



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

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Environment and Sustainability Committee

Thursday 4th June, 2026

Dining Room, Provost's House, House 1

Present: Chair (Mary Kelly), VP Biodiversity and Climate Action & Secretary (Jane Stout), Bursar (Eleanor Denny), College Archivist (Helen Shenton), Deputy CFO (Patrick Moore), Dean of Research (Sinéad Ryan) - until 11.15, Dean of Stem (Sylvia Draper) - until 11.15

Apologies: VP/CAO (Orla Shiels), Dean of Research (Sinéad Ryan) - from 11.15, Dean of STEM (Sylvia Draper) - from 11.15, Chief Technical Officer & Unite Rep. (Maurice Sweeney), Chief Operating Officer (Noel Gorman)

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

Not Present: UG Student Rep (Amelia Flanagan), Staff Representative (Conor O'Kelly), Professional Staff Representative (Aisling Hurley)

New Member:

ESC/25-26/21 No statements of Interest declared

ESC/25-26/22 Minutes from last meeting
Minutes from 26th March 2026 were approved.

ESC/25-26/23 Matters Arising - Updates on Actions from Previous Meeting
These are covered in the agenda

ESC/25-26/24 ESG Report

The ESG Report was presented for approval. The context, evaluation methods and standards used were described. The overall Sustainability Leadership Score (SLS) for the College was presented along with the scores for the various areas evaluated, and feedback from validators (SUMS Consulting). The presenter concluded with the key learnings from the process and validation exercise. In line with College governance, the report moves on to EOG and Finance Committee if approved today.

A discussion followed the presentation. Main points considered/discussed were:

- Timing is useful in the context of the Sustainability Strategy.
- Members agree that this is an impressive body of work and commend the amount of work that has gone in.

- Need to be cognisant of the actions we can take. Estates issues are cited as an example.
- Excellent sustainability assessment of the organisation – it homes in on detail where certain elements require more embedding. It gives a very good overall picture of where Trinity is on ESG. It is honest and not just a box ticking exercise.
- Member indicates that the group should come back to the committee should there be any reason for this reporting process not to continue in the future.
- Clarified that all stakeholders were part of the scoring process which was then externally validated.

Committee, unanimously agreed to approve the report.

ESC/25-26/25 Risk Statement & Controls Update

VPBCA gives context for this being presented to the committee. Explains that wording of the statement has been changed along with the controls (the mechanism that we are putting in place). There remains a residual risk despite the controls.

Risk Manager explains that certain risks would not reduce after implementation of controls. Having governance in place monitors this and allows identification of the key risks. Risk is owned where it is managed: estates, emergency response, business continuity etc. are the areas who put the action plans in place to adapt to the impacts of the risks identified eg flooding . This committee advises on the exposure and likelihood to risk.

Question from member around whether the graphics which show level, likelihood and impact still being used as per original register. It is confirmed that they are, but the wording is changed to reflect the need to meet targets.

Member suggests Risk statement was initially difficult to narrow down in terms of responsibility, but this new version makes it a lot clearer.

Committee approves update to risks.

ESC/25-26/25 New External Member Applications

VPBCA outlines the process by which a new external member has been identified, recruited and selected, in accordance with governance procedures. The name and profile of candidate selected by the sub-committee was presented to the committee for approval.

Approved name to go to Registrar for Board approval.

Action 25.1

Secretary of the committee to send name of candidate to the Registrar to be taken to the next Board for approval

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

Verbal updates included:

Audit Committee – no overlap with this committee membership.

Risk & Compliance Committee – Bursar presented the Master Plan that was approved by Board

Finance Committee – Main item was refinancing loan and Q2 priority updates

People & Culture Committee – Going through People Projects working groups. Much work going on around Academic Titles. EDI working on a large project – ensuring the environment for learning to all students in the context of ability / background etc.

Critical Infrastructure Committee – to sit in the coming weeks

ESC/25-26/27 Update on Decarbonisation Plan (Project priorities and funding)

Presenter goes through key elements of this stage of the plan. List of priority projects are described. Each project described in detail. Focus on areas with highest carbon footprint. Set out the pros and cons of focusing on each individual project vs whole building decarb. Funding update – cashflow was illustrated and presenter brought committee through specific elements to contextualise. Looked at other sources of funding and engagement has started with TBS to help provide support to work with E&F over the summer to go into this process in more detail.

Member observes that ‘successful’ projects, in the context of how they were received by SEAI, should be communicated to various stakeholders in the college to increase buy-in for further projects. SEAI presentation will be sent for inclusion at next meeting.

Member advises that if heat pumps go in, there will be greater operational (electricity) costs. Energy performance contracting (EPC) will be explored, but it can be difficult to secure external (government) funding for non-capital costs. Pressure on operational budgets will be a challenge.

Member suggests arranging a workshop about EPCs with FSD to focus on the financial challenges.

Member suggests that we may be in a position to reduce usage of certain buildings in the context of updating of energy performance directives of buildings.

Member asks if there is any update on optimisation of projects in the context of system upgrades? Presenter will provide this information (Electrification and SNIAM) to provide to the committee as a footnote for the minutes. [Minute taker has requested]

Member asks if there will be future positive consequences from the proposed work (eg in Panoz/Smufit). Presenter will investigate and pull out the information which will determine the benefits.

Member asks if this strategy be presented to School of Engineering, especially the discipline of construction engineering, who have expertise that could be tapped into (including in the context of applying for grants or identifying pilot projects).

Member suggests proposed work is a research project in its own right – is there something worth exploring there? Do other institutions have similar strategies? Is there a sectoral discussion to share best practice and to have a voice with the Government. Not all institutions have these strategies. U9 is the organisation that TCD sits with that has this goal.

Further discussion ensues on collaborative / sectoral work and what strategies are employed by other similar institutions.

Suggestion is made to have a whole college webinar on the Decarbonisation Plan. Other member suggests it is certainly worth thinking about how to communicate successes. Further discussion / suggestions on how this could be done. Member suggests that Engineering would be a good starting point.

Suggestion is made to put Decarbonisation Plan go on the Sustainability website. Member says that this can happen once wording is finalised as this sits within the Master Plan.

Action 27.1

SEAI presentation to be sent for inclusion in the next meeting – see Appendix A

Action 27.2

Workshop around Energy Performance Contracting to be arranged with the help of FSD so that focus can be put on the financial challenges around these

Action 27.3

Update on optimisation of projects in the context of system upgrades – footnote to these minutes on this to be provided

Action 27.4

Decarbonisation Plan to go on Sustainability website once wording is finalised

Action 27.5

Dean of STEM and Director of Campus Infrastructure to liaise with School of Engineering.

ESC/25-26/28 Climate Action Roadmap

Sustainability Manager gives update on the roadmap. The Department has been delayed on producing the criteria / guidelines to produce the report. There will be a 6-month period to produce the report once the Public Sector Mandate for 2026 is published.

Member suggests it is concerning that climate action is falling down the government's agenda. Member suggests we should continue to do what we are doing and prepare to report as we did last year.

ESC/25-26/29 Annual Report

VPBCA informs committee that Trinity Sustainability elected to put this report together to showcase the progress that has been made over the last year on the Sustainability Action Plan.

Discussion ensues on current sources of funding for projects and the future direction of funding in the context of global developments.

Member suggests that this will be a very important document in the future as this will be archived and will be the useful in the future for those looking back.

Member says that this report strives to show that Sustainability actions are embedded in every aspect of the university.

Further discussion amongst members about the various uses of such reports within and without the University.

ESC/25-26/30 Green Events Plan (GEP)

Sustainability Manager says they were approached by TRISS and TLRH asking to create a GEP. A working group was formed to assess the key issues and constraints to being more sustainable, from an operational / behavioural POV. The GEP is intended as an internal document, which can be shared across events teams in the university. Work is being done with CRU to develop a checklist that would make the plan scalable to various parts of the university and their needs.

Member suggests this information could be filtered through various members to begin the process of normalising this way of operating.

A question is posed on whether it is worth adding a checkbox on the normal Event Management Plan form that asks if the Green Events Plan has been adhered to. This will be discussed with TCD Enquiries.

ESC/25-26/31 Healthy & Sustainable Food Plan

VPBCA explains the context of this plan which was put together by a cross college working group to meet objectives of the Sustainability Action Plan. Agreed by EOG. Will be formally launched in a few weeks' time.

It is suggested that this is worth sharing this with new head of events at CRU so that this is happening from the start of their term.

ESC/25-26/32 Green Flag Renewal

TCD has received its 5th green flag as part of the Green Campus programme run by An Taisce. The Green Flag recognises the College's commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship. Committee consists of staff and students. A lot of commendation around student engagement and various activities that have been run. Committee members are invited to read the feedback that was provided by An Taisce. Their visit in this context was very positive, and they were impressed with changes and developments since their last visit.

Member commends team for the extensive reporting that they carry out.

AOB

Member advises the RIA is doing an event on boundaries and borders and there is a specific event on planetary boundaries which could be of interest to the committee.

- **Next meeting – Thursday 17th September, 10.00 @ TBS Boardroom (5th Floor)**

Appendix A



