



Trinity College Dublin - The University of Dublin

Sustainability Policy

Trinity is an important part of third level education and research in Ireland and is a recognised global leader in the area. University properties comprise a significant and integral part of the Dublin city. As an educational institution it has a role in and a responsibility to society to promote sustainability and sustainable development¹ throughout all its activities both academic and institutional. This means that teaching, research, services, building development and administrative operations should be conducted in a manner that protects and enhances the environment, conserves and restores natural resources, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and supports the community and society as a whole. This policy applies across all parts of the University and will be reviewed annually.

Trinity is committed to:

- Balanced development with regard to the environment, economy and society;
- Demonstrating leadership in terms of our environmental sustainability practices;
- Managing and operating its campuses in a manner that protects and enhances the local and global environment by establishing quantitative goals for environmental performance and sustainability;
- Developing its buildings and services using life cycle analysis² and with due consideration for biodiversity and the environment;
- Facilitating the concept of a 'Living Laboratory' on the campus³;
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reporting on emissions annually;
- Promoting intelligent resource use, namely sustainable transport use, minimisation and reuse of products/materials, green procurement, sustainable catering, recycling of waste streams, energy efficiency, renewable energy and water conservation;
- Incorporating the principle of sustainability and sustainable development into the induction, teaching, training and research activities of the University insofar as possible;
- Development of sustainability funding for use by departments, staff and students to support on-campus sustainability initiatives and innovations;
- Publishing an annual sustainability report with key sustainability metrics and adding key results to the University's annual report;
- Continuous environmental improvement, including pollution prevention throughout its activities and compliance with all relevant legislation in the area.

This policy will be actively communicated and promoted to staff, students, contractors and visitors, and progress and implementation will be reviewed on an annual basis. The policy will be subject to a comprehensive review at least every five years.

Date approved by Board: November 15th 2017

¹ Sustainable development is defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Brundtland G (ed) *Our Common Future: The World Commission on Environment and Development*, Oxford University Press, 1987).

² Life cycle analysis is a technique for assessing the impact on health, environment, and resources of a product throughout its whole life cycle. The objective of a life cycle analysis is to assist in optimising the value of a construction project over its lifetime, having regard to all the direct and indirect project costs.

³ Living Laboratory as described by the International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN) Principle 3: To align the organization's core mission with sustainable development; facilities, research, and education should be linked to create a "living laboratory" for sustainability.