

EAUC Scotland Outcome Agreement with Scottish Funding Council

April 2024 - March 2025



Supporting a step-change towards environmental sustainability at Scotland's Universities and Colleges

Introduction:

EAUC Scotland's Mission is to inspire, empower and support leadership and collaborative action for sustainability across the Scottish further and higher education (FHE) sector. The **Step-Change for Sustainability Programme**, running from April 2024 to March 2025, will build upon previous 15 years of collaboration between EAUC, the Scottish Funding Council and Scottish further and higher institutions and further supporting organisations to deepen action on climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals within institutions and across the Scottish further and higher education sector.

The Programme has five key Outcomes:

- 1) There is effective and ground-breaking leadership for environmental and social sustainability at all levels within Scottish further and higher education institutions
- 2) The skills and knowledge required to respond to the climate and ecological emergency are available throughout the further and higher education sector
- 3) Universities and colleges in Scotland collaborate effectively within and beyond the sector, with a strong collective voice, valued reputation for sustainability leadership, and demonstrable success in supporting Scotland's wider just transition.
- 4) Students and staff develop the skills, values and resilience required to lead Scotland's growing net zero, sustainable and inclusive economy.
- 5) EAUC Scotland's expertise on sustainability within the FHE sector is accessible, valued and utilised by key stakeholders, including Government, regulators and funders.

This Programme will be delivered by EAUC, working in partnership with individual institutions and strategic partners in Scotland and beyond. EAUC will provide a unique level of sustainability support to colleges and universities in Scotland. The Programme will progress the work of both EAUC Scotland and individual FHE Institutions by strengthening progress on addressing sustainability issues, providing long term environmental, social, economic and educational benefits for individual FHE institutions, the Scottish Funding Council, and for the Scottish tertiary education sector and Scotland as a whole.

Definitions:

Outcome: Effect of the Programme on individuals, institutions, or the sector as a whole, during the Programme's operation.

Impact: Lasting change in the sector as a result of the Programme.

Impact Measure: Predetermined results towards which effort is directed, to be achieved by Programme end.

Milestone: Scheduled event that indicates the completion of a major deliverable of a project. Milestones are measurable and observable and serve as progress markers.

Deadlines: Programme runs April 2024 to March 2025 (Y1) with four quarters ending June (Q1), September (Q2), December (Q3) and March (Q4). All Milestones have deadline of a specific quarter.

Activities

Specific activities agreed with EAUC e.g.

- Leading X number of sector best practice fora in Y areas and disseminating best practice widely in sector.
- Providing one to one (measures) support to institutions.
- Providing specific sector support resources - (including best practice guides and services.).
- Engaging in specific sector/Government policy fora by providing expertise.

Outputs

- 1 - Improved collective sector leadership and capacity on mitigation and adaptation through increased best practice and knowledge sharing.
- 2 - Improved understanding, skills, and embedding of ESD in college and university learning and teaching, working with teaching staff and key partners.
- 3 - Increased coworking with SFC on sector data & standards, ESD leadership and other priority action points under SFC's Net Zero & Sustainability Framework for Action.

Outcome 1: There is effective and ground-breaking leadership for environmental and social sustainability at all levels within Scottish further and higher education institutions.				
Performance Indicators:				
1 - Improved collective sector leadership and capacity on mitigation and adaptation through increased best practice and knowledge sharing				
2 - Improved understanding, skills and embedding of ESD in college and university learning and teaching, working with teaching staff and key partners				
3 - Increased coworking with SFC on sector data & standards, ESD leadership and other priority action points under SFC's Net Zero & Sustainability Framework for Action.				
NZ FfA	Impact	Impact Measures	Milestones	Deadline
AP4 (impact, assurance, accountability) AP5 (areas of advantage) AP11 (funding and finance) Also supports: -AP10 (Learning for Sustainability) - AP9 (green skills)	All staff and Students' Association/Union communities within FHE institutions are engaged and empowered to take action on climate change and sustainability, increasing institutional capacity and leadership on sustainability.	EAUC educational contacts in Scotland increase by 3% ¹ over the programme, showing increasing engagement with EAUC and in FHE staff interested in taking action on sustainability.	Provision of responsive knowledge and skills support service through Sector Helpline and training and knowledge-sharing events to be delivered based on sector demand, with initial (re)launch then activity reported annually	Y1 Q1 Ongoing
		Programme Survey of all EAUC Scotland university and college sector contacts shows staff feel empowered to change their behaviour and take action to support sustainability within their institution.	Deliver 12 Topic Support Network events, 3 Forum events and an EAUC Scotland conference over the course of the programme	Ongoing
		SFC can access support from EAUC Scotland to benchmark progress in the sector relating to delivery of key SFC NZ Framework action points. Target of 400 attendees joining EAUC Scotland events over the programme.	Deliver Carbon Literacy Training accredited by the Carbon Literacy Project to the sector at the request of institutional staff	Ongoing
See above.	Commitment to and engagement in climate action by institutions' senior management teams	Annual Reports from EAUC Scotland evidence engagement activity with sector senior leaders and the results of this activity	Compile new contact list of senior leaders responsible for institutional sustainability and develop dedicated communications channels and content to raise understanding of key sustainability policy and issues. Scope out and facilitate a senior leaders sustainability forum if demand is shown.	Ongoing

¹ This would be a 10% target over any 3-year OA period.

Outcome 2: The skills and knowledge required to respond to the climate and ecological emergency are available throughout the further and higher education sector.

Performance Indicators:

1 - Improved collective sector leadership and capacity on mitigation and adaptation through increased best practice and knowledge sharing.

3 - Increased coworking with SFC on sector data & standards, ESD leadership and other priority action points under SFC's Net Zero & Sustainability Framework for Action.

NZ FfA	Impact	Impact Measures	Milestones	Deadline
<p>AP 12 (CIS)</p> <p>Also supports: -AP 13 (FTs) -AP11 (funding and finance).</p>	<p>High quality information on institutions' responses to the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 (and update in 2019), PSLGCE 2021 public sector carbon compliance Guidance, and Sustainable Development Goals (linked to the NPF, NSET, CESAP and the JTP) is available to SFC, the Scottish Government and key stakeholders, demonstrating sector leadership and driving further action.</p>	<p>Sector PBCCD (carbon) Reports show greater numbers of institutions meeting key expectations set out in Scottish Government's PSLGCE carbon compliance Guidance including the SG's Scottish Public Sector Leaders Climate Emergency Checklist summary scorecard.</p> <p>Sector progress reporting against the SDGs shows an increase in reporting quality in terms of the number of institutions reporting and the comprehensiveness of this reporting.</p> <p>100% of institutions engaged with over the programme to assess sector skills level and training/support needs, either by institutional visit or by virtual call.</p>	<p>Production of sector progress report for SFC and other partners on PBCCD (carbon) reporting data findings and quality. This includes trend indicators calibrated to the latest SG carbon compliance guidance (PSLGCE 2021). In line with global best practice (Greenhouse Gas Protocol), the sector should be reducing emissions in all scope groups i.e. scope groups 1,2 and 3 in line with Scotland's legally binding climate targets.</p> <p>Facilitate sector consultation response to new Scottish Government Statutory Guidance on Public Bodies' Climate Change Duties including key areas of carbon compliance up-ratcheting by the SG for the public sector and all institutions.</p> <p>Produce training videos for PBCCD (carbon) reporting leads in institutions on best practice GHG reporting in line with the latest Scottish Government guidance and UK Standardised Carbon Emissions Framework (SCEF).</p> <p>Facilitate sector PBCCD (carbon reporting) Peer-Review event ahead of annual PBCCD deadline to support institutions to fulfil their climate change reporting obligations and share reporting best practice.</p>	<p>Y1 Q1</p> <p>Y1 Q1</p> <p>Y1 Q2</p> <p>Y1 Q3</p>
<p>See above.</p>	<p>New support and guidance on understanding and reducing priority scope 3 carbon emission sources enhances the capacity of sector members to better understand these specific impacts and take action to reduce them in line with legally binding national targets.</p>	<p>Net zero emission strategies and PBCCD (carbon) reporting for individual institutions demonstrates key progress in institutions measuring their scope 3 carbon emissions and putting in place deliverable plans to reduce them.</p>	<p>Develop and launch a student and staff commuter emissions calculator and survey guidance to improve scope 3 carbon emissions reporting compliance within PBCCD.</p>	<p>Y1 Q2</p>
<p>See above.</p>	<p>Best practice EAUC Scotland tools, guidance and advice strengthens individual and sector knowledge and skills to implement climate change mitigation</p>	<p>70% of Scottish institutions are represented at a minimum of one training or knowledge-sharing event over the programme²</p>	<p>Develop and launch a biodiversity strategy best practice resource recognising the latest Scottish Government Biodiversity Strategy and upcoming Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme 3, with an event or focused guidance launch. (Follow on from climate risk register tool in 2023.)</p>	<p>Y1 Q3</p>

² This would be 90% over a 3-year OA period.

	and adaptation measures at institutions and wider sustainability actions, including specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> land management and understanding climate risks to institutional operations. 	<p>Increased local & regional partnership working by EAUC with specific institutions or groups of institutions working collaboratively.</p> <p>Increased numbers of applications/leverage of GPSEDs funding by colleges year on year (includes Scottish Public Sector Energy Efficiency Loan Scheme; Scottish Central Government Energy Efficiency Grant Fund; and Scottish Public Sector Non-Domestic Energy Efficiency Frameworks (NDEEF) and Project Support Unit (PSUU))</p>	Produce and promote to institutions a sustainability-related funding register for net zero investments including tracking public and private sources as far as possible within available resource capacity.	Y1 Q2
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Outcome 3: Universities and colleges in Scotland collaborate effectively within and beyond the sector, with a strong collective voice, valued reputation for sustainability leadership, and demonstrable success in supporting Scotland’s wider just transition.				
Performance Indicators:				
1 - Improved collective sector leadership and capacity on mitigation and adaptation through increased best practice and knowledge sharing. 2 - Improved understanding, skills and embedding of ESD in college and university learning and teaching, working with teaching staff and key partners. 3 - Increased coworking with SFC on sector data & standards, ESD leadership and other priority action points under SFC’s Net Zero & Sustainability Framework for Action.				
NZ FfA	Impact	Impact Measures	Milestones	Deadline
AP 12 (CIS) Also supports: -AP 13 (FTs) -AP11 (funding and finance).	Knowledge and experience on emissions reduction measures, adaptation and leadership for sustainability is effectively and efficiently shared within and beyond the FHE sector, including SFC, SG, DfE and SSN.	Programme surveys of university and college contacts sector-wide shows over 85% respondents value EAUC Scotland networking and knowledge-sharing opportunities, with gaps identified and prioritised for consideration by the EAUC Scotland team.	Review of EAUC Scotland networking and knowledge-sharing networks completed and development plan implemented	Y1 Q2
		Annual Reports from EAUC Scotland include details of knowledge-sharing event participation levels and feedback, resources and support guides produced, and details of sector communications channels. Evidence of collaborative working with SFC, US, CS, CDN, APUC, SAUDE and EAUC UK (and others where applicable) to ensure harmonisation of decarbonisation data, metrics and good practice and to improve efficiency through pooling collaborative resources/expertise.	Deliver an event focussed on sustainability and internationalisation, in collaboration with International Education Sustainability Group, Universities Scotland and Universities UK International to share best practice from across the UK and Australia.	Q2
See above.	The capacity of institutions to seek support from EAUC and other support organisations on sustainability issues on a regional / city basis is enhanced	Institutions engaged with the EAUC Scotland -services model demonstrate increased sustainability leadership and action, with improved PBCCD (carbon) reporting, strategy development, net-zero related funding bids and awards leveraged. Target of 3 engaged institutions within the year. Evidence of collaborative sustainability activity and requests	Boundary-spanning multidisciplinary activity makes new connections for the tertiary education sector with key public and private net zero upscaling actors. This could include but is not limited to green clusters and transformation e.g. regional heat networks design/roll-out, sustainable construction activities. Activity to be reported annually.	Y1 Q4

		<p>for support collated and reported in EAUC Scotland Annual Reports.</p> <p>Enhanced clarity in decarbonisation and adaptation measures and pathways (e.g. cost of net zero report), and their costs for institutions. Increased likelihood of local collaborations with partners, as well as enhancing SFC's College Infrastructure Strategy- investment pipeline.</p>		
See above.	Scotland's FHE sector has a visibly strong emissions reduction leadership reputation within the UK FHE sector climate emergency response.	<p>Average Green Gown Award Applications from Scotland make up 15% of total applications from across the UK (Scotland = 10% of sector)</p> <p>Annual Reports from EAUC Scotland include details of Scottish case studies, resources and support guides produced and shared freely in and beyond Scotland.</p>	EAUC Scotland promotes all relevant Government Consultations to contacts within the sector to encourage policy engagement, and provides a Sector Response to all those with high sector relevance, detailed within Annual Reports	Y1 Q4

Outcome 4: Students and staff develop the skills, values and resilience required to lead Scotland’s growing net zero, sustainable and inclusive economy.

Performance Indicators:

2 - Improved understanding, skills and embedding of ESD in college and university learning and teaching, working with teaching staff and key partners.

3 - Increased coworking with SFC on sector data & standards, ESD leadership and other priority action points under SFC’s Net Zero & Sustainability Framework for Action.

NZ FfA	Impact	Impact Measures	Milestones	Deadline
<p>AP10 (Learning for Sustainability)</p> <p>Also supports:</p> <p>- AP9 (green skills)</p> <p>- AP4 (impact, assurance, accountability)</p>	<p>Knowledge and experience on embedding sustainability in teaching is developed and effectively and efficiently shared within and across the FHE sector to improve equality of access to green skills & education development resources for students.</p> <p>The sector delivers the necessary ESD skills, knowledge and values within student learning in order to improve graduate outcomes, employability or destinations activities as appropriate.</p>	<p>EAUC Educational Contacts in Scotland increase by 3% over the programme, showing increasing engagement with EAUC and in FHE staff taking action on sustainability.</p> <p>Percentage of teaching staff indicating that they will go further in embedding sustainability concepts into teaching best practice increased after EAUC Scotland learning and curriculum development events.</p> <p>Annual Reports from EAUC Scotland evidence how institutional capacity to utilise more experiential / applied learning approaches in teaching is being supported</p> <p>SFC teams in Access, Learning and Outcomes Directorate engaged directly by EAUC Scotland, enabling a joined-up approach, and mutual benefits.</p>	<p>Work with key partners such as CDN, SQA and Teaching Qualification in Further Education (TQFE) providers to identify key areas of intervention to embed Education for Sustainable Development and general sustainability knowledge within college teacher initial training materials and/or professional development routes.</p>	Q4
			<p>Deliver 5 Education for Sustainable Development- and Teaching-focused events and workshops to promote best practice for embedding sustainability within learning, teaching and research.</p>	Ongoing
			<p>Review and update 2023 EAUC Scotland Green Careers Guide with latest sector resources and publicity communications pack for institution careers services teams to use.</p>	Q3
<p>See above.</p>	<p>Policy reflects the needs of the sector to equitably progress Education for Sustainable Development across the FHE sector.</p>	<p>Institutions can report and review to what extent education for sustainable development is represented in their teaching.</p> <p>SQA teaching quality standards informed by EAUC Scotland.</p> <p>Stakeholder organisations recognise collaborative support EAUC offer to progress policy change around education for sustainable development for FHE sector</p> <p>EAUC’s open access green careers resource guide updated to current best practice standards. Has received 21,000 page views since 2017.</p>	<p>Collaborate with key partners to initiate the production of guidance around LfS, drawing on existing QAA guidance for universities and translating this for a college context.</p>	Q4
			<p>Publish an evidence-based report including specific support for colleges. The report will include a baseline estimate of current LfS provision and its benefits, a detailed understanding of the barriers listed in the CDN Workforce Survey, and an assessment of the most impactful interventions.</p>	Q2
			<p>Work with key partners (including SFC, QAA and SQA) to embed Education for Sustainable Development in quality processes, with progress reported quarterly.</p>	Ongoing
			<p>Provide expertise to the Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan Implementation Education Subgroup and liaise with the SG’s Learning for Sustainability Leadership Group including SFC as required.</p>	Ongoing

Outcome 5: EAUC Scotland’s expertise on sustainability within the FHE sector is accessible, valued and utilised by key stakeholders, including Government, regulators and funders.

Performance Indicators:

3 - Increased coworking with SFC on sector data & standards, ESD leadership and other priority action points under SFC’s Net Zero & Sustainability Framework for Action.

NZ FfA	Impact	Impact Measures	Milestones	Deadline
<p>-AP4 (impact, assurance, accountability) -AP 12 (CIS)</p> <p>Also supports: -AP11 (funding and finance) -AP10 (Learning for Sustainability) -AP9 (Green skills) -AP5 (areas of advantage)</p>	<p>The SFC is enabled to make informed decisions about how to best support climate change and sustainability progress in the FHE sector, including benchmarking, assurance, and support.</p> <p>EAUC Scotland collaborates with SFC’s capital team to ensure learning from existing carbon reporting approaches is captured under SFC approach to FTs and CIS. This should amplify SFC’s/EAUC’s actions to support place-based strategy, including funding leverage by institutions.</p>	<p>SFC report a more thorough understanding of the challenges and opportunities of supporting sustainability in the sector through engagement with EAUC Scotland, supporting SFC’s impact, assurance and accountability approaches.</p> <p>Progression of national ambitions on Learning for Sustainability Action Plan to 2030 and the Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan (including delivery across to NSET) across both the college and university sectors through engagement of EAUC Scotland staff with SFC teams, and the Scottish Government.</p>	<p>Production of sector progress report for SFC and other partners on PBCCD (carbon) reporting data findings and quality of emissions reporting, including trend indicators, calibrated to the latest Scottish Government public bodies carbon compliance guidance.</p>	<p>Y1 Q1</p>
			<p>Provision of insight into individual institutions’ progress on climate change reporting and mitigation, progress on embedding sustainability in the curriculum, and other sustainability progress on request, with engagement activity reported in EAUC’s Annual Report.</p>	<p>Y1 Q2</p>
			<p>Provide expertise to the Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan Implementation Subgroup for partners to develop a deeper understanding of Education for Sustainable Development best practice and transformation in the college and university sectors.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
			<p>Work with key partners (including SFC, QAA and SQA) to embed Education for Sustainable Development in quality processes, with progress reported quarterly.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
			<p>Sustainability policy brief provided for SFC and key partners on Scottish, UK and global policy developments relevant to the Scottish FHE sector</p>	<p>Quarterly</p>
<p>See above.</p>	<p>Sector voice represented on relevant committees and within relevant government consultation processes, ensuring sector needs and perspectives are represented.</p> <p>Improve coordinated progress and delivery, across the sector, of key action points under the SFC’s Net Zero Framework.</p>	<p>EAUC Scotland represented on 100% of all relevant sustainability and FHE sector committees / steering groups where eligible throughout programme</p> <p>EAUC Scotland provides a Sector Response to all Government Consultations with high sector relevance, detailed within Annual Reports.</p>	<p>Review of all relevant Steering Groups and Networks completed with action taken to request to join key bodies without current EAUC Scotland representation, enabling EAUC Scotland to powerfully and effectively advocate for sustainability leadership on behalf of the sector in relevant forums</p>	<p>Y1 Q4</p>
			<p>EAUC Scotland respond to all Scottish Government Consultations with high sector relevance, reported quarterly to SFC.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Name of Outcome Manager (on behalf of SFC)

Signed

Date