

Green Finance Education Charter



June 2020 to December 2021

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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.

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..."

To ensure this, every finance professional must develop and apply relevant knowledge and skills to accurately assess climate-related and environmental risks. In addition, they must help customers, clients and communities to understand and take advantage of the opportunities offered by the transition to a more sustainable, low-carbon world.

The *Green Finance Education Charter* recognises that Chartered, 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. This, our first report, sets out the milestones achieved, and progress made, by the *Charter* signatories collectively and individually for the period June 2020 to December 2021.

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 new global benchmark qualifications such as the *Certificate in Green & Sustainable Finance* (Chartered Banker Institute) and the *Certificate in ESG Investing* (CFA Society of the UK);
- Encouraging the adoption of relevant global and national standards, frameworks, policy and guidance, such as the *Green Bond Principles* and *Green Loan Principles*, and the *Taskforce on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)* recommendations; and
- Launching an open-source **Green Finance Education Toolkit** hosted by the Green Finance Institute to provide resources for educators, regulators and others internationally, who are seeking to develop capacity and capability, especially in the developing 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, 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 (SDGs)*. This requires developing the knowledge and skills of individual finance professionals, and the capacity and capabilities of the finance sector overall. *Charter* signatories therefore commit to the following, where they are able:

By December 2020:

1. To continue to engage our members on issues related to climate change and environmental issues, with the aim of raising their profile within our profession.
2. To curate, develop and promote relevant resources to our members on green and sustainable finance.
3. To encourage adoption of relevant global and national standards, frameworks and guidance, including the *Principles for Responsible Investment, Banking and Insurance* and the *Taskforce on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)*.

By December 2021:

4. To undertake a review of professional codes of conduct, and related guidance, and to update or augment these to reflect green and sustainable finance principles.
5. To undertake a review of relevant programmes of initial and continuing professional development to ascertain existing coverage of green and sustainable finance, and the opportunities for encompassing these.

By December 2023:

6. To 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 to 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 to engage employers and to encourage commitment to, and take up of, green and sustainable finance programmes of initial and continuing professional development;
10. Report annually on our progress in mainstreaming the principles and practice of green and sustainable finance.

Signatories

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 more than 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*:



Association of Chartered Certified Accountants



Association of Corporate Treasurers



Association of International Accountants



CFA Society of the UK



Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst Association



Chartered Institute of Management Accountants



Chartered Insurance Institute



Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment



Institute and Faculty of Actuaries



Institute of Chartered Accountants of 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
**banking, insurance, actuarial science,
accounting, audit, treasury,
investment and risk management**
sectors



13

professional bodies



819,800

members of *Charter* signatories,
plus many more students



In over
100

countries



Toolkit launched
in June 2021



new qualifications launched supporting
green and sustainable finance*

Nearly
110,000

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)



Think Ahead

Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)

We believe that accountancy is a cornerstone profession of society that supports both public and private sectors. That's why we're committed to the development of a strong global accountancy profession and the many benefits that this brings to society and individuals.

Since our inception in 1904, being a force for public good has been embedded in our purpose. In 2020, we responded to the UN's call for a decade of action to deliver the *SDGs* by setting out a number of specific commitments related to social and environmental issues. And, because we're a not-for-profit organisation, we build a sustainable global profession by reinvesting our surplus to deliver member value and to develop the profession for the next generation.

Our progress

Following the launch of the *Green Finance Education Charter* in June 2020, ACCA has:

Engaged our members and the public, by:

- Curating and developing a wide range of resources on climate change, climate risk and green and sustainable finance, which we have promoted through the *ACCA Sustainability Hub* (totalling nearly 60,000 page views);
- Enrolling more than 144,000 individuals for an ACCA qualification, which includes coverage of climate change and green and sustainable finance;

- Enrolling 1,500 individuals for ACCA's standalone sustainability modules;
- Registering more than 33,000 individuals for ACCA's 'Rethinking Sustainable Business' webinar series.

Developed green and sustainable finance resources, by:

- Ensuring that sustainability and climate issues are included in the *ACCA Qualification* and in our CPD for members; and this is articulated in the *ACCA Career Navigator*, has sustainability as one of the core capabilities required of all professional accountants;
- Acting as a platform for debate through organising high-profile awareness-raising events with key policymakers and standard-setters, including during EU Green Week 2021: '*Incorporating Nature In The Heart Of Business Decision-Making*' and with the Value Reporting Foundation on 'Managing Impact Through Integrated Sustainability.'

Ctd.

Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)

Encouraged adoption of global and national standards, frameworks and guidance, by:

- Publishing the policy paper, *Principles for Connected Corporate Reporting*, to inform consistent policy and standards, which in turn are more likely to drive adoption compared with multiple frameworks;
- Formulating policy recommendations aimed at ensuring that governmental responses to the COVID-19 crisis are both sustainable and inclusive and that the public finance profession can play a pivotal role in driving national progress in achieving the *SDGs*;
- Issuing a *Joint Statement on Sustainable Corporate Governance* with Accountancy Europe and others, welcoming the European Commission's initiative on sustainable corporate governance.

Reviewed relevant programmes of initial and continuing professional development, by:

- Ensuring that sustainability and climate issues are included in the *ACCA Qualification* and in our CPD for members. We believe that net zero commitments need to be integrated fully into organisations' core strategies. For this, integrated reporting and integrated thinking is crucial, and the *International Integrated Reporting Framework* forms a core part of our qualifications;
- Providing CPD to members to equip them with the skills to lead on climate risks and opportunities. These include our *Certificate on Integrated Reporting* and new *Certificate in Sustainability for Finance* (launched in September 2021). To the end of 2021 there were 1,500 registrations for ACCA's individual sustainability courses.

Our future plans

ACCA has signed up to the *A4S ABN Net Zero Commitment* to reach net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as soon as operationally possible, informed by science and in line with global efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C. Within the next 12 months, we will publish a net zero emissions pathway (including targets) and will report annually to show our GHG emissions reductions and trajectory towards net zero emissions.

Formulating policy recommendations aimed at ensuring that the governmental response to the COVID-19 crisis is both sustainable and inclusive



Association of Corporate Treasurers (ACT)

We are the only professional treasury body with a *Royal Charter*. With over 5,300 members and students, ACT sets the global benchmark for treasury excellence. We lead the profession through our internationally recognised qualifications, by defining standards and by championing CPD. 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.

Our progress

Following the launch of the *Green Finance Education Charter* in June 2020, ACT has:

Engaged our members and the public, by:

- Including green and sustainable finance topics in all the ACT's events around the world;
- Delivering a wide range of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) webinars and including more than 20 hours of ESG content in other ACT events;
- Running a roundtable with Fitch Ratings looking at ESG and sustainability with a number of senior treasurers;
- Curating and developing a range of resources on climate change, climate risk and green and sustainable finance, and promoting these to our members and the general public through ACT conferences, *The Treasurer* magazine and our regular newsletters;

- Publishing a bi-monthly blog on ESG developments that reaches over 27,000 people;
- Identifying and highlighting examples of good practice where treasurers are driving the green and sustainable finance agenda;
- Featuring an ESG award as part of the *Deals of the Year*, which in 2022 has a greater number of nominations than ever;
- Continuing to raise awareness of ESG amongst treasurers. Since we commenced this in 2017, ESG is now seen as a key element of treasury's responsibility, with some treasurers even taking on responsibility for ESG in their companies.

Developed green and sustainable finance resources, by:

- Updating ACT's *Knowledge Hub* to include curated material on green and sustainable finance, as well as links to external resources such as ICMA, A4S and the LMA. The site also has links to supra-national bodies such as the UN, EU and UNPRI, as well as regulators based in the UK and overseas;
- Ensuring, through our relationship with Fitch Ratings, that the critical role of rating agencies in ESG / sustainable finance has been shared and debated within the treasury community.

Ctd.

Association of Corporate Treasurers (ACT)



Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst (CAIA) Association

Encouraged adoption of global and national standards, frameworks and guidance, by:

- Continuing to promote the importance of relevant standards and frameworks through our relationships with organisations such as ICMA, the LMA and the UNPRI. ACT has participated in events alongside these organisations and encouraged members to participate;
- Working with market participants and practicing treasurers to highlight key standards and market developments and encouraging the early adoption of frameworks such as the TCFD and the PRI.

Begun to review our Code of Conduct and related guidance, by:

- Reviewing ACT's *Ethical Code* for members, including consideration of any amendments to reflect green and sustainable finance principles. We plan for an updated *Code* to be issued in the first half of 2022.

Reviewed relevant programmes of initial and continuing professional development, by:

- Incorporating elements of green and sustainable finance in ACT's Award and Certificate qualifications in International Cash Management.

Our future plans

In 2022, ACT will continue our programme of updating our educational materials, with green and sustainable finance content added into our core, mandatory materials. ACT will continue to host webinars and other events on ESG / sustainable finance topics, with more than 1,400 individuals booked to attend these in 2022.

We will also 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 our members' views are fed back to the relevant parties.

We will also continue to work with our 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 green and sustainable finance globally, as well as nationally.

We are a global professional body dedicated to creating greater alignment, transparency and education for all investors, with a specific emphasis on alternative investments.

We advocate for the highest ethical standards and provide unbiased insight on a broad range of investment strategies and industry issues. Key among these issues is diversification to portfolio construction, with sustainability at the centre, to achieve better long-term investor outcomes.

Our progress

Following the launch of the *Green Finance Education Charter* in June 2020, CAIA has:

Engaged our members and the public, by:

- Organising more than 30 events on ESG and climate change, including a dedicated global seminar series;
- Welcoming nearly 12,000 members and candidates to one or more events related to climate change / green and sustainable finance;
- Involving a wide range of partners in joint activities to develop and promote resources on climate change and environmental issues, with the aim of raising stakeholder awareness, particularly in capital markets.

Developed green and sustainable finance resources, including:

- Publishing a wide range of resources on climate change, climate risk and sustainable finance, such as this *August 2021 blog article*;
- Launching a *mini-series dedicated to ESG issues*;
- Publishing a *new report* with KPMG International and CREATE-Research on the role of capital markets in tackling climate change.

Encouraged adoption of global and national standards, frameworks and guidance, by:

- Advocating for climate change issues at key industry events worldwide, such as the *Responsible Asset Owners Summit*;
- Organising a dedicated *European Green Deal event*, in association with the European Public Real Estate Association.

Reviewed relevant programmes of initial and continuing professional development, by:

- Undertaking a review of relevant programmes (*CAIA Charter* and *FAI*) to further integrate ESG and impact themes.

Our future plans

CAIA will continue to collaborate with other industry associations, as well as professional and educational bodies, to raise investors' awareness around climate change, as well as to promote a strong culture of asset allocation through ESG lenses.

Chartered Banker

Chartered Banker Institute

The Chartered Banker Institute is the oldest institute of bankers in the world, founded in 1875. With more than 33,000 members in over 100 countries and nearly 1,000 financial institutions worldwide, we are a leading global voice for responsible and sustainable professionalism in banking.

In 2018, we launched the global benchmark *Certificate in Green and Sustainable Finance*, now available in more than 40 countries, and in 2021, we launched the *Certificate in Climate Risk* with our Chartered Body Alliance partners.

Our progress

Following the launch of the *Green Finance Education Charter* in June 2020, the Chartered Banker Institute has:

Engaged our members and the public, by:

- Curating and developing a wide range of resources on climate change, climate risk and green and sustainable finance, and promoting these through the Institute's new *Centre for Responsible Banking*;
- Welcoming more than 4,000 Institute members and others to our Annual Banking Conference focused on the '*UN Principles of Responsible Banking*' and the Global Ethical Finance Summit focused on the 'Path to COP26';
- Hosting green and sustainable finance related events for nearly 5,800 Institute members and others in 2021.

Developed green and sustainable finance resources, by:

- Launching our *Centre for Responsible Banking*, containing a wide range of thought-leadership and learning resources for members and the general public;
- Launching a range of green and sustainable finance resources, including a free '*Foundations of Green and Sustainable Finance*' course, to coincide with COP26.

Encouraged adoption of global and national standards, frameworks and guidance, by:

- Updating the benchmark *Certificate in Green and Sustainable Finance*, and other relevant qualifications and learning materials to include the latest updates in global standards, including but not limited to, the *PRB*, *PRI* and *PSI*, *TCFD* and *ICMA Green Bond*, *Social Bond* and other *Principles* and the *Green Loan Principles*;
- Responding 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 to support the adoption of relevant standards, frameworks and guidance.

Begun to review our Code of Conduct, and related guidance, including:

- Developing guidance to support the *Chartered Banker Code*, offering specific advice to members on applying the *Code* in the context of green and sustainable finance and taking active steps to avoid greenwashing.

Reviewed relevant programmes of initial and continuing professional development, including:

- Updating the *Professional Banker Certificate*, the Institute's benchmark foundation programme for retail and commercial bankers, to include coverage of green and sustainable finance and the *UN Principles for Responsible Banking*;
- Launching the *Certificate in Climate Risk* in June 2021, in partnership with the Chartered Insurance Institute and Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment. This is aimed at financial services risk professionals (or aspiring risk professionals) globally, who wish to develop and demonstrate their knowledge of climate risk.

Our future plans

In 2022, the Chartered Banker Institute will review and begin to update our flagship *Chartered Banker (Advanced Diploma)* qualification, with the objective of integrating the principles and practice of green and sustainable finance throughout the syllabus. *The Certificate in Green and Sustainable Finance* and the *Certificate in Climate Risk* will be updated to include relevant scientific, regulatory and market developments.

We are curating and developing a wide range of resources on climate change, climate risk and green and sustainable finance, and promoting these through the Institute's new Centre for Responsible Banking

CFA Society of the UK (CFA UK)

CFA UK is a professional membership body representing more than 11,000 investment professionals in the UK. We 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, we 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 new *Certificate in Climate & Investing*. We also originally developed the *Certificate in ESG Investing* the management and ownership of which, transitioned to the CFA Institute in 2021.

Our progress

Following the launch of the *Green Finance Education Charter* in June 2020, CFA UK has:

Engaged our members and the public, by:

- Establishing special interest groups in the areas of energy transition, impact investing and investing in innovation, which more than 750 members participate in;
- Delivering 21 climate change and ESG-related events to members during 2021, attended by more than 600 members, as well as a four-day sustainable investing conference in September 2021;

- Establishing and supporting volunteer panels integral to the development of our qualifications in this field: the ESG panel, the climate panel and the working group, developing a syllabus for a new impact investing certificate;
- Facilitating the participation of more than 80 members in total, across nine volunteer groups on green and sustainable issues.

Developed green and sustainable finance resources, including:

- Continuing to operate our successful *Certificate in ESG Investing* and working on the development of the new *Certificate in Climate and Investing*, piloted in early 2022. (During 2021, more than 11,000 individuals registered for the *Certificate in ESG Investing*);
- Establishing a working group to develop the syllabus for a new certificate in impact investing;
- Publishing more than 200 professional learning resources on green and sustainable finance issues.

Encouraged adoption of global and national standards, frameworks and guidance, by:

- Addressing in depth, regulation, standards and principles across both the *Certificate in ESG Investing* and the *Certificate in Climate and Investing*. The *PRI* provides the foreword to the *ESG Certificate* and the IIGCC (the originator of the *Net Zero Investment Framework*) does the same for the *Climate Certificate*;

- Events programming in 2021, which included representatives from the Transition Pathway Initiative and the Impact Investing Institute, as well as focused presentations on *TCFD* from both UNEP-FI and the FCA;
- Remaining close to policymakers and regulators through our advocacy work responding to the FCA on climate disclosures and reporting, to the DWP on climate change, and to BEIS on *TCFD*.

Begun to review our Code of Conduct and related guidance, by:

- The establishment of a working group by our Professionalism Committee to provide guidance to members on how to apply CFA Institute's *Code of Ethics* and *Standards of Professional Conduct* to sustainable investment issues. We look forward to sharing their findings with members in 2022.

Reviewed relevant programmes of initial and continuing professional development, including:

- Publishing the third edition of the official training materials for the *Certificate in ESG Investing* and the first edition of the materials for the new *Certificate in Climate and Investing* in 2021. The materials for both programmes are revised annually in order to incorporate changing market practice and developments in regulation and policy;
- Enhancing our CPD programming, which takes in our live events, our 'Climate Change' and 'In Conversation' podcast series, as well as our online member magazine, *Professional Investor*, to include significant coverage of the opportunities and risks relating to green and sustainable finance.

Our future plans

In 2022, we will continue to accelerate the provision of green and sustainable skills and knowledge to the investment sector in the UK and worldwide through our launch of the *Certificate in Climate and Investing*. This is a Level 4 qualification requiring around 150 hours of study, which has been developed by investment professionals for investment professionals. Commissioning materials to support the launch of a *Certificate in Impact Investing* in 2023, will further support this agenda.

We will also launch the first official online learning programmes for both CFA's *ESG* and *Climate Certificates* designed to ensure that investment professionals can maintain their skills and knowledge in these fast-evolving fields.

We also look forward to providing guidance to our members on how to address ethical and professional challenges when investing sustainably and to continuing our thought-leadership and advocacy work on climate, the just transition and other sustainability topics.



Chartered Insurance Institute (CII)

The Chartered Insurance Institute (CII) is a professional body dedicated to building public trust in the insurance and financial planning profession. Our strapline: **Standards. Professionalism. Trust.** embodies our commitment to driving confidence in the power of professional standards: competence, integrity and care for the customer. *Our Royal Charter* requires us to secure and justify the confidence of the public.

We deliver that commitment through relevant learning, insightful leadership and an engaged membership. Our 125,000 members commit to high professional standards by maintaining CPD and adhering to a published ethical code.

Our progress

Following the launch of the *Green Finance Education Charter* in June 2020, CII has:

Engaged our members and the public, by:

- Augmenting our resources for members with topical updates such as this *Climate Change – Time for Action* article and this *ESG and Investor Behaviour webinar*, underlining the relevance of climate change action to insurance;

- Engaging in sector events on key issues, such as sustainability in insurance asset management, for example, the *Insurance Asset Management Conference*;
- Registering more than 1,800 CII and PFS members attending one or more events related to climate change and environmental issues, developed by the Institute. These included both webinars and face-to-face events;
- Facilitating the attendance of more than 1,800 CII members and others at our Annual General Insurance Conference, which covered key risks facing the sector, including climate change.

Developed and updated green and sustainable finance resources, including:

- A range of guides and resources for personal finance professionals, such as our guides on *Impact Investing* and *Sustainable Investing*. This is in addition to the library of resources that already exists for members, including our *Insurance Institute of London lectures* and our *Practical Guide to Social Impact Investing*.

*Our strapline: **Standards. Professionalism. Trust.** embodies our commitment to driving confidence in the power of professional standards: competence, integrity and care for the customer*

Encouraged adoption of global and national standards, frameworks and guidance, by:

- Leading work with the European Financial Planning Association, the leading professional standards-setting body for financial advisers and planners in Europe, to create a new *Certificate for Sustainable Finance* and to integrate sustainability issues into its mainstream certificates for the first time.

Begun to review our Code of Conduct and related guidance, by:

- Drafting a *Companion Guide to the CII Code of Ethics*, dedicated to helping members to understand their obligations and responsibilities regarding green finance and sustainability, which is expected to be published in 2022.

Reviewed relevant programmes of initial and continuing professional development, including:

- The launch in June 2021, (in partnership with the Chartered Banker Institute and Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment) of 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.

Our future plans

In 2022, the Chartered Insurance Institute will look to develop a specialised certificate for financial advisers on sustainable finance. We will continue to work with regulators, government, and insurance and personal finance professionals, to develop markets in sustainable finance and we have built sustainable finance into our CPD programme for 2022.

Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA®)

The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA®), founded in 1919, is the world's leading and largest professional body of management accountants, with members and students operating in 177 countries, working at the heart of business. At the end of 2020, CIMA had 114,492 members and 98,833 students worldwide.

In 2017, members of CIMA and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) formed the Association of International Certified Professional Accountants. This brought together the best of both organisations to drive excellence within the accounting profession and to drive support for the Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) and Certified Public Accounting (CPA) designations.

With the combined strengths of CIMA and the AICPA, the Association is committed to advancing the profession and protecting the public interest, speaking with the power of more than 650,000 professional accountants and students around the world.

Our progress

Following the launch of the *Green Finance Education Charter* in June 2020, CIMA has:

Engaged our members and the public, by:

- Holding the first AICPA and CIMA conference focused solely on the topic of ESG in December 2021;

- Launching a series of thought leadership briefs and white papers exploring sustainability, business, and the role of financial professionals. The first report, *The Call to Action: Build Back Better* (October 2020) introduced the area of sustainability, explained key concepts such as ESG and presented a call to action to finance professionals to take the lead in integrating sustainability into decision-making;
- Launching a further three introductory guides in 2021, on ESG issues that finance professionals must consider, how to integrate them into long-term decision-making, and how to incorporate these into internal and external reporting. The three guides are:
 - *Environmental protection introduction: Putting the E in ESG*
 - *Social inclusion introduction: Putting the S in ESG*
 - *Governance introduction: Putting the G in ESG.*

Developed green and sustainable finance resources, including:

- Partnering with The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) to improve corporate performance management practices in a joint project to help businesses create sustainable and competitive strategies. The first report in this collaboration, *Reimagining Performance Management*, was published in September 2021;

- Signing a statement of commitment under the Prince of Wales' Accounting For Sustainability (A4S) Accounting Bodies Network (ABN) in October 2021, along with 12 other global accounting bodies, to achieve net zero GHG emissions as soon as operationally possible. AICPA & CIMA will publish a net zero emissions pathway within the next 12 months and use the learning to provide the profession with transition pathway cases studies;
- AICPA teaming up with the Center for Audit Quality (CAQ) in February 2021 to provide audit practitioners with an overview of ESG reporting, exploring how and why ESG disclosures are being included in SEC submissions (*ESG reporting and attestation: A roadmap for audit practitioners*).

Encouraged adoption of global and national standards, frameworks and guidance, by:

- Partnering with the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) in June 2021, in a global benchmarking study, *The State of Play in Sustainability Assurance*, examining sustainability reporting and assurance for 1,400 companies in 22 jurisdictions;
- Releasing six summaries (see below) of the key sustainability standards and frameworks that finance professionals are likely to encounter, as part of CIMA's sustainability and business theme.

- *Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB)*
- *Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)*
- *Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)*
- *International Integrated Reporting (IR) Framework*
- *Climate Disclosure Standards Board (CDSB)*
- *WEF's Measuring Stakeholder Capitalism.*

Reviewed relevant programmes of initial and continuing professional development, including:

- The *CGMA Competency Framework*, which was updated in 2019 to include topics that explore green finance and sustainability. In 2022, the *Framework* will be reviewed to incorporate these and related topics in more depth where relevant.

Our future plans

In 2022, CIMA will be launching an update to the *CGMA Global Management Principles*. The purpose of the *Principles* is to improve decision-making in organisations through the provision of high-quality management information, and the update will include sustainability across all three aspects of ESG.

Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment (CISI)

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. Our Head Office in London is supported by offices in China, India, Ireland, Kenya, the Philippines, Spain, Sri Lanka and the UAE.

We have grown to more than 40,000 members across our territories and maintain strong relationships with leading firms in our sector, and with regulators and exchanges worldwide. Our members' interests straddle 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.

Our progress

Following the launch of the *Green Finance Education Charter* in June 2020, CISI has:

Engaged our members and the public, by:

- Curating, developing and promoting a wide range of resources on responsible, sustainable and green finance, climate change and climate and transition opportunities and risks;

- Broadcasting more than 80 programmes on *CISI TV* (viewed more than 50,000 times by the end of 2021), and publishing regular articles and special features on ESG and sustainable finance topics in our online members' *CISI Review* magazine;
- Working with the Chartered Banker Institute to make the *Certificate in Green and Sustainable Finance* available to CISI members and students.

Developed green and sustainable finance resources, including:

- The launch of a 'Professional Assessment' on Sustainable and Responsible Finance, which is being significantly updated and amended in Q1 2022 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 lasting for an hour. We launched seven specific ESG / sustainable finance modules between June 2020 and December 2021, which were accessed by approximately 4,500 members and students in 2021.

Encouraged adoption of global and national standards, frameworks and guidance, by:

- Regularly updating 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 and the ISSB;

- Paying particular attention to the development of the FCA's approach to transparency, trust and transition in sustainable finance in Britain. We 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.

Begun to review our Code of Conduct and related guidance, including:

- Developing guidance to support the *CISI Code of Conduct*, with changes made in January 2021 to incorporate diversity, environment, and inclusion.

Reviewed relevant programmes of initial and continuing professional development, including:

- Our major examination programmes and created a robust and wide-ranging array of CPD materials, for our members and others, to include green and sustainable finance topics where relevant;
- The launch in June 2021 (in partnership with the Chartered Banker Institute and Chartered Insurance Institute) of 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.

Our future plans

A key focus of the CISI's work in 2022 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.

We 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.

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-related ones. The aim is to enable them to go further still to incorporate wider UN *SDGs*.



Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales (ICAEW)

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

There are more than 1.8m chartered accountants and students around the world and 186,500 of them are members and students of ICAEW. They are talented, ethical and committed professionals, which is why, all of the top 100 Global Brands employ chartered accountants. We believe that chartered accountancy can be a force for positive change. By sharing our insight, expertise and understanding, we can help to create strong economies and a sustainable future for all.

Our progress

Following the launch of the *Green Finance Education Charter* in June 2020, ICAEW has:

Engaged our members and the public, by:

- Welcoming over 14,000 members to ICAEW's Sustainability and Climate Change community since its launch in November 2020;
- Sharing learnings and insights from our journey to carbon neutrality via our dedicated ICAEW *carbon neutral web portal*, which we hope will encourage and support members and other organisations to also achieve this. ICAEW became carbon neutral in autumn 2020, making us the first major professional body in the world to do so and reflecting our commitment to achieving the UN *SDGs*;
- We have captured this in our first annual *carbon neutral report*;

- Holding our inaugural Climate Summit in October 2021, which attracted more than 1,000 participants. The five-day event featured an array of speakers and content on the themes of climate disclosure, governance, finance, SME action and personal leadership;
- Launching a major new content series in advance of COP26 (*'When chartered accountants save the world'*), which explored ways in which chartered accountants are helping to tackle some of the most urgent social challenges within the UN *SDGs* and how the profession could do even more in the future;
- Holding the ninth Finance for the Future Awards, which ICAEW hosts in partnership with Deloitte and HRH The Prince of Wales' Accounting for Sustainability (A4S) project, to coincide with COP26.

Developed green and sustainable finance resources, including:

- Launching the *ICAEW Climate Hub*, which brings together resources, articles and videos focused on what the accounting profession can do and is doing to tackle climate change;
- Publishing a joint report with the British Chamber of Commerce in Singapore, exploring the role finance plays in addressing the risks associated with climate change, focusing on the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) region. The full report can be read here: *Climate risks and climate opportunities: two extremes in ASEAN | ICAEW*.

Encouraged adoption of global and national standards, frameworks and guidance, through:

- ICAEW's extensive range of resources to members and the public on both financial and non-financial reporting, including guidance on existing frameworks and new developments such as *TCFD*, green taxonomies and the proposed ISSB;
- Our membership of the *Taskforce for Nature-Related Financial Disclosures (TNFD)* to ensure we provide a voice for the accounting profession and can input on new frameworks and standards that may arise;
- Joining with 13 other professional accountancy bodies – all members of Accounting for Sustainability's Accounting Bodies Network (ABN) – in the Net Zero Commitment. As well as committing to achieve net zero GHG emissions, we have undertaken to encourage and enable our membership to do the same.

Reviewed relevant programmes of initial and continuing professional development, including:

- Updating the core ACA qualification provided by ICAEW, which has included sustainability for many years, as developments arise. At each stage of the qualification, there are learning materials on encompassing aspects of sustainability, including but not limited to, green finance, sustainable business strategy, non-financial reporting and the latest guidance, frameworks and regulation associated with these topics.

Our future plans

ICAEW is currently developing a new introductory certificate on sustainability and ESG for managers and decision-makers in business and practice. This looks broadly at ESG issues, green finance, new regulations and learning modules to help upskill the profession. The new qualification is due to be launched in Summer 2022.

ICAEW's carbon-neutral journey is not a fixed one. We continue to invest in further internal carbon-reduction activities across our operations, which will reduce our emissions by 20% by 2025, and 40% by 2030. We will monitor our reduction progress by measuring our footprint annually.



Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland (ICAS)

We are a professional body of 23,000 members who work in the UK and in more than 100 countries around the world. Our *Charter* requires us to act primarily in the public interest and the *ICAS Code of Ethics*, by which all our members and students are bound, seeks to maintain the professional reputation of the accountancy profession. Many argue that this public interest responsibility must now include helping organisations to address the issue of climate change.

Our progress

Following the launch of the *Green Finance Education Charter* in June 2020, ICAS has:

Engaged our members and the public, by:

- Hosting a total of five webinars on climate-related / sustainability topics. One of these webinars coincided with the anniversary of the *Charter* and was jointly hosted by ICAS, ICAEW, ACCA and CFA (Society) UK;
- Welcoming nearly 10,000 Institute members and others to events related to climate change / green and sustainable finance;
- Launching a joint campaign with ICAEW and Chartered Accountants Ireland in the run-up to COP26 to celebrate Chartered Accountants who are leading in the fight against climate change. To date, over 200 Chartered Accountants have signed up to the campaign;
- Issuing a statement, as part of the Accounting Bodies Network (ABN), that set out our commitment to becoming net zero. Sustainability is now a key strand in the ICAS strategy and business plan, and we are currently working with external consultants on establishing our net zero pathway.

Developed green and sustainable finance resources, by:

- Curating and developing a wide range of resources on sustainability, including the UN *SDGs*, and climate-change-related matters, which have been promoted to our members and the wider public via the *ICAS website*, our weekly newsletter and our social media channels.

Encouraged adoption of global and national standards, frameworks and guidance, by:

- Responding to UK Government consultations on the mandating of *TCFD* reporting for certain large companies, LLPs and certain pension schemes, among others;
- Responding to consultations issued by the IFRS Foundation on the establishment of an International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) to develop global authoritative sustainability disclosure standards, with an initial focus on climate change.

Begun to review our Code of Conduct and related guidance, including:

- Developing a sustainability / ethics strategy, which takes into consideration whether any consequential updates or changes may be required to the *ICAS Code of Ethics*.

Reviewed relevant programmes of initial and continuing professional development, including:

- A series of sustainability courses, which now forms part of our CPD offering, delivered by BPP. These cover the core accounting disciplines of tax, reporting, audit and financial management;

- Sustainability and climate change content, which is now beginning to be incorporated into the entry level and intermediate level of our student training syllabus. This is a very initial stage of a much longer-term project to fully embed sustainability and green finance in our initial training programme;
- A separate sustainability module, which now forms part of the final level of the ICAS training syllabus;
- Updating the mandatory *ICAS Business Ethics course* to comprise sustainability / climate change issues, including the UN *SDGs*.

Our future plans

In 2022, ICAS intends to publish our net zero pathway and the timescale for its achievement.

The exercise to fully embed sustainability content in the initial training material will continue, with a dedicated working group now established to consider the future structure and content of the teaching syllabus. Consideration will also be given to whether any of this teaching material can be repackaged for CPD purposes.

ICAS will once again report on how our activities align with the identified relevant UN *SDGs* in our *2021 Annual Review* which accompanies our audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021.

We have welcomed nearly 10,000 Institute members and others to events related to climate change / green and sustainable finance



Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (IFoA)

We are the UK's only chartered professional body dedicated to educating, developing and regulating actuaries. We represent over 32,000 members worldwide. Our members are experts in the management of long-term prudential risks. We speak out on issues where actuaries have the expertise to provide analysis and insight in order to shape sustainable solutions to the challenges facing our world today.

Our progress

Following the launch of the *Green Finance Education Charter* in June 2020, IFoA has:

Engaged our members and the public, by:

- Issuing a public *climate change statement* ;
- Launching an online *Sustainability Hub*, containing a wide range of thought-leadership and learning resources;
- Producing 13 webinars and sessionals related to climate change and environmental issues, including a *thought leadership series of sustainability webinars* in 2021;
- Focusing on climate-related risk in the *Joint Forum on Actuarial Regulation Risk Perspective 2021*;
- Celebrating 1,623 of CPD hours claimed for events relating to climate change and sustainable finance, as well as the fact that 4,700 Institute members and others watched one or more events related to climate change / green and sustainable finance.

Developed green and sustainable finance resources, including:

- *Practical guides* produced by Practice Boards to support actuaries to include sustainability in their work;
- Think pieces, webinars, blogs, case studies and other educational resources produced by Biodiversity, Net Zero and Natural Capital Working Parties established under the Sustainability Board;
- Curating reading lists, the *Sustainable Finance newsletter* (949 subscribers), a LinkedIn group (718 followers) and the Sustainability blog webpage to support members.

Encouraged adoption of global and national standards, frameworks and guidance, by:

- Establishing a Council Taskforce to examine climate change – the IFoA has pledged to become Net Zero by 2030;
- Completing an *information-gathering report* to assess the involvement of actuaries in climate-related risk;
- Publishing a *TCFD guide* with IEMA;
- Carrying out research and a *case study with Ortec Finance* into climate scenario analysis for pension schemes;
- Responding to six Government and FCA consultations on climate-related disclosures and governance.

Begun to review our Code of Conduct and related guidance, including:

- Consulting on proposals for changes to the IFoA regulatory framework on climate change and sustainability. The *Consultation* also asked for views on whether the IFoA should introduce a new Actuarial Professional Standard on climate change.

Reviewed relevant programmes of initial and continuing professional development, including:

- The pre-Associateship curriculum in 2021 to include new content relevant to sustainability;
- The launch of a *CPD campaign and learning tool* to support Reflective Practice Discussions.

Our future plans

In 2022, the IFoA will launch a premium lifelong learning Sustainability and Climate Risk course for actuaries. We will act on the results of our regulatory consultation into changes to incorporate principles of green and sustainable finance into the *Actuarial Code*. The IFoA Sustainability Board will set up a digital platform to support our sustainability community.

We are the UK's only chartered professional body dedicated to educating, developing and regulating actuaries. We represent over 32,000 members worldwide

The London Institute of Banking and Finance

The London Institute of Banking & Finance (LIBF) has been at the heart of the finance sector since 1879. We are a university college, a professional body, and a registered charity incorporated by *Royal Charter*. Our focus is on lifelong learning – equipping individuals with the knowledge, skills, and qualifications to achieve their aspirations throughout their career and life. Our qualifications include GCSE and A-Level equivalents in financial education, full-time degrees in banking and finance, postgraduate certificates, and professional qualifications. In 2019, we launched a *Centre for Sustainable Finance* (CSF) to champion thought leadership, research and education to address the emerging trends and practices that have an impact on the sector.

Our progress

Following the launch of the *Green Finance Education Charter* in June 2020, the LIBF has:

Engaged Our Members and the public, by:

- Enabling over 17,900 Institute members and others in our wider community to access CPD resources relating to climate change, and green and sustainable finance, including nearly 11,000 engagements with relevant videos and podcasts;
- Enabling over 1,600 Institute members and others in our wider community to attend or view webinars related to climate change, and green and sustainable finance.

Developed green and sustainable finance resources, including:

- Developing a range of resources on climate change and sustainable finance to engage our members, including a series of films ‘Sustainable Finance in Action’ to highlight finance sector organisations, projects and activities that are making a real difference in tackling the challenges associated with climate change;
- Publishing several white papers on relevant issues, including ESG factors in financial markets; generating impact through ESG-linked loans and covenants; biodiversity risks in the finance sector; and gender diversity;
- Developing content for our members on climate change and environmental issues, including *insights pieces* attracting more than 7,000 views.

Encouraged adoption of global and national standards, frameworks and guidance, by:

- Embedding sustainable finance, where possible, into our qualifications and training events to raise a broader awareness across the financial services sector.

Begun to review our Code of Conduct and related guidance, including:

- Discussing ESG issues with regulators to promote alignment between professional body and regulatory codes and rules.

Reviewed relevant programmes of initial and continuing professional development, including:

- Our Postgraduate Certificate in Sustainable Finance, which two cohorts have completed;
- Developing bespoke training programmes for bank professionals and executives;
- Developing a *Sustainable Finance module* at undergraduate level, with a view to launching it in the 22/23 academic year.

Our future plans

In 2022, we will continue to host webinars and events on sustainable finance to engage and inform our members. We will also publish regular features in our member magazine, *Financial World*, and on the *Insights* section of our website, and continue to develop our series of ‘Sustainable Finance in Action’ films to continue to raise awareness of the issues among our members and wider communities.

We will undertake a review of the content of our *Certificate in Sustainable Finance* with particular attention to the outcomes from, and impact of, COP26, and are seeking to grow the student body for this qualification in the Middle East and North Africa.

As an organisation, the LIBF is undertaking a review of our IMPACT strategies which include sustainability, so we can benchmark and monitor progress. Following this review, we will develop an action plan to ensure that we are including sustainability considerations across LIBF.

Next Steps

Green Finance Education Charter signatories are proud of the progress made individually and collectively in meeting our *Charter* commitments. 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. Furthermore, significant considerable progress has also been made 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 2022 and 2023, therefore, *Green Finance Education Charter* signatories plan to:

- Increase the number of UK-based and international professional bodies who wish to become signatories to the *Green Finance Education Charter*, or work with us to develop similar initiatives;
- 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;
- 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.

Through these planned activities, and through our engagement and education activities more broadly, *Green 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.