Decade of Action Essentials

Why does COP26 matter?

This workshop is designed to be delivered by Engineers Without Borders UK Chapters. As an outreach resource, it is suggested that Chapters deliver this to local organisations engaged with the engineering industry or interested in global responsibility. Alternatively, it can be run as a workshop for Chapter members, or the wider university population.

The intention is for this workshop to be delivered in the run up to, or directly after, COP26, which is running from Monday 1 November - Friday 12 November 2021.

What is COP26 and why does it matter?

COP26 is the 2021 United Nations climate change conference. For nearly three decades the UN has been bringing together almost every country on earth for global climate summits – called COPs – which stands for 'Conference of the Parties'. In that time climate change has gone from being a fringe issue to a global priority.

This year will be the 26th annual summit – giving it the name COP26. With the UK as President, COP26 takes place in Glasgow.

In the run up to COP26 the UK is working with every nation to reach agreement on how to tackle climate change. World leaders will arrive in Scotland, alongside tens of thousands of negotiators, government representatives, businesses and citizens for twelve days of talks.

With the immense pressures of the climate and biodiversity crises already affecting millions of people globally, COP26 comes at a pivotal moment in human history. Providing a crucial opportunity for countries across the world to join forces in the face of environmental issues, the outcomes of the summit will be integral to safeguarding the planet for future generations.

Recommended reading:

- COP26 website
- IPCC report
- IPCC report: A wake up call to take action, today

Workshop overview

The workshop has been designed to be delivered in 45 minutes. However, if you have an hour, use the remaining time to further the discussion or extend the activity times.

Workshop guidance	Slides	Time (min)
Introduction Introduction to the facilitator(s) and to the workshop. Make sure to set clear expectations on participants engagement. Run through the agenda and show the animation video.	4 - 6	3
COP26: Why does it matter Introduces what COP26 is and why it is important. Explain why the outcome of COP26 matters for the engineering industry.	7 - 11	10
Principles of global responsibility Explains Engineers Without Borders UK's principles for globally responsible engineering. It's important for participants to understand what they are, and what they look like in practice.	12	
Activity 1: reflection on principles A 10-minute activity (including wrap up discussion) asking participants to reflect on what they are currently doing to enact on the principles. Ensure you ask the room if they would like to share anything they do before you move on to the next activity.	13	10
Activity 2: principles in action A 15-minute activity (including wrap up discussion) which will explore the principles further. Split the participants into groups and provide them with the case study hand out to work on. Make sure each group focuses on a different case study. Ensure you feedback as a group – ask a representative from a couple of groups to share what they discussed.	14	15
Activity 3: we need to take action Summarise the learning that the group have been on. Highlight the importance of taking action. Lead into the final activity – asking the participants to discuss the action they are going to take and get them to complete the accompanying form.	15	5
Summary End the session by thanking the participants and asking for any final words/comments from the group. Highlight that if they are interested in knowing more, they can join the movement & make the commitment to globally responsible engineering.	16	

How to prepare for your workshop

Where will you deliver the workshop?
We'd recommend that you try to deliver at least one workshop to a local organisation. It's a great way to network and reach out to your local community. See below for some tips on how to reach out to local organisations.

Set a date
COP26 runs from Monday 1 November - Friday 12 November so consider scheduling your workshop during or just before this period.

In person or virtual?
Either way, make sure that you adapt your delivery. To help you do this, we've made notes where changes might need to be made if you are delivering virtually.

Who will be delivering the workshop?
We'd recommend that you have at least two facilitators.

Be prepared
We've outlined and linked all the resources you will need in this document. But make sure you have the links you need ready on the day. If you are delivering in person, always have a backup version of the slides somewhere too!

Practice!
We highly recommend that you run through the workshop before you deliver it for the first time. If you have a workshop booked in with a local organisation, see if your members would like to take part in a practice workshop beforehand.

How to reach out to local organisations?

Start by speaking to your engineering department
You may find that they have some contacts with local organisations. If not, your careers department may be able to help too.

Reach out to any previous speakers or panellists you've worked with
They may be able to connect you to someone within their organisation.

Do your own research
Have a look at who have offices local to you and see if you can find any contact information. Make the most of LinkedIn - direct message anyone you may have a connection with, or has engaged with Engineers Without Borders UK previously.

Speak to us
If you are struggling to find an organisation then let us know by emailing membership@ewb-uk.org. We may be able to connect you to a member of our movement who may be able to support you.

Resources and logistics

This facilitation guide should give you all the information you need to run the workshop successfully. At the end of the document you will find the full script for the workshop. Any other resources which are mentioned are linked below:

- Workshop slides
- Animation video for slide 3
- Case studies
- Principles of globally responsible engineering
- Taking action form (for participants)
- Feedback form (for you)

Not sure who needs to do what? Here's a list of possible roles members of your Chapter could take:

Logistics

- You need someone who can coordinate and schedule your workshop. They will be the main point of contact for any local organisations you reach out to. We'd recommend you use your Chapter email address for this.
- Make sure you thank the organisation once your workshop is finished.

Facilitation

- Nominate someone to be the lead facilitator for your workshop. Ensure that they check you have everything you need for your delivery.

Support

- If you are running a virtual workshop, nominate someone to organise anything tech related. This could be setting up the zoom call, the breakout rooms and ensuring the correct links are shared in the chat.

Wrap up

- Make sure that one member of your team is responsible for completing the feedback form, and collecting your participants actions. This is a really easy step to forget, but it is important!

Once you've delivered a workshop

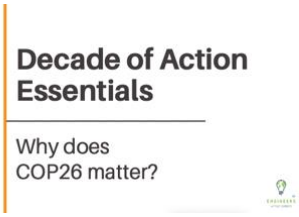
Please let us know!
We've created a form for you to complete after each workshop to record your feedback and impact. It's really important that we record each workshop that happens - we want to be able to share how great you all are.

Collect all of the individual actions
These directly align with our strategy so it's crucial that we have a record of them. There is a QR code in the slide deck that links to this form.

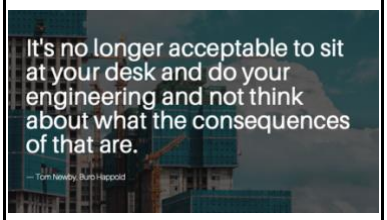
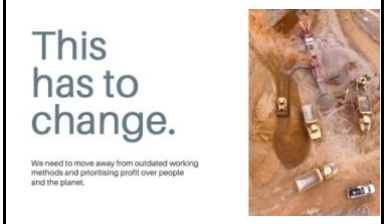
Post about your workshop on social media
Let people know what you've been up to. See if you can find the social media handles for the organisation you've connected with.

Workshop script

To help support your delivery of this workshop we have written a script for you to use with each slide. Feel free to adapt this to suit your own facilitation style!

	[Please change the logo to your Chapter logo on the first slide] Welcome! We're excited to join you today to look at why COP26 matter's, especially in the Decade of Action leading up to the 2030 deadline for the UN's sustainability goals. For those of you who don't know, we are an Engineers Without Borders UK Chapter at xxx University. With COP26 taking place in Glasgow this year, we've worked in collaboration with the team at Engineers Without Borders UK to create a workshop focused on the importance of COP26 within the engineering industry and what action we can all individually and collectively take to make change. Before we start, we want to ensure that this is a collaborative workshop so please, if you have any questions or points to raise let us know. Your full engagement in this session will give us the best experience. [If you are running the session virtually, make sure you let people know that they can use the chat, and raise their hand. Encourage people to remain on mute if they aren't talking]
	We're going to begin today's workshop by understanding the importance of COP26. This will be followed by Engineers Without Borders UK's principles for globally responsible engineering, where we will reflect on how we are currently using these and look at how we can embed them into our work going forward. To start us off, here is a short animation explaining the work of Engineers Without Borders UK & why they do the work they're doing.
	[Play animation video]

Our planet is in a perilous position.	Our planet is in a perilous position. Alongside the importance and urgency being placed on COP26 - there is a stark message coming from climate scientists with the publishing of the latest landmark IPCC report. It is a wakeup call for many
We have to change.	– we have to change how we live, how we educate and how we work. The IPCC report communicates the global position situation clearly and details various future scenarios – the most positive requiring humanity to emit a 1/8th of the CO2 we currently emit each year. Because of this, we have ethical choices to make and activities in the next decade are critical. As engineers, the biggest personal contribution we can make is through our work. As explored in UNESCO's Engineering for Sustainable Development Report (2021), engineering has a powerful, unique, and important role to address our global challenges.
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE UK 2021 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY	So, why is COP26 so important? The Conference of the Parties, or COP, has a rich history. For nearly three decades the UN has been bringing together almost every country on earth for global climate summits. In that time climate change has gone from being a fringe issue to a global priority. This year will be the 26th annual summit. In the run up to COP26 the UK is working with every nation to reach agreement on how to tackle climate change. Not only is this a huge task but it is also not just yet another international summit. Most experts believe COP26 has a unique urgency.
COP26 has a unique urgency.	To help us understand that urgency, it's important to know what has come before. During COP21, hosted by Paris in 2015, something momentous happened. Does anyone know what this could be? Yes, the Paris Agreement was born during COP21. Every country agreed to work together to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees and aim for 1.5 degrees. They agreed that every 5 years they would come back with an updated plan that would reflect their highest possible ambition at that time. As many of us know, the commitments laid out in Paris did not come close to limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees, and the window for achieving this is closing.

	The decade out to 2030 – the decade of action - will be crucial. So as momentous as Paris was, COP26 needs to be decisive.
	But why should engineers care? We are all aware that engineering has played a significant role both good and bad – in getting humankind and the planet to where we are today. Typically, the engineering community still relies on unsustainable practices and materials, with limited consideration of the broader impact.
	As said here by Tom Newby, from Buro Happold, [read the quote]. As we look ahead to the 2030 deadline for the UN Sustainable Development Goals, it is time for the engineering community to proactively consider how we can address the destruction of global ecosystems and the current failure to meet the basic human rights of everyone. There needs to be a rapid move towards globally responsible practice. This means critically reflecting on the role of engineering in society and understanding the social, environmental, and economic impacts engineering has, both locally to where it is implemented and globally through supply chains and operational outputs. We need to move from an approach of engineering **for** people and planet to an approach of engineering **with** people and planet. In line with this, the decisions and actions that come out of COP26 could have a fundamental impact on the direction and future of the sector to secure the future of our planet.
	The need to act NOW has never been clearer. To achieve social and environmental justice, we need those working in and around engineering to commit to global responsibility. Engineers Without Borders UK's 2021-30 strategy sets out four key principles for globally responsible engineering that they want to see adopted across the engineering community and embedded in the culture of how all engineering is taught and practiced.
	What are these principles? **Responsible**. To meet the needs of all people within the limits of our plants. This should be at the heart of engineering.

	Purposeful. To consider the impacts of engineering, from a project or product's inception to the end of its life. This should be at a global and local scale, for people and planet. **Inclusive**. To ensure that diverse viewpoints and knowledge are included and respected in the engineering process. **Regenerative**. To actively restore and regenerate ecological systems rather than just reducing impact. What do these look like in practice? Being **responsible** is having a mindset of commitment and professional humility. Having a strong desire to bring about sustainable and inclusive change. Having strong ethics and a respectful understanding of the impact of the engineering community's work on people's lives. Being **purposeful** is having a sense of justice and constructively challenging convention, calling out social and environmental inequities. Being i**nclusive** is having a mindset of creativity and inclusivity with a willingness to share, listen and work collaboratively with a range of groups, particularly marginalised voices. Be the person who ensures representation and accelerates progress. Being **regenerative** having an ability to draw connections to areas required under other principles and driving change beyond building knowledge to opening up tangible opportunities for regeneration to be integrated into work.
Activity: Reflection on principles	Activity 1: [10 minutes] *Notes for the facilitator: make sure you link the participants to the strategy principles document Using the strategy principal competencies take a moment to look at the principles and the competencies in more depth. Then list what you feel you are currently doing in your day to day to enact on these principles. If you do not feel any apply to your practice, consider what policies your organisation/institution has committed to in line with these principles. No actions are too big or too small, note anything down that you feel is relevant. Thank you. Reflecting on what we are currently doing is an important stage in the learning process as it grounds us in where we are now.

	To develop our understanding and consider what else we could be doing we're going to move into breakout rooms/smaller groups to discuss our next activity.
	Activity 2: (15 minutes) Working with the principles, read the case study your group has been provided and answer the following question: If you were working in this context, how would you embed the principles of global responsibility into your decision making? Consider the voices within your group, but also who isn't here/or being represented. Try to find a way to embed at least two principles into your decision making. We will have 15 minutes for this. It would be great to have a summary of your discussions ready for when we come back together, so please nominate someone for this task. *Notes for the facilitator: If you have time, make sure you allow a couple of groups to feedback to the rest of the group. If in person: • Group people together in groups of no more than 6 people. Allocate one of the case studies for them to consider. Please try not to print the case studies off – you should be able to share the link using a QR code for people to access. If virtual: • Set up breakout rooms of no more than 6 people. Allocate one of the case studies to each room for them to consider. Share the case study pdf in the chat.
	Hopefully you have seen that there is more to be done in our own daily practices and you have had some time to consider what else you could be doing by working through a case study. Looking back at your reflection and the discussions, how do you now feel you could commit further to the principles of global responsibility and ensure they are embedded into your day-to-day practice? We'd like to invite you to take a few minutes to chat with the people near you and commit to one (or more) action that you would like to take once you leave this workshop today. It could be a collective action, or an organisational action. We ask you to share your intended action. Speaking your actions out loud, and to others, gives them power and accountability. Before the session ends today, we'd like to ask you to use the QR code of the screen and share your actions with Engineers Without

	Borders UK. Your responses will be anonymised but will help us explore the different steps people are taking to make change.
	Thank you for taking time out of your day to join us for this workshop. We hope we have highlighted the importance of COP26 for the engineering industry and shown you how you can individually or organisationally start to make the changes we need to make. Before we leave, we ask that if you have been inspired by the workshop today and would like to do more towards demonstrating your commitment to globally responsible engineering you can join the movement.