

TUS-Tipperary Campuses Green Charter – Academic Years 2024/25 to 2026/27

Introduction

This Charter covers the period academic years 2024/25 to 2026/27 and follows on from the previous Green Charter which was developed by the then, Limerick Institute of Technology Tipperary Green Campus Committee in 2018. The Charter sets out the Mission of the Tipperary Campuses Green-Campus Committee, outlines the relevant TUS policies and defines our priority areas, targets and processes.

Our Mission

The mission of the TUS Tipperary Campuses Green-Campus committee is to reduce the environmental impact of the TUS Clonmel and TUS Thurles campuses, contributing to the global effort to reduce the impact of humans on the environment. TUS aims to reduce resource use (energy, water, materials), minimise wastes and emissions, and protect biodiversity.

The An Taisce Green-Campus programme provides a suitable mechanism for achieving our mission, and it provides support, external verification and reward for our efforts. Achieving and maintaining Green Flag awards will be evidence of meeting public commitments given in the Campus Engage Charter, the TUS Strategic Plan (2023-2026), relevant TUS and national policies and demonstrate alignment with ambitions within our relevant TUS Campus Masterplans.

Our TUS policy statements

The TUS Strategy 2023-2026 has embedded sustainability within its values, priorities and objectives including as a strategic enabler, value statement and strategic priority¹.

The TUS Climate Action Roadmap 2024 outlines measures and actions to reduce carbon emissions across its campuses, while also addressing awareness/training, green procurement, resource use, nature and biodiversity, health and well-being².

Some selected actions relevant to this Charter include

- CAPPH 1.1: Implement campus wide LED lighting.
- CAPPH 1.3: Implement of enhanced recycling facilities and practices.
- CAPPH 1.10: Develop biodiversity masterplans for each campus in conjunction where relevant with campus Green committee including Implement walking trails as integrated green campus solutions progressively across all campuses.

TUS has established a University Sustainability Committee (USC) in June 2024. The USC will have defined sub-committees aligned with key dimensions of TUS activity including

- Estates and Operations Subcommittee: Focus on biodiversity, energy adaptation, resource efficiency, waste management, travel, transport, and green campus initiatives.
- Partnership and Engagement Subcommittee: Engage with business, industry, community, public stakeholders, and oversee sustainable procurement and food services.
- Education and Research for Sustainable Development Subcommittee: Integrate sustainability into curricula, research initiatives, and student engagement activities.

¹ https://tus.ie/strategicplan/assets/TUS-Strategic-Plan-23-26_Eng.pdf

² <https://tus.ie/app/uploads/ProfessionalServices/CampusServicesCapitalDev/TUS-Climate-Action-Roadmap-2023-2026.pdf>

Our Priority Areas – 2024 - 2027

The initial focus of TUS Tipperary Campuses Green Charter was on the theme of waste and litter. This will continue for the period covered by this charter. The scope of work has subsequently been expanded to focus on biodiversity since 2023 and this will continue for the period covered by this charter.

Consideration is being given to including a focus on climate justice from 2025 onwards. However, this will not exclude taking action on other themes where possible (e.g. energy, water, transport).

Our Targets

Litter and Waste

From the start of the 2024/25 academic year to the end of 2026/27 academic year, TUS Clonmel and Thurles aim to reduce total waste production per person by 2% each year, and to increase the proportion of total waste recycled to 70%, based on a 2023/24 baseline. The current recycling rate is 46% (including composting). The targets are detailed in the following table. Achieving these targets at local level contributes to meeting EU, national and regional objectives.

Academic Year	Waste prevention target as a % of baseline waste production	Recycling target as a % of total waste production
2023/24 (baseline)		46%
2024/25	98%	54%
2025/26	96%	62%
2026/27	94%	70%

Biodiversity

The Green Campus committee commit to monitoring and evaluating biodiversity on its TUS Thurles and Clonmel campuses. It will prioritise

- Increasing “no mow” areas across the campuses with specific designation of biodiversity friendly zones

- Increasing planting of trees, appropriate to the site and native to Ireland, in appropriate locations
- Ensuring all developments on site are planned with appropriate consideration on how to protect and enhance the biodiversity on the campuses
- Meeting legal requirements related to biodiversity (e.g. hedge-cutting and vegetation disturbance season).
- Adhering to biodiversity-related conditions in planning permissions.

The TUS Campus Biodiversity masterplans will be informed by the 'mitigation hierarchy' and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) as outlined in 'Biodiversity Net Gain: Good practice principles for development' ³.

Our Processes

The Tipperary Campuses Green-Campus committee places importance on the process of conducting its work, as well as on the outcomes to be achieved. The committee commits to do its work in an open and inclusive manner, communicating with stakeholders to achieve results through a collaborative process.

As part of the TUS induction programme, new students can access an online presentation about Green-Campus in Clonmel and Thurles. It is hoped that awareness generated via involvement in Green-Campus would help students and staff make positive environmental changes in their lives off-campus.

TUS aims to share our Green-Campus experience with the wider world (e.g. via our Green-Campus webpage), and to engage with the wider community where possible.

Our Procedures

Waste and Litter

TUS's approach to waste management is guided by the EU waste management hierarchy of prevention including reuse, recycling and composting, energy recovery, and disposal.

³ <https://cieem.net/resource/biodiversity-net-gain-good-practice-principles-for-development/>.

- Waste collection points are provided in the canteens and through the public areas and offices of the Clonmel and Thurles campuses. Investment in new bins was completed in 2022 and 2023.
- Students and staff are asked to take responsibility for bringing their own waste with them out of a classroom or computer lab and depositing it in the appropriate bin (Recycle, Organic or General).
- People are asked to ensure that bottles, cans and cups are empty before placing in the correct bin (to assist the work of our cleaning staff and to allow recycling).
- Students are encouraged to deposit any Re-Turn compliant cans, bottles into a specific bin in the canteen with refunds being provided to local charities or for student facilities.
- Consistent bins are used across the campuses and bins have signs with graphics and text to guide users. The list of items that should be placed in the recycling bin is based on national guidance ([mywaste.ie](https://www.mywaste.ie)).

Biodiversity

The TUS Estates team play an important role in maintaining biodiversity on all TUS campuses. A review of both campuses was conducted with relevant Estates staff in 2024. Key processes which will be followed for the period of this charter include

- Clear identification of biodiversity protection areas on Thurles and Clonmel campuses
- Walking trails or equivalent will be facilitated on site, in an appropriate manner, through the Thurles and Clonmel campus to highlight biodiversity on campus
- Biodiversity monitoring equipment will be utilised on the campus to gather data which can be utilised for education, research and information
- Tree planting and other biodiversity actions on both campuses, in appropriate locations, will be agreed with the estates team (plus other biodiversity protection measures as appropriate).
- A clear and structured engagement process with Green Campus committee (staff and students) will be in place in relation to future developments on the Thurles and Clonmel campuses e.g. Connected Campus and Large Scale Sports Infrastructure developments

Benefits

TUS's participation in the Green-Campus programme provides valuable real-world learning opportunities for our students, in line with the TUS educational philosophy of active learning.

Our efforts also help to meet TUS's legal obligations (e.g. regarding waste management) and improve the efficiency of resource use (including financial resources).

In consultation with Vice President Finance & Corporate Governance and VP Campus Services and Capital Development demonstrated savings from waste management actions will be reviewed for allocation towards Student Supports and/or Facilities.

Engaging in Green-Campus

Participation in the Green-Campus committee is open to any member of the TUS community, whether students, staff or contractors. The Green-Campus encourages student-led environmental committees and societies.

Connecting with TUS Tipperary Green-Campus

<https://tus.ie/sustainability/green-campus/>

<https://www.facebook.com/TUSTipperaryGreenCampus/>

<https://www.instagram.com/tustipperarygreencampus/>

<https://x.com/TUSGreenCampus>

greencampus.tipperary@tus.ie

Green-Campus [Moodle page](#) for TUS students and staff

Adoption of this Green Charter

Adopted on 7th October 2024



Professor Vincent Cunnane, President of TUS