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African mango growing scheme in Kisangani, DRC. Photo by CIFOR on flickr.
Chair’s Summary

For E3G, 2021 was the year of the COP. COP stands for the annual Conference of the Parties to a United Nations Treaty. In this case, to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Typically scheduled for November, they have been the end point of every political year since E3G was founded.

But this year was special. COP26 took place in Glasgow with the UK as its President. This presented E3G with a unique opportunity to engage, both directly by seconding three members of our staff to the UK government team preparing the meeting, and indirectly by focussing our programmes on contributing to the vast discussion of climate policy that took place around the world throughout the year.

Our ability to build trust within both the policymaking machinery of governments, and wider civil society and business communities working on climate change, gives us the opportunity to make a distinctive contribution to climate policy success.

The gap between what the world is doing and what it needs to do to keep the climate safe remains wide.

At the Glasgow COP, we were able to demonstrate this capability to good effect. The intensity of the diplomacy required to deliver success in Glasgow, however, inevitably drew attention away from other aspects of our work.

Our overall programme reflects another two-fold strategy in which some elements – our coal work for instance – focus on constraining activities that damage the climate, while others focus on accelerating the opportunities of decarbonising the economy – our work on climate finance or the clean economy for example. Details of the full range of our work are included throughout this review of the year.

One fact sums up just how extraordinary this year has been for E3G. We began the year with 46 staff and finished it with 102. Part of this success reflects the hard work and talent of our team and the reputation they have built for the organisation. But these encouraging numbers contain another message.

The gap between what the world is doing and what it needs to do to keep the climate safe remains wide. Extreme weather events throughout the year were a constant reminder of the consequences of climate policy failure. There are too few laurels for us to rest on yet.
E3G continued to expand its size, scope and impact in 2021. This was achieved against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, which was far more prolonged than many people initially anticipated. Rapid growth saw E3G more than double in size overall, with much of this growth focused in our EU and US offices.

A key theme across all E3G’s work in 2021 was to deliver a ‘green recovery’ from COVID-19. The terrible impacts of the pandemic provided countries with a stark choice in their recovery: lock in a high carbon economy by doubling down on old business models; or seize a once in a generation opportunity to shift onto a net zero pathway. E3G worked to ensure that climate was at the heart of recovery investments in Europe, the US and globally including through the creation of the Better Recovery Unit.

The ‘Fit for 55’ package, the cornerstone of the EU’s deep decarbonisation roadmap, was published in July, strengthening the EU’s global climate leadership. E3G led coalition efforts to shape the development of the EU Climate Law and the EU Green Taxonomy.

In the US, E3G strongly engaged with the Biden Administration to educate and inform the development of a new US climate agenda. E3G Washington ran briefings on the US Administration with EU/UK Embassies and launched a ‘Biden 100 Days Climate Diplomacy’ weekly newsletter. E3G briefings on coal phase-out, green recovery and sustainable finance reforms helped inform the development of the revised US Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and the Build Back Better World (B3W) proposal.

In the UK, London Climate Action Week 2021 was a great success, despite COVID-19 restrictions meaning that most interactions were virtual. A total of 247 events were held, attracting a strong global audience and participation from high level speakers such as John Kerry, US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate and Alok Sharma, COP26 President. This included 21 ‘flagship events’ including the first Schools Summit and E3G’s launch of the Professional Bodies Climate Charter.

The threads of all our work built up to COP26 in Glasgow at the end of the year. E3G worked to build confidence between developed and developing countries through policy co-development on finance, adaptation, and loss and damage. This included support for the COP26 Climate and Development Ministerial process and the creation of the Adaptation Finance Champions group. We also prioritised engagement on global energy decarbonisation through supporting the COP26 Energy Transitions Commission, fossil finance reform and the South Africa Just Transition deal.

E3G played a pivotal role in delivering a high impact COP26, shaping the overall ‘keeping 1.5°C within reach’ strategy; cementing the key High Ambition Coalition; and delivering major impacts on coal phase-out and stopping fossil finance. COP26 was the first real test of the Paris Agreement plan to show that global ambition can be ratcheted up every five years. Increased Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) from the UK, EU and US and other countries, along with sectoral deals on coal, methane and forests, bridged some of the ambition gap. The summit itself saw a series of net zero announcements including from India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Vietnam and Kenya. Although this collective action is not yet enough to deliver a below 1.5°C trajectory, the commitment in the Glasgow Climate Pact to turn the 2020s into a decade of climate action demonstrated that the Paris Agreement is working. Heads of State, CEOs and investors left Glasgow with a clear sense that the world expects delivery in the coming years.

Finally, E3G spent time in 2021 investing in our longer-term development priorities. We have now completed the first design and development stage of the Centre for the Political Economy of Climate Change (CPECC) which will be launched later in 2022. This exciting new platform will dramatically increase E3G capabilities and ability to support climate action globally.
E3G is an independent climate change think tank with a global outlook. We work on the frontier of the climate landscape, tackling the barriers and advancing the solutions to a safe climate. Our goal is to translate climate politics, economics and policies into action.

E3G builds broad-based coalitions to deliver a safe climate, working closely with like-minded partners in government, politics, civil society, science, the media, public interest foundations and elsewhere to leverage change.

E3G develops strategies and produces scenario analysis of critical climate action, identifying the risks and opportunities to make a difference. E3G analyses the state of climate politics within countries, major institutions and economic sectors. These insights help set political agendas and inform decision makers.
Our Work

Since our beginning in 2004, we have been driving action for climate safety. In this critical decade for action and adaptation in response to the climate crisis, transforming societies and economies will require using new strategies and capacities. While reports on solutions to climate change remain key to delivering climate safety, so does rapidly creating real solutions.

Our work is global in outlook. Political economy and governance underpin our efforts across six interconnected areas. The scope of our work is unified in its ability to leverage the biggest impacts.

In 2021, E3G worked to promote, shape and support diplomatic campaigns to deliver the following: coal moratoria, phase-out and financing; clean energy deals; Paris alignment for Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs); ending public fossil fuel financing; and private finance reform.
2021 cemented climate as a golden thread for cooperation in an era of crises. The strong alignment of the UK G7 presidency, Italian G20 presidency and UK-Italian efforts behind pre-COP and COP26 centred the goal of limiting warming to 1.5°C.

In early 2021 the US returned to the climate diplomacy stage with the Leaders Summit on Climate, to set sights on ambitious climate outcomes by COP26. E3G approached the summit with an array of outputs including blogs, collaborations, data visualisations for policymakers, press briefings and interviews with The World, CNN, The New York Times, Politico EU and BBC.

E3G built momentum over 2021 through several key moments leading up to COP26, including organising London Climate Action Week. This provided a platform for key announcements from the UK COP26 team and a venue to release major climate reports, alongside cross-society mobilisation and dialogue – with over 240 events covering four themes and 12 sectors.

E3G provided advice and analysis to help increase ambition at the G7 and G20. This included policy briefings sent to officials, frequent political strategy meetings with sherpas and officials in UK, Italy and the EU, targeting media pressure through our relationships with journos and media briefings, and activating our civil society networks to share policy briefings and exchange political strategy and intel for other G7/G20 countries.

Mid-July saw the most comprehensive and ambitious energy, climate and transport package ever proposed by the EU with ‘Fit for 55’, which laid the foundations for deep decarbonisation of the EU’s economy. We produced blogs and briefings, and engaged the media through advisories and online media briefings, to highlight benchmarks for the legislative proposals and assess the package when it was released.

Over 2021 E3G monitored the global macroeconomy during a period of uneven recovery from the impact of COVID-19, and highlighted opportunities for green recovery. This included a suite of G7 briefings that mapped opportunities for transformative action, and an extensive report mapping the political economy of the global financial system and pathways to an inclusive, green, global recovery. E3G also analysed the EU’s recovery spending with the Green Recovery Tracker, in collaboration with Wuppertal Institute and local partners. An overview of our work during a year in recovery is available here.

E3G’s EU-focused hydrogen factsheet series, published in English and Italian, assessed crucial political questions facing policymakers in some key areas of the hydrogen debate, based on technical and economic evidence. In the UK, E3G produced a key report on the UK Hydrogen Strategy.

E3G continued to shape EU approaches to China throughout 2021, working with the foreign policy community and media to produce a ‘third way’ between appeasement and hostility.

E3G was heavily involved in shaping the overall strategic approach for COP26 and specific benchmarks for ambition, such as making coal history. The broader diplomatic processes in 2021 around the G7 and G20 represented a step-change in scale, complexity and scope compared to previous years.
With COVID-19, E3G’s work around COP26 broadened. In the new context of macroeconomic recovery and geopolitical turbulence, climate action around COP26 was primed to play a significant role in shaping the political and economic conditions for the next 5-10 years.

E3G built unique relationships with the UK and Italian COP teams. For instance E3G CEO Nick Mabey was appointed a ‘Friend of COP’ in Autumn 2019, working closely with the COP President Designate and Unit to develop an overall strategic approach incorporating E3G country analysis into early policy deliberations. Through alignment with UK and Italy’s G7/G20 Presidencies, E3G ensured clear and timely information flows between government, funders and parts of civil society.

E3G’s activity played a key role in shaping the rhythm and politics of Glasgow through media engagement, textual amendments, and direct influencing of the formal text of the Glasgow Pact. This included supporting the need to agree a “1.5°C accelerator” – launched by UK COP President Designate Alok Sharma at an E3G event at LCAW in July 2021 – where countries agreed to put forward new 2030 climate targets in 2022/23.

E3G raised its public and media profile significantly through COP26 and has built new strong relationships with non-environmental journalists in the UK, US and Germany as well as through the international agencies.

Working towards COP26 has driven innovation in many of the ways E3G operates including the instigation of formal E3G-wide campaign structures, secondments to government and ‘embedding’ E3G staff into government-led diplomatic campaigns. E3G’s investment in ‘building back better’, economic reform and shifting the trillions laid the groundwork for 2022.

COP26 served as proof of concept that E3G can achieve ‘more with more’ and take advantage of greater economies of scope, aligning activities and sharing information across venues and sectors for greater overall impact. Shared and early strategic thinking, and higher levels of core funding, allowed E3G to rapidly pivot and surge activities as the external context changed. This was supported by strong cross-E3G strategic coordination and leadership.

Leaders came to Glasgow with some real progress but also the realisation this was not enough to keep their citizens safe. By agreeing this emergency package they have responded to rising climate damage with an action plan to keep 1.5°C within reach. But the real task begins now as every country must go home and deliver on their Glasgow promises.

— Nick Mabey, E3G Chief Executive and Co-Founder, on the Glasgow Climate Pact
Communications Update

E3G sharply increased its output and impact in the media in 2021.

Subscribers to the core E3G newsletter increased by 45% from January to December 2021. We also launched more targeted newsletters including the Recovery Report, a bi-weekly summary of the latest developments in global macroeconomic recovery; and the Transatlantic Climate Diplomacy Digest, which raised our profile in Washington DC during US President Joe Biden’s first 100 days, a crucial time for US climate diplomacy.

E3G’s social media channels saw a substantial increase in followers, engagement and impact. On Twitter, we grew our following from 16,900 in December 2020 to 184,218 in December 2021, an increase of over 25%. E3G gained 919 followers in November alone, reflecting E3G’s online voice over COP26. We gained over 5,000 followers on LinkedIn, almost doubling our 2020 following to 11,600 by December 2021.

E3G staff used social media as a tool to engage our networks, with tweets and tweet threads providing a platform to share timely and rapid analysis. Tweets from staff members ranged from an assessment of China President Xi Jinping’s address at UNGA, with over 500 retweets and 1,600 likes; to an ongoing analysis of coal developments during negotiations at COP26.

E3G’s output of blogs and publications almost doubled in 2021 compared to 2020.

COP26 provided a major boost to E3G’s mentions in the media, significantly raising our profile.

E3G staff in the London office.
Media Coverage

Investment in media relationships over 2021 meant that E3G received an unprecedented level of traditional and social media coverage. 2021 saw E3G mentioned by almost 1500 different media organisations. Articles in BBC News, CNN, The New York Times, Guardian, Climate Home News, Reuters, Axios, Der Spiegel, Bloomberg, Financial Times, and Politico Europe had some of the highest quality and quantity of website readership. E3G also worked to inform the media across Europe, particularly around the EU ‘Fit for 55’ legislative package. We positioned opinion pieces in Euractiv and Foresight DK, and sent press releases to advise our media contacts, especially in Brussels.

The beginning of the year saw German-language media hits average 10 per month, but this doubled by the end of 2021 to 20 per month. E3G provided quotes to Deutsche Presse-Agentur (DPA), Tagesspiegel, Spiegel.de, Klimareporter, AFP, Euractiv.de, and DW.com, as well as prime time COP26 news coverage on Deutsche Welle (DW).

E3G’s media strategy in 2021 had a strong focus on COP26, with the aim of helping to shape overall narrative and benchmarks in the media. E3G carried out three rounds of media briefings in March, July and October 2021, with contacts from publications including Financial Times, BBC, Economist, Sky, ITV and international wires. E3G also briefed press in the Foreign Press Association (FPA) before and after COP26, speaking to up to 80 foreign correspondents at a time.

In Glasgow E3G provided information and analysis to the media through briefings, daily broadcasts and press reactions. We coordinated input from 35 staff members on the ground and more supporting remotely, with access to high-quality information from a wide variety of networks. E3G’s framing of COP26 and key issues were used by influential journalists in both reporting and the questions they posed to leaders.
London Climate Action Week in 2021

London Climate Action Week (LCAW) is the annual globally recognised event bringing together world-leading climate professionals and communities across London and the world. Over the week local organisations, government and communities are mobilised to support the city’s net zero, resilience and sustainable development goals. LCAW mobilises London’s unique ecosystem of climate organisations and cultivates new partnerships and networks to accelerate climate action in London and globally. LCAW reliably draws a worldwide audience. It offers participants an increased profile, communication to amplify messages globally, exposure to innovative initiatives and the opportunity to build cross-sectoral networks, relationships and collaborations.

In 2021, LCAW cemented its role as a dynamic force for climate action. It engaged senior political figures, major businesses and international organisations on critical issues of climate change while also providing a unique platform for community groups in London. It reached out beyond the ‘usual suspects’ to animate new communities in areas like education, culture, professions, sport, health and wellbeing, and to generate whole-of-society change. Repeated and growing engagement across these communities is testament to LCAW’s high visibility and profile as a focal point in the climate calendar and its strong digital platform.

Despite continuing COVID-19 restrictions, LCAW 2021 (26 June – 4 July) grew to be the largest independent climate change event in Europe and saw its greatest ever number of events and participants. 247 mainly virtual events were hosted across 4 themes with at least 45,000 global attendees. These themes covered the ‘Road to COP26’, COVID-19 green recoveries, whole of society mobilisation for climate action, and ‘Net Zero London’.

LCAW 2021 demonstrated its critical role in animating the ‘London Climate Cluster’ by helping incubate significant new events and processes. These included the Climate Innovation Forum, London Schools Climate Summit, the annual Chatham House Climate Conference, and Centre for London’s first Net Zero London Conference. E3G and IISD co-hosted a new climate and development summit. E3G also hosted 12 of its own events during LCAW, while providing extensive collaboration, advice and support to the LCAW community, and hosting the secretariat team.

LCAW 2021 worked closely with the UK COP Presidency to host high-level events shaping the Glasgow Agenda, including the first public discussions of what became the ‘Glasgow Pact’. Events across the week served as a key point on the road to COP26, attracting high-level attendees including US special presidential envoy for climate John Kerry and COP26 President Alok Sharma.

LCAW aimed to mobilise and coordinate a wide range of London’s professions and sectors, energising new partnerships and actors for climate action, including the establishment of the Net Zero Lawyers Alliance, the Professional Bodies Climate Action Charter and the UK Cities Climate Investment Commission. CBI announced the UK business alliance COP26 commitments, while Hackney Council announced its roadmap to net zero. 12 new member countries of the Powering Past Coal Alliance were also announced. The week served as the launchpad for cutting-edge research and reports, such as the Grantham-LSE State of Climate Legislation and Climate Litigation reports and E3G and Chatham House’s Climate Risk Management for International Organisations report.

LCAW 2021 generated high levels of global media interest, shaping and strengthening narratives for climate action ahead of COP26. We welcomed upwards of 45,000 attendees at 247 events. There were 450 traditional media pieces alongside major social media reach, with an estimated 26 million coverage views and 2,500 shares on social media. LCAW’s impact is amplified globally through a network of influencers, including an ongoing partnership with the FCDO climate network, which has been renewed for 2022.
In 2021, E3G was a proud member of the following networks:

- Advisory Board for the Central Asia Chapter of the Green Investment Principles of the BRI
- Advocates for Reform of International Finance (ARIF)
- British Standards Institute Sustainable Finance Advisory Group
- Climate Action Network Europe + International
- Climate Champions’ Financial Sector Expert Group
- Climate Security Working Group-International
- Coalition for Climate Resilient Investment
- Coalition for Energy Savings
- Coalition for International Platform on Climate Finance
- Energy Transition Council
- European Alliance to Save Energy
- Friends of COP26
- German Security Council
- GFANZ Technical Advisory Group and selected Working Groups
- Glasgow Power Breakthrough Working Group
- International Climate Politics Hub
- Klima-Allianz Deutschland
- MISTRA Geopolitics Consortium
- OECD’s Centre on Green Finance and Investment
- Paris Aligned Finance Sector Cluster
- Powering Past Coal Alliance
- Principles for Responsible Banking Technical Advisory Group
- Shifting Financial Flows to Invest in Low-Carbon Development in Southeast Asia
- SIPRI’s Expert Working Group on Climate-related Security Risks
- Sustainable Finance All Party Parliamentary Group (UK)
- The Big Shift
- The Climate Coalition
- The Energy Efficiency Infrastructure Group
- UK Climate Financial Risk Forum Innovation Working Group
- UK Green Technical Advisory Group
- Zero Emissions Platform
Governance

E3G is an international mission-based, non-profit network of organisations comprised of five entities. We are established in the UK as a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee and in Belgium as a not-for-profit association (ASBL). In Washington, DC, E3G is a private company with 501c3 tax exempt status. E3G is established in Germany as a not-for-profit company of limited liability. E3G is established in Ireland as a limited company, Third Generation Environmentalism (E3G) Ltd.

E3G’s board of directors

Nick Mabey  
Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer

Tom Burke  
Co-founder and Chair

Shane Tomlinson  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Martin Rands  
Non-executive Director

Isabel Hilton  
Non-executive Director
Over 2021, E3G grew from 68 to 104 staff members. We are based in five offices across the world, and we have senior associates working around the world including in Bulgaria, Italy, Japan, Mozambique, the Netherlands and South Africa. Staff hail from around the globe with many E3Gers holding dual nationalities. There are at least 26 languages spoken at E3G, including Arabic, Dutch, English, French, German, Hindi, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish and Urdu.

“E3G works within a wide range of networks, with the unique approach of combining the politics with the policy. This is what distinguishes and challenges us every day.”
— Elisa Giannelli, Senior Policy Advisor, Political Economy and Governance, Brussels office

“With E3G you get to work with some of the smartest as well as kindest folks in the climate and energy field, sharing an endless supply of insights and knowledge covering anything from the minutiae of energy and financial markets to the political strategies that break the dominance of incumbents. Helping to consign coal to history is only the beginning. Our work won’t be finished till the whole world has powered past combustion entirely.”
— Pieter de Pous, Senior Policy Advisor, Fossil Fuel Transition, Berlin office

“I joined E3G because it does the politics and geopolitics with the policy. Since joining, I’ve focused on harnessing the US-China geopolitical tension to drive faster decarbonization at home and abroad. We’re working with China-watchers to develop a climate foreign policy framework to deliver decarbonization by illustrating the ways climate can advance foreign policy objectives.”
— Alexandra Hackbarth, Senior Policy Advisor, Geopolitics, Diplomacy and Security, Washington DC office

“What makes E3G so unique is that it interprets the climate challenge within the context of broader political dynamics – this opens the space for new and creative solutions.”
— Lisa Fischer, Programme Leader, Fossil Fuel Transition, London office
At E3G we take active steps to ensure we have as wide a spectrum of perspectives as possible in shaping our programmes, to deliver impact and fair outcomes. In 2021, E3G carried out its 2nd annual diversity monitoring survey. The survey was designed to feed into internal E3G dialogues and benchmark ourselves for future developments, our sector and the locations we work from.

72 staff participated out of 106 total staff, a 68% increase from the 2020 survey. Results showed that E3G has a relatively young workforce, with 63% respondents aged 16-34 – up 10% from last year. Our staff nationalities tend to align with E3G’s offices, with British, German and French the most common countries selected, but overall respondents hail from 24 different countries. This is reflected in the language capabilities at E3G. Together, surveyed staff speak 26 languages, from Portuguese to Mandarin.

E3G also welcomes regular feedback to assess staff wellbeing. 2021’s wellbeing survey had a high response rate of 80%. Despite the impacts of COVID-19 and lockdowns across our offices, overall scores improved on the results of the 2020 wellbeing survey. Respondents were highly satisfied with the value given to their work, approachable management and cooperative working with colleagues.

Staff showed a strong interest in continued options for flexible working and informed return to office plans, which we prioritised in discussions about returning to the workplace. As we navigated a period of growth while maintaining a ‘One E3G’ approach, most respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they felt well informed about the evolution of their team and E3G.
Funders

- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMG)
- Breakthrough Energy LLC
- Bulb Foundation
- Chatham House
- Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF)
- Climate and Emergency Collaboration Group (CECG)
- ClimateWorks Foundation
- Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, United Kingdom (BEIS)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
- EIT Climate-KIC
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Esmee Fairbairn Foundation (EFF)
- EuroACE (EAC)
- European Climate Foundation
- European Climate Initiative (EUKI)
- European Commission
- Finance Dialogue (FD)
- German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO)
- Global Witness
- Good Energies
- Government of the Netherlands
- Green Finance Institute Limited
- Growald Family Fund (GFF)
- H2020 European Commission (ECOM)
- Heinrich Boll Stiftung
- ICF CONSULTING LIMITED
- International Climate Initiative
- Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS)
- KR Foundation
- Laudes Foundation
- Mistra Foundation
- OAK Foundation
- Open Society Foundation
- Rockefeller Foundation (RKF)
- Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (RPA)
- Royal United Services Institute (RUSI)
- Sequoia Climate Fund
- Stichting Funder Forum
- The Greens/EFA Group in the Greens/EFA Group
- Trust for London (TRF)
- UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
- World Resources Institute (WRI)
- Wuppertal (WUPP)
Financial Statements 2018 – 2021

E3G Grant Funding

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Left: Solar engineering trainer, India. Photo by UN Women/Gaganjit Singh on flickr.
Right: Wind turbine in Obergoms, Switzerland. Photo by Martin Adams on Unsplash.
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