



Edinburgh Climate Change Institute

Collaborating to accelerate climate action

Vision Statement | April 2021



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

About us

The Edinburgh Climate Change Institute was established in 2010 and has consistently worked towards a climate neutral Scotland and wider world. The climate change challenge is an environmental, social and economic priority, and therefore our focus is identifying the most effective ways to accelerate action towards a thriving and sustainable Scotland.

ECCL is a centre of excellence within the School of GeoSciences, University of Edinburgh. The centre is an inclusive hub for researchers, policy makers, businesses, students and educators. As such the ECCL community includes agencies who work to tackle climate change and experienced climate practitioners working on externally funded challenge driven projects. Our community also includes students studying climate change and those that teach them. We are therefore a collective of experts who deliver research, policy, education and training.

ECCL led projects are primarily funded through research and government grants, public and private sector support, and through expert consultancy. We seek to work with a diverse range of agents for change focussed on climate solutions.

Located in the heart of Edinburgh, ECCL is a leading centre for research, teaching, policy and practice for climate action.

We are an interdisciplinary hub within the University of Edinburgh driving evidence based climate action across Scotland, the UK and beyond.

Our vision*

Our vision is a resilient, just and climate neutral Scotland, showing leadership in global climate action.

We create, support and work in partnership with researchers, communities, policy makers and businesses to find and implement place-based climate solutions, such as reducing emissions, building resilience and promoting equality and justice to tackle the climate emergency.

**This document outlines the ECCL community vision, mission and values (2021-2024). This is a live document and will be reviewed and revised as our journey towards climate neutrality and resilience continues.*



What we do?

Act: We recognise the need to take action even when there is uncertainty, therefore we provide evidence, advice and tools to support rapid and informed decision-making.

Co-create: We provide connections and opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Teach: We build climate change capacity and forge learning communities.

Innovate: We support key organisations and policymakers to lead system change on climate impact.

Open: We share a collaborative physical and virtual space to provide access and visibility to challenge driven interdisciplinary research, practice and learning.

Nurture: We build professional skills and workforce capacity in climate mitigation and resilience.

Values

Trusted: We strive to be a trusted voice within the climate change policy and action.

Partnership: We work with the public and private sector in partnership to develop and share new ideas to better understand climate change and design new tools to meet mitigation and adaptation needs.

Shared learning: We work together to share our knowledge, learn from others, and build the skills and capacity of everyone to tackle climate change.

Quality: We deliver research excellence to support evidence-based local to global decision-making.

A Community of Practice with national and international reach

ECCI is home to:

- Post-graduate students spanning the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities. Specifically reading Carbon Management; Energy, Society and Sustainability and Environment and Development.
- Sustainable Scotland Network – Scotland’s public sector climate change and sustainability network. sustainableScotlandNetwork.org
- SNIFFER and Adaptation Scotland – A charity that provide advice and support to help Scotland be prepared and resilient to the effects of climate change. sniffer.org.uk; adaptationscotland.org.uk
- ClimateXChange – Working on behalf of the Scottish Government and its agencies CXC acts as a climate knowledge broker between researchers and policy. climatexchange.org.uk
- Scottish Carbon Capture and Storage – The largest CCS research group in the UK, coordinating all aspects of CCS in Scotland. sccs.org.uk
- Wave Energy Scotland – Accelerates development of cost effective wave energy technology for deployment in Scotland. waveenergyscotland.co.uk
- Tomorrow’s Cities – The UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Global Challenges Research Funded (GCRF) Urban Disaster Risk Hub. tomorrowscities.org
- Place-Based Climate Action Network (PCAN) – A UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) supported network translating climate policy into action on the ground. pcancities.org.uk
- Partnerships Team – Supporting businesses and public organisations to accelerate the transition to a net zero economy, through a portfolio of projects designed to enable innovation, build capacity, and embed climate impact into strategy, investment and decision making.
- Business Development Team - Responsible for leading innovation across the School of GeoSciences and providing the primary point of contact for all commercial engagement and partnerships. The team works in cooperation with Edinburgh Innovations Ltd to link our academics to wider services, facilities and resources to support a range of innovation activities

We work in collaboration to address issues of zero carbon transition, as well as climate risk and adaptation. Together we are an interdisciplinary community of practice tackling the complexity of climate change.



How we deliver on climate action?

The ECCI community work as individual agencies, projects, as well as a collective, to deliver targeted action on a range of needs including adaptation, energy transition, and emissions reduction. We target collaborations and partnerships that can have most impact and influence on climate change, working directly with both public and private sector partners on collaborative projects to develop strategies for emissions reduction with the tools, capability and capacity to deliver them. Currently ECCI hosts both adaptation and mitigation CoPs.

We work together through thematic Communities of Practice (CoP) and collaborative applied projects.

The CoPs bring our expertise together to capture best practice and share lessons, co-develop applied projects and provide technical support to external partners and stakeholders.

We host postgraduate students and integrate within teaching delivery through lectures, collaborative dissertations and placements. ECCI offers students the chance to get practical experience and build professional networks across the public and private sector.



We support a range of leading postgraduate courses including an MSc in Carbon Management, which is one of the longest running climate change courses in the world and now boasts a global alumni community of over 600 carbon management experts working across more than 60 nations.

Driving Action

- We will share research driven evidence to support the Scottish Government and the wider Conference of Parties 26 in Glasgow.
- We will provide the evidence base for climate action and support methodologies for impact measurement.
- We will enable the Scottish Government and local authorities to progress and implement requirements of the Paris Agreement and the Scottish Climate Change Plan, including the adaptation strategies.

Research Impact

- We will seek collaborative funding to develop research and impact projects.
- We will target climate challenge areas for potential impact, such as area-based emissions, energy transitions, sustainable business and behaviour change.
- We will create thematic communities of practice to address the challenges we face in implementation mitigation and adaptation in Scotland.

Partnership

- We will strengthen existing partnerships and seek to build new relationships with stakeholders in achieving climate neutrality and adaptation for Scotland
- We will accelerate the pace, scale and ambition of climate commitments through partner engagement.
- We will be proactive in sharing knowledge and outputs across all networks and partnerships.

Teaching and skills development

- We will embed post-graduate students within partner organisations.
- We will strengthen our learning and teaching with practice driven guest lectures, workshops and seminars.
- We will develop skills, knowledge, capability and capacity for climate action through projects and professional skills courses.



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