13 CLIMATE ACTION

TU Dublin SDG 13: Climate Action Progress Report 2021

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 second 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 2021	Minister Simon Harris announces Irish Research Council Funding for 28 TU Dublin researchers. Six of the announced funded research projects deal directly with Climate Action (three on reducing greenhouse gas interventions and two relating to air quality and flood forecasting).
Sept 2021	TU Dublin launched a new Sustainable Timber Technology Programme. The programme is taught in the context of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and provides cross-sectoral skills such as critical thinking and creativity in addressing sustainability, with strong links to industry and work placement.
August 2021	TU Dublin launched its first post-graduate programme in Sustainability Leadership. The programme supports business leaders in understanding, developing and implementing sustainability measures in business, supporting social and responsible innovation, design thinking, and dealing with issues relating GHG reduction and adapting climate change.

July 2021	TU Dublin postdoctoral researcher advances research in the area of industrial waste heat recovery is leading a commercialisation project at TU Dublin to deliver a thermophotovoltaic TPV System for industrial waste heat recovery.
May 2021	Professor at TU Dublin is a member of an international study that has demonstrated for the first time the contribution of man-made climate change in increasing mortality risks due to heat.
May 2021	TU Dublin students design a free online game Sustainimals, mixing fun with serious world issues like hunger and climate change. Players must support a community devastated by a massive storm and floods that destroyed homes, water sources and food crops. The game also features fun mini-games that the player must complete to get aid supplies. It was made by five third-year game design students at TU Dublin in collaboration with the international humanitarian organisation Concern Worldwide.
May 2021	TU Dublin hosted a two-week Summer Sustainability School, providing students from across the globe an opportunity to work in multidisciplinary teams on community-based sustainability projects. The summer school was a collaboration between TU Dublin, Hochschule Darmstadt, Lucerne, Coventry University, Purdue and UW Stout.
March 2021	TU Dublin celebrated Green Week. This much-anticipated annual event includes seminars, workshops, films and talks exploring various topics related to climate action, sustainability and protecting our environment.
March 2021	Student were invited to participate in a Green Campus poster competition with category winners in waste, energy, water, biodiversity, commuting, & inclusion.
Ongoing	Work continues to implement the Grangeforman Sustainability Strategy to be carbon neutral by 2050. From the beginning of the design phase in 2014 for this major new Dublin quarter, the Grangegorman Development Agency has been working 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 Climate Action Plan commits to working with staff, students and other stakeholders to address the challenges of environmental sustainability through focused delivery of our teaching & learning, research and innovation and through systematic sustainability actions.
Ongoing	TU Dublin's Statement on Fossil Fuels was created to help address the challenges of climate change and sustainability and commits to invest in climate solutions, such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable agriculture, water efficiency.
Ongoing	TU Dublin's Sustainability Statement recognises its special role in helping to address the challenges of climate change and sustainability. It wishes to ensure that all students graduate from TU Dublin with a greater understanding of the sustainability challenges and possess the expertise and commitment to help find solutions for tomorrow's generations.

Ongoing	In line with the government Climate Action Plan 2019, the TU Dublin Energy Policy is committed to delivering 30% emissions reduction by 2030 and to develop a roadmap to carbon neutrality by 2050.
Ongoing	TU Dublin is a member of SFI MaREI, a Centre for Energy, Climate and Marine research and innovation, coordinated by the Environmental Research Institute (ERI)
Ongoing	TU Dublin's ESHI (Environmental Sustainability and Health Institute) focuses on research areas in – Food – Water – Energy – Policy & Lifestyle – Bio-Monitoring
Ongoing	In conjunction with Dublin City Council, TU Dublin's Air Quality Project is working with local schools participating in the Irish EPA and An Taisce Launch GLOBE Citizen Science Initiative in Ireland. Co-ordinated by the UN Globe project, schools use their grounds to take NO2 measurements, comparing the results with others in the area, nationally and internationally.
Ongoing	TU Dublin's three main campuses are implementing bio-diversity plans aligned to the National Biodiversity Action Plan. An outline of progress on the City campus is available at Biodiversity on Grangegorman Campus.