



TU Dublin SDG 7: Affordable & Clean Energy

The vision for TU Dublin Strategic Intent 2030 is to *‘Create a Better World, Together’*. In developing our TU Dublin strategy, and over the course of our conversations with over 2,500 stakeholders, we viewed the challenges facing us through the lens of the UN Sustainability Goals (SDGs). Some clear areas of focus emerged which resulted in shaping our plan to tackle our task through the following themes - People, Planet, Partnership and underpinned by the key SDG goal of ‘Quality Education’. These pillars inform our approach to educational, research and engagement practices, ensuring that TU Dublin delivers real change, innovation and impact for society.

This is TU Dublin’s third report on how the University has been addressing the SDGs. It includes examples of initiatives, events and project work that are having an impact across the 17 SDGs.

Year	Event
October 2022	TU Dublin's Annual Report (pg. 23) featured TU Dublin’s collaboration in the development of a District Heating System at its Tallaght campus. District heating is a network of highly insulated pipes that delivers low-carbon heat from a central energy source to provide space heating and hot water to the buildings connected to the network.
October 2022	TU Dublin and Geological Surveys Ireland (GSI) embarked on an exploratory project to drill the first urban geothermal test hole in Ireland. TU Dublin's Annual Report (p. 23) highlighted that the results indicated the geothermal test hole held real potential in this area. The next step is to plan for the construction of Ireland’s first Geothermal District heating system in Grangegorman.
March 2022	TU Dublin's Sustainability Statement was approved by the University in March. Climate Action and reducing our greenhouse gas emissions forms one of the three key pillars in which the University commits to exploring renewable energy sources and reducing campus energy consumption.

March 2022	During TU Dublin Green Week , various seminars, workshops, films and talks were held, exploring various topics related to climate action, sustainability and protecting our environment. The Schedule of Events included a panel discussion with speakers from Bord na Mona, EirGrid and ESB on <i>The Future of Renewables</i> that explored the role renewables will play in our future energy grid.
Ongoing	TU Dublin's Energy Policy commits to delivering 30% emissions reduction by 2030 and to develop a roadmap to carbon neutrality by 2050. This aligns with the government's Climate Action Plan 2019 .
Ongoing	TU Dublin's Climate Action Plan commits to reduce energy consumption and to transition to sustainable sources, aiming to improve energy efficiency by 50% and maximise the use of fuel types that cause least harm to the environment, including reducing the consumption of fossil fuels and increasing energy from sustainable sources.
Ongoing	TU Dublin Statement on Fossil Fuels was created to help address the challenges of climate change and sustainability and commits to investing in climate solutions, such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable agriculture, water efficiency. It also commits to selling any existing investments tied to these oil, gas, and coal investments within 3-5 years.
Ongoing	TU Dublin's new Grangegorman Campus welcomed over 10,000 students to its state-of-the-art facilities over the course of the academic year 2020/2021. The construction of the new campus is managed by the Grangegorman Development Agency (GDA). The Grangegorman Master Plan incorporates a stringent environmental sustainability strategy that utilises renewable energy and natural ventilation strategies.
Ongoing	TU Dublin aims to be carbon neutral by 2050, in accordance with the Grangegorman Sustainability Strategy (p.11). From the beginning of the design phase in 2014 of the university's main campus, the Grangegorman Development Agency has worked with TU Dublin to implement building design, construction, and building use systems that minimize the carbon emitting systems of the campus.
Ongoing	TU Dublin's ESHI (Environmental Sustainability and Health Institute) focuses on a range of research areas including Energy.
Ongoing	ESHI, TU Dublin's Environmental Sustainability and Health Institute provides consultancy services, CPD and technology and commercialization support for start-ups and business groups with a shared desire to push boundaries, exchange knowledge and create opportunities.
Ongoing	TU Dublin is a member of SFI MaREI , the world-leading Science Foundation Ireland research centre for energy, climate and marine, coordinated by the Environmental Research Institute (ERI).
Ongoing	QualiBuild Ireland - Training in Low Energy Building Construction is a Train the Trainers programme developed to address the knowledge gap that exists in relation to low-energy buildings. It is funded by the European Commission and coordinated by TU Dublin with other partners.

Ongoing	The ARISE project is a consortium of nine partners, including TU Dublin, which supports the twin transition of the construction sector and contributes to the European Recovery, and Resilience Plans 2021 –2027. The aim is to provide the construction sector workforce with the digital and sustainable energy skills of the future.
Ongoing	The Build Digital Project is led by TU Dublin in collaboration with the Construction IT Alliance. Its aim is to develop sustainable, efficient and productive leadership and to integrate the principles and goals of the circular economy, the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals and the Construction Sector Group’s sustainability and climate action requirements.