

# 10 THINGS TO DO For COP26

## 1 BE INCLUSIVE

Tackling climate change requires a whole-community response, yet often only a narrow band of voices are heard and represented. Meaningful engagement with underrepresented voices - e.g. youth, BAME, LGBTQ+, people with disabilities - will help produce stronger, more innovative climate actions.



Many minority groups have active local and national networks - your institutions student union or association may be able to help connect you with community groups. Ask their existing networks how you can support them, how they would like to celebrate COP26, and how to work together going forward.



Want more information on inclusivity within climate change issues and the experiences of minority groups in this space? Check out some of these links:



- [What the queer community brings to the fight for climate justice](#)
- ["Climate change not a white issue" says BLMUK](#)
- <https://sustainability.nus.org.uk/divest-invest/articles/why-climate-change-is-a-racist-issue>
- [Intersectionality and broadening the climate movement](#)

## 2 USE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BROADEN STAFF CPD

Set up a meeting with your HR team and discuss the potential for rolling out or strengthening current training opportunities. With so many interested people it is an ideal time to run training such as Green Champions Training, Carbon Literacy Training, or to refresh staff induction modules to include institution-specific targets or information on sustainability committees, and how staff can further engage with sustainability on site and in teaching.

Carbon Literacy  
Project



Alternatively, go down the informal route and look to set up a Climate Cafe coffee morning where staff and students can attend and discuss climate & sustainability issues, no matter their knowledge level, to help bring non-sustainability people together.

GREEN  
CHAMPIONS  
TRAINING

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/sustainability/staff/training/online-course>

<https://www.aberdeenclimateaction.org/climate-cafe.html>

<https://www.birkscinema.co.uk/community-hub/environmental-activities/climate-cafe/>

## 3 EXPLAIN WHAT COP IS

Lots of people outside the sector are interested in climate change but don't know the purpose of COP. Have an event for students and staff explaining what it means and to encourage their involvement. You could host an event explaining what it is, run a social media campaign, make a short video of FAQs, or ask your staff to talk to the students. Ideally do it multiple ways so that no one is missed out and everyone can understand.



UN CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
UK 2020

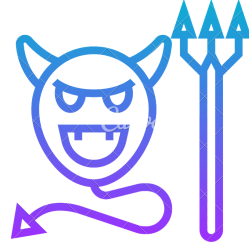
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

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## 4 DON'T DEMONISE PEOPLE OR BEHAVIOURS

In a system with a long list of barriers for more sustainable living kindness and understanding is important.

Make sure not to exclude or isolate people because their behaviour or subject isn't as sustainable as it might be. This is a time to collaborate and co-develop solutions. COP26 is a great opportunity to also raise localised social issues - for example actively recognise that some people have to drive because they can't travel another way or due to childcare responsibilities. Can our institutions look more closely at flexible working strategies? Let's turn up the colour on sustainability issues and include everyone.



## 5 EMBEDDING SUSTAINABILITY IN TEACHING, LEARNING AND RESEARCH

Every course can have sustainability in it somewhere, NUS have made a short [guide](#) highlighting how this could work in a variety of subjects. You could ask your department to dedicate part of their module teaching to sustainability in your subject area during COP26 and share that you are doing this as part of teaching! #COPTeachIn

It's also an ideal time to promote a Learning for Sustainability plan or strategy and to ask your sustainability committee to sign the [SDG Accord](#). This will help equip senior leads with a greater understanding of the UN SDGs and how these are embedded within teaching and operations.



## 6 DON'T WORK ON YOUR OWN

There is so much going on during COP that it is likely some things will be replicated. Avoid this by coordinating with nearby institutions to share events and resources. Even if you don't currently work with nearby institutions and community groups this is the ideal time to make new connections. Encourage staff, student unions and associations, and student societies to collaborate and invite one and other to events. Use the platform of COP as a way to build a stronger community.



## 7 COLLABORATE WITH STUDENT UNIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Students make up a significant portion of climate activists and with interest at a record high it is a great time to engage with your student unions and make sure your students know what is going on. They probably also have some great ideas you can partner with!

Often students feel like they are not given much say in the running of their institution and this is a great way to empower them. The student voice is also a good way to bring about change within your institution, so maximise their voice and take their views to senior management so they know what the students are feeling.



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## 8 COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

There are lots of different ways you can engage staff, students and the wider community. The focus doesn't need to be explicitly about COP. For example you could:

- Host a film screening, Q & A or bio-blitz
- Support a community volunteer project or activity
- Simply share your institutional space with local community groups
- Work with local schools with to discuss climate modelling, facilitate an art project focusing on sustainability, or help create and judge a Dragon's Den Social Enterprise competition.



Open events with guest speakers can be a great way to improve relations and make your students feel part of a wider community. You can also work with partner organisations such as Zero Waste Scotland or Sustrans who can share knowledge and even help you with projects that you wish to do.



## 9 CHANGE YOUR ACADEMIC CALENDAR

COP26 is set to be one of the biggest events of the decade with hundreds of thousands of people heading to Glasgow. Changing reading week to cover these dates will allow increased youth presence and allows local institutions to free up room space for other events. It may seem a big step, but with an estimate 500,000 people taking part in climate marches across the UK during COP26 it is likely many students will attend regardless of lectures.



## 10 GO DIGITAL

You don't need a physical presence to be part of COP. Having a strong social media and online presence will allow you to get your content straight to a wide audience without ever meeting them. Be creative about how you do this, you could use student radio stations, podcasts, videos, cartoons, and animations to attract peoples attention. Better yet if you have students studying media then use their skills to boost your presence and allow them to be involved in a real campaign.



Work with your communications teams, students and senior staff to plan what you want to talk about. If you are able to attend then give live updates from inside COP and share your story!

Thank you to all our member participants for their feedback  
as part of EAUC-Scotland's COP26 Idea Session.