

AUDE Sustainability Briefing Paper - May 2024

The EAUC provides the AUDE Executive and AUDE Members with an update on the current and future activities taking place within the sector, relating to sustainability and estates.

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Legislation/Advocacy

EAUC Quarterly Policy Briefs

EAUC Scotland has shared their next [Quarterly Policy Brief](#) of 2024, outlining the main policy changes that will impact institutions.

EAUC Responds to QAA Quality Code Consultation

We have responded to the recent QAA Quality Code Consultation to explore how sustainability could be explicitly referenced in the revised UK Quality Code for Tertiary Education. You can read this [on our consultations page](#).

Scottish National Adaptation Plan 3 consultation

EAUC Scotland responded to the consultation on Scottish National Adaptation Plans. You can read this [on our consultations page](#).

DESNZ – Research on public sector carbon reporting

DESNZ have commissioned the Energy Saving Trust to undertake research on the current state of public sector carbon reporting. This includes the landscape across the different nations and existing requirements. EAUC have contributed to the section on the education sector relating to universities and colleges. Whether this is a sign of direction that DESNZ are looking at bringing in public sector carbon reporting in England to bring it in line with Scotland and Wales is not clear as yet.

Activities

New: University & College Land for Carbon Resources

The University and College Land for Carbon is an Environment Agency funded NEIRF project, delivered by the EAUC. The EAUC has developed a suite of guidance documents and resources to support institutions in their journey. There is a business case and template presentation to get buy-in for developing a woodland with links to funding and grants available to support funding of the project. Once institutions are ready to progress further there is an institutional guide on how to register with the Woodland Carbon Code as well as financial modelling tools to help cost the project both financially and carbon sequestration. There is a glossary of terms to further support institutions as well as a case study from the University of Leeds to share good practice. You can see the resources on the [project page](#).

New: EAUC Scotland college and university emissions report

EAUC Scotland has just published its [2022/23 emissions analysis report](#) based on submissions to the Scottish Government from Scotland's colleges and universities. The data from the report is relevant to institutions across the UK and Ireland, particularly if you are looking for evidence on institutional emissions, relative size of emission sources, or reporting and emissions trends over time.

New: Funding Sources

EAUC have published a new members-only guide to potential [funding sources](#) for the sector. The list includes charities, corporate and government schemes with sustainability funding opportunities for universities and colleges across the UK and Ireland. Please note: this list will be expanded and updated over time, but should not be considered comprehensive.

Scope 3 Supply Chain Emissions Tool

Created in collaboration with [Advanced Procurement for Universities and Colleges \(APUC\)](#), the Guide to the APUC [Scope 3 Supply Chain Emissions Reporting Tool](#) aims to enable Scottish institutions and UKUPC-affiliated institutions to identify their scope 3 supply chain emissions swiftly and simply. Hunter (the system APUC uses) will be rolled out across England and Wales in September to replace the HE Contracts tool so this guidance will also support procurement teams outside of Scotland.

New: HEPA & EAUC – Procurement Resources



The HEPA & EAUC Responsible Procurement Group have produced guidance for sustainability and procurement teams on [EDI](#), [Wellbeing](#) and [Community Benefits](#). Further updates from the group can be found [here](#).

New: Blog Series: Reducing Aviation Emissions

This series includes a [briefing paper](#) on the challenges, best practice and solutions, an [early career researcher's reflection](#) on the 'need' to fly to succeed in their academic career and a [personal reflection](#) on the need to fly for academic conference, whilst juggling caring responsibilities.

New: Concordat for the environmental sustainability of research and innovation practice

A voluntary [environmental sustainability concordat](#) co-developed by more than 25 organisations across the UK research and innovation sector has been launched. The EAUC is providing the secretariat function for the concordat's signatories. The concordat is aimed at all organisations in the research and innovation sector, which of course includes many EAUC & AUDE members in the post-16 education sector. Concordat signatories and supporters commit to progressively embedding environmental sustainability into all research and innovation practices.

Climate Ambassadors Programme

The [Climate Ambassador Scheme](#) is a £2 million Department for Education programme, co-led by the University of Reading and EAUC, in association with STEM Learning. It will provide nurseries, schools and colleges across England with free access to local experts who can help turn their climate and sustainability ambitions into action.

Volunteer experts from across England are needed to support the roll-out of the scheme, which, in the first two years, aims to support 2,500 education settings on their sustainability journey. Regional hubs have been set up so that experts can be matched with educational settings in their area. Anyone interested in becoming a Climate Ambassador can [sign up to the scheme](#) now to be provided with free training and support, and be matched to a local nursery, school or college that needs help building a climate action plan. All Climate Ambassadors will be supported by a national network of regional hubs, based at organisations with a strong commitment to sustainability and climate action.

The nine regional hubs for the Climate Ambassador scheme are hosted at the following institutions, important regional anchor institutions with leading sustainability and climate expertise. These are:

[Manchester Metropolitan University](#) (North West)
[University of Newcastle](#) (North East)
[University of Leeds](#) (Yorkshire & the Humber)
[Keele University](#) (West Midlands)
[Universities for Nottingham](#) (East Midlands)
[University of East Anglia](#) (East of England)
[Met Office](#) (South West)



[University of Reading](#) (South East)
[University College London](#) (London)

Green Gown Awards

The [2024 UK & Ireland Green Gown Awards](#), in association with UK Research and Innovation, are now open with the deadline of 5th June. We have 15 categories to choose from including 2030 Climate Action, Campus Health, Food and Drink, Digital Futures, Nature Positive and Reporting with Influence.

Events

EAUC Annual Conference 2024

Our 2024 Annual Conference will be held on 25th-26th June 2024 at the University of Winchester, marking our 20th anniversary. Join us as we celebrate two decades of unwavering commitment to sustainability in education. This event is not just a conference; it's a historic moment, and we invite you to be part of it. To stay update on the programme and how to book tickets, [please see the event website](#).

Calculating the Cost of Net-Zero Surgery Session

To help those using the [Cost of Net Zero Calculator](#) delivery partners Energise we will be hosting another surgery to offer technical support to users. This session will be useful for those in the tertiary education sector who have recently [downloaded the calculator](#) for the first time, or are actively using it within your organisation, and have questions on specific figures or fields, technical queries that have not been covered in the regularly updated FAQs, or wish to share particular insights or experiences with the designers and/or other users. Book the event [here](#).

Carbon Literacy Training

The EAUC works in partnership with the Carbon Literacy Organisation (CLO) to promote [Carbon Literacy Training](#) (CLT). Our online course blends self-study elements and 2 half days of virtual training; it is relevant to everyone learning about climate change. CLT ensures a fundamental understanding of the current and future impacts of climate change, the opportunities to improve communications on climate issues at work and at home, and some of the socio-political aspects including climate justice.

Since we began, EAUC have delivered CLT to over 200 learners from more than 45 institutions across UK & Ireland, including 27 Universities, 9 Colleges and 9 related support organisations. We invite you to consider taking [an upcoming session](#).

Forthcoming EAUC events

[Midlands Regional Meeting \(Virtual\)](#)

20 May 2024 11:30 - 13:00



[Sustainability Communications Community of Practice \(Virtual\)](#)

21 May 2024 11:00 - 12:00

[EAUC Scotland Waste Management Topic Support Network Meeting](#)

23 May 2024 14:00 - 16:00

[EAUC Scotland Smaller Institutions Sustainability Meeting: Climate Risk](#)

30 May 2024 10:30 - 15:30

[Calculating the Cost of Net Zero surgery](#)

6 June 2024 11:00 - 12:00

[Managing Climate Risk Community of Practice \(Virtual\)](#)

6 June 2024 14:00 - 15:00

[South England Regional Meeting \(Virtual\)](#)

10 June 2024 13:30 - 15:00

[Ireland Branch Meeting \(Virtual\)](#)

11 June 2024 11:00 - 12:00

[North West England Regional Meeting \(Virtual\)](#)

12 June 2024 11:00 - 12:30

[London Regional Meeting \(virtual\)](#)

12 June 2024 14:00 - 15:30

[North East England Regional Meeting \(in person\)](#)

13 June 2024 10:00 - 12:00

[EAUC Annual Conference 2024](#)

25 June 2024 - 26 June 2024, University of Winchester

[EAUC AGM](#)

16 July 2024 16:00 - 17:00

[Offsetting Community of Practice Virtual Meeting - July](#)

18 July 2024 14:00 - 15:00

More upcoming events, including external events held by those in EAUC's network, are available to view and book via [our website](#).

To stay updated on the latest news, events and publications, please contact us at info@eauc.org.uk.

This briefing paper was produced by EAUC for AUDE Members.