# Library Sustainability Action Plan 2026



**Library Estate**
- Buildings
- Facilities
- Transport

**Content & Collections**
- Content creation
- Digital sustainability
- Preservation/ conservation
- Print/e-interplay

**How the Library operates**
- Services to users
- Operations/ administration
- Procurement
- Supply chains

**Proactive support for Research**
- linked to UN SGDs into climate breakdowns

**Trusted information resource**
- Climate action literacy
- Awareness raising
- Outreach

**Individual Library Staff**
- Choices, actions, behaviours
- Learning and doing
- Experimentation
- Professional development

**Library Sustainability Challenge**

The Library Sustainability Action Plan 2026 has its foundation in the work of these sustainability sub-groups which ensures that the Library staff have been the drivers in selecting and building the initiatives and will be key to achieving the results, both in 2026 and over the longer term.

The Library Sustainability Action Plan has been designed to integrate with the overall Trinity College Dublin Sustainability Strategy 2023-2030 and is a key component of the Library's commitment to the Green Library Manifesto. The purpose of a short term action plan at this stage is to allow the Library to try new things and iterate while gaining momentum and building capacity.

As the College's source for information the Library is uniquely placed to increase understanding of what sustainability means for the entire College community and to inform sustainability actions of other College departments and teams. This fundamental role of the Library underpins a number of the actions in this Library Action Plan.

A major challenge facing all libraries is the place of digital, either as a replacement or as an alternative for physical books. The environmental impact of digital versus physical media is evolving and has also been included as a driver for actions in the Library Sustainability Action Plan.

This Action Plan focuses on achieving measurable results in 2026 and creating a strong foundation for longer term initiatives. It is the first step on our journey.

The Library of Trinity College Dublin is committed to sustainability and sustainability is a cross-cutting priority in the Library Strategy. In 2024/25 the Library formed a Sustainability Committee and over 40 members of staff joined sub-groups to discuss and prioritise sustainability actions around six themes:

- **Proactive Support for Research**
- **Content and Collections**
- **Trusted Information Resource**
- **How the Library Operates**
- **Library Estates**
- **Individual Library Staff**

## Proactive Support for Research Group

**Goal:**

Amplify Trinity College Dublin's Sustainability Research, helping researchers reach new and expanded audiences

- Develop and deliver a programme of exhibitions in the Library showcasing Trinity Sustainability Research enabling it to reach a wider audience.

- Organise and deliver a unique programme of sustainability themed talks, events, demonstrations and workshops hosted at the Library to widen engagement in Trinity Sustainability Research and support climate action in the College community.

- Write or source content featuring Trinity Sustainability Research in Library Blogs to provide a digital showcase for a wider and different digital audience to main college channels.

**Sustainable Development Goals**

4 QUALITY EDUCATION
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13 CLIMATE ACTION
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

## Trusted Information Resource Group

**Goal:**

Develop Trinity College Dublin Sustainability Literacy

- Co-develop workshops with the Students' Union and deliver 2 workshops per semester on themes captured in the Sustainability Literacy Guide to ensure all TCD students advance their sustainability literacy in a way that speaks to their lives.

- Scope and create a trusted Sustainability Research Resource Bank to inform the curious and combat climate misinformation and disinformation.

**Sustainable Development Goals**

4 QUALITY EDUCATION
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

## Library Estates Group

**Goal:**

Reduce $CO_2$ Emissions and Improve the Preservation Environment of Library Collections Sustainably

- As part of the Old Library Redevelopment Project (OLRP), create protective enclosures (slipcases) for c.170,000 Long Room and Fagel Collection books to minimise the need for carbon intensive environmental control in the Long Room and ensure reuse or recycling of most of the furniture and equipment removed in the current project preparation phase.

- Champion sustainability across all aspects of Library capital projects (Laidlaw and the OLRP redesign) to ensure the long-term sustainability of the College's Library estate and one of the College's most iconic buildings.

- Develop pod enclosures as the solution for collection preservation environments to minimise the need to move to carbon intensive full HVAC control to meet library collection preservation best practice.

- Work in partnership with Estates and Facilities to reduce Scope 1 & 2 emissions across Library buildings through system maintenance and improvements and culture change while ensuring the long-term preservation of the largest library collection in Ireland and meeting the needs of staff, students and visitors.

**Sustainable Development Goals**

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
13 CLIMATE ACTION

## Content and Collections Group

**Goal:**
Engineer a Sustainable Digital Library Future

- Explore the impact with users and suppliers of moving Library e-resources from instant access to slower retrieval speeds such as hours or days. This research would inform national and international Library efforts to reduce sector Scope 3 emissions.

- Take a stand and work in collaboration with LERU partners to ensure e-resource suppliers improve their own sustainability credentials by introducing sustainability clauses in publisher contracts to reduce Library Scope 3 emissions.

## How the Library Operates Group

**Goal:**
Change to More Sustainable Library Operations

- Reduce $CO_2$ emissions from library deliveries through consolidation/ reduced frequency/move to electric vehicles for both legal deposit and TCD inter-site transport.

- Reduce energy usage from digital screens across the library by researching best practice, producing and implementing standards for display screens across the Library.

- Moving to digital forms where possible across the library to reduce paper use and waste.

- Optimise online files for web to ensure the Library website has a minimal digital $CO_2$ footprint.

## Individual Library Staff Group

**Goal:**
Develop Staff Sustainability Knowledge and Leadership

- Deliver a Best Practice Sustainability Guide for Library staff to encourage and improve sustainability and action amongst all Library staff.

- Co-ordinate Library staff participation in a Digital Clean Up Day 2026 to reduce Library $CO_2$ emissions from unnecessary digital storage and promote good Information Management Practices.

- Produce and implement a Sustainability Training Plan for all Library Staff to ensure that staff have the knowledge and expertise to help deliver the Library and University Climate Action Plans.

**Sustainable Development Goals**

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE | 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS | 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

**Sustainable Development Goals**

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | 13 CLIMATE ACTION

**Sustainable Development Goals**

4 QUALITY EDUCATION | 13 CLIMATE ACTION | 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS