

Edinburgh Napier  
UNIVERSITY



Environmental  
Sustainability

# EVERY ACTION COUNTS

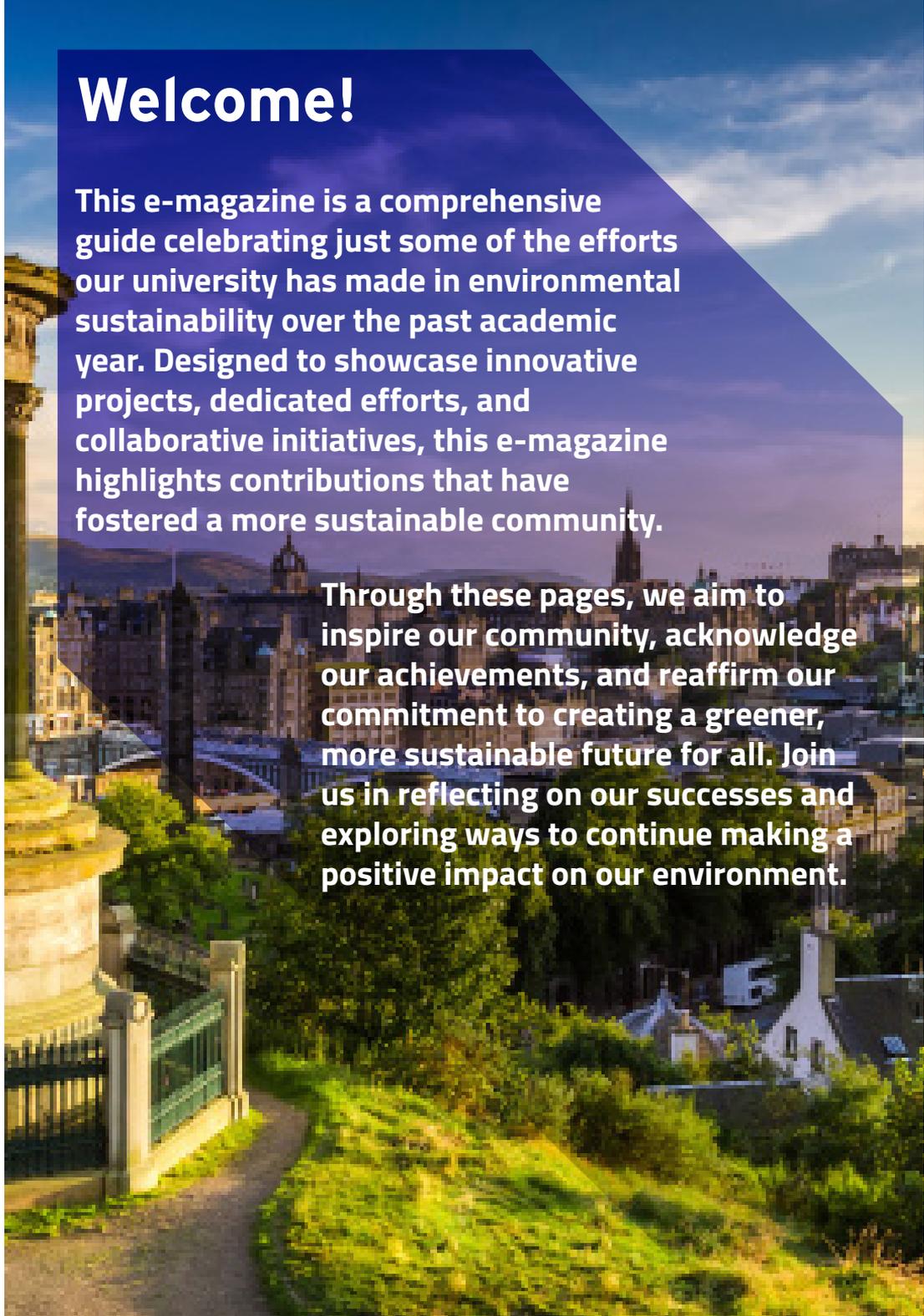
2023-24



# Welcome!

**This e-magazine is a comprehensive guide celebrating just some of the efforts our university has made in environmental sustainability over the past academic year. Designed to showcase innovative projects, dedicated efforts, and collaborative initiatives, this e-magazine highlights contributions that have fostered a more sustainable community.**

**Through these pages, we aim to inspire our community, acknowledge our achievements, and reaffirm our commitment to creating a greener, more sustainable future for all. Join us in reflecting on our successes and exploring ways to continue making a positive impact on our environment.**



# EVERY ACTION COUNTS

Edinburgh Napier University (ENU) launched the Every Action Counts campaign during Climate Week in October 2023, reflecting our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint as outlined in our [Environmental Sustainability Strategy \(ESS\)](#). Developed by the Marketing and External Relations (MER) team, this campaign encourages staff, students, and the wider university community to lower their energy usage through simple, impactful actions.

The campaign's primary objective is to enable and encourage the university community to reduce their personal environmental impact. Recognising a gap in our sustainability efforts, the team took steps to address it. Action was taken to identify potential barriers, and plan materials that leverage all available communication channels across the University.

Every Action Counts focuses on specific periods throughout the

academic year. During Climate Week, the campaign raised awareness about energy conservation and provided practical tips for reducing energy use. As winter approached, it emphasised sustainable heating practices, encouraging efficient ways to stay warm without excessive energy consumption. The Christmas switch-off urged the university community to power down non-essential devices before the holiday break, contributing to significant energy savings.

In March, the campaign culminated in Sustainability Week, featuring events such as a smoothie bike, a free tree giveaway, and support from partners like Home Energy Scotland, SHRUB, and Lothian Buses. These activities drew significant participation, highlighting the community's commitment to sustainability.

The campaign is marked by a clear and recognisable aesthetic, focusing on people and covering a broad range of environmental aspects. This ongoing and evolving campaign supports sustained change. By fostering a culture of sustainability, Every Action Counts plays a crucial role in achieving ENU's environmental goals.

Every Action Counts is now a key University campaign which will continue to encourage individual action to achieve a collective environmental win.



## PRINT SERVICES

### Reusing and recycling

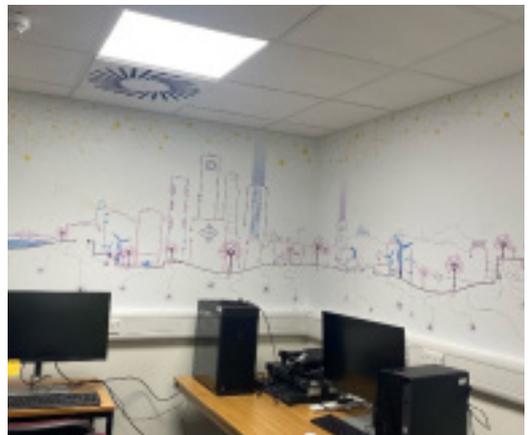
Our Print Hub team is leading an initiative project aimed at reducing waste and promoting sustainability through creative reuse and repurposing of old furniture. The project involves using vinyl wrapping to give new life to furniture that might otherwise be discarded. By transforming these pieces with updated and durable wraps, the Print Hub team is not only preventing waste but also adding a fresh aesthetic to our university spaces.

In addition to their furniture project, the Print Hub has made several other sustainable changes. They have eliminated the use of plastic boxes for printed business cards, opting instead to produce their own reusable paper boxes. This shift not only reduces plastic waste but also aligns with our broader commitment to environmentally friendly practices.

Another significant change is the replacement of plastic acetate sheets with eco-friendly covers. This move further reduces our reliance on plastic and supports our goal of minimising our environmental footprint. The Print Hub's efforts highlight how small, thoughtful changes can collectively make a substantial impact on sustainability. Their dedication to finding innovative solutions for waste reduction is setting a powerful example for the entire university community.



Our Print Hub team is transforming old furniture with vinyl wrapping and eliminating plastic waste with reusable solutions, setting an example of creative sustainability.





## **CATERING WITH CONSCIENCE**

Our university's catering services have made progress in promoting sustainability and ethical consumption. By partnering with Coffee Conscience and incorporating Fairtrade products, we ensure that our coffee and other beverages are sourced responsibly, supporting fair labour practices and sustainable farming.

One of the most significant changes has been the elimination of single-use plastics. We have replaced these with Vegware products, which are compostable and significantly

less harmful to the environment. Additionally, we have stopped using disposable water bottles at university functions, opting instead for glass bottles that can be reused, thereby reducing plastic waste.

Our commitment to supporting local agriculture is evident in our use of local and seasonal produce. This not only reduces our carbon footprint by minimising transportation but also supports local producers and promotes the use of fresh, seasonal foods. We also provide daily meat-free options, catering to dietary preferences and reducing the environmental impact associated with meat production.

To further encourage sustainable practices, we offer a 25p discount to anyone using a reusable cup for hot drinks. Our catering team's efforts highlight our dedication to sustainability and our commitment to making environmentally responsible choices.

**By eliminating single-use plastics, supporting Fairtrade, and encouraging reusable cups, our catering services are making huge improvements in sustainable dining**



## **BAINFIELD STUDENT ACCOMMODATION**

We are pleased to announce that Bainfield student accommodation has made significant strides in energy efficiency during the 2023/24 academic year. Through a combination of awareness campaigns and the collective efforts of our student residents, Bainfield has successfully reduced its energy consumption in the past academic year.

This achievement is a testament to the proactive approach of our student community. Various measures were implemented to achieve this reduction, including encouraging mindful energy usage, and providing tips and resources on how to reduce energy consumption in daily life.

The success at Bainfield serves as an example for the entire university. It demonstrates that with concerted effort and a commitment to sustainable practices, significant improvements in energy efficiency can be achieved. We congratulate all the students and staff involved in this effort and look forward to building on this success in the future.

**Congratulations to Bainfield student accommodation for significantly reducing energy consumption in the 2023/24 academic year, showcasing the power of collective effort.**

## SUSTAINABILITY WEEK 2024

In March, we celebrated Sustainability Week 2024 with a series of engaging events across our campuses. Highlights included the bike-powered smoothie machine, a free tree giveaway, the ENSA clothes swap, and various guests.

Attendees also benefited from Dr. Bike sessions, fair trade tips, and contributions from organisations such as Living Streets Scotland and Home Energy Scotland.

A notable success was the giveaway of 410 smoothies and 120 trees. The week showcased our commitment to environmental consciousness and community engagement, making a significant impact on our campus sustainability efforts and reducing waste.

The Sustainability Society and Conservation Volunteering Society showcased their initiatives, and representatives from Home Energy Scotland, Lothian Buses, and Living Streets Scotland offered valuable resources and information. Dr. Bike provided free bike checks, promoting cycling as a sustainable mode of transport.

**Sustainability Week 2024 engaged our community with tree giveaways, bike-powered smoothies, and more, inspiring everyone to embrace sustainable living.**





## **BAMBOO-TIMBER COMPOSITE GRID SHELL IN CHINA**

A team of students from Edinburgh Napier University have completed a groundbreaking construction project in China, building the world's first bamboo-timber composite grid shell in Guangxi. Thirteen students from ENU's Department of Built Environment collaborated with colleagues from Guangxi University of Science and Technology and Inner Mongolia University of Science and Technology to create this innovative structure. Funded by the British Council and Turing Scheme UK, the 12m x 12m construction showcases bamboo's strength, flexibility, and sustainability

as a building material.

The ENU team, who travelled to China in early June, applied their expertise from programmes such as Architectural Technology & Building Performance, Advanced Structural Engineering, and Civil Engineering. The project involved various roles, including Project Safety Team Leader Onoh Nkiruka Patricia, who expressed immense pride in participating in this world-leading work.

Professor Johnson Zhang, project lead from ENU's School of Computing, Engineering & the Built Environment, emphasised the significance of this project in pioneering bio-based construction and shaping a sustainable future. The team plans to continue researching the potential of bamboo-timber composite structures.



**A groundbreaking construction project by ENU students in China showcases the potential of sustainable bamboo-timber composite structures.**

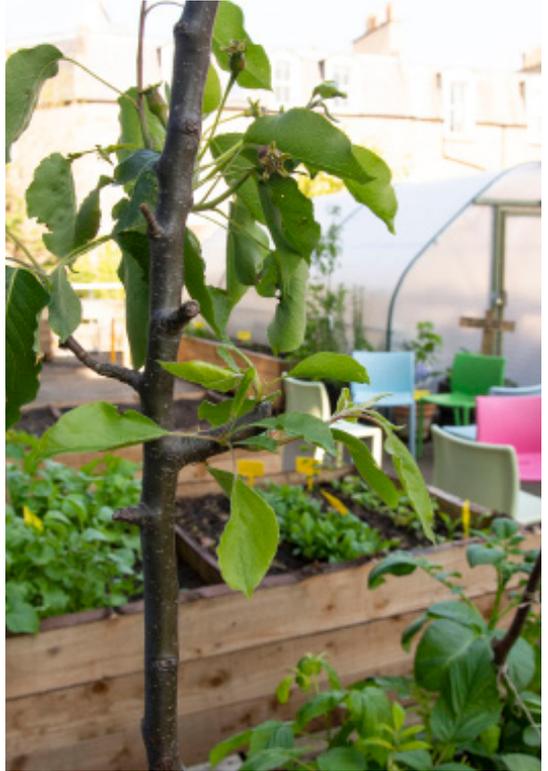
## **THE LIONS' GATE GARDEN WINS THRIVING AWARD**

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The Lions' Gate Garden at Edinburgh Napier University has received the 'Thriving Award' from Keep Scotland Beautiful in September 2023. This award recognises the garden's outstanding contributions to sustainability and environmental stewardship. The garden serves as a living laboratory where students and staff engage in regenerative practices, promoting biodiversity and sustainable urban agriculture.

The garden has become a hub for learning and innovation, featuring projects that include composting, rainwater harvesting, and organic gardening. The 'Thriving Award' highlights the success and impact of these initiatives on the university community and beyond.

**The Lions' Gate Garden wins the 'Thriving Award' for its outstanding contributions to sustainability.**



## PROTECTING MANGROVE CRABS IN BRAZIL

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Researchers from Edinburgh Napier University's Centre for Conservation and Restoration Science have collaborated globally to protect mangrove crabs in Brazil. The REMAR research project developed an algorithm using moon data, tidal charts, and the crabs' behaviour to create a forecasting tool that predicts mating behaviour. This tool, now used by the Brazilian government, helps improve the timing of regulations and capture bans during the crabs' breeding season.

This innovative approach ensures sustainable fishing practices, protecting the crabs' population while supporting local livelihoods. The project exemplifies the power of scientific collaboration in addressing environmental challenges.

**ENU researchers develop a forecasting tool to protect mangrove crabs in Brazil, ensuring sustainable fishing practices.**



## HYSPIRITS 2 PROJECT IN ORKNEY

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Edinburgh Napier University is a proud partner in the HySpirits 2 project, aimed at decarbonising the whisky distilling process in Orkney. This innovative initiative explores using hydrogen as a clean energy source, significantly reducing carbon emissions associated with whisky production.

The project exemplifies the potential of green technologies in traditional industries, promoting sustainability and environmental responsibility. HySpirits 2 aligns with our commitment to advancing renewable energy solutions and reducing our carbon footprint.

**ENU partners in HySpirits 2 project to decarbonise whisky distilling, exploring hydrogen as a clean energy source.**





## MIKOKO PAMOJA HONOURED BY UNITED NATIONS

The Mikoko Pamoja project, a world-leading conservation and restoration initiative supported by Edinburgh Napier University, has been named 'Person of the Year' by the United Nations in Kenya. This prestigious recognition celebrates the project's significant contributions to mangrove conservation, carbon offsetting, and community development.

Mikoko Pamoja, which translates to 'Mangroves Together', has successfully restored and protected mangrove forests, providing critical habitat for wildlife and enhancing coastal resilience. The project's holistic approach integrates environmental conservation with socioeconomic benefits for local communities.

**Mikoko Pamoja named 'Person of the Year' by the UN for outstanding contributions to mangrove conservation and community development.**

## LOST SHORE SURF RESORT'S PLANT- BASED WETSUITS

The forthcoming Lost Shore surf resort at Ratho will feature plant-based wetsuits made from rubber plants, thanks to research by Edinburgh Napier University's Surf Lab. This innovative collaboration tested the capabilities of various wetsuit brands in a controlled scientific environment, promoting sustainable and eco-friendly alternatives.

The use of plant-based wetsuits aligns with the resort's commitment to environmental responsibility and highlights the potential for sustainable practices in the sports and leisure industry. This initiative demonstrates how academic research can drive positive change in real-world applications.

**Lost Shore surf resort to use plant-based wetsuits, promoting sustainability with research from ENU's Surf Lab.**





## TIMBER TED TEAM

The Timber TED team at Edinburgh Napier University has won the Green Skills Award at the inaugural Built Environment - Smarter Transformation Accelerate to Zero Awards. This prestigious award celebrates their innovative work in sustainable timber construction and education. The team's efforts in promoting green skills and sustainable building practices have made a significant impact on the industry.

Their projects focus on utilising timber as a renewable resource, reducing carbon footprints, and training the next generation of builders in sustainable practices. This award highlights the

importance of integrating green skills into the built environment sector.



## SOCIETIES

We were thrilled to see the [Sustainability Society](#) restart and to welcome the new [Conservation Volunteers Society](#) this year, both dedicated to advancing our campus's green initiatives.

# EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY JOINS THE IMPACT RANKINGS

Edinburgh Napier University (ENU) has been positively assessed in sustainable development, earning a place in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings for the first time. Evaluated against the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ENU scored 76.1 out of 100, ranking 301-400 out of 1,963 institutions.

The 17 SDGs, established by the UN in 2015, call for global action to end poverty, reduce inequality, improve health and education, spur economic growth, and tackle climate change. THE Impact Rankings highlight how universities influence these goals through research, stewardship, outreach, and teaching.

ENU received high ratings for its progress in Sustainable Cities & Communities, Good Health & Wellbeing, and Responsible Consumption &

Production, with an 82.1 score in Partnership for the Goals. Joining the rankings aligns with ENU's Environmental Sustainability Strategy to show progress against the SDGs.

Professor Gary Hutchison, Chair of ENU's Environmental Sustainability Strategy Group, said, "Our inaugural position acknowledges the efforts across the Edinburgh Napier University community. We are already identifying areas to increase our impact further."

**Edinburgh Napier University celebrates its inaugural position in the THE Impact Rankings, recognising our commitment to sustainable development and global challenges**



## CONTACT

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**Do you have a good news story about environmental sustainability work? We would love to hear from you!**

**Please email [j.benzie@napier.ac.uk](mailto:j.benzie@napier.ac.uk)**

