

## Our Sustainability Pledge

Organisers of the 2023 Digital Youth Work Conference recognise the importance of taking care of the environment and the environmental impact of hosting a conference. We commit to running our conference with a reduced environmental impact by working closely with our venues and suppliers to put in place environmental-friendly policies and best practices wherever possible.

To achieve this, we put the following initiatives in place to reduce our carbon footprint every stop of the way and contribute towards a safe and healthy environment.

YouthLink Scotland supports the Environment and Sustainability Policy of the conference venue, Abertay University.

- [View Abertay University Environment and Sustainability Policy](#)

### Organiser

#### Pre-event

- We used conference calls during the planning stage, reducing our carbon footprint by significantly removing travel for each organiser
- We aim to significantly reduce the amount of printed material at every stage of our event by using technology. When printed material is unavoidable, we will use recycled paper
- We used media and electronic methods for registration and confirmation, conference programme, event promotion, general and delegate communication including e-newsletters and emails
- We selected a conference venue which supports sustainable practice, has a good recycling policy and a robust waste management policy
- The conference venue is a short walk from the city centre, close to all travel links and a wide range of accommodation
- We selected local suppliers to avoid long distance transport of goods and people

#### During the event

- Where possible, we use digital signage in an effort to reduce single-use signage options
- Name badges provided will be made from recycled paper
- We will be asking all delegates to return the badge holders provided for re-use
- We will not provide delegate bags and will encourage delegates to bring their own
- To minimise the environmental impact, we work with our conference venue to select fresh, locally or regionally sourced, seasonal food for the catering and order carefully to avoid food waste
- If takeaway cups are provided they will be compostable

## Delegates and Visitors

We encouraged our delegates and visitors to make sustainable choices where possible to help reduce their carbon footprint.

### Travel

- Analyse the carbon footprint associated with your travel to and from Dundee by using this [calculator](#). Offset the carbon footprint by compensating unavoidable emissions through acknowledged projects, for example [The UN Carbon Offset Platform](#)
- Get active out and about in Dundee city. A compact city bursting with places of interest, history, and things to see, it is so easy to get around. [Dundee's active travel routes](#) in and around the city have been developed over the last few years with a key objective to encourage travel through walking, cycling and public transport, and deploy sustainable alternatives to decarbonise transport
- We fully encourage the use of public transport, car share and walking as much as possible. When using a taxi you may wish to consider sharing it with one of your fellow delegates

### Hotel

- Select a hotel that supports sustainability activities where possible
- Consider selecting a hotel in the vicinity of the conference venue so you can walk to the venue or use a bike
- Only use the air conditioning if it is really necessary
- Turn off the lights and TV when leaving the room
- Select the type and amount of food during meals sensibly in order to avoid food waste

### During the event

- Consider bringing your own reusable water bottle and refilling it
- Only pick up printed marketing and information material that you are really interested in and that you will use

## Industry - Exhibitors and Partners

### During the event

We have encouraged our exhibitors and partners to consider the following:

- Use recyclable or reusable material for the stand construction
- Reduce unsustainable packaging and avoid using materials containing PVC
- Integrate energy-saving measures in your stand design
- Less is more – sponsors/exhibitors are encouraged to rethink the number of printed brochures and flyers or change to a digital version
- Rethink give-aways and offer sustainable versions
- Choose local partners for your needs

