

Insights and Impact from the EAUC Conference

Our Environmental Sustainability team recently attended the EAUC Conference, the UK's leading event for sustainability in further and higher education, at Sheffield Hallam University. It brings together sustainability professionals from across colleges and universities to share ideas, tackle shared challenges, and explore solutions.

The conference offered valuable insights into how institutions are approaching complex issues like sustainable travel, Scope 3 emissions and the realignment of net zero targets. It also reinforced the power of collaboration, with opportunities to exchange ideas, address common barriers, and explore new tools and frameworks.

Our team played an active role throughout, leading and contributing to a number of well-received sessions. Suzie Hardy, Environmental Sustainability Manager, presented "From Data to Direction: UoM's Scope 3 Journey So Far" in a sector showcase session; this covered our approach to data collection, stakeholder engagement and planning a five-year roadmap for action.

Julia Durkan, Head of Environmental Sustainability, also spoke at two key sessions:

- One on embedding sustainability into research practice, which explored how to engage research managers and build shared frameworks across institutions, and
- A session on realigning net zero targets, where sector leaders reflected on the need to adapt goals in light of financial constraints, shifting priorities, and the need for credible offsetting.

In addition to leading sessions, the team took away inspiration and practical insights from others in the sector. Sessions on AI and digital sustainability, financial integration, behavioural change among staff, and EMS collaboration sparked new ideas for future planning. The strong emphasis on knowledge sharing across institutions reminded us that while our contexts vary, our challenges, and opportunities, are often the same.

By learning from others and sharing our own experience, we're continuing to shape a more sustainable future across the sector. You can [explore EAUC member benefits](#) and access most resources simply by registering using your university email address.