



Ollscoil
Teicneolaíochta
an Atlantaigh

Atlantic
Technological
University

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

2021 - 25

OUR COMMITMENT:

*Continuous improvement towards
sustainability in all our activities.*

DATE

October
2021

Footnote: This strategy is historic and was approved by IT Sligo Management Team in October 2021 prior to the formation of ATU. The document is presented as the current ambition of the ATU Sligo Campus while ATU develop a university wide sustainability strategy.

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Our Vision:

IT Sligo acknowledges that our operations, activities, and infrastructure affect our natural environment and the wellbeing of our planet. We are cognisant of our responsibility to reduce our impact and transition to a more sustainable institute.

IT Sligo is strongly committed to the principles of sustainability as set out in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We will strive to empower transformation to a sustainable society for all our stakeholders including students, staff, the organisations that we work with and the community in which we live and serve.

Central to our ambition is to embed sustainability throughout our student experience at all levels so that our graduates contribute to a more equitable, inclusive future firmly rooted in the respect and protection of our natural world.

The purpose of this Sustainability Strategy is to communicate our ambition, to demonstrate clear targets against which we can measure our progress, and to publicly commit to continuous improvement towards sustainability in all our activities.

This strategy covers the period 2021-2025. This living document will be reviewed annually. Activities will be measured and assessed to ensure our vision for sustainability can be realised.

Our Commitment to the SDG's:



The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are 17 interlinked goals designed to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure a better future for all by 2030.

Our Sustainability Goals:

- 1. Governance** IT Sligo will embed sustainability in all we do. This means a commitment to meet, or exceed, our environmental compliance obligations and include sustainability in decision making in all our activities.
- 2. Teaching Learning & Research** IT Sligo will provide an environment that is inclusive, diverse, and rooted in equality. We will support students and staff in their right to be sustainable citizens.
- 3. Operations** IT Sligo will exemplify best practice in sustainability throughout our facilities and operations. We will decarbonise before 2050 and develop ambitious targets to reduce our usage of natural resources and production of waste.
- 4. Community** IT Sligo will work with our partners and the wider community as a leader in the transition of the North West region for a sustainable future.

Governance

IT Sligo will embed sustainability in all we do. This means sustainability is endorsed at the highest level within the Institute with a commitment to meet, or exceed, our **environmental compliance** obligations and include **sustainability in decision making in all our activities**.

The Institute also commits to clear and open communication to share our vision and promote engagement on sustainability within our network.

No.	Commitment	Indicator
1.	Sustainability targets added to the Institute Risk Register and any Due Diligence reviews	Risk register item
2.	Beyond compliance - meet, and where possible exceed, our environmental compliance obligations	Compliance status evidence, breaches/yr
3.	Agree a Green Campus programme with measurable actions and targets as a framework to manage and report sustainability across the Institute.	Maintain Green Flag Status
4.	Establish a Green Campus Oversight Committee that convenes semesterly to review sustainability actions across campus. Oversight committee includes ITS President, ITS SU president, Estates' manager, Financial Controller, Communications Manager, Sustainability Officer and others as required	Minutes of Meetings
5.	Reduce consumption of raw materials and resources at source through a sustainable procurement policy	Sustainability criteria within purchasing policy
6.	Sustainability should be considered in all decision making at management meetings	Action items on minutes
7	Communicate the work of the Green Campus Committee to the wider community to ensure greater engagement in achieving the agreed actions	Institute Newsletters and other relevant networks and publications

The focus of **Governance** Commitments:



Teaching, Learning & Research

IT Sligo will provide an environment that is inclusive, diverse and rooted in equality. We will support students and staff in their right to be **sustainable citizens**.

Sustainability principles will be advanced throughout teaching programmes and research across all departments. Central to this will be the development of strategic partnerships and linkages across campus to support transdisciplinary learning and collaboration.

No.	Commitment	Indicator
1.	Use the Sustainable Development Goals as a framework to engage, inform and prepare graduates as sustainable citizens.	% programmes that incorporate SDGs as part of the learning outcomes
2	Create a campus that advocates for inclusion, diversity, equality, wellbeing and integrity.	Athena Swan status, Healthy Campus status. Well being programme Integrity at Work programme.
3	Universal education programme in sustainability to develop core competencies and understanding on sustainability fundamentals.	Define, develop & deliver education programmes related to sustainability
4.	Green campus Committee will work with staff and students to embed sustainability practices into projects and learning.	Number of Green Campus initiatives and number of staff and students engaging with these
5	Develop Green Labs plan for laboratories and practical learning environments, including an assessment of current performance, opportunities for improvement and certification opportunities.	Active plan for Green Labs across campus, including resource implications and timeline.

The focus of **Teaching, Learning & Research** Commitments:



Operations

IT Sligo will exemplify best practice throughout our facilities and operations and take a leadership role in the sustainability transition. We will **decarbonise** before 2050 and develop ambitious targets to reduce our usage of natural resources, minimise the production of waste and enhance biodiversity.

No.	Commitment	Indicator
1.	Develop a Decarbonisation plan for the Institute with defined scoping levels, targets, funding resources and implementation timeline before 2050	Work plan agreed Funding in place to deliver the plan Carbon footprint and decarbonisation plan.
2.	Develop an Environmental Management System	EMS agreed and timeline for implementation
3.	Sustainable management of materials and resources, including energy, water, waste, hazardous substances, chemicals, and the elimination of single use plastics (SUPs), where feasible.	Achievement against agreed ambitious targets for the management of energy, water, Waste, SUPs, and chemicals.
4.	Promote sustainable transport choices amongst staff and students for both day-to-day commuting and business travel.	Facilitate and promote transport strategy.
5.	Promote biodiversity and habitat protection across campus through ground-keeping initiatives.	An agreed biodiversity strategy and achievement of biodiversity Green Flag.

The focus of our **Operations** Commitments:



Our Community

IT Sligo will work with our **CUA partners and wider community** to lead sustainability transition in the North West region. Central to our ethos is a participatory approach, where students, staff and other stakeholders can help to shape our ambition for the future.

No.	Commitment	Indicator
1.	Facilitate engagement of students and staff on sustainability & green campus initiatives.	Number of students and staff involved in Green Campus initiatives.
2.	Work with relevant agencies and groups to promote sustainability within our community and beyond.	Number of partners & groups engaged with, and list of projects.
3.	Provide a campus that supports climate adaptation and resilience in our community.	Identify how the Institute is acting as a key driver of sustainable change in the region.
4.	Work with community partners to develop shared learning resources and learning environments for a sustainable future.	Number of resources co-developed/partners engaged.

The focus of our **Community** Commitments:

