

Our Sustainability Pledge

Organisers of the ICA (International Cooperative Alliance) CCR Europe Research Conference 2024 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 step of the way and contribute towards a safe and healthy environment.

ICA CCR supports the [Environment and Sustainability Policy of the conference venue, Dalhousie Building, University of Dundee](#) and their [Sustainable Food 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
- Venues selected for both the conference and social programme are 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, we will use recycled paper for any printed material
- Name badges provided will be made from recycled paper
- We will be asking all delegates to return the badge holders provided for re-use
- 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
- Ethical coffee breaks – coffee served within the conference venue is from Coffee Conscience, a Scottish based company offering Fairtrade beans (roasted in Dundee) with a percentage of revenue going to community projects in the UK and abroad

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](#). Our main hub airport of Edinburgh connects directly to over 150 destinations worldwide and to Dundee in one hour by train. Consider limiting to a single plane journey per travel direction if you are able. 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

- Only pick up printed marketing and information material that you are really interested in and that you will use
- Help us increase our recycling rate by placing all waste and recyclables into the appropriate waste recycling bins
- Use only as many disposable items as you need (e.g. paper towels, napkins, utensils)

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