



Awards 2024

Outstanding Contribution to Environmental Leadership

Institution Name	University of Aberdeen
Submission title or project name	Student Relocation Travel Emissions Calculator
Nominee / key personnel	Roederer Rose Lyne, Net Zero and Emissions Manager; Estrid Jonsson, Undergraduate Net Zero Intern (Sustainability team, responsible for development and implementation). Subsequent development, dissemination and promotion done in collaboration with the EAUC (the Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education)
URL	https://www.eauc.org.uk/the_domestic_and_international_student_relocati
Submission	During the development of the University of Aberdeen's Net Zero strategy, we identified a gap in our emissions reporting - we had no data on the emissions related to students travelling to study in Aberdeen from around the world. With no sector best-practice to fall back on, we established a part-time student internship to develop a reporting methodology that would allow us to calculate these emissions for the first time. The resulting internship proved more successful than we could have anticipated. Institutionally, it established a robust methodology and effective, innovative calculation tool that allowed us to calculate and report these emissions. At a sector level, through subsequent engagement and collaboration with EAUC Scotland, the tool has been embraced, enhanced and made freely available as best practice for UK institutions. Moreover, it has been adopted and embedded in sector and governmental emissions reporting guidance and has even attracted interest from an international audience.



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Institution Name	University of Portsmouth
Submission title or project name	Revolution Plastics Institute
Nominee / key personnel	Professor Steve Fletcher, Director, Revolution Plastics Institute; Dr Cressida Bowyer, Deputy Director, Revolution Plastics Institute
URL	https://www.port.ac.uk/research/research-groups-and-centres/revolution-plastics-institute
Submission	The University of Portsmouth's Revolution Plastics Institute aims to urgently transform our understanding of the global plastics crisis through inclusive, solutions-focused research and innovation to support the transition to a sustainable plastics future. The Institute demonstrates clear leadership on environmental issues through innovative, multidisciplinary approaches and impactful collaborations. Addressing the global plastics crisis, it is the evidence provider at the interface of government, businesses, citizens and researchers. Impact and engagement is a thread that runs through all that the Institute does. It advises governments on national, regional and global action plans and effective policy options, and it is closely involved with the UN Global Treaty negotiations. As the world watches while 200 member states negotiate a global plastics treaty - the most important environmental deal since the 2015 Paris agreement on climate change - the Institute is at the forefront of providing independent, evidenced-based research.



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Institution Name	London South Bank University
Submission title or project name	CEDaCI (Circular Economy for the Data Centre Industry)
Nominee / key personnel	Professor Deborah Andrews
URL	https://www.cedaci.org/
Submission	The CEDaCI Project is building a circular economy for the data centre industry. Deborah Andrews has demonstrated outstanding leadership, organisation and coordination skills, building and leading 25 partners across seven countries from 2018-23. International collaboration was critical to the success of the project, which focused on a global industry comprised of 11 subsectors; awareness of different national practices and markets was essential. Collectively, the CEDaCI team generated considerable global impact and developed a free-to-use digital tool that enables businesses to make informed/sustainable choices about equipment, presented at 78 conferences/industry events, co-authored 11 articles, and published Circular server design drawings and guidelines via OCP. Professor Andrews continues to promote good practice by speaking at international industry events and podcasts and as a member of the UK government Defra Digital Sustainability Team. There is no doubt that the excellent international collaboration contributed to the success of the CEDaCI project and on-going dissemination of learning.



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Institution Name	De Montfort University
Submission title or project name	Peace, justice and strong institutions: DMU partners with the United Nations
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	https://www.dmu.ac.uk/campus/sustainability/sdg/index.aspx
Submission	De Montfort University (DMU) has shown exceptional environmental leadership since launching its Empowering University strategy. Sustainability is a core theme, informing learning, knowledge creation, empowerment and partnerships. Appointing a Pro Vice-Chancellor for Sustainability in 2021 marked a significant step forward. Partnering with the United Nations (UN), DMU is the sole UK university serving as a global academic hub for SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions. The university's initiatives include taking students to the UN Assembly in New York and hosting UN officials on campus. In March 2023, DMU established an SDG hub to centralise sustainability efforts. Recognised as one of the UK's greenest universities, DMU's achievements include a 91% recycling rate, a Carbon Literacy training programme and a 58% reduction in emissions since 2005. The curriculum integrates sustainability, earning several Green Gown awards. In November 2023, DMU showcased its research at COP28, further solidifying its commitment to sustainability.



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Institution Name	University of Exeter
Submission title or project name	Environmental Leadership
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	
Submission	Exeter has more of the world's most influential climate scientists than any other university, according to Reuters. The interdisciplinary nature of the 1,500 people now working on green solutions is leading to major collaborations with policymakers, business and financial leaders, philanthropists and the wider public to act on climate change. At the vanguard of Exeter's work to translate outstanding science into action is the revered work on the Global Carbon Budget (GCB) and Global Tipping Points Report (GTPR) which in 2022/23 set the standard for climate science influencing senior decision-makers. At COP28, the GCB and GTPR team led science briefings to the UN Secretary General and senior policymakers in the US, UK and Brazil with numerous world leaders referencing this work including King Charles and John Kerry. The reports also delivered over 4,000 pieces of top media coverage and reached more than 17 million people on social media.



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Institution Name	University of Plymouth
Submission title or project name	Inspiring innovation in offshore renewable energy
Nominee / key personnel	Professor Deborah Greaves
URL	https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/research/centre-for-decarbonisation-and-offshore-renewable-energy
Submission	Offshore renewable energy (ORE) is widely acknowledged as being critical to the global net-zero agenda. Thanks to its pioneering research, teaching, facilities, collaborations and influence, the University of Plymouth has earned a place at the forefront of national and international ORE innovation. Its Centre for Decarbonisation and Offshore Renewable Energy, launched in 2023, is furthering its work in the field while its facilities – including the UK Floating Offshore Wind Turbine Test Facility and laboratories dedicated to autonomous monitoring and cyber security – are ensuring future installations take advantage of the latest technologies. Its continued leadership of the national Supergen Offshore Renewable Energy Hub is allowing the University to unite government, industry and academia beyond common clean energy goals that are driving the UK towards its ambitious net-zero commitments.