Technological University Dublin
Sustainability Statement
March 2022

Sustainability underpins Technological University Dublin's (TU Dublin) Strategic Intent 2030. Through its three pillars of People, Planet, and Partnerships, Sustainability drives our Vision, Mission, and Values. TU Dublin is committed to transforming higher education delivery and its operations through the lens of Sustainability using a balanced approach that protects our planet for future generations. Our vision for Sustainability is to become a model organisation, where an understanding of ethics as a form of practice develops a culture of responsibility. Through the actions of our people, including over 8,000 graduates per year, our values become explicit - evidenced by our purpose, passion, and capability to provide scale and reach within industry and society to address the urgent real-world challenges aligned to the *UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030*[1].

TU Dublin is committed to embedding sustainability into all current University plans, strategies, policies and everyday operations. In addition, the University, cognisant of the role it plays within society, will engage with our wider eco-system of local communities, businesses, and societal partners to advance knowledge, understanding, and action to ensure an environmentally, socially and economically responsible transition to reach climate neutrality together. To have the greatest impact across the seventeen *UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030*, we identify three focus goals, where higher education in general and TU Dublin in particular can contribute greatest impact. Recognising each SDG's close interactions with other goals, we will build upon allied interdependencies through three supporting goals.

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[1] https://sdgs.un.org/goals (last accessed 13 Feb 2022)

a) **QUALITY EDUCATION & EQUALITY**

Focus Goal	*Supporting Goal*
UN SDG 4 Quality Education	**UN SDG 5 Gender Equality**
Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.	*Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.*

TU Dublin is committed to educating and empowering our staff and students to becoming climate active, globally responsible citizens who make a positive impact on our world. We will do this by 1) embedding sustainability in our curriculum, research, and staff development opportunities and 2) putting in place key supporting policies and resources and carefully reflecting on our actions to improve.

Embedding sustainability requires actions from people across all areas of the University to create a culture of inclusion where all citizens of society have equitable opportunity to access and deliver higher education. We are committed to developing this capability within our University community to justly respond to global challenges, through a diverse community of learners, educators, researchers, and administrators. To that end, the delivery of Quality Education will be developed to embed Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) principles and deliver the TU Dublin Athena SWAN Action Plan 2022-2025[2].

The University policies and practices will anticipate National Education for Sustainable Development policies and frameworks, align to Ireland's National Skills Strategy[3] and priorities within Horizon Europe's Strategic Plan[4], mindful of opportunities for TU Dublin to deliver sustainability impact in Ireland.

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[2] https://www.tudublin.ie/media/website/explore/about-the-university/equality-and-diversity/documents/AthenaSwan_-Action-Plan.pdf (last accessed 11 Mar 2022)
[3] https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/69fd2-irelands-national-skills-strategy-2025-irelands-future/ (last accessed 13 Feb 2022)
[4] https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/strategic-plan_en (last accessed 13 Feb 2022)

b) **CLIMATE ACTION & TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION**

Focus Goal	*Supporting Goal*
UN SDG 13 Climate Action	**UN SDG 9 Industry Innovation & Infrastructure**
Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.	*Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.*

TU Dublin is committed to combating climate change and reducing negative environmental impacts and climate related risks through the reduction of our greenhouse gas emissions. We pledge to actively measure, monitor, and plan for a reduced carbon footprint across all our campus operations and planned developments; our online environment, and through our travel practices. We pledge to provide leadership and resources to become carbon neutral by 2040[5]. We will do this through a portfolio of activities including:
- optimising the use of existing our campus environment
- practicing circular economy and sustainable procurement principles
- exploring renewable energy sources
- reducing campus energy consumption, conserving water, reducing waste
- addressing biodiversity loss in our natural environment
- minimising travel and promoting the use of sustainable transportation modes

Working closely with academic leads, researchers, and professional services within the University, we will adhere to and align our activities with the European Green Deal[6], Ireland's Climate Action Plan[7] and the Circular Economy Strategy[8]. In addition, the University will work collaboratively with our wider eco-system of local communities, businesses, and partners to advance knowledge, understanding, and broaden its impact to ensuring a socially and economically responsible transition to address biodiversity breakdown and achieve climate neutrality together.

TU Dublin commits to developing innovative solutions, through action research, to climate change through green technologies using our University physical and digital infrastructure as a Living Lab to embed sustainability within our everyday learning and working environment. Using a human-centred approach to implement SMART[9] digital solutions, we will create data driven intelligence through the measurement, monitoring, and dynamic reporting to support us to achieve our climate targets. Through greater digital connectivity[10] we will develop a knowledge eco-system of active contributions from our community of students, educators, and

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[5] Scope 1 and 2 of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol for carbon emissions https://ghgprotocol.org/
[6] https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en (last accessed 11 Mar 2022)
[7] https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/6223e-climate-action-plan-2021/ (last accessed 11 Mar 2022)
[8] https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/b542d-whole-of-government-circular-economy-strategy-2022-2023-living-more-using-less/ (last accessed 13 Feb 2022)
[9] SMART is an acronym for Self-Monitoring, Analysis, and Reporting Technology https://www.researchgate.net/publication/237378756 (last accessed 28 Mar 2022)
[10] https://assets.gov.ie/214584/fa3161da-aa9d-4b11-b160-9cac3a6f6148.pdf (last accessed 11 Mar 2022)

researchers to inform the planning and adaptation[11] measures required across our campus environments in response to urgent climate challenges through active responsible citizenship.

c) **GOOD HEALTH, WELL-BEING & COMMUNITY**

Focus Goal	*Supporting Goal*
UN SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being	**UN SDG 11 Sustainable Cities & Communities**
Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.	*Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.*

TU Dublin is committed to protecting and enhancing the health and well-being of our University community and wider society by enabling people to achieve their full potential. The 2015 Okanagan Charter[12] sets out the role and responsibility of Higher Education in the promotion of Health in relation to the interdependency of human health and planetary wellness. As a signatory to Ireland's Higher Education Healthy Campus Charter[13], we commit to taking a '*whole campus approach to creating a learning environment and organisational culture*' to ensure health and well-being within our community. TU Dublin commits to working across the University through an open, inclusive, and participatory network of people to inform the development and implementation of a Healthy TU Dublin Action Plan. Working closely with TU Dublin researchers we will develop policies and practices for our priority actions including physical activity, tobacco, and mental health.

The intersection of Health & Well-being with the creation of more Sustainable and Liveable Cities & Communities is recognised and supported by TU Dublin as a place of learning and work for more than 35,000 people throughout the Dublin region. In our commitment to reduce Scope 3[14] greenhouse gas emissions, TU Dublin will increase its engagement and action research initiatives to promote Active Travel and Smarter Travel[15] programmes through advocacy and awareness building to encourage increased levels of walking, cycling and public transport ensuring safe and equal access by persons with disabilities, to promote good health, reduce carbon impact, and create a community culture for sustainable transportation.

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[11] https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/ (last accessed 11 Mar 2022)
[12] https://global.mcmaster.ca/app/uploads/2018/11/Okanagan-Charter-January13v2.pdf
[13] https://assets.gov.ie/138922/9c478bc4-42b7-45cf-aa62-d7e16b698ee6.pdf
[14] Scope 3 of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol for carbon emissions https://ghgprotocol.org/
[15] https://www.nationaltransport.ie/tfi-smarter-travel/smarter-travel-campus/travel-options-to-your-campus/