

Quarterly Policy Briefing: Environmental Sustainability

September 2021

This document outlines the main policy changes seen in the last quarter that will affect EAUC-Scotland and Scottish institutions.

Scottish Policy Updates

- The Scottish Government have published the "[Net Zero Nation: Public Engagement Strategy for Climate Change](#)" This document outlines how the government will engage with the public and is a result of a consultation that EAUC-Scotland responded to earlier this year.
- The Scottish Government have entered into a partnership with the Scottish Greens. One of the results of this is two new ministerial posts. Lorna Slater has been appointed as Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity whilst Patrick Harvie has been appointed Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights. Both will work closely with Michael Matheson who is the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero.

UK Policy Updates

- The UK Government has published the [Carbon Budget](#) for the years 2033-2037. Carbon budgets are typically set well in advance and there were already budgets running up to 2033. The new budget says the UK can use up to 965 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent between 2033 and 2037. That is a significant reduction from our current budget of 2.5 billion tonnes from 2018-2022.

Other Updates

- COP26 will begin in Glasgow on the 31st of October. This is the global climate conference that brings together world leaders and a wide array of delegates. EAUC and EAUC-Scotland will be present at the event and will provide updates once new policies are decided. EAUC-Scotland have also applied to showcase sector Education for Sustainable Development activities as part of Scottish Government COP events (outcome pending).

- [The 12th Global Regional Centre of Excellence Conference for Education for Sustainable Development](#) (16-18th November) is being hosted by RCE Scotland under the theme 'Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: action through learning in a time of global crises.' EAUC-Scotland has submitted an expression of interest
- A recent [survey of 10,000 young people across 10 countries](#) has shown that 60% of young people felt 'very worried' or 'extremely worried' about climate change, and that 95% are worried to some degree. This is one of the largest studies of its kind and researchers say research such as this could play a part in climate-change lawsuits as evidence of moral injury under human-rights law. The results clearly show that young people want more action taken.
- The UK Advertising Agency is [releasing new guidance](#) to stop "greenwashing", misleading claims that make organisations look like they are doing more environmental work than they are. There have already been instances in the past of companies and universities having to withdraw wider campaigns or claims and this guidance looks set to make it harder to publicise misleading sustainability claims.