

Impact Report

Edinburgh International
Conference Centre
2024



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Foreword

Welcome to the Edinburgh International Conference Centre's second annual Impact Report.

These reports allow us to share our progress, reflect on our sustainability journey, and outline the steps we are taking towards our goal of reaching net zero by 2030.

Since opening in 1995, sustainability has been at the heart of the EICC, reflected in our core value: We LOVE our environment. In the early years, our focus was on reducing our direct environmental impact. Today, our understanding of sustainability has deepened, and we recognise that true sustainability must also embrace the wider impact we have on society. The way we support people and communities locally, nationally, and internationally is every bit as important as the way we protect the natural world.

This broader perspective guides our work, from supporting the RSPB peatland restoration project at Forsinard, to launching our EICC Impact Network, which ensures events create benefits that last long after delegates have departed. We have also introduced a Neurodiversity in Events Toolkit to make events more inclusive and accessible for all.

Yet we know that this is a journey we cannot take alone. Achieving a sustainable future depends on openness, collaboration, and the sharing of knowledge across industries and communities. By being transparent about our own sustainability journey, we hope we can all move closer to the collective goal of securing a better future for generations to come.

As I step into the role of Chief Executive, it is a privilege to build on the strong foundations laid before me. I am committed to leading the EICC into a new era of creativity, collaboration and purpose, ensuring we continue to deliver ideas with impact while leaving a legacy of positive and lasting change.

*Amanda Wrathall
Chief Executive*



Net Zero Target

**The EICC is working towards the City of
Edinburgh's *Net-Zero* Emissions target:**

2030



Introduction

The EICC takes a **triple bottom line** approach to sustainability. We believe that true sustainability can only be achieved when **economic**, **societal** and **environmental** considerations are treated with equal importance.

Focusing on just one area in isolation is not enough; only by addressing all three together can we create meaningful and lasting change

Step
Change
Sustainability
at every step



Our sustainability programme, **Step Change**, is built on this principle. It recognises that our economic performance, our contribution to society, and our impact on the environment are deeply interconnected.

By balancing these **three dimensions**, we not only strengthen the long-term resilience of the EICC but also ensure that the benefits we create extend to our people, our community and the planet.

Desk to Door



The EICC benefits from **excellent public transport links**, and we actively encourage sustainable travel to help minimise carbon emissions.

At a national level, we have partnered with **LNER** to provide discounted group travel and with **Loganair** to offer reduced fares. Locally, we promote the use of **Edinburgh Trams**, an inherently sustainable mode of transport, as well as **Lothian Buses** and **Central Taxis**, a carbon-neutral taxi company that supports delegate travel across the city.

In August 2023, we partnered with **You. Smart. Thing.**, an online travel planning tool that enables delegates to identify the most sustainable routes and modes of transport for their journey to and from the EICC.



Event Impact Reports



Our **Event Impact Reports** capture the outcomes of each event, providing detailed data on energy use, waste generation, and broader economic and social impacts. They also track food waste, recording both production and plate waste during the event.

These reports offer clients **valuable insights**, enabling them to set evidence-based targets for future events and supporting the development of a more responsible and sustainable events industry.

Since their launch, we have seen a **significant increase** in the number of reports produced, reflecting the growing demand from clients for tangible data to inform their decision-making.

YOUR EVENT IMPACT REPORT
YOUR EVENT NAME
YOUR EVENT DATES

Measuring
Events taking place inspire ideas that cl
We recognise that events. So, we cons sustainability at the
Your unique Event l economic, and soci

YOUR EVENT IMPACT REPORT. UTILITIES.

YOUR EVENT IMPACT REPORT. WASTE

Waste
Metal. 20kg
Wholly tagged to specification for remanufacture in Fife, Scotland.
Cardboard. 120kg
Baled in Edinburgh, Scotland. Then sold to mill within the UK for reproduction.
Paper. 15kg
Baled in Edinburgh, Scotland. Processed in Perth, Scotland, before distribution within the UK.
Wood. 100kg
All processed on site in Edinburgh, Scotland. Resulting wood chips are then sold on, primarily for the manufacture of chipboard.

YOUR EVENT IMPACT REPORT. ACHIEVEMENTS.

Economic Impact
£XXXXXX

Calculated by a trusted accountancy firm, the economic impact figure is an estimation of the monetary value your event provided to the city and country, through factors including delegate spending.

Societal Impact
Here we will outline any societal impacts your event has had.
• Public outreach?
• Charity fundraising?
• Wellbeing activities?
• Fun runs?

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Climate Action Contribution

In partnership with RSPB Scotland, our **Climate Action Contribution** initiative showcases the EICC's ongoing commitment to environmental responsibility and climate action.

The programme focuses on **peatland restoration**, a vital nature-based solution that not only mitigates carbon emissions but also plays a crucial role in tackling biodiversity loss. Healthy peatlands store significant amounts of carbon, regulate water flow, and provide habitats for a wide range of wildlife.

Beyond these environmental benefits, the restoration work generates meaningful **employment opportunities** within local communities, delivering tangible social and economic value alongside its ecological impact.

During 2024, the EICC secured **£57,000** to support this important project, reinforcing our dedication to creating long-term positive outcomes for both the planet and the communities around us.

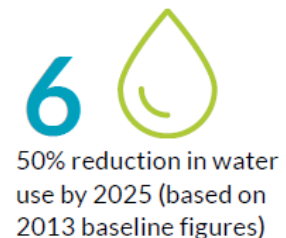
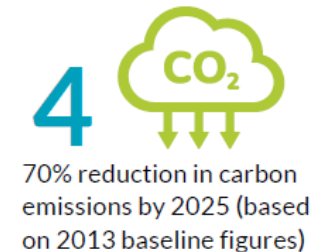
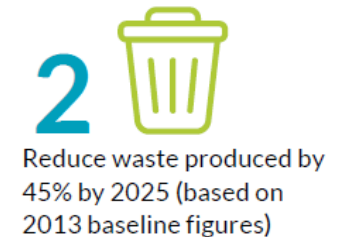


Carbon Reduction Targets

Environmental Policy Statement

- Set its own **targets** for reducing emissions leading to “Net Zero” CO₂e emissions in 2030.
- Ensure it complies with all relevant **legislation**.
- Carry out regular **environmental audits** to ensure the organisation is meeting its aims with regards to energy efficiency, emissions, and its environmental management system.
- Ensure certification by the most **robust organisations** working in event sustainability.
- Partner for action **locally, nationally, and internationally**.
- Ensure the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** are factored into strategic and operational decision making wherever practicable.

Carbon Emission Reduction Strategy



Waste

The EICC encourages delegates and event organisers to reduce their environmental impact by adopting the 'Five Rs' principle when managing waste:

- Refuse – Avoid unnecessary or single-use items.
- Reduce – Minimise the amount of waste created.
- Reuse – Choose items that can be used multiple times.
- Recycle – Separate materials so they can be processed into new products.
- Repurpose – Find alternative uses for items that might otherwise be thrown away.

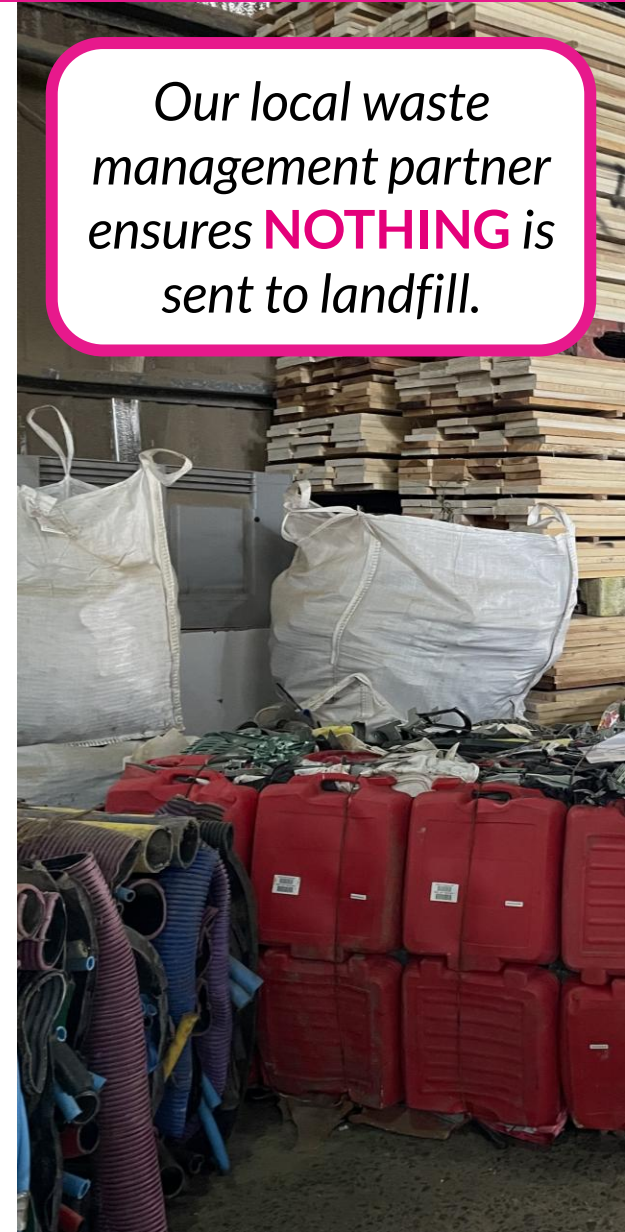
To support this, we provide **clearly labelled recycling facilities** throughout the venue, making it easy for visitors to dispose of materials responsibly. By embedding these practices into every event, we aim to reduce waste, conserve resources, and inspire more sustainable behaviours across our industry.



Waste Production



Our local waste management partner ensures **NOTHING** is sent to landfill.

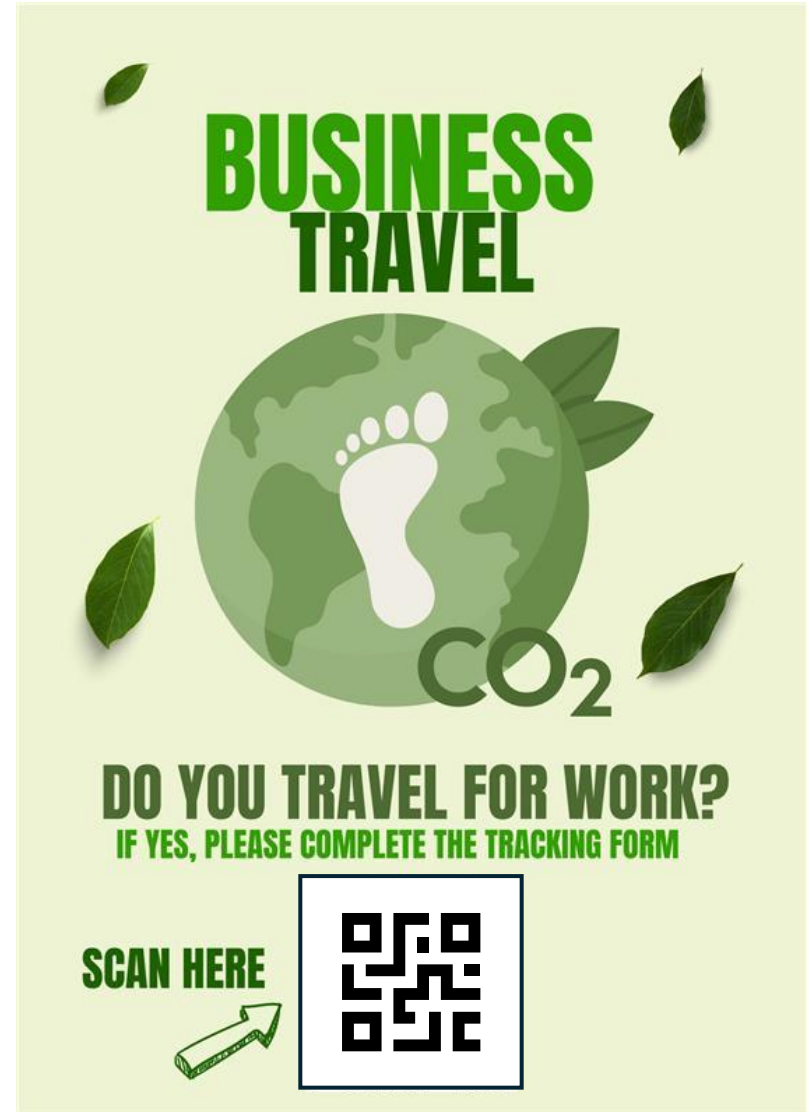
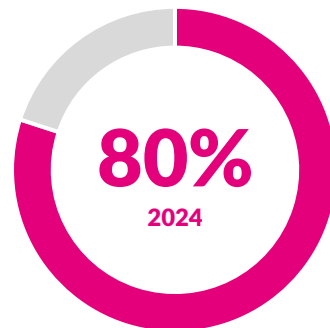
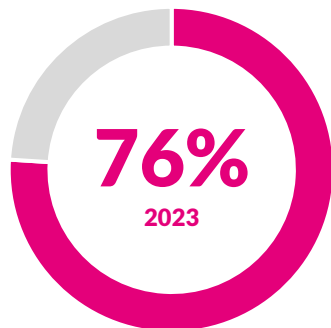


Business Travel

We actively support our colleagues to choose low-carbon travel.

Our **Travel Policy** provides clear guidance on sustainable transport options for journeys within the UK and overseas, ensuring that business travel aligns with our environmental commitments.

This approach is delivering measurable progress, with sustainable business-related travel increasing from **76%** in **2023** to **80%** in **2024**



Electricity

The EICC is powered by a **100% renewable energy** tariff supplied by EDF Energy, backed by UK Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGO). This ensures our electricity comes from a mix of sustainable sources.

To reduce energy demand, we have implemented a range of efficiency measures, including extensive LED lighting upgrades and the installation of Automatic Meter Readers, which allow us to monitor utility consumption in real time. Our Building Management System further enhances performance by ensuring energy-intensive equipment operates only when required, avoiding unnecessary usage.

Our Sustainable Procurement Policy also ensures that any replacement of plant or equipment prioritises more efficient and environmentally responsible alternatives, helping us future-proof the building's infrastructure.

As a result of these combined actions, we have achieved a 38% reduction in electricity consumption since our baseline year of 2013.

Electricity Usage



Gas

Our building still relies on fossil fuels for heating and hot water, making this one of the largest sources of our remaining emissions.

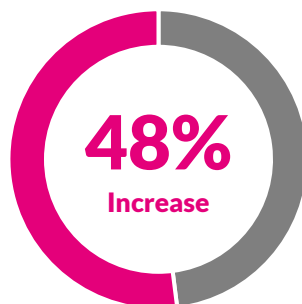
Since 2013, the number of events we host has doubled, contributing to a 48% increase in gas usage and highlighting the need for decisive action.

To address this, we have partnered with a specialist engineering consultancy to develop a plan to electrify our heating system.

Their recommendation is a phased move away from gas, beginning with the installation of air source heat pumps next year.

This transition will significantly reduce our carbon footprint and marks a major step towards achieving our net zero ambitions.

Gas Usage



Water

Water is a critical natural resource and managing it responsibly is an essential part of our sustainability strategy. Since our baseline year of 2013, we have achieved a 29% reduction in water usage across the EICC.

This has been delivered through a combination of targeted efficiency measures, improved metering, and encouraging mindful behaviours among our team and contractors. These improvements not only reduce demand on local water supplies but also contribute to lowering the energy required for water treatment and distribution.

By continuing to monitor consumption closely and replacing older fixtures with more efficient alternatives, we are ensuring that water stewardship remains a core part of our journey towards a more sustainable, resource-efficient venue.



Catering



*EICC Nourish aims to be market leaders in **sustainable food**, delivering locally sourced, plant-forward, and seasonal menus.*

*Working closely with **partners** and **suppliers**, they continually reduce emissions and food waste across our supply chain.*

*EICC Nourish prioritise suppliers with **high welfare standards** and strong sustainability practices, forming the foundation of our Scottish supply chain roadmap.*

*Our teams receive **training** in sustainable working practices, energy efficiency, and recycling to support these initiatives.*

*To help clients understand and communicate the impact of food, we have partnered with **Foodsteps**, making it easier to identify carbon-intensive areas and opportunities for improvement.*

Catering



Food Waste Reduction

*Edible leftovers are collected by **Olio** volunteers and redistributed to the local community. In 2024, 324.57 kg of food was donated, providing approximately 733 meals. All food given to Olio is fully redistributed into the local community.*

Festival and Event Initiatives

*During the Edinburgh Festival, EICC Nourish serves drinks and street food using **Event Cups**, which are: Reusable up to nine times, virtually unbreakable, and lightweight, making serving and collection easier. They are also 100% recyclable; damaged or rejected cups are processed into recycled raw material.*

Non-Plastic Packaging

We use paper packaging coated with 100% natural seaweed. Seaweed grows rapidly without freshwater, land, or fertiliser, captures carbon, reduces water acidity, supports biodiversity, and filters pollution. Packages are fully compostable and leave no trace.

On-Site Water Filtration

EICC Nourish operates an on-site water filtration system, eliminating the need for bottled water and providing filtered Edinburgh tap water sustainably.

EICC Live

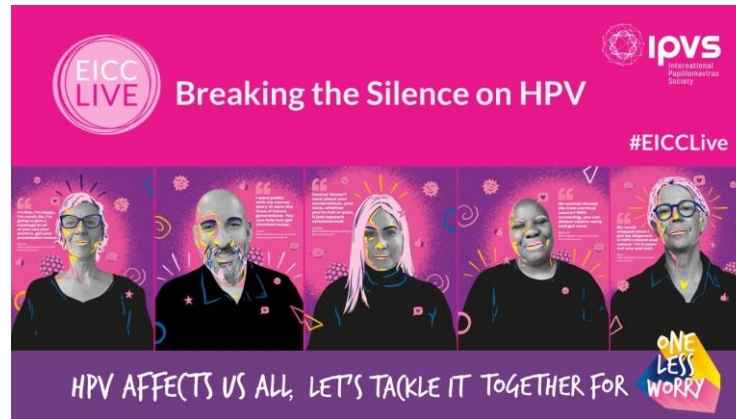
EICC Live

Our free public event series brings together students, retirees, professionals and everyone in between for an evening of short, impactful presentations.

Each session is designed to inspire and inform, giving speakers a platform to share ideas, insights and stories across a range of topics. The series encourages discussion, networking and the exchange of knowledge, creating a sense of community while making complex ideas accessible to all.



So much of modern diplomacy happens behind closed doors & away from cameras. So what does this vital role really look like in today's world?



Join us for an enlightening discussion on Human Papillomavirus (HPV), global eradication efforts, and its impact on female and male health.



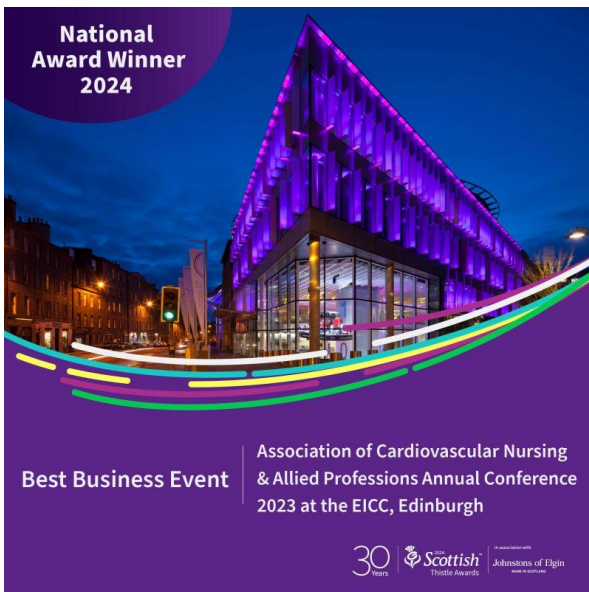
Enhance your negotiation and problem-solving skills by mastering the art of asking powerful questions.

Awards



Scottish Thistle Awards 2024. Best Business Event
The EICC, in partnership with the Association of Cardiovascular Nursing & Allied Professions (ACNAP), won the **Best Business Event Award** at the Scottish Thistle Awards for the ACNAP Congress in Edinburgh. The conference, themed 'Putting our Hearts into Patient Care', highlighted scientific practice while focusing on patients and the public.

Working closely with Professor Lis Neubeck, Head of the Centre for Cardiovascular Health Research at Edinburgh Napier University, the event aimed to raise awareness of heart health and foster discussion on key policy changes. Professor Neubeck noted that the collaboration with EICC helped create a lasting legacy, increasing public awareness of heart health through impactful community activities.



ACNAP is the largest international organisation for nurses and allied professionals in cardiology, representing members across clinical practice and research.

Awards



Green Meetings Standard. Gold. 2024

The EICC has retained its Green Meetings and Green Tourism Gold Awards. We're proud to have increased our overall rating by 4%, from 2023 - 2024, based on the latest assessment.



ISO 9001 & 14001

The EICC is certified to ISO 9001 and ISO 14001, internationally recognised standards for quality and environmental management. These certifications ensure we deliver consistent, high-quality service while minimising environmental impact and promoting sustainable practices.



SEAL Award 2024

EICC won in the Sustainable Service category for the global SEAL (Sustainability, Environmental Achievement and Leadership) Awards for our Step Change programme. The Award is in recognition of innovative services that set a new standard for sustainability.

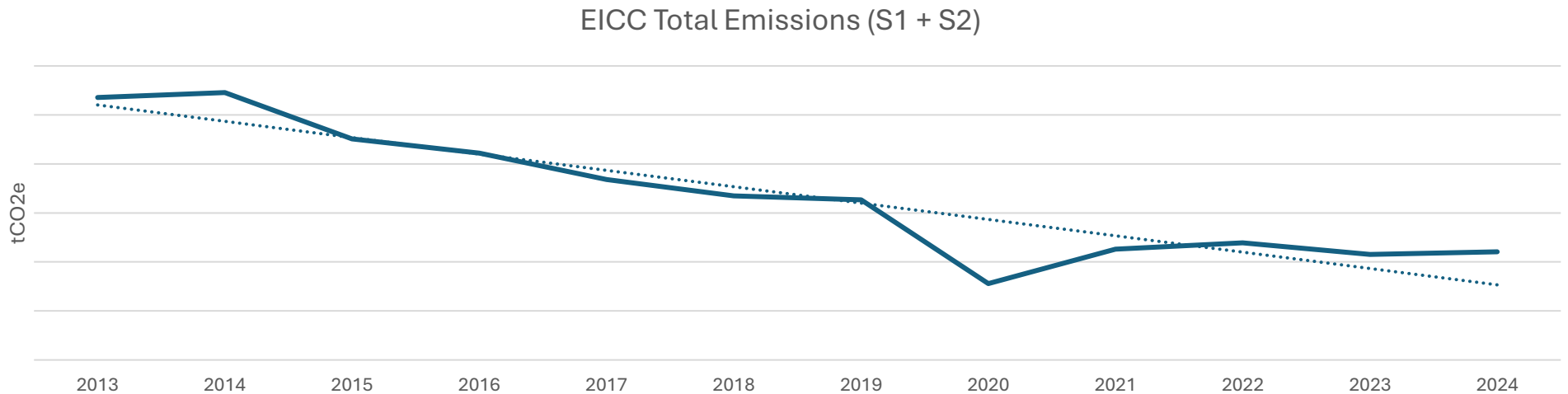


E Awards 2024

The EICC is proud winner of the Best Scottish Venue & Events Team Award, 2024.

Carbon Footprint

Total Scope 1 and 2 Emissions



In recent years we recognised that our carbon emissions had plateaued, with the growth in the number of events offsetting many of the efficiency savings we had achieved.

To drive further reductions, we are now moving beyond incremental improvements and investing in more ambitious measures, including the planned replacement of our heating and cooling systems with low-carbon alternatives.

Total Carbon Emissions (S1 + S2)



Thank you

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the EICC's achievements over 2024. These accomplishments have been made possible by the dedication, support, and collaboration of so many individuals and organisations.

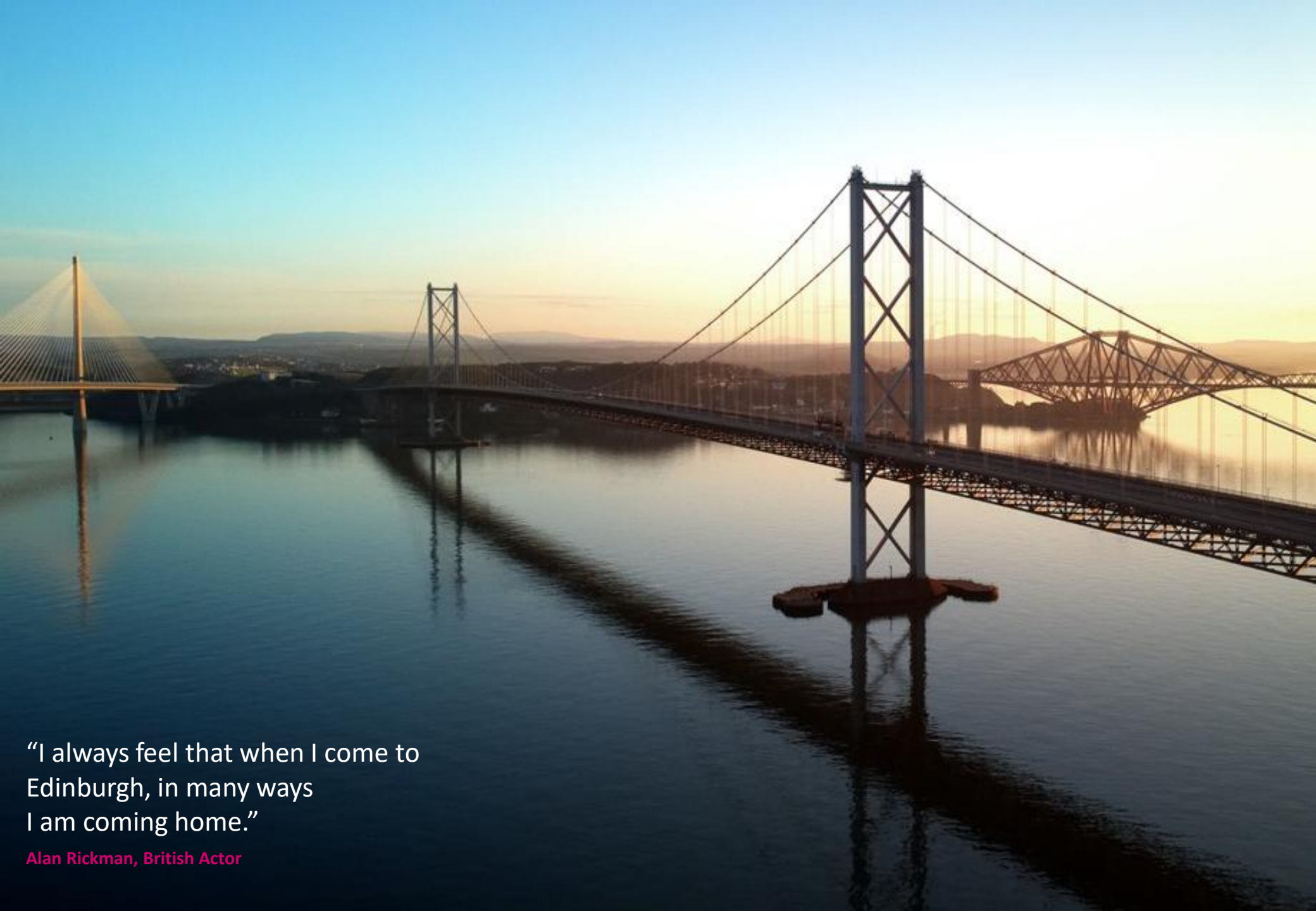
A special thank you to our team for their energy, creativity, and commitment, particularly the Green Team for their pioneering work in sustainability.

We deeply value the support of our clients, stakeholders, and local communities. Your engagement and feedback have been vital to our progress and help us continue to create an environment that inspires ideas that change the world.

Together, we have made significant strides and achieved meaningful impact.

Sincerely,
Amanda Wrathall
Chief Executive Officer





“I always feel that when I come to
Edinburgh, in many ways
I am coming home.”

Alan Rickman, British Actor