

Green Events Guidelines

1. Climate, Nature and Health First

All events at Trinity will be planned and delivered in ways that endeavour to actively reduce carbon emissions, reduce our biodiversity impact, and support the physical and mental wellbeing of our community, in line with Trinity's Net Zero, Nature Positive, and Healthy Campus

2. Waste Prevention as a Priority

Waste prevention shall take precedence over recycling or disposal. Event design and delivery must seek to eliminate unnecessary materials, avoid oversupply, and reduce resource consumption at source.

3. Reuse as the Standard Approach

Reusable systems for catering and service provision shall be the default option for events. The use of single-use items will be phased out and permitted only where no feasible reusable alternative exists.

4. Sustainable Food Provision

Catering for events shall prioritise low-carbon food choices, with vegetarian and plant-based options provided as the default with portion sizes that reflect actual need. Food should be seasonal, locally sourced where possible, and aligned with healthy and nutritious dietary principles.

5. Respect Food as a Valuable Resource

Event organisers shall take all reasonable steps to prevent food waste through appropriate ordering, portion control, and monitoring. Surplus food should be redistributed safely where possible, and unavoidable food waste composted.

6. Reduce Plastic Use

Event organisers shall aim to eliminate single-use plastic water bottles for events. Free access to drinking water through refill stations, jugs, or reusable containers shall be provided wherever feasible.

7. Sustainable Travel & Transport

Events will encourage and enable sustainable travel choices for attendees, including walking, cycling, wheeling, and public transport. Catering and event deliveries will be minimised, consolidated, and shifted towards local suppliers and low- or zero-emission transport.

8. Consistent Standards Across the University

All events, regardless of size, organiser, or host unit, shall adhere to a shared Green Events Plan and Guide to ensure consistency and fairness in sustainability practices.

9. Leadership Through Procurement and Partnerships

Trinity will use its purchasing power to influence positive change, supporting suppliers, caterers, and event partners who demonstrate strong, transparent, and measurable sustainability practices.

10. Continuous Improvement Through Measurement

Progress will be monitored, reviewed, and reported. Data on waste, food, transport, and energy will be used to improve future events, inform policy, and demonstrate accountability.

11. Leadership and Advocacy

Trinity events shall demonstrate leadership in sustainability practice and act as platforms to promote awareness, learning, and positive behavioural change.