



**Trinity College Dublin
The University of Dublin**

Environment and Sustainability Committee

Thursday 5th June 2025

Present: Chair, Mary Kelly, VP Biodiversity and Climate Action & Secretary (VPBCA) (Jane Stout), Librarian and College Archivist (Helen Shenton), Dean of STEM (Sylvia Draper), Deputy CFO (Patrick Moore), Bursar (Eleanor Denny), Chief Operating Officer (Noel O’Gorman).

Apologies: Vice Provost (Orla Sheils), Dean of Research (Sinead Ryan), Staff Representatives (Dr. Conor O’Kelly), PG Student Rep (Luke Gibbons), Chief Technical Officer & Unite Rep. (Maurice Sweeney), Mr. M. O’Cinneide,

In Attendance: Sustainability Manager and minute-taker (Jane Hackett).

Absent: UG Student Rep (role vacant)

ESC/24-25/62 No statements of Interest declared.

No conflicts of interest

ESC/24-25/63 Minutes from last meeting

Minutes from April 3rd 2025 are accepted subject to minor change.

ESC/24-25/64 Matters Arising

Several updates were shared with the Committee as follows:

- Faculty Roadshows – VPBCA met with two Faculties (STEM Faculty Forum & AHSS Faculty Executive)
- Workshop - A joint workshop on the Trinity Masterplan has been organized with the firm contracted to develop the masterplan for the 24th September with the ESC and CIC committees
- Master planning project - Trinity Sustainability has engaged with the master planning team to inform them of the draft Campus Travel Plan. The Biodiversity Officer met with the landscape designers and informed them that a Biodiversity Action Plan was in development. The master planning team are also tasked with developing a decarbonisation plan for the college.
- Campus Travel Plan – the Sustainability Manager, Jane Hackett updated about the transport study and Campus Travel Plan.

ESC/24-25/65 2025-2026 Work Programme

The work programme for June focused on climate updates, the risk register and the decarbonisation plan.

Action 65.1 Include Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) updates for the September work programme.

ESC/24-25/66 Risk Register

The Sustainability Manager updated the committee about the Level 2 Risk Register that sits with this committee. She met with the Risk Office team to build more content into the Risk Register and look at the scoring. The committee recommended developing the Level 3 University Risk Register in line with World Economic Forum Global Risk report, especially noting long term risks.

Action 66.1 - Update the Level 2 risk register for the committee and the Level 3 URR.

ESC/24-25/67 Resourcing

The VPBCA reported that Trinity Sustainability's budget was approved in principle for 3 years in September 2024. End of financial year (2024-2025) reporting and approval for the second year of funding is required. The VPBCA reported that Trinity Sustainability has already engaged with the Provosts Directorate Finance Partner to this end. The committee noted upcoming financial constraints of the university, that the end of year reporting should clearly show expenditure and what it has delivered, and that budget may not be repurposed without approval of this committee and planning group. The Committee requested sight of requests for resources to PG

Action 67.1 – End of financial year reporting required for planning group.

ESC/24-25/68 Climate Action Roadmap

The Sustainability Manager presented the draft Climate Action Roadmap required under the Climate Action Plan Public Sector Mandate, prepared using guidance from 2024 (as to date no new guidance has been forthcoming from SEAI). She highlighted the sectoral targets, as well as reporting requirements that included governance, green teams, motivating people and promoting behaviour change, staff training, travel and procurement. Suggestions were made by committee members for revisions and the plan will be revised and submitted in draft form for approval at the next meeting in September.

The Sustainability Manager also noted that Trinity's Sustainable Travel Officer has just submitted the mandated application for the NTA's "Smarter Travel Mark", and that new vehicle purchases, including by schools and faculties, should be electric vehicles, and this needs to be communicated to academic units.

The VPCA attended the Climate & Sustainability Champions Community of Practice meeting in May where it was reported that Trinity is one of the top

two energy users and carbon emitters in the higher education sector, due to its student population and research output.

Action 68.1 – Revise the draft Climate Action Roadmap and submit for approval in September.

ESC/24-25/69 Gap to target and decarbonisation

The Director of Campus Infrastructure (DCI), Mike Clark joined the meeting.

Gap to Target – A presentation was made to update the committee about the energy use and GHG emissions generated in 2024 based on data from the SEAI Gap to Target Tool. There was a 6% increase in energy used for thermal heating due to seasonal variations and changes in building practices (e.g. in TBSI). There has been a 4% reduction in CO2 emissions from electricity use due to energy management systems installed across the college as well as supported by the decarbonisation of the national grid. It was noted that E3 and Portal will be all electric and these new buildings will increase the load on the electricity system. It was also noted that upgrading of the electricity grid infrastructure to provide more renewables nationally is also a risk.

Decarbonisation options – A presentation was made to update the committee about the development of a decarbonisation plan. Additional work has been added to the Master Planning brief and is being delivered by international consultants (Buro Happold). There are three elements to this work: 1. An initial energy centre study, 2. Focused cluster analysis and 3. Decarbonisation strategy. DCI outlined the approach that will be taken and that a series of options will be presented, along with carbon reductions and costs, an implementation plan will be developed, with prioritisation of works.

Action 69.1 - The draft Decarbonisation Plan will be presented to the committee for input and discussion at the September meeting.

ESC/24-25/70 Climate Gateway –

Chair of Climate Science (CCS), Karen Wiltshire joined the meeting

CCS gave a short presentation outlining plans for the Trinity Climate Gateway and Trinity as a climate university. Trinity is already doing lots of research in different areas of climate & has diverse educational programmes; 400+ academics are working in the climate arena – either developing solutions or providing evidence for status and trends. A questionnaire will be circulated to staff in June to capture data. The Climate Gateway will showcase that we are a climate university and provide action for climate resilience.

As the meeting had overrun at this point Professor Wiltshire was not able to make her full presentation and nor was there time for discussion with the Committee.

The Librarian welcomed discussion at the next meeting about meeting about how the College can assess and respond to our digital carbon footprint.

ESC/24-25/71 Items deferred:

1. Energy policy
2. Strategic priorities
3. Updates from other committees

Action 71.1 – Include items on the agenda for September 2025

AOB

- **Joint Workshop – Joint ESC and CIC (1 hour) workshop with developers of masterplan to discuss Trinity’s Masterplan – Wed 24th Sept 2025 in Trinity Boardroom, TBS**
- **Next meeting 25th September 2025**