

## IChemE fully recognises the evident climate emergency with preparations for COP26

The 26<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will be taking place in Glasgow on 9–19 November 2020.

The UN has stated: “[Climate change presents the single biggest threat to sustainable development everywhere](#) and its widespread unprecedented impacts disproportionately burden the poorest and most vulnerable.”

IChemE fully recognises the evident climate emergency and unequivocally supports the above UN statement and is actively working to address the issues of sustainability both through its own actions and with others in responding to the Grand Challenges for Engineering.

For over a generation, as recorded in the London Communique on IChemE’s 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, chemical engineers have recognised the fundamental importance of ensuring sustainable development and that, as systems thinkers at all levels, they have a critical role to play in achieving this. This commitment to sustainable development was renewed in the Melbourne Communique in 2001 and again in the [Energy Centre Climate Communique](#) in 2015, when preparing for COP21.

In August 2019, IChemE published [Strategy 2024](#) which sets out the Institution’s ambition to mobilise the membership in impacting on the [Grand Challenges for Engineering](#), whilst also promoting how members can contribute to the delivery of the [UN’s Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#).

The UN is clear that urgent action to halt climate change and deal with its impacts is integral to successfully achieving all SDGs, not just [SDG 13](#) (Climate Action).

IChemE’s Learned Society Committee (LSC) has therefore agreed to two initial actions:

- To assist chemical engineers in understanding how, by their own action, they can contribute to responsible production that addresses societal need, whilst reducing environmental impact.
- To update the Energy Centre Climate Communique in time to guide and inform attendees at COP26.

The LSC has been elected to represent your views. If you would like to be actively involved, then do consider volunteering through the relevant Special Interest Group or your local Member Group. IChemE is proud to be led by members, supporting members and serving society.

Jon Prichard, Chief Executive (on behalf of the Board of Trustees)

30 January 2020