



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

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Environment and Sustainability Committee

Thursday 26th March, 2026

Arts Conference Room

Present: Chair (Mary Kelly), VP Biodiversity and Climate Action & Secretary (Jane Stout), Director of Campus Infrastructure (Mike Clark – on behalf of the COO), Bursar (Eleanor Denny), Chief Technical Officer & Unite Rep. (Maurice Sweeney), Professional Staff Representative (Aisling Hurley), College Archivist (Helen Shenton), Dean of STEM (Sylvia Draper), Deputy CFO (Patrick Moore), Staff Representative (Conor O’Kelly)

Apologies: VP/CAO (Orla Shiels), Dean of Research (Sinead Ryan), Chief Operating Officer (Noel Gorman), UG Student Rep (Amelia Flanagan)

In Attendance: Administration Lead, Trinity Sustainability (Laetitia Deering) – minute taker

Late Arrival:

New Member:

ESC/25-26/11 No statements of Interest declared

ESC/25-26/12 Minutes from last meeting

Minutes from 27th November 2025 were approved subject to revisions.

ESC/25-26/13 Matters Arising - Updates on Actions from Previous Meeting

Retirement of external committee member discussed in the context of appointing a new external member. Chair advises that a nominations sub-committee will be put together to select a candidate for nomination. A skills assessment was done of the current membership to assess where there is need. Secretary of the College was consulted on the process. Two members of the committee have agreed to sit on the sub-committee alongside the Chair and Secretary. Member suggests that members of ESC could make suggestions of who to approach and provide them to the sub-committee. This is agreed.

Chair advises there is consideration being given on whether there is a need to replace VP/CAO who will step down from this Committee starting AY 2026-27.

ESC/25-26/14 Risk Register

This will be deferred to the next meeting as there is still some progress to be made on this with the interim Risk Manager.

ESC/25-26/15 Decarbonisation Plan – Costings

Director of Campus infrastructure outlines the cost breakdown associated with the Decarbonisation Plan, specifying what costs are included and excluded in the Buro Happold plan, as costed by AECOM. Potential funding sources were also discussed. Member asks for the definition of a devolved grant and short discussion ensues on how this may be used in this context.

Presenter summarises that although there are challenges in funding the projects, there is optimism in the context of funding already received.

There is agreement that the BH plan is very strong.

Brief discussion ensues on how the BH plan would work in the context of the costs. A question is raised regarding the impacts of the Metrolink on the buildings and if that would present an opportunity for funding. Could research infrastructure funding be linked to this project – Inspire Programme?

Member suggests looking into the implementation plan and decide where the priorities will be. Discussion regarding allocation and how current funding is allocated to the various elements of the project. Prioritisation of projects – an update on this could be given at the next meeting. Chair also suggests that this plan should be presented to Board in detail. FSD will be involved in the process of prioritisation of this plan. Discussion on budget available and capacity to spend ensues. It is suggested that if adjustments to individual projects under the heading of the the plan are to be made, the plan should be brought back to Planning Group.

Action 15.1

Prioritisation of projects – an update on this could be given at the next meeting (Director of Campus Infrastructure).

ESC/25-26/16 Key Updates from other Principal Committees

Verbal updates included:

Audit Committee – no overlap with this committee membership.

Risk & Compliance Committee – n/a

Finance Committee – Consolidated Financial statements were assessed

People & Culture Committee – SAP and discussion on cessation of funding to some of the research centres

Critical Infrastructure Committee – Cyber security dashboard, OLRP, TE, Master Plan, Digital Transformation

ESC/25-26/17 Master Plan

Bursar takes us through how our physical estate comes under Pillar 5 of the Strategic Plan (Place) and how the Master Plan underpins the delivery of the SP. Describes what the project is and what opportunities it presents to the College and what this means in the context of Sustainability – transport, for example. The long/short term priorities and the deliverables which emerge out of this project are described. Noted that decarbonisation has been considered in all of the opportunities being outlined. Elements of the plan outline how to reduce usage of vehicles and reduce car parking as is mandated. Outlined how we might avail of these opportunities.

Question around cost of the plan itself is posed by a member. Discussion ensues. No approval being sought from Board – it's more the piece of work itself that is being discussed as opposed to implementation of any one element.

ESC/25-26/18 SNIAM Retrofit

Presentation of the process for the SNIAMM retrofit project and how the objectives of the project were achieved. It was also outlined how the building is now managed in maintaining the energy savings and fine tuning the building.

Member suggests more projects should be pursued in order to make more gains in savings. Question on whether funding covered all costs. Many things done to the building were outside scope.

Discussion on what the next potential building would be. Discussion on who has control of how the building is managed in the context of heating and energy.

Members commend the team for a huge success story.

ESC/25-26/18 Culture – Green Week Update

Discussion on whether it is useful to do this across one week as opposed to dispersed across the year - certain elements of the week could happen a few times a year – bike workshop, swap shop, repair cafe. Member asks if there an opportunity to do something whereby people can access elements when it is convenient to them? A member suggests that dispersing is worth doing in the context of the number of other events taking place around campus at any given time of the year. A member suggests that some focus be to capture staff in particular – in the summer, for example.

ESC/25-26/19 Culture – ESD Mapping Outcomes

Presenters outline Undergraduate and Postgraduate progress on ESD and the perspectives on these. Describe how SDG's are addressed across programmes. Next steps and recommendations are discussed.

Committee commends the group for fantastic body of work and member suggests that they support Sustainability strategy to embed ESD in all our programmes. We as a committee should continue to support this work.

Discussion on how the progress can be made in terms of giving ESD more focus / strengthen the programme, give it greater importance.

A member suggests that each Faculty could help by providing information / data from their annual quality reports.

Discussion on why Biosphere is included in the curriculum less than Society and Economy and how this can be addressed – taking into account how different modules will be different per faculty.

ESC/25-26/20 Partnerships and Collaborations

Presentation of the current partnerships and Collaborations which Sustainability are engaged in and question around which memberships are automatic and what the cost of memberships are, where relevant.

AOB

A waste policy update is required.

A question is asked about whether a new international business travel policy in the context of Sustainability is needed? Advice will be sought from the committee on how to proceed.

Updated space policy – to come to the committee in the next academic year.

- **Next meeting – Thursday 4th June, 2026, 10.00-12.00
(Dining Room, Provost's House, House 1)**