



**Trinity College Dublin
The University of Dublin**

Environment and Sustainability Committee

**Thursday 25th September 2025
Board Room, Trinity Business School**

Present: Chair, Mary Kelly, VP Biodiversity and Climate Action & Secretary (Jane Stout), Vice Provost (Orla Sheils), Dean of STEM (Sylvia Draper), Dean of Research (Sinead Ryan), Deputy CFO (Patrick Moore), Chief Operating Officer (Noel O’Gorman), Mr. M. O’Cinneide,

Apologies: Bursar (Eleanor Denny), Chief Technical Officer & Unite Rep. (Maurice Sweeney), Staff Representative (Dr. Conor O’Kelly), PG Student Rep (Luke Gibbons),

In Attendance: Sustainability Manager and minute-taker (Jane Hackett), PA to the VPBCA (Laetitia Deering).

Late Arrival: UG Student Rep (Amelia Flanagan), Librarian and College Archivist (Helen Shenton)

New Member: Professional Staff Representative (Aisling Hurley), UG Student Rep (Amelia Flanagan)

Executive Summary:

Ref:	Key Decisions	Notable Discussions
ESC/24-25/74		Questions arose on the outcome of the CIC/E&S Joint Committee Workshop: which committee makes the final decision? Where will funding come from for implementing projects?
ESC/24-25/75	Climate Action Roadmap approved to go to Board	
ESC/24-25/76	Energy Policy approved to go to Board (one proposed changed)	
ESC/24-25/77		It was acknowledged that changing culture & behaviour requires ongoing resourcing especially if we wish to track changes over time in terms of attitude and action
ESC/24-25/78		Discussion on the need for ESD to continue to accelerate progress if we are to achieve our aim of

		embedding sustainability through our curriculum
ESC/24-25/79	Committee recommended that Digital Transformation should be considered through the lens of sustainability at all stages	Discussion following update on CIC about the potential impact of digital transformation and AI on the university's carbon emissions
ESC/24-25/80	Committee agreed on Trinity Sustainability Strategic priorities as presented by VPBCA	

ESC/24-25/72 No statements of Interest declared.

No conflicts of interest

ESC/24-25/73 Minutes from last meeting

Minutes from 5th June 2025 were approved.

ESC/24-25/74 Matters Arising

Items covered included:

- *Risk Register* – Level 2 risk register now sits with Trinity Sustainability and will be updated when the new format is shared. Level 1 URR is being reviewed & redrafted to include reference to biodiversity and health. This will be shared with the committee members.
- *Smarter Travel Mark* – awarded to the university on Tuesday 23rd September at a ceremony with the Provost. The members congratulated all involved.
- *Joint Workshop with CIC* – hosted on Wednesday 24th September with presentations from Allies & Morrison and Buro Happold who are developing the master plan & decarbonisation plan. A discussion followed raising a number of questions including; which committee makes the final decision? Where will funding come from for implementing projects?
- *Decarbonisation Plan* – as above.
- *Resources for Trinity Sustainability* – confirmation from the VPBCA that the resources available for Trinity Sustainability the 2025/2026 academic year are as per approval from Planning Group Exceptional Request in 2024.
- *Prof. Karen Wiltshire Presentation* – presentation from June meeting has been uploaded to Decision Time.

ESC/24-25/75 Climate Action Roadmap

The VPBCA sought approval for the Climate Action Roadmap 2025.

Approved to go to Board with one additional sentence added relating to the prescribed content of the report.

ESC/24-25/76 Energy Policy

The VPBCA sought approval for the Energy Policy. Approved to go to Board with one proposed change relating to responsibility and implementation in consultation with Secretary's Office.

ESC/24-25/77 Culture

Presentation from the Sustainability Manager, Jane Hackett which focused on initiatives and actions for behavioural and culture change. Key initiatives presented included: COP30 working group, climate leadership training, Trash to Treasure circular campus initiative, energy campaign, green labs and action weeks (Climate & Biodiversity Action Week and Green Week). It was acknowledged that changing culture & behaviour requires ongoing resourcing especially if we wish to track changes over time in terms of attitude and action.

ESC/24-25/78 Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

Presentation from Academic Developer, Claire Mcavinia, which focused on the work carried out over the last year by the ESD Fellows and the Centre for Academic Practice. The presentation focused on the following: HEA Framework Agreement, Strategic Vision & Mission, Implementation and Action, Milestones and Achievements and the Next Steps. A discussion followed which acknowledged the work undertaken to date and the need to continue to accelerate progress if we are to achieve our aim of embedding sustainability through our curriculum.

ESC/24-25/79 Key Updates from other Principal Committees

Verbal updates included:

Audit Committee – no overlap with this committee membership.

Risk & Compliance Committee – No update as the committee has yet to meet this academic year.

Finance Committee – No update as the committee has yet to meet this academic year.

People & Culture Committee - No update as the committee has yet to meet this academic year.

Critical Infrastructure Committee – Update from the Librarian, Helen Shenton. Items relevant include:

- Two pathfinder grants for energy efficiency improvements have been awarded to Trinity East, one each for the Laidlaw Library and the research units project
- Trinity South renewal project includes emphasis on decarbonisation when presented.
- 13 major projects are reported through the digital dashboard, RAG status is based on finance and timeline with no consideration for sustainability.
- Library Loans system – has been reviewed as it involves shipping books around the world. The revision now looks at sustainability criteria to reduce energy use, now looking at virtual installation i.e. no one must travel with the books but can be installed and deinstalled afterwards.

Discussion followed about the potential impact of digital transformation and AI on the university's carbon emissions.

Action 79.1: Committee recommends that Digital Transformation should be considered through lens of sustainability at all stages. All committee members to raise at relevant fora.

ESC/24-25/80 Trinity Sustainability Strategic Priorities

The VPBCA outlined the key priorities for Trinity Sustainability for the coming months as per the tabled memo. The committee agreed the priorities as presented.

AOB

- **Climate Gateway Launch event 3rd November 2025**
- **Next meeting – Thursday 27th November 2025 in Trinity Boardroom, TBS**