



Green Finance Education Charter

December 2021 to December 2022

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Introduction

Announced in the UK Government's 2019 ***Green Finance Strategy*** and launched in June 2020, the Green Finance Education Charter is a world first, designed to help build the capacity and capability of the green and sustainable finance sector in the UK and internationally.

If we are to ensure, as the UN Special Envoy for Climate Action and Finance, Mark Carney, sets out in the COP26 Private Finance Strategy, that “...*every professional financial decision takes climate change into account...*” then every finance professional must develop and apply relevant knowledge and skills to accurately assess climate-related and wider environmental and social sustainability risks.

In this way, our finance professions will help our customers, clients and communities understand and benefit from the opportunities offered by the transition to a more sustainable, low-carbon world.

Please note

Any text that is styled in this manner is a hyperlink and can be clicked on to access the link.



Overview

The Green Finance Education Charter provides a forum for climate action by Chartered and professional bodies who recognise the global challenge of climate change and the strategic, commercial and moral imperative to develop clean, resilient and prosperous economies that work for all. Charter signatories acknowledge the collective responsibility of the global community, including the banking, finance and professional services sectors to deliver Article 2.1c of the Paris Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This requires developing the knowledge and skills of individual finance professionals, and the capacities and capabilities of the finance sector overall.

The Charter recognises that Chartered and professional bodies play key roles in shaping and defining standards, norms, values, and practices in finance, and lead and shape the education and training for current and future generations of finance professionals.

The following sets out the key objectives which Charter signatories have committed to, accomplished and are working towards since its inception in 2020:

By December 2020:

1. Engaged our members on issues related to climate change and environmental issues, with the aim of raising their profile within our profession;
2. Developed and promoted relevant resources to our members on green and sustainable finance;
3. Encouraged adoption of relevant global and national standards, framework and guidance, including the Principles for Responsible Investment, Banking and Insurance and the Taskforce on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD);

By 2021:

4. Reviewed relevant programmes of initial and continuing professional development to ascertain existing coverage of, and the opportunities for encompassing green and sustainable finance;

By 2022:

5. Commenced reviews of professional Codes of Conduct, and related guidance, with a view to reflect green and sustainable finance principles;

By 2023:

6. Mainstream the principles and practice of green and sustainable finance into relevant programmes of initial and continuing professional development.

Additionally, on an ongoing basis we will:

7. Engage with policymakers, regulators, researchers and practitioners to identify and promote impactful and effective best practices in green and sustainable finance and support national strategies;
8. Collaborate with signatories to this Charter and with other domestic and international counterparts to enhance and promote the integration of green and sustainable finance into academic and professional programmes of education and training;
9. Work with the Green Finance Institute and other supporters to engage employers and encourage commitment to, and take up of green and sustainable finance programmes of initial and continuing professional development (CPD);
10. Report annually on our progress in mainstreaming the principles and practice of green and sustainable finance.

Activity Report 2022

Our first report, published in 2021, sets out the milestones achieved and progress made by the Charter signatories collectively and individually for the period June 2020 to December 2021. This, our second report, sets out milestones achieved, and progress made by the signatories collectively and individually for the period January to December 2022. This includes:

- Engaging with our members, clients, customers and the general public to raise awareness of climate change and environmental issues, and the role of the finance professions in tackling these;
 - Developing a wide range of green and sustainable finance education resources for finance professionals, including launching and updating global benchmark qualifications such as the *Certificate in Green and Sustainable Finance* (Chartered Banker Institute), *Certificate in ESG Investing* (CFA Society of the UK) and the ICAEW Sustainability Certificate;
 - Encouraging the adoption of relevant global and national standards, frameworks, policy and guidance such as the Green Bond and Green Loan Principles, the Taskforce on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) recommendations, the evolving nature-related risk framework, and the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD);
 - Reviewing our professional Codes of Conduct and related guidance with, updating or augmenting these to reflect green and sustainable finance principles;
 - Continuing to develop relevant programmes of initial and continuing professional development to ascertain existing coverage of, and the opportunities for further encompassing green and sustainable finance to learning syllabi;
- Commissioning research into the current state of green and sustainable finance knowledge and skills amongst financial professionals in the UK. Findings from the survey will be used to inform future plans to ensure our work remains in line with the fast-paced and developing issues relevant to green and sustainable finance, and to inform the UK Government’s revised Green Finance Strategy (2023); and
 - Liaising with governmental and regulatory bodies in the UK and internationally on issues relevant to capacity and capability building in sustainable finance, for example:
 - Letter to Nikhil Rathi, CEO, FCA - Preventing ‘Competency-Washing’: The Role of the UK Finance Professions – March 2022: Called on the FCA to accelerate the ESG agenda across its regulatory activities and work with professional bodies and others to enhance capacity, capabilities, and culture to support its key objectives and commitments.
 - Consultation Response to the UK Government Call for Evidence in updating the Green Finance Strategy – June 2022: Submitted a consultation response to HMT/BEIS on the proposals to update the UK’s Green Finance Strategy, making recommendations to ensure the revised strategy is fit for purpose in delivering the capacity and capability needed within the sector to support the UK’s domestic and global net-zero ambitions.

Activity Report 2022 (Cont.)

- Consultation Response to the Transition Plan Taskforce Call for Evidence: A Sector-Neutral Framework for private-sector transition plans – July 2022: Contributed ideas to support the creation of a framework to underpin private-sector transition plans calling for urgent investment in building the capacity and capability of UK professionals to ensure the credibility and robustness of transition plans, and to avoid greenwashing.
- Consultation Response to the Skidmore Net-Zero Review Call for Evidence – October 2022: We responded to the consultation by highlighting the nexus between net zero and energy security, economic growth and the creation of high-skilled jobs, including the vital role which the UK-based professions and members of the Charter bodies play.
- International Engagement: Charter members discussed and promoted the Charter at regional events in Africa and Europe, and national events in countries including the Bahamas, Germany, Guyana, Jamaica, Switzerland, Taiwan, the UAE and the USA.

During 2022, it was agreed by Charter signatories that there was a need to extend our focus to help the finance sector develop skills and knowledge beyond climate and green finance and consider wider aspects of nature-based and social sustainability.

This would also ensure alignment with the UK Government's recognition of nature-based finance knowledge and skills as a key enabler for nature-based finance in the UK and internationally.

As a result, it was decided to rename and relaunch the Charter as the *Sustainable Finance Education Charter* in March 2023 to better reflect the wider focus of the Charter and its members' activities.

Signatories

The Green Finance Education Charter signatories are leading professional bodies in the finance sector. Many – although not all – are based in the UK but operate on a global basis. In total, Charter signatories educate, train and represent approximately 1 million accountants, actuaries, bankers, financial analysts, insurers, investment managers, treasurers, risk managers and other finance professionals and reach many more through their public engagement and thought-leadership activities.

The Chartered and professional bodies listed below are signatories to the Green Finance Education Charter:



Think Ahead

Association of Chartered Certified Accountants



TREASURY EXCELLENCE AS STANDARD

Association of Corporate Treasurers



AIA THE ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

Association of International Accountants



AICPA & CIMA Together as the Association of International Certified Professional Accountants

Association of International Certified Professional Accountants



CFA Society United Kingdom

CFA Society of the UK



Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst Association

Chartered Banker

Chartered Banker Institute



CHARTERED INSTITUTE FOR SECURITIES & INVESTMENT

Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment



Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy



Chartered Insurance Institute



Institute and Faculty of Actuaries

Institute and Faculty of Actuaries



ICAEW

Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales



Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland



London Institute of Banking and Finance

Green Finance Education Charter



Charter launched:
June 2020

Covering the **accounting, actuarial science, audit, banking, insurance, investment, risk management** and **treasury** sectors



14

professional bodies



1,405,950

Members of *Charter* signatories,
plus many more students



Qualifications launched/renewed
supporting green and sustainable
finance*



Toolkit launched in
June 2021



In over
100
countries

Nearly

172,010

Charter signatories have enhanced the green and sustainable finance
knowledge and skills through CPD, events and qualifications

**Certificate in Green and Sustainable Finance (CBI), Certificate in ESG investing (CFA UK),
Certificate in Sustainability for Finance (ACCA), Certificate in Climate Risk (CBI, CII and CISI), and
Fundamentals of ESG Certificate (AICPA and CIMA)*



Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

The ACCA is the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants. As an association that believes that accountancy is a cornerstone profession of society, it is integral to support both public and private sectors. They are committed to the development of a strong global accountancy profession and the benefits this brings to society and individuals.

Since their inception in 1904, being a force for public good has been embedded in their purpose. In 2020, they responded to the UN’s call for a decade of action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals by setting out a number of specific commitments related to social and environmental issues.

As a not-for-profit organisation, they build a sustainable global profession by re-investing surplus to deliver member value and develop the profession for the next generation.

Progress to date

How has the ACCA engaged members on issues related to climate change and environmental issues?

Since June 2021, the ACCA has:

- Curated and developed a wide range of resources on climate change, climate risk and green and sustainable finance and promoted these to their members and the general public through the sustainability Hub: *ACCA Sustainability Hub*.

How has the ACCA curated, developed and promoted relevant resources to members on green and sustainable finance?

Since June 2021, the ACCA has:

- Ensured that sustainability and climate are included in the *ACCA Qualification* and CPD for members.

- The ACCA has launched a Climate Finance Course with the CFA. This course provides an introduction to climate change and its related economic and environmental impacts, as well as climate solutions. It covers climate change, carbon pricing, sustainable business models, and climate risk and opportunities in the context of business; as well as portfolio construction and investment analysis. This course is unique in its holistic approach because it presents the topic from the perspectives of both issuers and investors, and hence is suitable for diverse audiences. It is a practical and applied digital course to support business, finance and accounting professionals. It is also useful for individuals seeking practical guidance on climate change and related finance matters. The course can be used as verifiable CPD and requires around 10 hours of self-paced study.
- Published ACCA Professional Insights content on green and sustainable finance including *Sustainable finance and the role of corporate governance and reporting* | ACCA Global.

How has the ACCA encouraged the adoption of relevant global and national standards, frameworks and guidance?

- The ACCA is a member in *IFRS - Partnership Framework for capacity building* for which they consulted with key IFRSF staff (Lois Gutherie and Mike Zimonyi).
- Published the *Annual FARSIG symposium/ ACCA Global* which this year had sustainability with an emphasis on reporting and assurance.
- The ACCA contributed to the *The 1st Greater Bay Area Green and Sustainable Finance Summit, HK Green Finance Association*, the ACCA spoke on sustainability reporting developments and it's position with respects to a global standard and *ACCA Principles for Connected Corporate Reporting* | ACCA Global.



- On 29 November 2022, the ACCA participated in the IFRS Foundation Asia Oceania event on Integrated Reporting, during which breakout groups discussed:
 - How connectivity between financial and sustainability reporting can be achieved through the application of the Integrated Reporting Framework, what the anticipated opportunities and challenges are for the reporting companies, and where there are opportunities for the IFRS Foundation to address issues.
 - How integrated thinking can be embedded and practised by the organisation, to facilitate the effective utilisation of the Integrated Reporting Framework, IASB standards and ISSB standards by organisations, and how the IFRS Foundation can assist companies in implementing integrated thinking.
- On 23 December 2022, the ACCA published a report, *Integrated thinking – the key to SMEs’ resilience?*, sharing how adopting integrated thinking and integrated reporting can support SMEs of any size and type, and highlighting the potential benefits and barriers to this adoption. This report summarised recommendations for a multi-stakeholder coordinated approach and enabling tools to support SMEs based on the white paper, *Supporting Global SMEs for Future Success*, published by the Deakin Integrated Reporting Centre (DIRC) with the support of the ACCA and the Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA ANZ), exploring how SMEs’ transitioning from traditional business thinking to adopting an integrated approach can help them survive.

How did the ACCA review professional Codes of Conduct, related guidance, and update or augment these to reflect green and sustainable finance principles?

The ACCA aims to develop a desire for lifelong learning; for instance, through their *Ethics and Professional Skills Module*, which is a formal requirement of membership. Members are expected to continue their lifelong learning through continual professional development, for which the ACCA provides numerous resources including research and policy work from *professional insights*, certificates such as *integrated reporting and sustainability in finance*.

How has the ACCA reviewed relevant programmes of initial and continuing professional development to encompass green and sustainable finance?

- Sustainability and climate are included in the ACCA Qualification and in CPD for members. ACCA’s Professional Insights also covers these issues to inform and engage readers on ‘green’ issues.
- The ACCA believes that net zero commitments need to be integrated fully into their organisations’ core strategies. For this, integrated reporting and integrated thinking is crucial. The International Integrated Reporting Framework forms a core part of their qualifications.
- The ACCA provide CPD to members to equip them with the skills to lead on climate risks and opportunities. These include: *Certificate on Integrated Reporting* and *Certificate in Sustainability for Finance*. This certificate from the ACCA enables finance teams to gain the skills and knowledge to confidently lead on sustainability issues in their organisations.

Key stats and figures

Since June 2021:

- Nearly 11,500 Institute members and others attended one or more events related to climate change/green and sustainable finance.
- At the ACCA's AFF Panel on November 30 2022, 9,097 individuals registered for Green Finance Skills: Cost and Opportunities of Transitioning to Net Zero.
- 25 individuals registered for the ACCA/CFA Climate Finance CPD course.
- 2,500 purchases have been made of the individual sustainability CPD courses and webinars.
- Rethinking sustainable business hub page views 58,073 (10,489 during COP).
- 33,056 webinar sessions registered on 'Rethinking sustainable business' series.
- 144,107 individuals have enrolled for an Institute qualification including coverage of climate change, and green and sustainable finance.
- Over 1,200 members have registered for the Certificate in Sustainability for Finance.

What is ACCA's digital-first approach to how they work and deliver value to significantly reduce carbon emissions?

Although the Covid-19 pandemic has been a disruptive, and in many cases, devastating experience, one positive outcome for the ACCA has been a global shift to digital working. At the start of the pandemic, they adjusted rapidly to hosting online events for their community, introducing online exams with remote supervision and working at home.

Once moving to a digital-first approach, the ACCA has found significant advantages to moving to a digital-first approach, it has increased the reach and diversity of their audience at events, and enabled many ACCA students to sit exams at home.

All of this has had the effect of significantly reducing the ACCA's carbon emissions – particularly those associated with travel, events and exams. The ACCA is now embedding a digital-first approach across the Association.

Their digital-first approach has also transformed how the ACCA works on a global scale. ACCA employees have welcomed a flexible and inclusive approach, making use of a '*Ways of Working Playbook*' that sets out guidance for their people. Designated office days are no longer mandated, instead the focus is on working in a way that delivers maximum value to stakeholders and promotes wellbeing. This has also transformed how the ACCA's offices are used.

What are the ACCA's future plans?

The ACCA has revised its carbon net-zero targets to be aligned with a science-based approach; a 50% reduction in emissions by 2030 and net-zero by 2045.

A baseline footprint has been established and the process for annual updates has begun. Over 2023/24, the ACCA will develop plans and start to deliver carbon emissions reduction activities.

A net-zero action group has been established to review business process areas and determine what immediate actions can be taken to enable the delivery of the near-term net zero targets.



Click here to
find out more

Association of Corporate Treasurers

The Association of Corporate Treasurers is the only professional treasury body with a Royal Charter. With over 5,000 members and students, the ACT sets the global benchmark for treasury excellence. It leads the profession through its internationally recognised qualifications, by defining standards and by championing continuing professional development. The ACT is the authentic voice of the treasury profession, representing the interests of the real economy and educating, supporting, and leading the treasurers of today and tomorrow.

Progress to date

How has the ACT engaged members on issues related to climate change and environmental issues?

- In 2022, the ACT held their first conference dedicated to ESG. With over 200 registered delegates and eight hours of content, the ACT covered a wide range of topics and provided practical guidance to the treasury community.
- At the ACT's Annual Conference that included over 900 attendees, there were five sessions which focused on ESG.
- During the year, the ACT held two webinars that focused on ESG and the role of the credit rating agencies with over 500 attendees.
- The ACT hosted a number of roundtables with senior treasurers to share experiences of ESG.

How has the ACT curated, developed and promoted relevant resources to members on green and sustainable finance?

- In 2022, the Policy and Technical team wrote four blogs on ESG that provided updates and market developments as well as links to additional useful resources.
- *The Treasurer* magazine regularly featured articles on ESG.

How has the ACT encouraged the adoption of relevant global and national standards, frameworks and guidance?

- The ACT has continued to promote the importance of relevant standards and frameworks through relationships with organisations such as ICMA, the LMA and the UNPRI. The ACT has participated in events alongside these organisations and encouraged its members to also participate.
- The ACT has worked with market participants and practising treasurers and has highlighted key standards and market developments and encouraged the early adoption of guidelines such as TCFD and the PRI.

How did the ACT review professional Codes of Conduct, relate guidance, and update or augment these to reflect green and sustainable finance principles?

- The ACT's Ethical Code for members is undergoing a review in 2023 which will include consideration of any amendments and/ or related guidance to reflect green and sustainable finance principles.

How has the ACT reviewed relevant programmes of initial and continuing professional development to encompass green and sustainable finance?

- The ACT has now incorporated elements of green and sustainable finance into all its qualifications, as of the end of 2022, and all elements around ESG will be reviewed and updated annually.
- The ACT is also making progress on developing and launching a four-part ESG course in partnership with FutureLearn, which will be delivered in 2023.
- The ACT has dedicated one week of their Professional Development month for members (July 2022) to ESG. Each day they featured articles, blogs, webinars, podcasts and other focused content.

Key stats and figures

- 382 website users have accessed resources on the ACT's *Knowledge Hub* specifically relating to climate change, and green and sustainable finance, with 460 page views
- Over 800 users read the ACT's ESG blogs during 2022
- Our ESG articles in *The Treasurer* had more than 3,000 page views
- Over 1,000 ACT members and others attended one or more events that have included content on climate change and green and sustainable finance

How has the ACT collaborated with other Charter members?

- The ACT has built deeper links with the Chartered Institute of Taxation and this includes working on ESG-related projects.

What are the ACTs future plans?

In 2023, the ACT will continue the programme of updating its educational information and ensuring the green and sustainable finance content is reviewed each year. In addition the ACT will deliver a course specifically on ESG dedicated to the treasury community.

The ACT will continue to monitor market developments and work with bodies such as ICMA and the LMA as well as regulators including the Bank of England and the FCA to ensure that changes (including in areas such as mandatory reporting) are communicated to the treasury community and that their views are fed back to the relevant parties.

The ACT will also continue to work with its partners (including the European Association of Corporate Treasurers and the US National Association of Corporate Treasurers) to ensure that treasurers can respond to developments in local as well as the global markets.

The ACT will work closely with its suppliers to encourage sustainability at its live events wherever possible.

The ACT will continue to integrate ESG into the editorial coverage of *The Treasurer* magazine.



The Association of International Accountants

Founded in 1928, the Association of International Accountants (AIA) is a leading professional body for accountants and finance professionals with a long-standing reputation for excellence in professional education and a dynamic global membership.

The AIA's commitment to protecting the public interest and advancing professional standards is evident through their respected qualifications portfolio, robust membership requirements and the production of research, best practice, and skills guidance.

As a not-for-profit organisation, the AIA are committed to reinvesting and improving member experiences, acting in the public interest to develop the accountancy profession, and delivering a sustainable and relevant qualification in changing markets.

Progress to date

How has the AIA engaged members on issues related to climate change and environmental issues?

The AIA delivered a series of workshops for members focussed on the overall theme of 'Why ESG Values Are Integral to Future Economic Sustainability', split into three separate areas:

- *What does sustainability mean for accountants?*
- *Climate Change – Net Zero and Carbon Accounting*
- *ESG risks and opportunities, evaluation of financial impacts and ESG reporting*

The AIA published a selection of green finance and sustainability articles in *International Accountant* magazine, including:

- *SMPs and the sustainability agenda*
- *Business aspects of ESG*
- *How accountants can save the world*

How has the AIA curated, developed and promoted relevant resources to members on green and sustainable finance?

- The AIA has developed and maintained a *Green Finance & Sustainability Hub* on our website, including recordings of events, guidance on reporting standards, continuing engagement work the AIA is undertaking in this area, relevant articles and other associated guidance.
- The AIA has also worked with partners in the European Federation of Accountants and Auditors for SMEs (EFAA) to publish guidance for SMPs on *sustainability reporting*.

How has the AIA encouraged the adoption of relevant global and national standards, frameworks and guidance?

- The AIA has worked with partners in the European Federation of Accountants and Auditors for SMEs (EFAA) to respond to proposals from the European Commission to introduce a new Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD).
- The AIA has engaged with the *European Financial Reporting Advisory Group* (EFRAG) *Sustainability Reporting Technical Expert Group* (EFRAG SR TEG) regarding sector specific European sustainability reporting standards (ESRS) and sustainability reporting standards for SMEs.

How did the AIA review professional Codes of Conduct, related guidance, and update or augment these to reflect green and sustainable finance principles?

- As part of an internal review, the AIA appointed a sustainability expert to the governing council to bring a wealth of leadership and educational knowledge. This role provides in-depth sustainability expertise that supports and further strengthens the board as the AIA continues to grow and deliver on its sustainability objectives.



How has the AIA reviewed relevant programmes of initial and continuing professional development to encompass green and sustainable finance?

•Since signing up to the Green Finance Charter, the AIA has reviewed the continuing professional development offering for members and introduced additional green finance and sustainability reporting sessions, including on-demand recordings, live webinars, and panel events.

•The AIA has initiated a review into Professional Qualifications and Initial Professional Development to explore the current sustainability-related content of the syllabus and how this could be widened to reflect any relevant changes in reporting requirements or where this intersects with other areas of the syllabus.

What are the AIA's future plans?

The AIA will continue to explore opportunities to provide training opportunities to members which highlight the importance of green finance and sustainability reporting and explore the creation of a standalone sustainability qualification.

The AIA plans to work with partners to assess the AIA's net-zero strategy and report on outcomes, encouraging members to do the same with their clients to identify carbon costs associated with their business activity.

The AIA will finalise their review into the AIA Professional Qualification, working with the academic team members from universities across the world and subject matter experts, exploring study materials and professional development frameworks to identify additional areas of relevance for sustainability reporting and how these can be integrated into current processes.



The Association of International Certified Professional Accountants

The Association of International Certified Professional Accountants (the Association) is the most influential body of professional accountants, combining the strengths of the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) and The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) to power opportunity, trust and prosperity for people, businesses and economies worldwide.

The AICPA & CIMA represent 689,000 members, students and engaged professionals in public and management accounting and advocates for the public interest and business sustainability on current and emerging issues.

Progress to date

How has the AICPA & CIMA engaged members on issues related to climate change and environmental issues?

In March 2022, the CEO of the AICPA & CIMA, Barry Melancon, along with 9 chief executives of the world's leading accounting institutes, signed the Global Accounting Alliance's (GAA) *Call to action in response to the nature crisis*. Written in anticipation of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity COP15, that took place in December 2022, the statement acknowledges the opportunity for the world to adopt a transformative international agreement on nature and called on businesses to be part of the solution going forward. It recognises the crucial role the accountancy profession and members have to play in the protection, restoration, and sustainable use of natural resources.

In June 2022, the AICPA & CIMA hired Dr Jeremy Osborn, FCMA, CGMA, CPA (Australia) as a new Global Head of Sustainability. Jeremy previously served as a director of the Value Reporting Foundation (VRF) and the International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC).

The AICPA & CIMA's senior leaders have continued to contribute to local and national member events on sustainability and ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) issues. Senior leaders have spoken at national and international conferences on ESG in Warsaw, Berlin, Amsterdam, Oxford, New York, and Washington.

How has the AICPA & CIMA curated, developed and promoted relevant resources to members on green and sustainable finance?

The AICPA & CIMA's Global Management Accounting Research and Development Team have developed a major research theme entitled Sustainability and Business. This ground-breaking research theme was first operationalised in 2019 and continues to produce robust and insight thought leadership and other research outputs to enable finance professionals to embrace sustainability in business, finance and accounting. In the last year, outputs include:

- *Accounting for the Sustainable Development Goals*: This report highlights the factors finance professionals must be focused upon to make a difference when working with the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals.
- *Accounting for Carbon*: The report helps finance professionals build their climate emergency literacy so they can lead and support the journeys of their organisations, firms, and clients to adapt business models and reduce their carbon footprints in the global race to net-zero
- *Accounting for Nature*: Launched to mark the Finance and Biodiversity Day at the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in December 2022, the report highlights the important role professional accountants have to play in this context.

In April 2022, the AICPA & CIMA published an *ESG Assurance Brochure* highlighting that CPAs are the preferred choice for the assurance of sustainability information. The brochure serves as a valuable resource to educate companies about the value of sustainability assurance services. Work will continue into 2023 to develop more resources to assist companies in considering their assurance provider.

In August 2022, working with the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), the AICPA & CIMA published a joint study: *The State of Play in Reporting and Assurance of Sustainability Information: Update 2019-2020*. This study provides an updated understanding of global market practice for the assurance of ESG information, based on 2020 reporting.

How has the AICPA & CIMA encouraged the adoption of relevant global and national standards, frameworks and guidance?

The AICPA & CIMA played a prominent role in the launch of the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) and the acquisition of the Value Reporting Foundation (VRF) by the IFRS Foundation in August 2022. The CEO of the AICPA & CIMA, Barry Melancon, serves on the Integrated Reporting and Connectivity Council, as does Andrew Harding, the CEO of CIMA. Barry is also an observer to the ISSB meetings, having previously served as Chair of the IIRC and on the Board of the VRF.

During 2022, the AICPA & CIMA partnered with the ISSB to deliver two joint web events that provided updates on the ISSB activities and prepared members for sustainability reporting.

To further support the development of globally consistent sustainability standards, the AICPA & CIMA, responded to the ISSB's Exposure Drafts, the European Financial Reporting Advisory Group's (EFRAG) Sustainability Reporting Standards Consultation, and the ESG-related rule proposals

from the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) including Cybersecurity Risk Management, Strategy, Governance, and Incident Disclosure and The Enhancement and Standardization of Climate-Related Disclosures for Investors.

In February 2023, the AICPA & CIMA was the platinum sponsor of the inaugural *IFRS Sustainability Symposium* in Montreal, where Barry Melancon contributed to a panel discussion on integrated reporting. At the symposium, the AICPA & CIMA announced the launch of a special partnership with external organisations to provide our members with access to the skills and executive management training required to embed sustainability into business operations, decision making and reporting.

As part of the Sustainability and Business research theme, five framework summaries were updated in 2022 (GRI, SASB, IR, TCFD, and CDSB). Also updated was the *Sustainability frameworks & standards: Evolution overview*. This brief presented a summary of the several initiatives underway to address the fragmented sustainability accounting and reporting landscape and that seeks to build a coherent global approach to corporate reporting that encompasses both financial and non-financial reporting.

How did the AICPA & CIMA review professional Codes of Conduct, related guidance, and update or augment these to reflect green and sustainable finance principles?

The CGMA Competency Framework, was updated in 2019 to include topics that explore green finance and sustainability. In 2022 and continuing into 2023, the Framework is under review to incorporate these and related topics in more depth where relevant. This review is being undertaken as part of the Future of Finance research project. To learn more and take part in the project, please email: FutureofFinance@aicpa-cima.com.

Cont.

How has the AICPA & CIMA reviewed relevant programmes of initial and continuing professional development to encompass green and sustainable finance?

Launched in November 2022, the *Fundamentals of ESG Certificate* aimed to kickstart members' understanding of ESG issues, how the landscape has developed, and the key role CPAs and finance professionals have to play.

The *2022/23 Transformative Skills Pack*, a set of exclusive Continuing Professional Education (CPE) to sharpen members' soft skills and develop a future focused mindset, includes a focus on sustainability. *The Sustainability Mindset Report* details the vital role finance professionals have in focusing on long-term value and resilience that meet present needs without compromising future generations' ability to meet their needs.

What are the AICPA & CIMA's future plans?

The AICPA & CIMA will be actively considering how sustainability considerations are best integrated into the CGMA qualification for future students and how they can support current students and members with world-class Continuing Professional Development (CPD). This includes continuing to create insightful research reports and contribute to international research projects on how to measure sustainability performance, integrate sustainability into business operations and processes, and report this externally to investors and other stakeholders and provide assurance.

An example, in 2023, is in phase II of the AICPA & CIMA and World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)'s Integrated Performance Management (IPM) project. It aims to develop an IPM framework that companies can use to improve their performance through improved workforce engagement with strategies and objectives. In Phase II, there will be a particular emphasis on how organisations incorporate ESG factors into decision-making. To learn more and get involved read, *Integrated Performance Management - Phase 2 - An Introduction*.

The AICPA & CIMA's 2021 annual 'Letter from Leadership' publicly articulated the importance of its net-zero commitment. In order to meet this objective of net-zero emissions, the AICPA & CIMA has partnered with a third-party ESG solution provider to help measure, monitor and report on its emissions.



CFA Society of United Kingdom

CFA UK is a professional membership body representing more than 11,000 investment professionals in the UK. CFA UK promote the highest standards of ethics, education and professional excellence to help the investment sector serve society's best interests.

CFA UK is part of the worldwide network of member societies of CFA Institute, the global, not-for-profit association of investment professionals, that awards the CFA and CIPM designations. As a member society, CFA UK promote the development of careers in the investment profession and facilitate networking within and across member groups.

CFA UK is the awarding body for the Investment Management Certificate (IMC), an entry-level qualification for investment professionals, and the Certificate in Climate & Investing. CFA UK also developed the Certificate in ESG Investing, a qualification that is now administered by CFA Institute.

Our Progress

How has CFA UK engaged members on issues related to climate change and environmental issues?

Alongside multiple professional learning events, CFA UK raises the profile of sustainable investing through our continuous promotion of the Certificate in ESG Investing and the Certificate in Climate & Investing. CFA UK work across multiple volunteer groups on issues such as the energy transition and impact investing to enable investment professionals to come together and learn from each other.

How has CFA UK encouraged the adoption of relevant global and national standards, frameworks and guidance?

CFA UK supports the awareness and understanding of the leading codes, standards and frameworks across our certificate programme and we remain close to policymakers and regulators through advocacy work responding to the FCA, DWP and BEIS.

How has CFA UK curated, developed and promoted relevant resources to members on green and sustainable finance?

CFA UK continues to play a leading role in the evolution of the Certificate in ESG Investing through the membership of the advisory panel. The certificate is now generating more than 1,000 registrations a month. The Certificate in Climate & Investing is also proving popular and is still administered by CFA UK and CFA UK will also pilot a Certificate in Impact Investing during 2023, while also preparing a further certificate in Natural Capital Investing to be piloted in 2024. CFA UK's professional learning panels continue to oversee regular individual and programmed learning sessions for those that have attained one or more of the certificates.

How did CFA UK review professional Codes of Conduct, related guidance, and update or augment these to reflect green and sustainable finance principles?

Over the past year, a CFA UK working group has built a library of more than 100 case studies of different ways in which investment professionals' ethics and professionalism might be challenged in relation to sustainable finance. The handbook highlighting these instances and provide guidance to investment professionals that will be published in the first quarter of 2023.



What are CFA UK's future plans?

CFA UK continues to meet the needs of individuals and employers for introductory certificates to ESG and climate investing. CFA UK will shortly add impact investing to the list and is working on natural capital. These certificates do not provide expertise, but they do provide foundational competence from which expertise can be built.

Alongside CFA UK's qualifications, they also provide ongoing professional learning and will release formal programmes in each area of sustainable investment during the course of 2023.

In addition, CFA UK recognise the need for ethical and professional guidance in this fast-evolving field and have prepared material to answer investment professionals' questions.

Finally, CFA UK look forward to continuing to work with regulators and policymakers in accelerating the development of sustainable investing skills and knowledge and to ongoing collaboration with the other members of the charter group.



Click here to
find out more

Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst Association

The CAIA Association is a global professional body dedicated to creating greater alignment, transparency, and education for all investors, with a specific emphasis on alternative investments. The CAIA advocate for the highest ethical standards and provide unbiased insight on a broad range of investment strategies and industry issues, key among them is diversification to portfolio construction with sustainability at the centre to achieve better long-term investor outcomes. To learn more about the CAIA Association and how to become part of the organisation's mission, please visit <https://caia.org/>.

Progress to date

How has the CAIA engaged members on issues related to climate change and environmental issues?

The CAIA has engaged with members and thought leadership on issues related to ESG with a focus on the environment and climate change, to raise awareness among members and stakeholders.

During 2022, the CAIA has:

- Organised over 20 ESG-related events, tackling the latest trends in the investment industry.
- In 2022, over 2,000 members and candidates attended one or more events related to ESG and environmental issues, developed by the CAIA Association and its Chapters.
- Advocated for climate change issues at key industry events worldwide i.e. Responsible asset owners' summit.
- During 2022, professionals from different international institutions were interviewed tackling the challenges of ESG (links in the resources to members).
- Established valuable relationships with regulators to promote better governance and due diligence for professional investors i.e. *EFPA and CAIA Luxembourg are co-hosting: The Future of Private Markets.*

How has the CAIA curated, developed and promoted relevant resources to members on green and sustainable finance?

During 2022, the CAIA has:

- Developed a wide range of resources on climate change, climate risk, and sustainable finance through their content team, members and published the articles on their blog to promote all content to members and the general public, such as:
 - *ESG regulation CAIA and EFPA*
 - *Interviews to senior level executives on ESG subjects*
 - *Responsible investment are you saying what you're doing and doing what you're saying*
 - *Launched a mini-series in which Emerging markets (Africa) are the centre of attention focusing on ESG compliance.*

Key stats and figures

- 18 blog posts were created focusing on ESG and its impact on investments, such as:
 - ESG integration private debt
 - Organised over 20 events with content related to ESG.
 - Reached around 30,000 people via direct emailing and web visits on content related to ESG.
 - This number is based on the current size of the EMEA database (30,000 people).



Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst Association

What are the CAIA's future plans?

The CAIA Association has already started ongoing Asset Owners committees' meetings to raise investors' awareness around climate change, and the culture of strategic asset allocation in ESG themes. The CAIA will continue following the latest trends related to ESG compliance applied to all alternative asset classes, meanwhile providing updated content to members and the overall investment community.

The CAIA's leadership is compromised with the ESG commitments, which is why in early 2023 "*How is ESG Reshaping the Alternative Investment Business?*" webinar was launched, led by Laura Merlini, CAIA, CIFD, managing director EMEA at CAIA association in collaboration with FDP institute.



Chartered Banker Institute

The Chartered Banker Institute is the oldest professional education body for bankers in the world. Founded in 1875 and with more than 33,000 members in over 100 countries and nearly 1,000 financial institutions worldwide, it is a leading global voice for ethical professionalism and responsible banking. In 2018, the Institute launched the global benchmark Certificate in Green and Sustainable Finance, now available in more than 40 countries. In 2021, it launched the Certificate in Climate Risk with its Chartered Body Alliance partners.

Progress to date

How has Chartered Banker engaged members on issues related to climate change and environmental issues?

- The Institute has curated and developed a wide range of resources on climate change, climate risk, and green and sustainable finance, and promoted these through the Institute's new Centre for Responsible Banking;
- Welcoming around 2,000 Institute members and others to events focused on responsible banking and sustainable finance, including the Institute's Annual Banking Conference, the Global Ethical Finance Summit, and other sustainability-focused events.

How has the Institute curated, developed and promoted relevant resources to members on green and sustainable finance?

- The Institute has launched the Principles for Responsible Banking Academy (PRB Academy) to support the implementation of the UN Principles for Responsible Banking (PRB) and provide training on responsible banking to banks and bankers worldwide;
- Extended the range of resources available via the Institute's Centre for Responsible Banking. This included blogs, podcasts, workshops and webcasts on topics such as the energy crisis, carbon markets, 'green hushing', plus workshops, webinars and other related activities, e.g:
 - Green Conversations Podcast Series,
 - "COP Watch" series of briefings covering both COP27 and Biodiversity COP15.

How has the Institute encouraged the adoption of relevant global and national standards, frameworks and guidance?

- The Institute has updated the benchmark Certificate in Green and Sustainable Finance, Certificate in Climate Risk and other relevant qualifications and learning materials to include IPCC AR6 and the evolving global sustainability regulation, standards, market frameworks and guidance including but not limited to the NGFS, SFDR (and national equivalents), ISSB, TCFD, TNFD, and updated ICMA Green, Social and Sustainability Bond, and the LMA Green and Sustainability-Linked Loan Principles.
- Responded to UK Government and regulatory consultations to promote the uptake of green and sustainable finance, calling for greater emphasis to be placed on building capacity and capabilities within the sector to support the adoption of relevant standards, frameworks and guidance.

How did the Institute review professional Codes of Conduct, related guidance, and update or augment these to reflect green and sustainable finance principles?

- The Institute obtained Trustee support to undertake a full review of the Chartered Banker Code of Professional Conduct, offering specific advice to members on applying the Code in the context of green and sustainable finance and taking active steps to avoid greenwashing.

How has the Institute reviewed relevant programmes of initial and continuing professional development to encompass green and sustainable finance?

- The Institute has updated the benchmark Certificate in Green and Sustainable Finance, Certificate in Climate Risk and other relevant qualifications and learning materials, as noted above.

Chartered Banker

Key stats and figures

- Approximately 2,500 individuals have been enrolled for the Green and Sustainable Finance Certificate
- Green and Sustainable Finance and Climate Risk CPD has been made available to 33,000 members.
- Nearly 1,300 Institute members attended green and sustainable finance related events in 2022.

How has the Institute collaborated with other Charter members?

- Relaunched the Certificate in Climate Risk in December 2022 in partnership with the Chartered Insurance Institute (CII) and Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment (CISI).
- Collaborated with the Chartered Insurance Institute (CII) and Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment (CISI), to lead the ESG skills survey on behalf of the Green Finance Education Charter (GFEC).
- Co-operated with the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment (CISI) and international banking institutes to promote the Certificate in Green and Sustainable Finance, now available in 40 countries worldwide.
- On behalf of the Chartered Body Alliance, the Institute co-ordinated a response to the Basel Committee's consultation on Principles relating to management and supervision of climate-related risks.
- Co-ordinated and led a response on behalf of the Chartered Body Alliance to the UK's Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE) with a focus on urging greater speed in adopting sustainability skills into the core apprenticeship framework.
- In February 2022, the Institute's Chief Executive, Simon Thompson, was appointed to the Scottish Government's Taskforce for Green and Sustainable Finance on behalf of the Chartered Banker Institute and as Chair of the Green Finance Education Charter.



Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment

The Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment (CISI) is the leading professional body for securities, investment, wealth and financial planning professionals. Formed in 1992 by London Stock Exchange practitioners, the CISI's now-global presence ensures our members and partners worldwide enjoy access to the extensive benefits of the wider CISI community, including globally portable qualifications and country-specific regulatory programmes. The CISI's head office in London is supported by offices in China, India, Ireland, Kenya, the Philippines, Spain, Sri Lanka and the UAE.

The CISI has grown to more than 45,000 members across their territories and maintain strong relationships with leading firms in the sector, and with regulators and exchanges worldwide. The CISI's members' interests encompasses both retail and wholesale finance, in wealth management and financial planning, and in capital markets and corporate finance. Their expertise also covers compliance and risk, as well as specialist themes such as Islamic finance.

Progress to date

How has the CISI engaged members on issues related to climate change and environmental issues?

- The CISI has curated, developed and promoted a wide range of resources on responsible, sustainable and green finance, climate change and climate and transition opportunities and risks;
- Broadcast more than 200 programmes on CISI TV in 2022 (viewed more than 140,000 times by the end of 2022), with green and sustainable finance issues woven into all where appropriate, and publishing regular articles and special features on these themes in the CISI Review magazine;
- The CISI has worked with the Chartered Banker Institute to make the Certificate in Green and Sustainable Finance widely available to CISI members and students; and similarly the Climate Risk Certificate, developed jointly with our Chartered Body Alliance partners, the Chartered Banker Institute and the Chartered Insurance Institute.

How has the CISI curated, developed and promoted relevant resources to members on green and sustainable finance?

- The development of a Sustainable and Responsible Investment Professional Assessment. This is being significantly updated in Q1 2023 to align with major global regulatory changes affecting both retail investors and their advisers, as well as institutions and markets.
- Our range of Professional Refreshers: short online-learning modules typically ranging from between 30 minutes and 1.5 hours in duration. We currently have seven green and sustainable finance specific modules in the suite, which cover topics including Responsible and Sustainable Investment Funds, Greenwashing, and Ethical and Sustainable Investment.
- Micromodules: following a change in CPD requirements by the UK Financial Conduct Authority, we have begun to develop short bite-size learning modules as part of our offering, which are between 5-15 minutes in duration. These micromodules facilitate flexible, effective learning by providing short bursts of on-demand and meaningful content. We have released a Micromodule covering ESG Investing and are scheduled to release further modules covering green topics in the first half of 2022.

How has the CISI encouraged the adoption of relevant global and national standards, frameworks and guidance?

- The CISI has regularly updated relevant qualifications and learning materials to include the latest changes to (and developments in) global regulations and standards, including the development of the UK, EU and other regulatory taxonomies; and related sustainability requirements, such as those arising from the work of GFANZ, IOSCO, ISSB, and TCFD;

- The CISI has paid particular attention to the development of the FCA’s approach to transparency, trust and transition in sustainable finance in Britain. The CISI has also focused on the parallel global work of IOSCO, especially on the critical importance of comprehensive and comparable information as a means to mitigate greenwashing.

How did the CISI review professional Codes of Conduct, related guidance, and update or augment these to reflect green and sustainable finance principles?

- The CISI developed guidance to support the CISI Code of Conduct, to incorporate diversity, environment, and inclusion.

How has the CISI reviewed relevant programmes of initial and continuing professional development to encompass green and sustainable finance?

- The CISI's major examination programmes and created a robust and wide-ranging array of CPD materials, for members and others, to include green and sustainable finance topics where relevant;
- A particular focus on the impact of greenwashing and its kin, such as rainbow-washing and blue-washing, as well as the overarching problem of competency-washing – unwarranted claims of firms’ and individuals’ expertise.

What are the CISI's future plans?

A key focus of the CISI’s work in 2023 and beyond will be equipping members to advise their clients – both retail and institutional – on how best to identify, and where possible, quantify, their sustainability priorities, as well as how to match their portfolios to these requirements. This straddles four key themes:

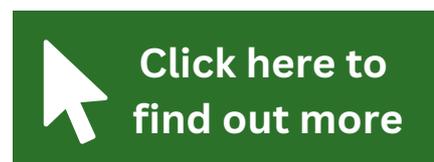
- Risk management – addressing the significant risks to all financial services firms, including reputation, regulatory impacts, and financial loss;

- Governance and strategy – the approaches members are taking to review their business models, governance and strategy to ensure alignment and commitment to government and regulatory initiatives round the world to address the climate challenge and broader sustainability issues;
- Data – facing up to the challenges of measuring, monitoring and managing sustainability exposures and linking these to their strategies.
- Disclosures – coping with the flood of new reporting requirements, including for instance the Financial Stability Board’s Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) and the EU’s Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR) and Non-Financial Reporting Directive (NFRD), plus the plethora of domestic regulatory requirements.

The CISI will also focus on tools needed across the spectrum of members’ activities, from front office to middle to back, and in specialist areas like compliance and risk, corporate finance, and Islamic finance, to convert this knowledge into the skills required to serve client needs and to grow and manage appropriate corporate strategies.

This will include tools and guidance to help members and their organisations build boards and management structures able to tackle the many sustainability challenges in which finance has an important role to play, including climate and transition, and broader nature-related themes. The aim is to enable them to go further still to incorporate wider UN SDGs and to navigate the relatively new terrain of nature-based finance.

Specifically on this latter area, the CISI will be harnessing our contacts and membership in the middle east – their second-biggest territory outside the UK - through their long-established office in Dubai to bring as much value to our global community as possible from COP28 in the UAE in November 2023. From the CISI's perspective, this will focus not just on the linear progress from COP27 in Egypt, but on the important outcomes from COP15 on biodiversity in Montreal in December 2022.



Chartered Insurance Institute

The CII is a professional body dedicated to building public trust in the insurance and financial planning profession. Their strapline 'Standards. Professionalism. Trust.' embodies the commitment to driving confidence in the power of professional standards: competence, integrity and care for the customer.

The CII deliver that commitment through relevant learning, insightful leadership and an engaged membership. Their 125,000 members commit to high professional standards by maintaining continuing professional development and adhering to a published ethical code.

The CII's Royal Charter requires them to secure and justify the confidence of the public.

Progress to date

How has the CII engaged members on issues related to climate change and environmental issues?

- Augmented resources for members (see below) with topical updates underlining the relevance of climate change action to insurance
- *Getting Grip Green*
- *Sustainable Landscape*
- *Building Flood Resilience*
- Worked with insurers, brokers and government to produce a report on the insurance industry's contribution to sustainability
- Organised an APPG session in which insurance brokers presented the commercial opportunities to the UK of transition to net zero
- Engaged in sector events on key issues, such as sustainability in insurance asset management
- In 2022, over 3600 CII and PFS members attended one or more events related to climate change and environmental issues, developed by the Institute. These included webinars and face-to-face events.

How has the CII curated, developed and promoted relevant resources to members on green and sustainable finance?

In 2022, the CII has maintained a library of resources, including guides on sustainable investing and impact investing.

This is in addition to the library of resources that already exists for members, including the Insurance Institute of London lectures.

How has the CII encouraged the adoption of relevant global and national standards, frameworks and guidance?

- The CII continue to work with the European Financial Planning Association, the leading professional standards setting body for financial advisers and planners in Europe on their ESG certificate and to integrate sustainability issues into its mainstream certificates for the first time.
- The CII supported the EFPA 'ESG evolutions' event for members across Europe.

How did the CII review professional Codes of Conduct, related guidance, and update or augment these to reflect green and sustainable finance principles?

The CII has completed the *Companion Guide to the CII Code of Ethics* dedicated to helping members understand their obligations and responsibilities regarding green finance and sustainability, with the aim of giving them the knowledge – specific to this topic – needed to best meet the needs of their clients, employers, general public, and the environment. This guide will be published in Q1 2023.



How has the CII reviewed relevant programmes of initial and continuing professional development to encompass green and sustainable finance?

- In June 2021, the CII launched (in partnership with Chartered Banking Institute and the Chartered Institute of Securities and Investments) the *Certificate in Climate Risk*, aimed at financial services risk professionals (or aspiring risk professionals) globally who wish to develop and demonstrate their knowledge of climate risk.
- In 2022, the CII initiated a review of ESG CPD for financial advisers, including ESG experts and an observer from the FCA.

Key stats and figures

In 2022:

- 82 individuals have enrolled in the recently launched qualification specialising in coverage of climate change, and green and sustainable finance in insurance.
- Over 3600 CII members and others attended one or more events related to climate change/green and sustainable finance.

What are the CII's future plans?

In 2023, the Chartered Insurance Institute will look to develop a new ESG CPD product for financial advisers. The CII will continue to work with regulators, government and insurance and personal finance professionals to develop markets in sustainable finance, and has built sustainable finance into their CPD programme for 2023.



Institute and Faculty of Actuaries

The IFoA is the UK's only chartered professional body dedicated to educating, developing and regulating actuaries. They represent over 32,000 members worldwide. Actuaries have a crucial role to play in promoting the understanding and integration of climate risks and opportunities within decision-making, and in supporting making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.

Progress to date

How has the IFoA engaged members on issues related to climate change and environmental issues?

- Issuing a *Risk Alert* which calls on members to appropriately consider, and communicate clearly, the impact of climate change and sustainability issues or risks within their actuarial work
- Developing a Sustainability Thought Leadership series
- Bringing 14 webinars and 39 conference sessions on sustainability-related issues with over 3500 attendances
- Introducing a sustainability digital community platform
- Launching a Sustainability Early Careers Board
- Creating a Sustainability Research Thought Leadership Sub-committee and ten new *working parties*
- Progressing the Sustainability Volunteer Group (over 300 volunteers) and sustainability newsletter (over 1,000 subscribers)

How has the IFoA curated, developed and promoted relevant resources to members on green and sustainable finance?

- Created a *policy paper* with the Climate Crisis Advisory Group (CCAG)
- Developed a *practical guide* to climate change for risk management actuaries
- Conducted a deep dive into the *Science of Climate Change* with the FRC, TPR, FCA and PRA

How has the IFoA encouraged the adoption of relevant global and national standards, frameworks and guidance?

- Highlighted climate change issues in the Joint Forum on Actuarial Regulation (JFAR) Risk Perspective
- Engaged with regulators, responding to ISSB, DWP, FCA and BEIS consultations on disclosures and net-zero, and presenting to the Environmental Audit Committee on natural capital
- Offered relevant webinars and conference sessions and a *guide to net-zero investing*

How did the IFoA review professional Codes of Conduct, related guidance, and update or augment these to reflect green and sustainable finance principles?

- Having consulted on proposals for changes to its regulatory framework on sustainability issues in 2021, the IFoA is developing guidance for members to support the existing Actuaries' Code requirements.

How has the IFoA reviewed relevant programmes of initial and continuing professional development to encompass green and sustainable finance?

- The IFoA has launched a *Climate Risk and Sustainability* course, completed by 150 members
- Introduced climate change-related case studies in Professional Skills videos
- Introduced a CPD Reflective Practice Discussion Toolkit on climate change and sustainability
- ESG is included throughout the Associate and Fellow Qualifications as part of the curriculum and its assessment for both qualifications



Key stats and figures

- 150 members have taken completed the Climate Risk and Sustainability course
- CPD claimed for webinars was 99
- There were over 3,500 attendances at IFoA sustainability-related events.

Future Plans

- The IFoA will issue guidance on the Actuaries Code with expectations for actuaries to incorporate sustainability into their actuarial work
- The IFoA will incorporate '*think*' pieces in their Sustainability Thought Leadership programme and use their working party research to inform members and influence public policy.



Click here to
find out more

Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Founded in 1880, the ICAEW has a long history of serving the public interest and continue to work with governments, regulators and business leaders globally.

There are more than 1.8 million chartered accountants and students around the world and over 198,500 of them are members and students of the ICAEW. They are talented, ethical and committed professionals, which is why all of the top 100 Global Brands employ chartered accountants. The ICAEW believes that chartered accountancy can be a force for positive change. By sharing insight, expertise and understanding, they can help to create strong economies and a sustainable future for all.

Progress to date

How has the ICAEW engaged members on issues related to climate change and environmental issues?

- In November, the ICAEW held its second annual Climate Summit. The five-day event featured an array of speakers and covered the role of the profession, resilience, finance, reporting and assurance, and the transition to net-zero.
- 2022 saw the 10th Finance for the Future Awards, which the ICAEW hosts in partnership with Deloitte and Accounting for Sustainability (A4S). Due to the number of strong entries this year, the award for embedding an integrated approach was split into listed and non-listed companies. The awards were held in October with a physical ceremony in London which was livestreamed to reach a global audience. Awards highlights and find out more about the winners can be found [here](#).

How has the ICAEW curated, developed and promoted relevant resources to members on green and sustainable finance?

- The ICAEW supported the development of Chartered Accountants Worldwide sustainability hub that launched in October 2022. This brings together content from member institutes and trusted partners around the world to help organisations become more sustainable.

- In April, the ICAEW launched a new resource page, *Climate for SMEs*, specifically to help small to medium sized organisations find guidance on where to start, how to mitigate the effects of climate change and adapt into the future.

How has the ICAEW encouraged the adoption of relevant global and national standards, frameworks and guidance?

- The ICAEW's Chief Executive, Michael Izza, and Director of Sustainability, Richard Spencer sit on the steering group and delivery group respectively for the Transition Plan Taskforce (TPT). The TPT was launched at COP26 to develop a gold standard for preparing net-zero transition plans to align with current reporting requirements, including TCFD and ISSB. The draft framework and implementation guidance was published at COP27 and is open for consultation until February 2023.
- The ICAEW has extensive resources on both financial and non-financial reporting, including guidance on existing frameworks and new developments. This can be found [here](#).
- Within the ACA qualification and other learning materials the ICAEW ensure to include updates in global standards including TCFD.
- The proposed ISSB standards on sustainability and climate change were under consultation in early 2022. The ICAEW has been supportive of a unified global standard and more information is available about their views in the *consultation response*.



How has the ICAEW reviewed relevant programmes of initial and continuing professional development to encompass green and sustainable finance?

- Launched in August, the ICAEW Sustainability Certificate equips accountants and other finance professionals with the practical knowledge and skills to integrate sustainability reporting into their organisations. After completion of the online certificate, finance professionals will be able to confidently partner with sustainability experts to identify climate-related risks and incorporate performance and financial metrics into their risk management, financial planning and analysis, and sustainability reporting.
- The ICAEW Academy has also developed training on ESG principles in financial reporting. They have run virtual classroom sessions throughout 2022 and are continuing to do so in 2023.

Key stats and figures

- The ICAEW had over 400 sign ups to the ICAEW Sustainability Certificate.
- Almost 1,500 delegates joined the Climate Summit across the five days.

How has the ICAEW collaborated with other Charter members?

At this year's Climate Summit, the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries joined a cross-profession discussion on the role of the professions in tackling the climate crisis. The Chartered Banker Institute and Chartered Institute of Investments and Securities took part in a separate discussion on the purpose of the Charter and how they can upskill the profession on sustainability issues. Both sessions were well received and showed great audience engagement throughout.

What are the ICAEW's future plans?

Following the success of the ICAEW Sustainability Certificate, the ICAEW is developing two tailored certificates; one aimed at those working in the public sector, and the second aimed at non-executive directors. This will be based on the first certificate but will deep dive into more role and sector specific areas.



Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland

ICAS is a global professional body for Chartered Accountants, also known as the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland. Founded in 1854, ICAS is the world's first professional body of accountants.

Their 23,000 members form a leading business community that spans industries and time zones and is packed with local heroes and corporate leaders. ICAS' members work in the UK and nearly 100 countries around the world, representing different sizes of accountancy practices, financial services, industry, the investment community and the public sector.

The ICAS Charter requires them to act primarily in the public interest and the ICAS Code of Ethics, by which all members and students are bound, seeks to maintain the professional reputation of the accountancy profession. This public interest responsibility must now include addressing sustainable development.

Progress to date

How has ICAS engaged members on issues related to climate change and environmental issues?

- Hosted a total of 4 events and webinars on climate-related / sustainability topics which were attended by 656 individuals
- Shared experience on reducing emissions from purchased goods and services as part of *Our Journey: The Accounting Bodies' Road to Net Zero*, an Accounting Bodies Network (ABN) project to collate learnings from members on their respective net-zero journeys.

How has ICAS curated, developed and promoted relevant resources to members on green and sustainable finance?

- ICAS published an *article* on key takeaways for members following attendance at the 39th session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (UNCTAD ISAR) which focused on sustainability reporting
- ICAS contributed to the publication of *Embracing Sustainability: Actions for SMEs*, an Accounting Bodies Network (ABN) project to publish guidance for SMEs and their advisers on how to embed sustainability into their businesses and the benefits of doing so
- ICAS curated a wide range of *resources on sustainability*, including the *Finance and Sustainability* Insight Series launched in 2022, which have been promoted to members and the wider public via the ICAS website, a weekly newsletter and ICAS social media channels, and gained 27,496 views in 2022.

How did ICAS review professional Codes of Conduct, related guidance, and update or augment these to reflect green and sustainable finance principles?

- Submitted responses to the IFRS Foundation on Exposure Drafts IFRS S1 General Requirements for Disclosure of Sustainability-related Financial Information and IFRS S2 Climate-related Disclosures
- ICAS submitted responses to the UK Government BEIS Committee non-inquiry session 'Environmental, social and corporate governance: reporting and investing' and BEIS Open Consultation 'Review of Net Zero: call for evidence' (Skidmore Review)



- ICAS published two papers from the *Sustainability Assurance Working Group, Sustainability: The necessary conditions for the reporting of high-quality information* and *Sustainability assurance: factors to consider as well as an open letter to the incoming Prime Minister on audit reform, sustainability and tax*.

How did ICAS review professional Codes of Conduct, related guidance, and update or augment these to reflect green and sustainable finance principles?

- Developed a Sustainability Strategy for ICAS which was approved by the ICAS Council as part of the overall ICAS Strategy
- Published a guidance paper, *Guidance to the ICAS Code of Ethics: Sustainability*, highlighting a number of areas in the ICAS Code of Ethics where provisions could relate to sustainability.

How has ICAS reviewed relevant programmes of initial and continuing professional development to encompass green and sustainable finance?

- Offered a series of sustainability courses as part of CPD offering delivered by BPP on topics such as ESG awareness, ESG decision making, sustainability reporting and pricing carbon through taxation
- Continued working to update the curriculum for the CA qualification to embed green and sustainable finance throughout

Key stats and figures

- 1,000 students completed a module on sustainability within the entry level ethics course and 753 students completed a sustainability module at the final level of the syllabus.
- 656 individuals attended green or sustainable finance themed events.

What are ICAS' future plans?

ICAS are planning a number of events in 2023 to engage with members on the topics of sustainability, sustainable finance and climate change including a Sustainability Policy Summit.

In 2023, ICAS intends to publish their Net Zero pathway and how they plan to achieve this, building on the work done in 2022 to quantify baseline carbon emissions for the calendar year 2021.

During 2023, they will continue the ongoing project on updating their CA curriculum to embed sustainability throughout. Course content will be developed with a view to launching the updated curriculum as soon as possible. This will include a specific elective on sustainability which will also be made available as a standalone CPD course.

ICAS will once again report on how their activities align with the identified relevant UN SDGs in their 2022 Annual Review which accompanies audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022.

The Way Ahead

The Green Finance Education Charter signatories have, individually and collectively, made further significant progress during 2022 in meeting our Charter commitments, and two new members have joined the initiative (AIA and CIPFA). In particular, and as this report sets out, significant and substantial progress has been made in engaging with Charter body members, and finance professionals more generally in raising awareness of climate change and environmental issues, and in embedding the principles and practice of green and sustainable finance in professional qualifications and CPD.

We recognise, however, that there is still much to do to meet our longer-term Charter commitments. In 2023, therefore, signatories plan to:

- Increase the number of UK-based professional bodies who are signatories to the Charter;
- Liaise more widely across the UK Government and with regulators to raise awareness of and co-ordinate activities to enhance and sustain green and sustainable finance knowledge and skills in the context of supporting UK and international climate action goals;
- Engage internationally (with the support of the UK Government) to encourage a collective, global approach to building green and sustainable finance capacity and capabilities; and
- Continue to share best practice, expertise and practical resources on green and sustainable finance, especially in emerging areas including biodiversity and nature-based finance, and transition planning.
- During 2022 members considered the need to reflect the broader focus of its work and activities to support the sector in developing the requisite skills and knowledge to understand and address nature-based and social sustainability issues. As a result, it was agreed in November 2022 to broaden the scope of the Charter and adopt the new name the Sustainable Finance Education Charter with effect from March 2023.

Through these planned activities, and through our engagement and education activities more broadly, Sustainable Finance Education Charter signatories will play key roles in building the green and sustainable finance capacity and capabilities required to ensure that “... *every professional financial decision takes climate change into account.*” This requires every finance professional to develop and apply green and sustainable finance knowledge and skills in the context of their role and day-to-day professional practice so that what is currently seen as best practice in aligning finance and sustainability becomes standard practice for all professionals, everywhere.