

# TU Dublin Climate Action Plan to 2030

(updated November 2020)

The TU Dublin Climate Action Plan is grounded in the University's [Sustainability Statement](#). We are committed to working with staff, students and other stakeholders to address the challenges of environmental sustainability through focussed delivery of our teaching & learning, research and innovation and through systematic sustainability actions.

The vision for [TU Dublin Strategic Intent 2030](#), is to **Create a Better World Together** and the 'Planet' has been set out as one of the three pillars of the strategy, with specific objectives and milestones to be achieved. Our ambition is to be a powerhouse for living & breathing sustainability, addressing the challenges facing the world and to impact positively on the planet and people, with 'education' as the engine. The main goals are to:-

- demonstrate leadership and real action on sustainability
- foster graduates with passion & purpose for sustainability
- ensure sustainability learning outcomes & engaged practice-based research are delivered on all programmes
- achieve impact on SDGs through international research
- create products, solutions & businesses for SDGs

In terms of Climate Action, TU Dublin intends to address the following areas:-

## 1. <https://www.dit.ie/dtc/arc2018/Reducing Carbon>

- Through ongoing measurement, monitoring and identifying areas for improvement, the University will reduce its carbon footprint across all campuses, in line with the National Climate Action Plan (reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 30% by 2030)
- The University has made a commitment to divest of any investments tied to oil, gas, and coal and to invest in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and related areas.
- Whilst TU Dublin is an urban campus, it seeks to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of our ecosystems and has committed to a plan for tree-planting in the city campus of over 1,000 trees by 2030 (350 trees already planted to date)

## 2. Energy

- TU Dublin has a targeted policy to reduce energy consumption and to transition to sustainable sources
- By 2030, TU Dublin will improve energy efficiency by 50% over its 2009 base line. (The 2020 target of 33% has been achieved)
- TU Dublin will maximise the use of fuel types that cause least harm to the environment; will reduce the consumption of fossil fuels and will utilise energy from sustainable sources where practicable, including developing and accessing sustainable district heating systems.

## 3. Built Environment

- TU Dublin will incorporate energy efficient design into both new and refurbished buildings complying with relevant standards and requirements
- Because of its specialist expertise in the Built Environment disciplines and the particular challenges that the sector faces, TU Dublin is committed to enhancing its commitment in this area with a new Design & Construct initiative for teaching, research and innovation that promotes and supports environmental sustainability.

## 4. Waste

- A ban on single-use plastic on all campus catering purchases, with further interventions to be rolled-out.
- TU Dublin will continue with initiatives to reduce, reuse and recycle waste.
- To optimise the food waste used in local anaerobic digestion facilities, contamination levels of waste bins are targeted to be reduced by a minimum 5% annually to 2025.

## 5. Transport

- Whilst staff and students of the University currently show relatively high levels of use of sustainable transport options for commuting to campus (public transport, walking, cycling, etc.) further improvements will be sought wherever possible. This will include promotion and incentives to move away from utilising combustion engine cars; including strong advocacy for incentivised schemes such as those for cycling and use of public transport; and providing E-charging points on campus for the use of electric vehicles, etc.
- TU Dublin will continue to work with the City to identify and develop sustainable transport options that enable its community of 30,000+ people to access and move around its campuses.

Supporting the ambitions and actions above, TU Dublin will continue to seek innovative solutions to the climate challenges across the whole research community, including through the [Environmental Sustainability & Health Institute \(ESHI\)](#). Sustainability will be embedded in the curriculum to foster passion and purpose amongst TU Dublin graduates; and a particular focus to coordinate activity will be the University's [Green Campus](#) programme with recognition to be achieved on the TU Dublin main sites.

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