

Impact Report

2023

Edinburgh International Conference Centre



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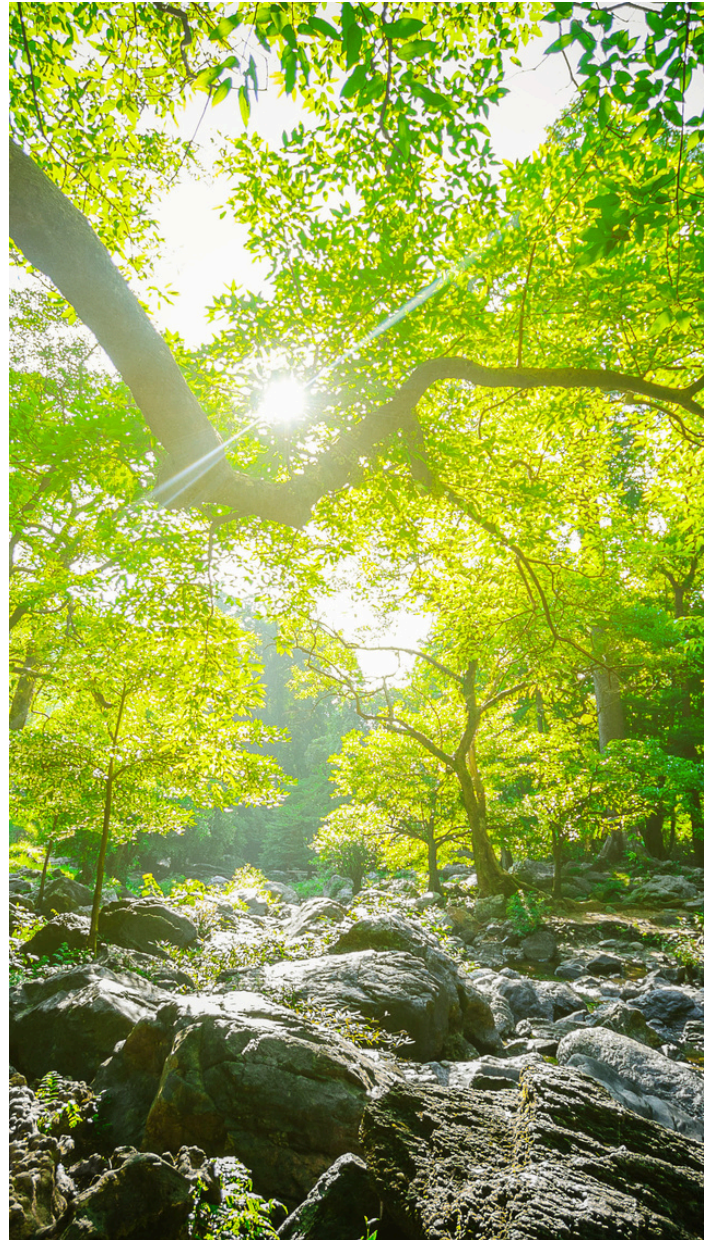
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Acknowledgements



Foreword



Welcome to the inaugural Impact Report from the Edinburgh International Conference Centre.

Through this report, we aim to highlight our sustainability achievements from the previous year, set our targets for the future, and share our sustainability success stories.

We recognise our role and responsibility in protecting the natural environment whilst mitigating climate change through our actions. We believe it is a moral responsibility of every business to reduce their environmental impact and preserve our planet for future generations. Sustainability has long been at the heart of the EICC, with one of our core values: 'We LOVE our environment'.

Shortly after the EICC opened in 1995, we established a working group to address environmental issues, which was unique approach at that time. We then developed a sustainability programme which formed the basis and context of all related sustainability activity at the EICC.

Our understanding of sustainability has since evolved, and we now take a triple bottom line approach to sustainability. That is, only when our environmental, economic, and societal aspects are treated equally can we achieve true sustainability. This approach is reflected in the sustainability programme that we have today.

Step Change is the EICC's sustainability programme which features three primary initiatives: our Desk to Door travel planner powered by You.Smart.Thing, Event Impact Reporting and a Climate Action Contribution scheme in partnership with RSPB Scotland.

We are particularly proud of our award-winning partnership with RSPB Scotland. It aims to restore one of the world's most crucial habitats, the Scottish Peatlands. This vital restoration project is situated at Forsinard in the Flow Country and it is the first and only peatland to receive World Heritage Site status.

Peatland restoration not only combats climate change, being four times more effective at carbon sequestration than tree planting, but it also revitalises biodiversity and provides social and economic benefits to the local community.

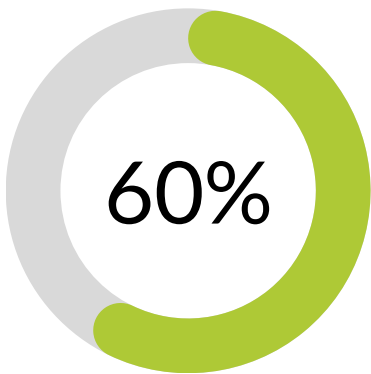
As someone who loves Scotland and its natural offerings, Forsinard really struck a chord with me both professionally and personally during my recent visit. RSPB has a brilliant understanding of what they offer to the natural world and society, but they also recognise the gaps and who they need to collaborate with to fill them. I completely understand this approach, as a significant part of the EICC's success in creating an environment to inspire ideas that change the world stems from our ability and willingness to collaborate meaningfully.

We hope this report demonstrates our commitment to sustainability and allows not only our progress to be tracked but also showcases good practice in sustainability to the wider events and hospitality industry.

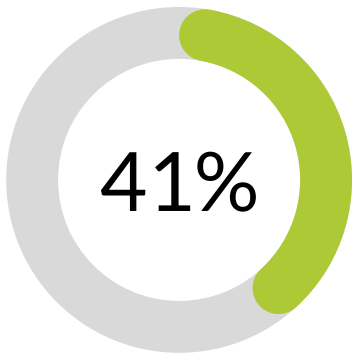
Marshall Dallas
Chief Executive

Summary

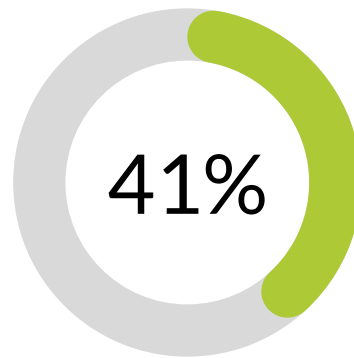
Latest stats at a glance



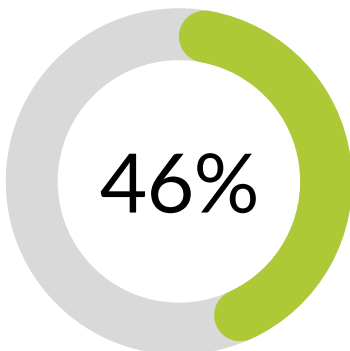
Total Reduction in Carbon Emissions Scope 1 and 2 since 2013



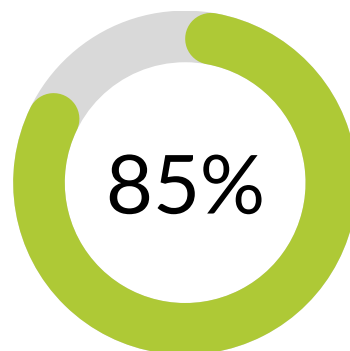
Reduction in Electricity Usage since 2013



Reduction in Waste Production since 2013



Reduction in Water Usage since 2013



Sustainable Travel by Delegates in 2023

Carbon Emission Reduction Strategy



1

Maintain Zero Waste to landfill



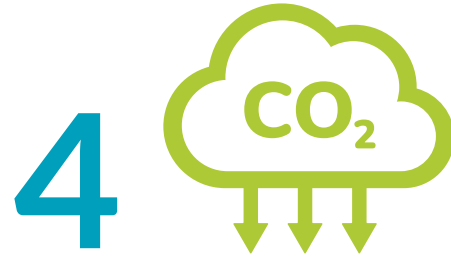
2

Reduce waste produced by 45% by 2025 (based on 2013 baseline figures)



3

80% of all operational travel to be conducted by travel methods with lowest impact



4

70% reduction in carbon emissions by 2025 (based on 2013 baseline figures)



5

Reduction in paper usage by integrating the use of digital technology



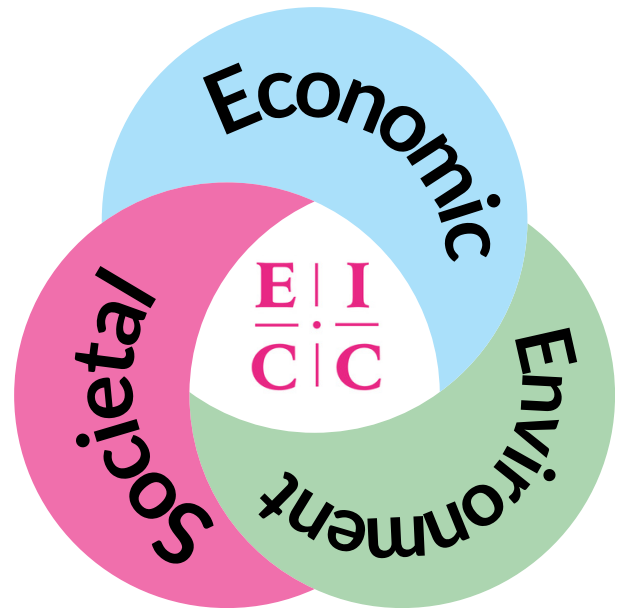
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50% reduction in water use by 2025 (based on 2013 baseline figures)

Introduction

The EICC take a **triple bottom line** approach to sustainability.

Which is only when our economic, societal and environmental aspects are treated equally, can we achieve true sustainability.



Step
Change
Sustainability
at every step

Our sustainability programme, **Step Change**, focuses on these three equally significant and interconnected areas of impact.



Net Zero Target

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

2030



Desk to Door

EICC has excellent public transport links and we encourage sustainable travel to minimise carbon emissions.

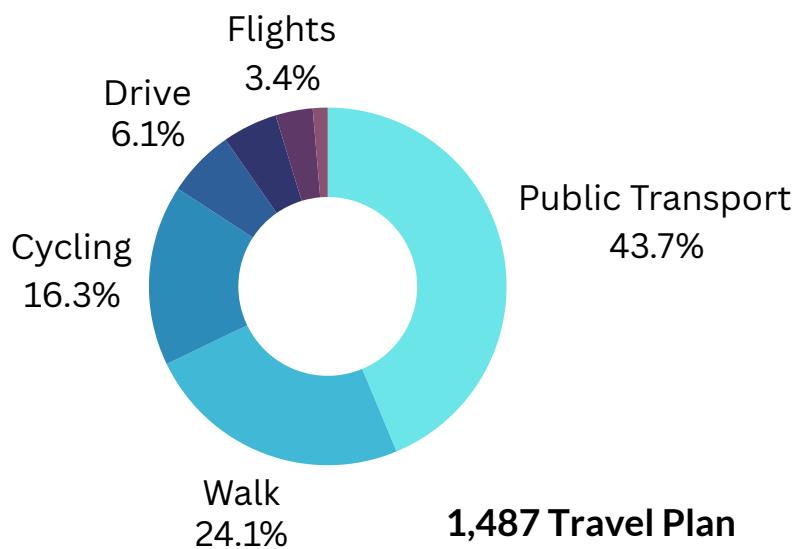
Nationally, we have partnered with LNER to provide group travel discounts. Discounts are also available with Logan Air.

Locally, we encourage use of Edinburgh Trams (an inherently sustainable mode of transport) Lothian Buses, and Central Taxis (a carbon neutral taxi company to transport delegates around the city).

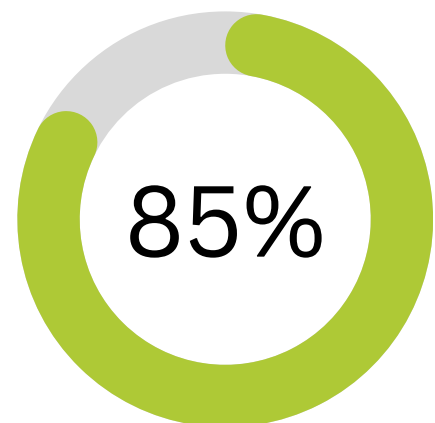
In August 2023 we partnered with You.Smart.Thing, an online travel planning tool which allows delegates to find the most sustainable method for getting to and from the EICC.



The tool provides details on various travel paths and includes the relative CO2 emissions of each method.



1,487 Travel Plan Queries (Aug - Dec)



Delegates travelling by sustainable methods


Event Impact Reports


Our Event Impact Reports provide information on the effects of each event held at the EICC by detailing their energy usage and waste generation as well as their economic and social impacts.

We can include details on food waste by noting the production and plate waste during the event.


These reports allow clients to set data-based targets for future events, promoting a more responsible events industry.

YOUR EVENT IMPACT REPORT. UTILITIES.







Electricity ###kWh



Gas ###kWh



Water ###m³



CO2e emissions ###tCO2e

CO2e savings through renewable use ###tCO2e

EICC uses a wholly renewable energy tariff, meaning that only transmission and distribution was factored into the above calculation.

Metal: Wholly recycled to specifications for remanufacture in FR, Scotland.

Cardboard: Based in Edinburgh, Scotland. Then sold to mills within the UK for reproduction.

Paper: Based in Edinburgh, Scotland. Produced in Perth, Scotland, before distribution within the UK.


Wood: All processed on site in Edinburgh, Scotland. Resulting wood chips are then sold on, primarily for the manufacture of chipboard.

Polythene: Based in Edinburgh, Scotland. Then sold to mills within the UK for reproduction, generally into dense coarse for the building trade.

Other Plastic: Based in Edinburgh, Scotland. Then sold to mills within the UK for reproduction.

RFCE: Used within Scotland as fuel for combined heat and power plants. Studies have shown this produces substantially less CO2e than waste sent to landfill and is considered by SEPA to be fully recycled.

Food Waste: Used within Scotland as fuel for combined heat and power plants. Studies have shown this produces substantially less CO2e than waste sent to landfill and is considered by SEPA to be fully recycled.



0% of your conference's waste was sent to landfill.

Economic Impact £1,496,495


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

Societal Impact Around 1,000 cans and bottles of soft drink were donated to local foodbank charity, **Peaseywell Pantry**.

Positive Reductions 0% of your conference's waste was sent to landfill.

tonnes of CO2e was saved through recycling vs landfill.

YOUR EVENT IMPACT REPORT. FOOD.



Menu Selection

Carbon data was displayed on the menu, giving delegates the option to decide what to order, based on CO2 emissions.

- 50% of menu options were **Low Climate Impact** (0.1 – 0.5 kg CO₂e)
- 50% of menu options were **Medium Climate Impact** (0.6 – 1.5 kg CO₂e)

Loaded Wraps	Shawarma Me Up!
The Mexican 1.1	Chicken 0.7
The Middle Eastern 0.6	Falafel 0.5
The Hipster 0.5	Halloumi 0.9
Kickin' Korean Chickin'	Naked Shawarma
Chicken 0.4	Chicken 0.6
Gangnam Style 0.4	Falafel 0.4
The Samurai 0.5	Halloumi 0.8
Fake It Till You Make It 0.3	

Carbon labelled by Klimato

Food Waste

The menu was designed with quick to cook items, list minute touches and products, which could be batch produced, this helped to reduce the overall waste. Assembling the food to order also reduced wastage whilst allowing guests a degree of flexibility in tailoring their order to their taste.

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Total
Preparation Waste	21.25 kg	1.5 kg	10 kg	32.65 kg
Plate Waste	19.5 kg	62 kg	85 kg	166.5 kg
Total	40.05 kg	63.5 kg	95 kg	199.15 kg

199.15kg of Food Waste will produce 1.775 tCO2e when recycled using Anaerobic Digestion. In comparison, had this been sent to landfill, 1,95,442 tCO2e would have been produced.

Signage

Signage	PVC Free	Biodegradable	Recyclable	Reusable
3 x external sails				✓
Lennox entrance bottom row window vinyl	✓	✓		
6 x Vinyl door/window logo	✓	✓		
Lennox entrance bulkhead banner	✓	✓		✓
Lennox level 3 bulkhead banner	✓	✓		
4 x Registration header panels			✓	✓
Registration desk surround frame for 4 desks	✓	✓		✓
5 x lectern panels			✓	✓
Lennox bar whole front	✓	✓		
4 x top table header panels			✓	✓
Cromdale/Lennox wall vinyl	✓	✓		
5 x stage banners (2 for Lennox 1, 3 for Lennox 2+3)	✓	✓		✓

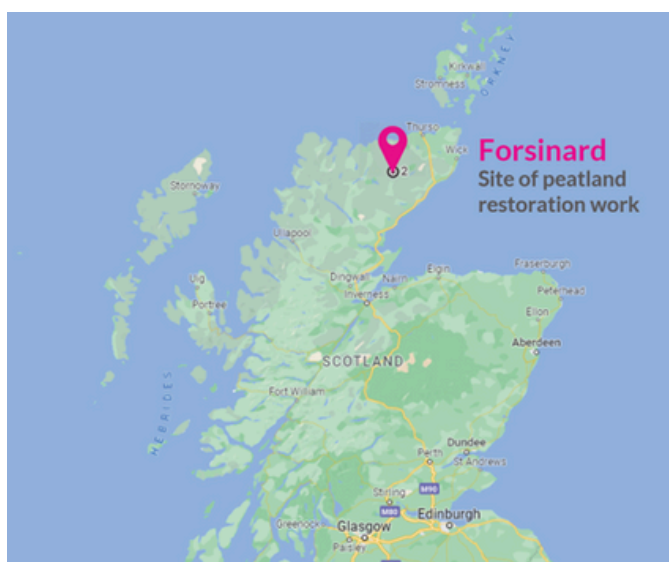
Climate Action Contribution

In collaboration with RSPB Scotland, our Climate Action Contribution initiative embodies our responsibility to the environment. It focuses on peatland restoration for carbon mitigation and is a vital tool in tackling climate change and biodiversity loss. The project also provides jobs to local communities, providing additional social benefits.

We recommend an allocation of £1 per delegate per day, or 50p per dinner guest. These funds go directly to Peatland Restoration in the north of Scotland.

By the close of 2023, we successfully secured a total of £38,000 in funding for the project. This funding is crucial for supporting RSPB Scotland's ongoing efforts to restore and preserve these vital ecosystems, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the

peatlands and their role in carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, and water management.



Climate Action Contribution

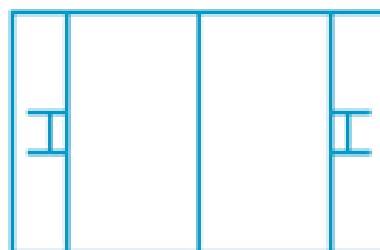
Peatland restoration is about more than just carbon. It creates jobs, improves water supplies, improves biodiversity and protects some of our most endangered species



Peatland restoration can be 4x more effective as a carbon sink than their tree planting equivalent.



Peatland is the largest terrestrial carbon store - 42% of all soil carbon is sequestered within peat bogs.



Helping to restore 250,000 ha of peatland in The Flow Country area. The equivalent of 250,000 rugby pitches.



Worldwide, degraded peatland releases an estimated 1.3 gigatonnes of CO₂e annually.
(1,300,000,000 tonnes)

Energy

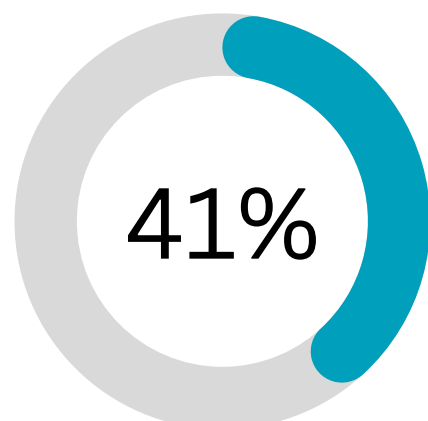
EICC uses a 100% renewable energy tariff

This supply is backed by UK REGO (Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin) or European GoO (Guarantees of Origin) from a blend of sources including hydro, wind, solar, biomass and landfill gas.

We have also implemented a range of measures to reduce our energy consumption, including LED lighting and energy mapping. We've replaced a great number of our lighting to far more efficient LED alternatives.

Additionally, our Building Management System, which oversees all our heating and ventilation systems, is meticulously managed to ensure that energy intensive equipment operates solely when necessary for ongoing events.

**Reduction in
Electricity Usage
since 2013**



Waste

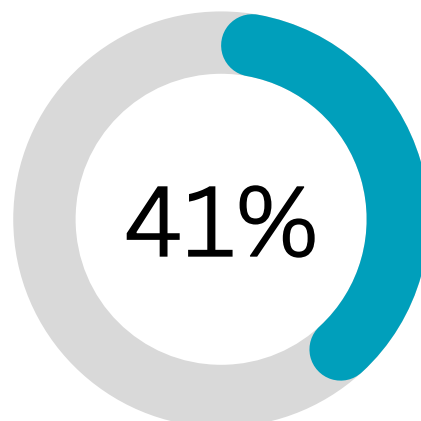
We've established our own local circular economy



The EICC encourages its delegates and organisers to think about their waste following the “five Rs” principle.

- Our local waste management partner provides 100% recycling, and NOTHING is sent to landfill.
- General waste is taken to a local facility where it is recycled, anything which can't be recycled is turned into energy for grid.
- Food waste goes to a local facility and, using aerobic digestion, it is turned into energy and biofertilizer.
- Waste oil from the kitchen is refined into Biodiesel.
- Glass waste is turned into aggregate or insulation wool.

**Reduction in
Waste Production
since 2013**



Catering

EICC & OLIO
donated

55.86kg

of edible food in Sept & Oct 2023

Our catering partner, Leith's, strive to be market leaders in sustainable food; delivering locally sourced, plant forward and seasonal menus.

Leith's



Foodsteps

Leith's work with Foodsteps, to calculate the carbon footprint of each dish served at the EICC.

Any edible leftover food is picked up by Olio, who use volunteers to collect and then redistribute food to the local community.

olio

Community

The EICC and festival partner, The Pleasance Theatre Trust, provided hundreds of Festival Fringe tickets to local communities and social enterprises including:

- North Edinburgh Arts
- Eric Liddell Centre
- Invisible Cities
- The Ukrainian Society
- Grassmarket Project
- Shakti women's aid



The EICC has a longstanding partnership with The Larder, a Scottish social enterprise whose mission it is to empower disadvantaged children, young people, adults and communities to improve their life chances through access to learning and good food.

At Christmas, some of the team from Leith's and the EICC packed up food and delivered meals to people in need across West Lothian.



EICC Live



As part of our commitment to community engagement and quality education, we regularly welcome audiences to our venue for EICC Live - our series of free public talks. This free public event series brings together students, retirees, professionals, and everyone in-between to enjoy an evening of short, powerful presentations.

In 2023, we heard from The Edinburgh Climate Commission and Edinburgh Climate Compact about how we can all contribute to Edinburgh becoming a greener, healthier city - which is taking the lead on local climate action.

The Royal Institute of Navigation took us on a journey to explore how timekeeping continues to shape our modern world and the surprisingly far-reaching effects of clocks, as well as the deep connections between time and nature.

Finally, an expert panel in the fields of public and cardiovascular health presented on how changing policy around social and environmental factors can improve our heart health.



Accreditations & Awards

ISO 14001

The EICC has been certified since 2005 for our “environmental management system”



ISO 9001

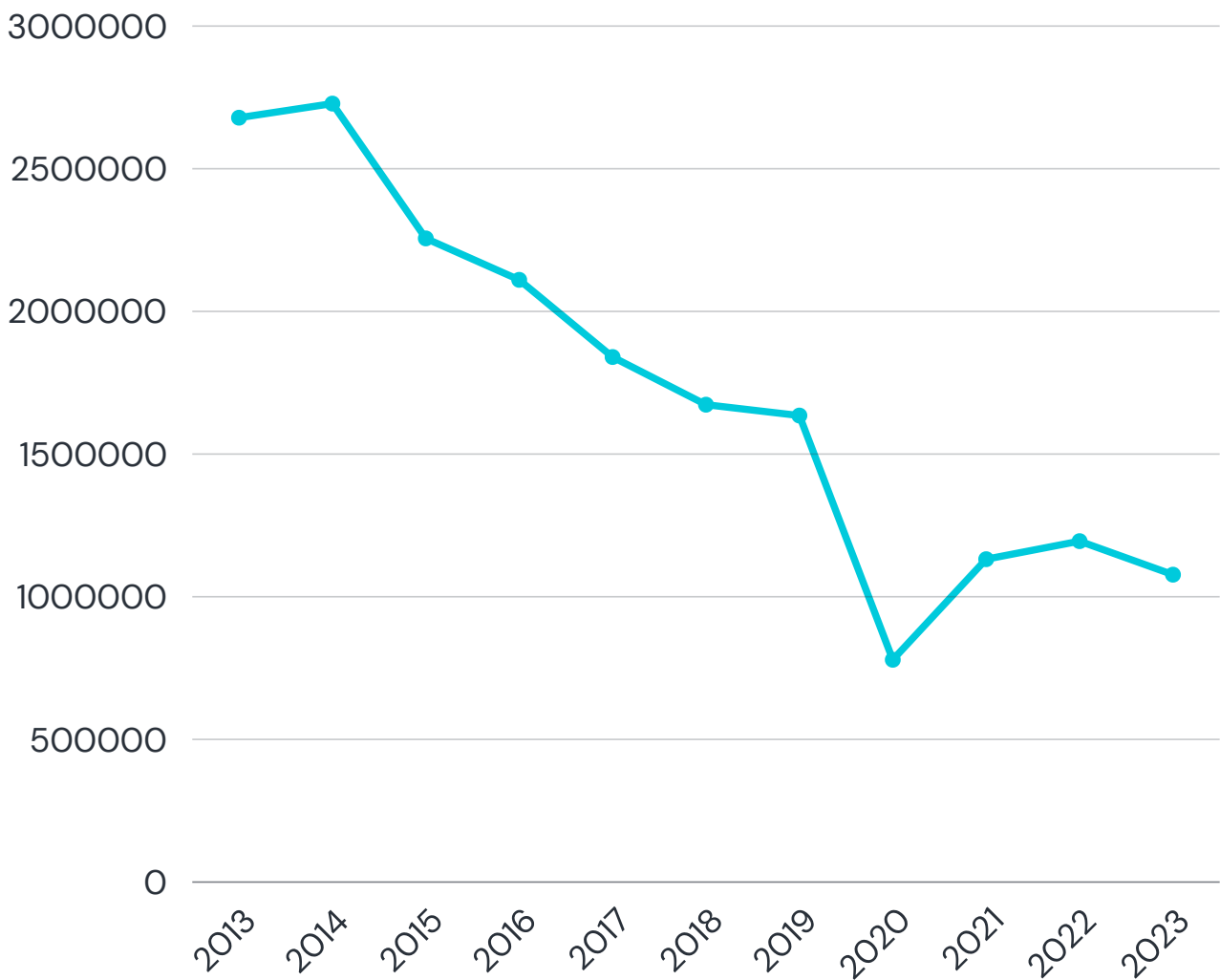
The EICC has been certified since 1998 for our “quality management system”

Green Tourism

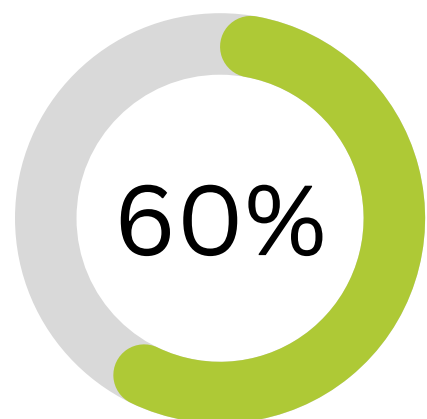
EICC has a Gold award for both Green Tourism and Green Meetings, we were the first venue to receive both



Carbon Footprint



Due to the efforts of all the EICC's staff, from sales to engineering, the EICC can report that the total carbon dioxide emissions for scope 1 and 2 have been reduced by 60% on our 2013 baseline.



Thank you



We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the EICC's sustainability achievements over the past year. These achievements are the result of the dedication, support, and collaboration of many individuals and organisations.

Thank you to our team for their unwavering commitment and hard work, particularly the Green Team for their pioneering efforts. We are also grateful to RSPB Scotland for their partnership in the peatland restoration project at Forsinard and to You.Smart.Thing for their collaboration on the Desk to Door initiative.

We also appreciate the support of our clients, stakeholders, and local communities, whose engagement and feedback have been vital to our progress. Your belief in our vision to create an environment to inspire ideas that change the world inspires us daily

Together, we are making significant strides towards a sustainable future. Thank you to everyone for being part of this journey with us.

Sincerely,

Marshall Dallas
Chief Executive