



UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
Business School

Scaling positive action on climate and sustainability

Climate and sustainability Executive Education programmes
with the University of Edinburgh Business School



Scaling action on climate change

The climate crisis is a defining issue of our time and there is no one-size-fits-all response. To genuinely shift the dial, we need to scale positive action on climate and sustainability. This happens when organisations are empowered to be bold and equipped with the confidence and knowledge to act.

We believe education is a key enabler – both as a source of knowledge, challenge and solutions, and as a process of coming together to share where we are, what our options are, and what we can each do to accelerate climate action.

We are focused on helping our clients to position themselves at the forefront of critical thinking, good decision-making, and practical action on climate change and sustainability.

Transformative learning | Practical execution | Proven success



Your learning partner

We are a trusted partner when it comes to climate and sustainability education. We work closely with clients to create custom programmes designed around your specific requirements, as well as building communities of practitioners seeking to increase their impact through engagement in our open programmes.

Climate change is a cross-cutting issue, which requires an interdisciplinary response. Our open and custom programmes leverage world-class expertise from across the University, bridging the gap between theory and practice and blending cutting edge research with impactful education. That means we're embedded in academia yet always looking outward to engage with businesses, organisations and policy makers in the real economy.

Some of the topics that we frequently cover include:

- **Climate science fundamentals**
- **Green finance**
- **Nature and biodiversity**
- **Clean technology**
- **Climate data**
- **Climate leadership**
- **Circular economy**
- **Carbon markets**
- **Sustainable energy**
- **Sustainable transition**
- **Legislation and regulation**
- **Carbon accounting**



Open programmes

Our open programmes are a way of connecting with other industries and professionals working in the same or complementary roles and sectors. We facilitate deep thinking and deep learning, encouraging you to collaborate, explore, expand imagination and ambition, and be inspired.

Our programmes address contemporary issues connected to climate and sustainability, and how these subjects relate to your organisation. As well as running courses that are advertised and open to all, we can also adapt our programmes to meet your specific requirements.

Climate Change Risk in Finance

For example, our Climate Change Risk in Finance programme provided training to over 250 financial services and fintech professionals. We taught participants how to read climate data, measure financial risks associated with climate change, and use these insights to make sound financial decisions.

The programme ran online and was offered as an open access course to bring together participants from different financial services companies and related organisations.

Participants included large pensions companies, investment houses and banks. Scottish Widows enrolled 30 directors and managers on the course, whilst investment manager Baillie Gifford commissioned a bespoke version of the programme which ran with five cohorts.



My organisation has started its journey in regards to ESG and climate change but there is much more to do. I think we focus too much on benchmarking ourselves against our peers and as we are 'top of the pack' we think that is enough.... The course has given me the knowledge to voice some constructive criticism and think critically about our policies going forward.

The organisation I work for has a majority shareholder which has made significant commitments regarding net zero and financed emissions, but we have not yet had to truly grapple with climate change implications ourselves. I feel better positioned to participate in, and move along, these discussions.

I really enjoyed all of the presenters and sessions and found learning from academics, as opposed to solely practitioners, absolutely refreshing.

Course participants

Custom programmes

The University of Edinburgh Business School is renowned for delivering excellent and impactful custom Executive Education programmes related to climate change and sustainability. We are a trusted partner for a range of institutions, many of whom we have worked with for a number of years, including NatWest Group, ScottishPower, and Lloyds Banking Group.

Our subject matter expertise allows us to adapt to your needs and context, recognising that there isn't a one-size-fits-all approach. We spend time really getting to know your business. We work with you to tailor our expertise to your requirements, putting your operating context and priorities at the heart of our custom programme design. Our programmes can be tailored to all levels of colleague seniority and experience within your business.

Our previous custom programmes have included:

- Sustainability transition planning
- Climate leadership in the boardroom
- Tips and framing for better client conversations
- Sustainable finance
- Transition technologies

The examples that follow give a flavour of the kinds of programmes we can deliver at different levels of investment. Many programmes start small, while you get to know us and we learn about your needs and context. Our aim is to build enduring relationships, allowing the space and time for conversations to unfold and for the content to adapt in response to real world events.



For an investment up to £50k we can help you to:

Curate a Climate Conversation series

- Advance the conversation on climate and sustainability within your organisation.
- Clarify key climate and sustainability facts and facilitate discussion about your organisation's role in the transition.
- Examine and strengthen how your organisation responds to new challenges and opportunities.
- Identify steps to develop a vision and pathway for change.
- Explore how colleagues can better integrate sustainability into their roles.

How it works

We work with you to design a programme structure and content that addresses your specific objectives.

This includes tailoring the delivery of the programme depending on what is best suited to your needs. We provide tailored team sessions with our climate and sustainability experts that can be delivered either in-person or online. This may be with one or different teams from across your organisation, and/or board-level climate leadership sessions.

We also offer pre-recorded sessions on specific topics which can be accessed by colleagues at their own pace.

Public sector programme example

We provided training to public sector professionals on private investment in nature-based capital. By delving into technical issues on financing woodland creation and peatland restoration, we helped participants to progress with public sector policy on financing natural capital projects.

Financial services programme

We partnered with an investment management company to create a customised 'Climate Conversations' programme. Through whole-team sessions, our expert climate and sustainability team clarified key climate facts, facilitated discussion about the company's role in sustainability transition, and helped identify steps to develop a vision and pathway for real change.

All pricing is subject to UK VAT.

For an investment up to £250k we can help you to:

Accelerate environmental action

- Build knowledge, engagement and confidence amongst your colleagues, to inspire and accelerate action.
- Give individuals and teams the knowledge and confidence to effectively communicate on sustainability issues, both internally and externally.
- Encourage cross-team collaboration and embed networks within your organisation, contributing to an organisation-wide movement.
- Help you to achieve your sustainability goals faster and more effectively, building a sense of agency and confidence to act in an uncertain and fast-moving environment.
- Identify practical, relevant steps towards change.

How it works

We work with you to tailor the structure and content of the programme to address your specific objectives. Sessions can be delivered in-person, online, or in a hybrid format to maximise engagement.

Sessions are informed by our world-class research, and delivered by our independent team of faculty, both from the Business School and wider University, depending on your objectives.

Banking and financial services programme example

We created a 22-week online programme on Net Zero Technologies for a major UK bank, tailored to 175 staff members responsible for the implementation of new technologies such as hydrogen, heat decarbonisation and carbon capture and storage. The programme involved a combination of pre-recorded content and resources for self-study, together with live online interactive discussion sessions hosted by University of Edinburgh faculty. The programme equipped colleagues with skills to engage and support clients with their own transition plans.

All pricing is subject to UK VAT.

If you have £500k or more to invest we can help you to:

Support organisational change

- Catalyse action on climate and sustainability across your organisation.
- Transform your organisation through a long-term partnership with the University, aimed at embedding sustainability across your organisation.
- Embark upon a flexible, scalable learning and development programme that equips your colleagues with the necessary knowledge, skills, and awareness to deliver your climate ambitions.
- Create customised tools for immediate use in team meetings and client conversations, to help your organisation take tangible, practical steps in implementation.
- Embed transformational thinking in daily habits, to benefit your organisation, your customers, and communities across the globe.

How it works

Over the course of the partnership, we will deliver a series of multi-level learning interventions, which build upon each other to ensure breadth and depth of learning. This might include a combination of organisation-wide training, leadership conversations with your senior management team, and/or technical training for specialists. We combine specialist, role-specific learning with wider organisational awareness-raising to maximise the impact of our partnership with you.

We will also encourage knowledge exchange between our institutions, for example by attending each other's events or conferences.

We will continually monitor and evaluate the impact of the programme, using this information to continually inform and strengthen our design and delivery.

To fully embed sustainability across your organisation, we recommend a multi-year partnership.

Banking and financial services programme example

Please refer to the NatWest Group case study for an example of a three year, organisation-wide collaboration.

All pricing is subject to UK VAT.

Case study:

climate education partnership



NatWest Group

We worked in partnership with NatWest Group for over three years to deliver an organisation-wide climate programme. Our £1.5m partnership equipped the banking group's colleagues with the necessary technical knowledge, skills and awareness to fulfil their climate ambition – to be a leading bank in the UK in helping to address the climate challenge.

Our partnership developed and delivered a climate education programme focused on three key ambitions and levels of intervention.

Driving awareness: core learning for all colleagues to provide easily accessible climate awareness learning, enabling people to take ownership and act.

Our whole-organisation Climate Change Fundamentals programme engaged over 60,000 individuals in six, accessible, bite-sized online modules. It raised awareness of NatWest Group's climate ambitions and supported colleagues to understand what positive actions they could take to deliver on these ambitions.

Building agency: business-specific and technical learning for priority roles to equip colleagues with the capability to do their job, manage climate-related risks, and support customers to transition.

We conducted a 12-week Climate Change Transformation programme to empower approximately 3,000 colleagues in priority roles with the capabilities to manage climate-related risks and support customers through the transition to net zero. The programme comprised a structured blend of self-paced multi-media learning modules and digital events with University of Edinburgh Business School academics.

Inspiring action: in-depth learning for colleagues in high-risk roles to inspire climate action and innovation through learning, thought leadership, and global outreach.

We created an action-oriented programme focused on the impacts of climate uncertainty on risk and opportunity. This equipped participants with the in-depth knowledge, skills and confidence required to act on climate for the banking group and its customers. The programme comprised six, 15-minute, self-paced, online modules focused on empowering colleagues to confront climate uncertainty and drill down on climate risks and opportunities.

Measuring our impact

We continually conduct qualitative and quantitative reviews of our progress. When asked about the Climate Change Transformation programme:

- 96% of participants felt they'd learned how their role and profession can aid in combating climate change
- 94% said they would alter their personal and professional actions on climate change
- 86% felt better equipped to respond to and make decisions connected with climate change impacts

Award winning

Our success is recognised by the global business education community.

At the Association of MBAs (AMBA) and Business Graduate Association (BGA) Excellence Awards 2025, our executive education programme won the Best Business School Partnership award.

Our partnership also helped NatWest win Gold at the 2023 Learning Technologies Awards, honouring exceptional achievements and innovations in the learning and development industry.



Case study:

Climate Conversations



Dundas Global Investors (Dundas) are seeking to move towards net zero for their business operations and portfolios by 2050. They partnered with us for help in understanding what this transition might mean for their business and their clients.

Working together, we designed a three-part 'Climate Conversations' programme to explore the climate and sustainability related risks and opportunities for Dundas. Through a series of informative, discussion-based sessions, we helped colleagues to:

- Deepen awareness and generate a deeper understanding of climate and sustainability.
- Build a shared organisational understanding of sustainability, climate change and net zero, including key facts and figures and their implications on people, communities, and businesses.
- Navigate the opportunities and risks of climate change, including regulations and targets.
- Identify the team's sustainability-related roles and responsibilities, both at an individual and group level, so that everyone knows what part they play.
- Identify and apply appropriate climate and sustainability knowledge to the financial services sector. Including increased clarity on the implications of scope 3 emissions accounting; an understanding of global supply chain influences; and the possible impacts of sustainability measures on stakeholder relationships and investments.
- Build team-wide confidence to have professional conversations about climate and sustainability.
- Build and embed momentum within the firm for meaningful transition.

The programme comprised a series of half-day sessions for all staff in the business. The sessions were built around University of Edinburgh Business School faculty presentations, facilitated discussions, and breakout group exercises and debates. The sessions enabled colleagues to have informed conversations on sustainability, organisational purpose and stewardship, and to identify a meaningful, common sustainable development path.



“After setting our intention to commit to Net Zero for the portfolios we manage and our business operations by 2050, it became clear that everyone across our firm had different knowledge levels on what this meant. We decided to partner with the Business School to design the ‘Climate Conversations’ series with the hope of gaining valuable insights into the many different areas of climate change and sustainability.

We appreciated the flexibility to amend and fine-tune the content of the sessions as we moved through them, as well their interactive nature.

Looking forward, we will be using the knowledge we have gained in shaping our climate and sustainability strategies and we are already seeing colleagues talking with more confidence on these subjects both internally and externally with clients.

Many thanks to the team for creating the series of ‘Climate Conversations’ for us.”

Dundas Global Investors



About us

You'll find us in the top tier of global business schools. With triple accreditation from AMBA, AACSB, and EQUIS, the facts and figures around our School's offering tell a wealth of stories.

As a School characterised by collaboration we also offer access to the University of Edinburgh. Our key University partners include Edinburgh Futures Institute, innovation hub for AI and data science the Bayes Centre, and the Edinburgh Climate Change Institute.

The power to inspire

Across over 100 years of specialist business education, the **University of Edinburgh Business School** has welcomed executive learners from over 35 nations, and connected with more than 100 companies and organisations. With more than 140 academics from 38 nationalities and an alumni community of 20,000 in more than 120 countries, the Business School is recognised as a connected community for thought leadership on the international business stage. Residing within a top 30 globally-ranked University we have a reputation for excellence. Our network also reaches beyond the University. We partner with faculty from top business schools around the world to help provide a global perspective on Executive Education.

The **University of Edinburgh** is consistently ranked one of the top 50 universities in the world. We are 27th in the 2025 QS World University rankings. Our climate change research at the University delves deep into the physical, social, economic, cultural and political implications of a warming world. By leveraging our outstanding understanding of business, innovation, human behaviour, and climate science, through our outward looking research and teaching, we provide practical, real-world solutions and developments supporting the sustainability transition.

We are internationally recognised for our leadership on environmental and social impact, placing 7th in the world and 2nd in the UK in the 2025 QS World University Rankings for Sustainability. We are ranked joint 1st in the world for our contribution to industry, innovation and infrastructure for sustainable development (Times Higher Education Impact Rankings).

Within the Business School, our **Centre for Business, Climate Change and Sustainability (B-CCaS)** comprises world-leading academics focused on the intersection between climate change and business. B-CCaS research is internationally recognised for its impact, and our focus on Executive Education and knowledge exchange reflects our desire to be a catalyst for systems change.

Our Executive Education team



B-CCaS's mission is to be a catalyst for positive social and environmental change in the interaction of climate, business, policy, and society. We want to create and inspire change makers of the future by offering innovative, research-led solutions.

For almost 15 years the Business School has had faculty dedicated to researching and teaching issues related to climate change and sustainability, making us a pioneer in this field.

Our team of world-leading independent experts have a range of backgrounds, with key research expertise in areas such as carbon accounting, sustainable business strategy, green finance, societal transformation, energy, nature and biodiversity, and low carbon economics.

We use our research to create and inspire impact in the real-world. We have worked with businesses of all sizes: national governments in the US, China, the UK, and Scotland; multilateral organisations including the UN, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the European Commission; and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Our team includes:



Professor Matthew Brander, Professor of Carbon Accounting

Professor Brander has participated in the development of numerous international standards for greenhouse gas accounting, including revision of ISO and the Greenhouse Gas Protocol Policy and Actions Standard. He is a member of the Woodland Carbon Code's Advisory Board, and is on the peer-review panel for the UK Government's conversion factors for company reporting.



Dr Adam Chalmers, Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Relations

Dr Chalmers' research focuses on corporate sustainability policy, corporate lobbying, and natural language processing. Alongside his role at Edinburgh, he is a Senior Visiting Research Fellow at King's College London, and the Co-Academic Lead of Carrots & Sticks, a large-scale database and repository of corporate sustainability policy.



Dr Mengfei Jiang, Lecturer in Finance

Dr Jiang teaches carbon pricing, low-carbon project financing, and the connections between climate change mitigation, corporate strategies and decision-making. She has consulted on World Bank Group-funded projects and is affiliated with both the UK Interdisciplinary Centre for Circular Chemical Economy, and the UK-China Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage Centre.



Dr Bernice Maxton-Lee, Climate and Sustainability Lecturer in Executive Education

Dr Maxton-Lee bridges the communications gap between science, research, and business, across diverse cultures. In a 20-year career spanning business and academia, Bernice has won awards and accolades for her teaching and research, consulting for The Economist, the United Nations, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zürich) and others. She has presented to audiences globally on the sustainability transition.



Professor Luca Taschini, Chair of Climate Change Finance

Professor Taschini leads research on the integration of climate change economics into capital markets, investment decisions and core business practices. Professor Taschini has advised national banks and governments across the world on the development and implementation of climate finance measures.



Contact us

We would be delighted to design an Executive Education programme to suit your needs.

Speak with our team to explore how we can support you to scale action on climate and sustainability within your organisation.



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