



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

disAbility Service Sustainability Charter

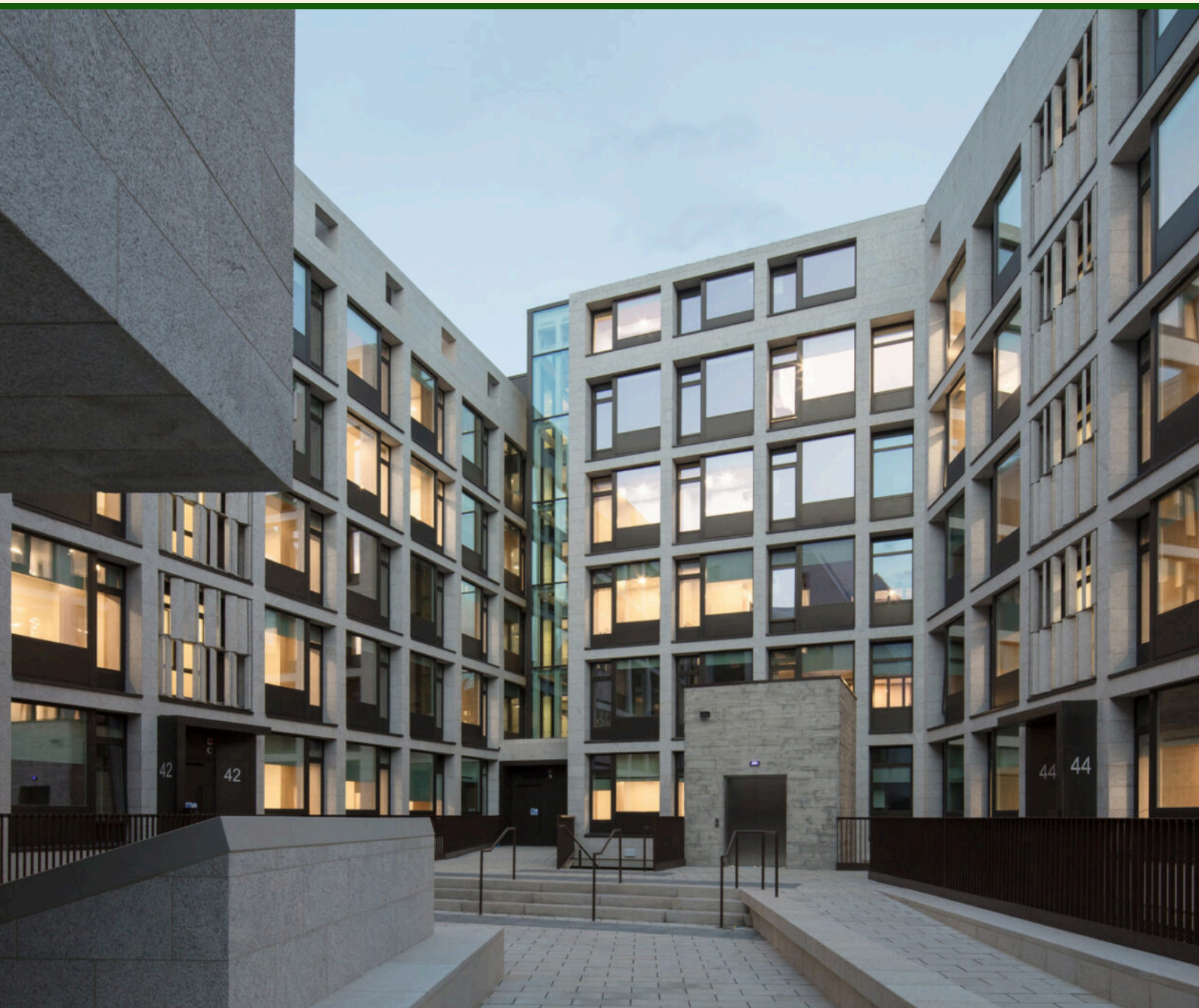


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'Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds, cannot change anything' - **George Bernard Shaw**

A message from Declan Treanor - Director, Trinity disAbility Service

The Trinity disAbility Service Sustainability Charter reflects our commitment to supporting the ambitions of Thrive: Trinity Strategic Plan 2025–2030 by creating a university where accessibility, sustainability, wellbeing and belonging are embedded across all aspects of campus life.

Sustainability is not solely an environmental challenge. It is also about how we design our spaces, services, systems and communities to ensure that every student, staff member and visitor can participate fully and equitably. An accessible Trinity is a sustainable Trinity.

This Charter demonstrates how the Trinity disAbility Hub can contribute to Thrive's commitments to People, Purpose and Place by promoting Universal Design, inclusive environments, digital accessibility, wellbeing, student partnership and responsible resource use. It recognises that lasting change requires collective action and shared responsibility across the University.

Our Vision

Our vision is to help build a thriving Trinity where sustainability, accessibility and inclusion are planned together from the outset rather than addressed separately. Through Universal Design, accessible digital practices, sensory-aware environments, meaningful student partnership and evidence-informed action, we can create a campus where all members of our community can belong, contribute and succeed.

This Charter is not simply a statement of intent. It is a call to action. By working together, we can ensure that sustainability advances equity, accessibility and wellbeing, helping Trinity become a national and international leader in inclusive and sustainable higher education.

Declan Treanor

Director, Trinity disAbility Service

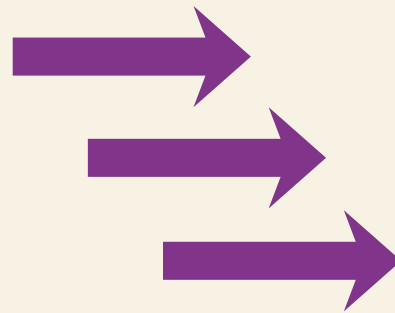
Welcome and purpose

The Trinity disAbility Service Sustainability Charter 2026 sets out how the Trinity disAbility Hub in Printing House Square can support a more accessible, inclusive and sustainable Trinity.

The Charter connects environmental responsibility with disability inclusion, Universal Design, sensory wellbeing, accessible digital practice, sustainable reasonable accommodations and student partnership. It shows that sustainability is not only about reducing waste or energy use. It is also about creating spaces, systems and supports that work better for people.

How we lead

The Trinity disAbility Service shows how sustainability, accessibility and wellbeing can work together through everyday practice in the Trinity disAbility Hub.



A sustainable Trinity must also be an accessible Trinity.



About this charter

The Trinity disAbility Service Sustainability Charter 2026 has been developed to update students, staff, visitors and partners on how the Trinity disAbility Hub is supporting inclusive sustainability.

It brings together practical actions, green workplace practice, accessible digital systems, sensory-aware design, student partnership and annual review. The Charter also provides a simple framework for recording progress through the Action Dashboard, feedback routes and evidence of change.



Graphic-style image of Printing House Square (left) and an accessible digital workspace (below) in the Trinity disAbility Hub, reflecting the Charter's focus on sustainability, inclusion and everyday practice.



Note: This version of the Charter provides a short overview. A fuller working version is also available with additional detail, evidence, sources and supporting appendices.

Trinity disAbility Hub Sustainability Snapshot

Accessibility | Sustainability | Wellbeing | Student Partnership

How we include

Accessible places,
Universal Design,
disabled students
supported.



3,260

disabled students
supported

How we support

TCD Sense, sensory
spaces, wellbeing
and belonging.



80

sensory spaces across
Trinity campus

How we operate

Paperless working,
shared recycling,
power-down routines.



1,076

needs assessments

How we improve

Action Dashboard,
student partnership,
evidence and review.



1

shared Charter for
accessibility,
sustainability and
wellbeing.



2,594

Students receiving
exam accommodations

- Plants, calm spaces and sensory-considerate design support wellbeing.
- Healthy Trinity and TCD Sense connect sustainability with everyday student experience.

- Paperless working, digital notebooks, shared recycling and no desk bins.
- Power-down routines, reusable cups and sustainable kitchen reminders.

- Tracks current actions, next steps and evidence.
- Partnership, audits, internships and feedback support review.

- Accessible routes, inclusive rooms and clear information.
- Universal Design and student feedback help identify barriers.

**Green
Workplace**



Sources: Trinity disAbility Service Annual Reports & KPIs; TCD Sense Map.

What inclusivity really means

For the Trinity disAbility Service, inclusive sustainability means planning environmental action, accessibility, wellbeing and participation together. It asks whether disabled students, staff, graduates and visitors can access spaces, use services, participate in events, engage with digital systems and feel that they belong.

This approach reflects the principle of Leave No One Behind and the social model of disability. Barriers are often created by environments, systems, communication and attitudes. Inclusive sustainability means reducing those barriers while supporting a healthier and more sustainable campus.

The Charter also aligns with Trinity's wider priorities, including the Sustainability Strategy 2023-2030, Thrive: Trinity Strategic Plan 2025-2030, Healthy Trinity, TCD Sense and Universal Access work across campus.

The Charter supports the UN Sustainable Development Goals by linking environmental responsibility with social inclusion, accessibility and partnership. It is especially connected to Quality Education, Decent Work, Reduced Inequalities, Sustainable Cities and Communities, and Partnerships for the Goals.

This Charter builds on the original Trinity disAbility Hub Sustainability Charter, which positioned disability inclusion, sustainability and the UN Sustainable Development Goals as connected commitments. It refreshes that work for the current Trinity disAbility Hub context in Printing House Square.

Inclusive sustainability should be practical, people-centred and shaped by lived experience.

Four pillars of inclusive sustainability

The Charter is organised around four simple pillars. These help turn broad sustainability aims into practical areas of action that can be reviewed each year.

Pillar	What it means in practice
Accessible Places	Accessible routes, inclusive rooms, sensory-aware spaces, clear information and campus environments that disabled people can use with dignity and confidence.
Sustainable Operations	Paperless and printless working, shared recycling, reuse, sustainable purchasing, food waste reduction and everyday energy-conscious routines.
Healthy People	Healthy Trinity, TCD Sense, wellbeing, sensory comfort, plants, calm spaces and sustainable reasonable accommodations.
Partnership and Learning	Student partnership, disabled-led audits, internships, feedback, staff learning, shared responsibility and annual review.

The four pillars move the Charter from values to action: spaces, systems, wellbeing and partnership.



What is already happening in the Trinity disAbility Hub

Printing House Square provides a practical setting for inclusive sustainability. The Trinity disAbility Hub shows how everyday working practices can reduce environmental impact while also supporting access, wellbeing and calm service design.

- Paperless and printless ways of working where possible.
- Digital notebooks and shared digital systems.
- No desk bins, with shared recycling points and clearer waste routines.
- Energy-conscious routines, including end-of-day power-down practice.
- Shared spaces, plants, sensory-aware design and reduced visual clutter.
- Reusable cups, sustainable kitchen reminders and food waste awareness.
- Accessible information, clear communication and Universal Design thinking.



Declan Treanor, Director disAbility Service. Sustainable Kitchen in the Trinity disAbility Hub, Printing House Square.

These actions may seem small individually, but together they help create a greener, calmer and more inclusive workplace.

Printing House Square as a Sustainability Setting

Printing House Square provides a strong sustainability setting for the Trinity disAbility Hub. Its design includes renewable energy, rainwater reuse, natural light and energy-conscious building features. The Charter builds on this setting by connecting environmental sustainability with accessibility, wellbeing, digital practice and inclusive service design.



Printing House Square.

Action priorities

The Charter’s actions are grouped into five clear priorities. These priorities help show how inclusive sustainability can be put into practice through everyday decisions, shared responsibility and practical improvements across the Trinity disAbility Hub.

1	Accessible places	Clear routes, inclusive rooms, sensory-aware spaces and user-led accessibility feedback.
2	Sustainable operations	Paperless working, shared recycling, reuse, sustainable kitchen practices and responsible purchasing.
3	Energy, lighting and digital practice	Power-down routines, reduced printing, accessible documents, hybrid participation and sensory-aware lighting.
4	Wellbeing, plants and sensory access	Plants, calm spaces, TCD Sense, Healthy Trinity, biodiversity links and sensory wellbeing.
5	Partnership and review	Student partnership, disabled-led audits, internships, feedback, the Action Dashboard and annual review.

From values to action:

These priorities show how the Charter can be put into practice through everyday decisions, shared responsibility and practical improvements across the Trinity disAbility Hub.

People, partnership and wellbeing

Inclusive sustainability depends on people as much as buildings, energy or waste. The disAbility Service works with students, staff and partners to connect accessibility, wellbeing and environmental responsibility.

Healthy Trinity and TCD Sense help connect sustainability with wellbeing, sensory environments and everyday student experience. TCD Sense is especially relevant because sound, light, colour, layout, signage and calm spaces can affect whether people can use and enjoy campus spaces.

Student partnership and disabled-led practice are central to this Charter. Disabled students should help identify barriers, shape solutions and review progress. Examples include the Trinity Botanic Garden Sensory Trail, the User-Led Accessibility Audit Tool, inclusive internships and student feedback through the Charter review process.

Partnership across Trinity is also essential. The Charter can support shared work with Trinity Sustainability, Estates and Facilities, Healthy Trinity, TCD Sense, Student Services, the Universal Access Committee, academic schools, student societies and disabled students and staff.

Nothing about us without us: inclusive sustainability should be shaped with disabled students and staff, not simply designed for them.

How progress will be reviewed

The Action Dashboard* is a simple annual review tool. It records what is already happening, what needs to happen next and what evidence can show progress. It helps keep the Charter practical, transparent and easy to update.

Now

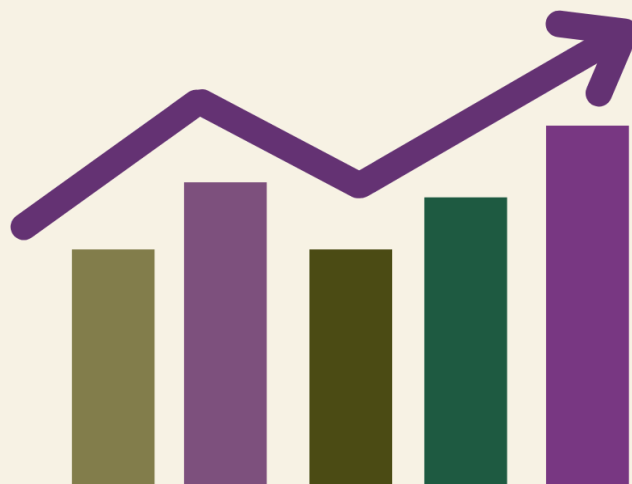
Records current actions such as paperless working, shared recycling, power-down routines, plants, sensory-aware spaces and student partnership.

Next

Identifies practical next steps, gaps to address, new ideas to test and priorities for the next annual review.

Evidence

Uses feedback, photographs, accessibility audits, event records, student outputs, digital workflow examples and staff updates to show what has changed.



Review, learn and improve:

The Action Dashboard helps the Charter stay active by turning commitments into visible actions, evidence and next steps.

* A fuller Action Dashboard can be maintained separately as an internal working tool to record actions, responsibilities, evidence and annual updates.

Take action and share feedback

Everyone has a role to play in creating a more accessible, inclusive and sustainable Trinity. Students, staff, visitors and partners are invited to share comments, questions, suggestions and examples of good practice.

Feedback can help identify what is working well, where barriers remain and what actions should be prioritised in future updates of the Charter.



Scan the QR code to share comments, ideas or suggestions about accessibility, inclusion, wellbeing and sustainability in the Trinity disAbility Hub.

Alternatively, you can complete the survey using the link below:

Trinity disAbility Service Sustainability Charter 2026 Feedback Survey

<https://forms.office.com/e/mZDg6tuEZe>



“ Together we can create more accessible and sustainable communities that are good for everyone.



For more information about the Charter, or to share comments, questions or ideas, please contact the Trinity disAbility Service.

Together, we can support a more accessible, inclusive and sustainable Trinity.

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🌐 Website: tcd.ie/disability



Sources and useful links

Trinity College Dublin, Thrive: Trinity Strategic Plan 2025-2030	https://strategy.tcd.ie/
Trinity College Dublin, Sustainability Strategy 2023-2030	https://www.tcd.ie/sustainability/
Trinity disAbility Service website	https://www.tcd.ie/disability/
TCD Sense	https://www.tcd.ie/disability/services/tcdsense.php
Healthy Trinity	https://www.tcd.ie/healthytrinity/
Spotlight On Students and Staff	https://www.tcd.ie/sustainability/resources/student-and-staff-spotlight/declan-treanor/
Trinity disAbility Service Internship Programme	https://www.tcd.ie/disability/internships/
Trinity Accessibility & Sustainability Event Generator	https://www.trinityeventgenerator.com/
United Nations Sustainable Development Goals	https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/
Trinity Disability Hub Sustainability Charter 2023	https://www.tcd.ie/media/tcd/disability/docs/Trinity-Disability-Hub-Sustainability-Charter.pdf
Trinity Rises to 29th Place in 2026 QS Sustainability Rankings	https://universitytimes.ie/2025/11/trinity-rises-to-29th-place-in-2026-qs-sustainability-rankings-climate-environment/
Trinity disAbility Service - The Social Model of Disability	https://www.tcd.ie/disability/about-us/inclusivity/

Trinity disAbility Hub

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www.tcd.ie/disability



Scan the QR code for the
disAbility Service website