teaching, student experience, internationalism, efficiency, social responsibility, retention and growth.

EAUC LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMES

2020



Due to the global pandemic, the delivery of EAUC's leadership programmes were cancelled in 2020. The challenges we faced, however, offered us valuable learning and opportunities to adapt the programme, not only in terms of running it, but also to ensure the leadership offer will remain relevant and innovative. We have taken the opportunity to review our programmes, to offer more modules focussing on management in times of crisis and online skills.

The refreshed Emerging Leaders is set to restart in the Autumn of 2021 with an online offer, and we hope that towards the end of the year we might also get this leadership group to meet face to face for networking.

The Leadership Lab will not go ahead in 2021, but we will be offering an enhanced Leadership Academy programme starting in May 2021. This programme will provide expert-led interactive webinars, curated networking opportunities, professional coaching and mentoring, and access to invitation-only events run by the EAUC or its partners. Find out more [here](#).



The Future Graduate Skills Study produced in partnership with Change Agents UK examined perspectives from three key stakeholder groups: university leaders, business leaders, and recent graduates on skills needed in the workforce to address the challenges posed by climate change and the drive for sustainable development. It interrogates their opinions on what 'sustainability skills' are, which skills are important for employability and/or sustainability, and how they could be best instilled in students and young people. Find out more [here](#).

Period Poverty is a global issue that can affect anyone with a menstrual cycle. It means they do not have access to or have limited access to safe, hygienic sanitary products. They may also be unable to manage their periods with dignity due to community stigma and sanction. Based on this, EAUC has developed a practical guide including case studies and resources to help students and staff to lobby their institutions to provide free sanitary products. Find out more [here](#).



Goal 2: Advocacy

GREATER VOICE AT THE SOCIETAL LEVEL

We harness our longevity and reputation alongside that of our membership base to provide EAUC members with a credible and knowledgeable voice



ADVOCACY WORK

With the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic, we were in awe of all of our members. It was amazing to see how hard universities and colleges have worked in their community to support them in any way they can, as well as the wider world. We published [a list of four civic principles](#) and learnings in July that we believed as essential for a sustainable recovery. We have worked closely with Aldersgate Group to publish [a new report](#) calling for urgent policy decisions regarding net-emissions with EAUC feeding into this extensively on the skills section. This work continues in 2021. EAUC Operations and Planning Director Fiona Goodwin took part in a [TEDx talk](#) with UN Environment Programme and other speakers on 'Racing to Zero with Higher Education: Acting and Enabling Global Decarbonization'.

We ran two surveys to make sure we are getting member feedback to guide our work and support.

- Covid-19 Impact survey in October, and we used the responses to inform our 2021 action plan
- Advocacy survey for those in Communities of Practice designed to ensure we are focusing on the right areas in each of these sustainability themes, and assess what resources are needed.

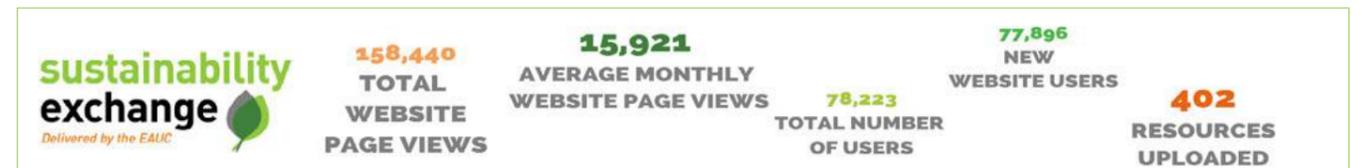


Discover more about our Advocacy work [here](#).

Goal 3: Research & Knowledge Exchange

GREATER INNOVATION AT THE SECTOR LEVEL

We facilitate the wealth of experience and knowledge for our members to ensure ongoing creation and dissemination of knowledge in sustainability.



Webinars and virtual meetings on topical issues ran throughout the year and covered topics like Modern Slavery, Mental Health, Zero Waste, Food Policy. **In total we ran over 20 webinars throughout the year, attended by over 200 delegates.** All webinars were very highly rated by our delegates.



EAUC GLOBAL CONFERENCE 2020



The diversity of speakers and the student involvement was excellent!

The range of panel members was great and being online made the event feel more diverse with more voices than may have been involved otherwise.

A huge congratulations to everyone involved, it worked extremely well with relevant and interesting content throughout all 5 days.



WEDNESDAY WINS - Informal member networking opportunities

With the Covid-19 pandemic causing numerous disruptions, we developed a series of informal networking opportunities for members to check on each other, share experiences or learn more about different topics every Wednesday for an hour at lunch time!

Goal 4: Maximised Resources

IMPROVED BUSINESS MODEL

We encourage and enable members to work together and take the lead on projects to achieve greater synergy and success through collaboration

The Sustainability Leadership Scorecard (SLS) ensures institutions can track their sustainability progress, celebrate their successes and improve their weaknesses. It is interactive, encourages collaboration, and is aligned to the UN SDGs in its approach. The [2020 Annual Report](#) showed an increase of 69% of institutions actively embedding sustainability across their leadership, governance, learning, teaching, research, estates, operations and partnerships.

The SLS tool is increasingly proving its worth as institutions are able to use the individual SLS reports themselves as a one stop shop, submitting it as evidence to the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings and the SDG Accord. The SLS also helps institutions create their own strategies and action plans, and works well with other important tools like the [Climate Action Roadmap for FE Colleges](#), and the [HE Climate Action Toolkit](#).



We worked with the COP26 Universities Network on a briefing on offsetting aimed at the UK Further & Higher Education Institutions which was published in January 2021. Further to the recommendations in the guidance we have set up an offsetting scheme for the education sector, called Carbon Coalition. This is underpinned by an Advisory Group made up of academics and experts and a pilot is taking place in 2021 with the aim to launch to the wider sector in the next academic year. Find out [more](#).

COP26 UNIVERSITIES NETWORK



Change Agents UK

We are working with Change Agents UK and SOS-UK to offer a supported Kickstart scheme designed for colleges and universities. The Government Kickstart Scheme will fund hundreds of thousands of high quality 6 month work placements for young people deemed to be at risk of long term unemployment as well as increasing diversity and bring fresh ideas in challenging times. Find out more [here](#).

Scope 3 Reporting Update

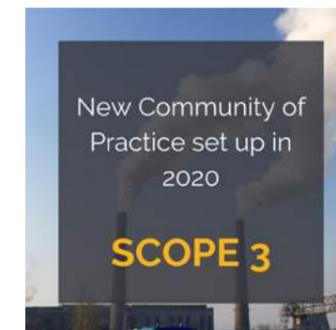
We have worked closely with HEPA and the purchasing consortia on updating the [Scope 3 reporting tool](#), HESCET. **This now includes the latest conversion factors.** In 2009, 75 categories were established by DEFRA to break down and map spend levels to in the calculation process; the number of categories has now increased to 311. Additionally, more geographical zones have been included (previously these were simply UK / EU / Rest of World). **The tool is free to use by EAUC Members.**



Goal 5: Stronger Community

IMPROVED MEMBER ENGAGEMENT AND RECOGNITION

We encourage and enable members to work together and take the lead on projects to achieve greater synergy and success through collaboration



Regional, Branch, Community of Practice, Topic Support Network, Office Bearers Group
Contribution throughout the year

40 VOLUNTEERS (Convenors and/or equivalent) **Equivalent of 1 FTE** over the year to the organisation **£84,000**

“ Really interesting to see where different organisations are at with their preparations - can't get that insight anywhere else! Invaluable resource! ”

“ Great chairing, good topics and really valuable insight from group members. Pretty much essential to have this community at this time. ”

“ It has been really great to have these meetings and all other correspondence during lockdown - much appreciated ”

We thank all our Fellows for their continued support and for sharing their valued expertise within the sector in 2020!

In 2020 we introduced Student Honorary Fellowship to recognise the great work underpinned by Student Climate Commissioners.

Find out more here - https://www.eauc.org.uk/our_fellows

EAUC represented the sector in 2020 at a range of meetings and events:



Goal 6: Expanded Horizons

IMPROVED ORGANISATIONAL REACH

We contribute to the wider sustainability agenda through local, national and international awards and alliances

SDG ACCORD UPDATE

We launched the 2020 SDG Accord report '[Progress towards the Global Goals in the University and College sector](#)' in December 2020, but the report summary was presented in July at the [UN High-Level Political Forum](#).

The findings from the third SDG Accord annual progress report show awareness of the SDGs in universities and colleges across the world is steadily increasing. The number of institutions committing to the SDG Accord continues to rise and so too does the ambition to embed the SDGs within education institutions. Those that start to embed the SDGs do so at a very rapid pace, and the breadth and depth of initiatives institutions a few years into embedding the SDGs are undertaking the world over is truly inspiring.



UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES JOIN THE RACE TO ZERO

The [Race to Zero for Universities and Colleges](#) campaign in partnership with Second Nature and UN Environment and that EAUC is the secretariat for 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 objective is to build momentum around the shift to a decarbonized economy ahead of COP26, where governments must strengthen their contributions to the Paris Agreement. This will send governments a resounding signal that business, cities, regions, investors and universities and colleges are united in meeting the Paris goals and creating a more inclusive and resilient economy.



Race to Zero for Universities and Colleges

618

Higher and Further Education Signatories

8,143,567

Students Represented

71

Networks

INTERNATIONAL GREEN GOWN AWARDS 2020

Green Gown Awards
25 International
FINALISTS **CATEGORIES**



8
INTERNATIONAL JUDGES

Sustainability Report

We are pleased to be able to present our Annual Sustainability Report, looking at our carbon use for 2020. We report on our carbon use annually. We calculate our staff and Board business travel, workstation energy use, home energy use and travel energy use and also report on other carbon use, but this is based on assumptions.

CARBON OFFSET

Our overarching aim as an organisation is to minimise our carbon footprint as much as possible, however as it happens with any other organisation, we still have a carbon footprint. We are currently offsetting using the newly launched EAUC Carbon Coalition which follows the latest guidance and best practice on offsetting.



2020 RESULTS

- Our carbon footprint has decreased by 68% and now sits at 5.073 tonnes for the 2020 period;
- The main decrease in our carbon footprint is due to Covid-19 and a major reduction in travel in 2020 due to restrictions;
- Staff have been working from home since March 2020 due to the pandemic. However to ensure we account for staff usage at home we have used last year's data for Heating & Lighting. Staff's electricity usage was calculated based on hours worked from home during 2020;
- Average carbon emissions per FTE staff member is 443kg CO2 which is 69% less than in 2019;
- We used last year's data for waste and water usage. We recognise that water is still being used and waste is produced at our colleagues' homes.



For a full breakdown of results [please visit our website](#).



Your sustainability promise

We are committed to minimising our impact on the environment. By downloading our Annual Report in PDF format, not only do you receive it instantly but you are also doing your part in reducing your carbon footprint. We encourage you to email it to interested colleagues or potential EAUC Members and do not print it.

This report was written and designed in-house by the EAUC team.

GET IN TOUCH



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