

What and who is SpACE?



Edinburgh view. © Jon Barnes.



Edinburgh view. © Jon Barnes.

SpACE, the Space for Architecture, Carbon and Environment, is a public exhibition and events venue that addresses the biggest issue of our time – the climate emergency – and how the built environment affects it.

Climate change is forcing us to make huge changes to our homes, our workplaces, our schools and colleges, our cultural buildings, and the way we travel. Using practical case studies and events, SpACE shows where we are at the end of 2021, and where we can go in the future.

The opening of SpACE coincides with COP26 in Glasgow, which has already received world-wide attention. SpACE will carry on for three weeks after COP26 is over and, hopefully, re-open elsewhere in 2022. This pop-up exhibition and events venue is a testbed for the future.

SpACE is a Scottish Registered Charity, created and managed by a wide range of people, from architects and engineers to property owners, building contractors, heritage bodies, and representatives of the Scottish Government and City of Edinburgh Council. This broad group reflects those who design, build, manage and use the built environment, encouraging collaboration and engagement across all sectors.

The costs of SpACE have been met by a combination of 'work in kind', grants from public sector bodies, donations from companies, private individuals, and professional institutes together with support from City of Edinburgh Council's COP26 programme.

What Is COP26?

COP26 stands for the United Nations 26th Conference of the Parties, gathered in a massive convention in Glasgow for most of the world's governments and hundreds of interest groups. Previous conferences have been held in Paris (resulting in the Paris Accords of 2015) and Rio de Janeiro (known as the Earth Summit in 1992.)

These conferences changed the way we think about our environment and led to the adoption of world-wide policies, but this has not been enough. Current policies are aligned with a 3°C rise in temperatures, which would be catastrophic for humanity, there is widespread agreement we must aim for 1.5°C instead. How we achieve this is central to the debate at COP26.

To complement COP26, SpACE is encouraging local engagement by being small scale, publicly accessible and relevant to Edinburgh's built environment.

