

Sustainability Policy Statement



All public service bodies are required under the Climate Action Plan to adhere to the Public Service Climate Action Mandate – and to develop Climate Action Roadmaps setting out how they will deliver on their energy efficiency and emission reduction targets.

Schools now have a separate Climate Action Mandate under which they are required to adopt a Sustainability Policy Statement. The School Sector Climate Action Mandate can be read in full here: www.gov.ie - [School Sector Climate Action Mandate \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)

The second National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development – ESD to 2030 also informs the content of the following Sustainability Policy Statement template.

ESD aims to ensure that “by 2030, all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development”. (Sustainable Development Goal 4.7)

The following has been prepared as part the School Sector Climate Action Mandate, and in keeping with the principles and themes of ESD to 2030, and has been accepted by the Board of Management of our school.

Purpose

The purpose of this Sustainability Policy Statement (“the Statement”) is to outline how our college promotes sustainability and climate action, through our actions and activities. Sustainability can be defined as the ability to exist and develop without depleting natural resources for the future.

Scope

Sustainability is a community issue and applies to all students, teachers and employees of our college. Parents and guardians should note, and where possible, promote, the Statement. The Board of Management of Monaghan Institute will ensure that decisions made in respect of the college align with the Statement.

Vision, mission and values

MISSION STATEMENT

Monaghan Institute’s mission is to provide high quality education and training to all learners in an open, inclusive and supportive environment.

OBJECTIVES

- To provide a range of education and training programmes which will improve the employment prospects of learners
- To provide training courses that meet the needs of enterprise, in particular the local economy
- To provide an open, inclusive, supportive learning environment for all learners and staff
- To provide a range of relevant supports to enable all learners to complete their course of studies
- To monitor, review, expand and adapt programmes to ensure they meet client and industry demands
- To assist learners in gaining quality work experience in local business/industry
- To maintain strong links with industry and employers to ensure Monaghan Institute’s programmes are relevant to their needs
- To offer a variety of flexible learning options to encourage all learners to participate
- To enable and support learners to progress to higher education
- To provide staff with a range of relevant continuing professional development opportunities and resources that will enhance their skills, abilities and experience
- To ensure that all courses, policies & procedures are quality assured
- To ensure learners & staff have access to the latest equipment (including ICT), which enhances the learning experience

Monaghan Institutes vision is to empower learners to become responsible global citizens who contribute to a sustainable future. We strive to create an educational environment that fosters innovation, inclusivity, and environmental stewardship.

Monaghan Institute's mission and objectives align well with several of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Here's how they connect:

1. Quality Education (SDG 4):

Mission: Providing high-quality education and training.

Objectives: Offering a range of education and training programs, supporting learners to complete their studies, and ensuring access to the latest equipment.

2. Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8):

Mission: Improving employment prospects.

Objectives: Providing training that meets enterprise needs, assisting learners in gaining work experience, and maintaining strong links with industry and employers.

3. Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10):

Mission: Creating an open, inclusive, and supportive environment.

Objectives: Offering flexible learning options to encourage participation from all learners and providing relevant supports to enable course completion.

4. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure (SDG 9):

Mission: To maintain strong links with industry and employers to ensure Monaghan Institute's programmes are relevant to their needs

Objectives: Monitoring, reviewing, expanding, and adapting programs to meet industry demands, and ensuring learners and staff have access to the latest ICT equipment.

5. Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17):

Mission: To provide staff with a range of relevant continuing professional development opportunities and resources that will enhance their skills, abilities and experience

Mission: To ensure learners & staff have access to the latest equipment (including ICT), which enhances the learning experience

Objectives: Maintaining strong links with industry and employers, and providing staff with continuing professional development opportunities.

By aligning their mission and objectives with these SDGs, Monaghan Institute contributes to a more sustainable and equitable future.

Whole School Approach to Sustainability

- Monaghan Institute has adopted this Sustainability Policy Statement. It clearly details the aims and objectives of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in our college, its relationship to the vision and mission of the college.
- Our college recognises Education for Sustainable Development as a cross-curricular theme, and Monaghan Institute will strive to co-ordinate this effectively.
- Opportunities are identified to introduce and address sustainability in the classroom, across all courses.
- Resources to assist in the teaching of sustainability are adequate and are readily available.
- Our college is a member of the Irish Schools Sustainability Network (www.ISSN.ie)
- Our college keeps up to date with developments in ESD including by being registered for the quarterly ESD Newsletter <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/a1d6e-education-for-sustainable-development-newsletter/>

Environmental sustainability

Green-Schools is an international environmental education programme, offering a well-defined, controllable way for schools to take environmental issues from the curriculum and apply them to the day-to-day running of their school.

- Monaghan Institute will soon be part of the Green Campus Ireland Programme.

Monaghan Institute is committed to promoting environmental sustainability through active participation in the Green-Schools Programme. As part of our dedication to this initiative, we are in the process of establishing a Green Team Committee. This committee will be composed of members from our management, teaching staff, care team, and learners, ensuring a collaborative approach to sustainability.

Our Green Team Committee will focus on integrating environmental issues into the daily operations of our school, fostering a culture of sustainability among all members of our community. By working

together, we aim to achieve significant milestones, such as earning the Green Flag award, and making meaningful contributions to the Green Campus Ireland Programme.

Our college engages with the [SEAI Energy in Education](#) resources and energy management tools in order to monitor and report energy consumption.

- Monaghan Institute engages with the SEAI programme called Energy and You - Reduce Your Use programme in the area of sustainable development. All staff and learners are encouraged to complete this online training course.
- Our school has a recycling process in place and uses recycled and recyclable materials whenever possible. It is planned to develop this further over the next 3-5 years. We are introducing a whole college approach to the Re-turn Scheme.
- Monaghan Institute has some processes in place in respect of water conservation and have a functioning rainwater harvesting system.
- Our college resources are procured and utilised taking into consideration their impact on the environment. For example, we use recycled paper in all photocopiers and printers to reduce our ecological footprint.
- The Monaghan Institute environment clearly displays information on sustainability and sustainable practices in prominent and accessible places.
- The college promotes some biodiversity initiatives for example there are bird feeders, a bug hotel and planters in outdoor areas.

Social Sustainability

- Our college ethos recognises the importance of and is sensitive to issues surrounding gender equity for example there are gender neutral toilets facilities available.
- The needs of all students in recognition of differentiated physical or learning abilities, are taken into consideration and accommodated through the learning hub, academic support and the use of personal assistants.
- Monaghan Institute staff have been provided with the training in the area of restorative practice, in order to support and affect positive student behaviour. It is planned to upskill again in this area in 2025.

Economic Sustainability

- A non-competitive ethos of co-operation and sharing of resources is modelled in our college's allocation of its resources.
- Students are provided with opportunities to learn small business skills within generic modules such as Business Administration, Business Management and Customer Services.
- Our colleges's fund-raising activities reflect and actively demonstrate ethical and sustainable principles.
- The college buildings are maintained to a high standard, with best practise in the area of sustainability in mind.
- Where possible and generally confined to staff CPD, there is promotion on the principles of, a circular economy

Cultural Sustainability

- Monaghan Institute's ethos aims to foster students' self-esteem, along with a mutual regard and respect for fellow students, and positive social interaction and relationships.
- Our college ethos, in tandem with the curriculum, strives to prepare students for life in an increasingly multicultural society.
- Our college demonstrates a commitment to community engagement, and encourages the community's involvement with the school.
- Monaghan Institute has an active role in supporting cultural diversity. Annually, the college community celebrates learner's cultures through 'Multi-Cultural Events' highlighting and appreciating the diverse backgrounds of our students and staff.

Teacher Competence

- Our Teachers are supported in building their own capacity in the area of ESD. Recently, two of our teaching staff completed the Training of Trainers programme for the Global Citizenship programme.

Student Competence

- Our students are encouraged and supported to participate in peer to peer learning activities
- Monaghan Institute has a Student's Unions and a Green Team.
- Our learners are involved in project based learning around real-life problems in the local community, in some of their modules/courses.

Goals

Short-term Goals

1. Establish a Green Campus Committee

Objective: Form a dedicated Green Campus Committee by the end of the current academic year.

Actions:

Recruitment: Identify and invite representatives from management, teaching staff, care team, and learners to join the committee.

Roles and Responsibilities: Define clear roles and responsibilities for each committee member.

Meetings: Schedule regular meetings (e.g., monthly) to discuss and plan sustainability initiatives.

Training: Provide initial training on sustainability practices and the goals of the Green Campus Programme.

Expected Outcomes:

A well-structured committee with active participation from all school sectors.

Increased awareness and engagement in sustainability efforts across the school community.

2. Develop and Implement a Comprehensive Action Plan

Objective: Create and execute a detailed action plan focused on sustainability and environmental awareness.

Actions:

Assessment: Conduct a baseline assessment of Monaghan Insitute's current sustainability practices and identify areas for improvement.

Target Setting: Establish specific, measurable targets for reducing waste, conserving energy, and promoting sustainable practices.

Initiatives: Launch key initiatives such as recycling programs, energy-saving campaigns, and water conservation projects.

Monitoring: Implement a system for tracking progress towards the set targets, including regular reporting and feedback mechanisms.

Expected Outcomes:

Clear and actionable steps towards improving the school's sustainability.

Measurable reductions in waste and energy consumption.

Enhanced environmental awareness among students and staff.

3. Achieve Recognition as an Awarded Site by Green Campus Ireland Programme

Objective: Work towards earning the Green Campus Ireland Programme award within the next three years, with significant progress in the first year.

Actions:

Criteria Review: Familiarise the committee with the criteria for the Green Campus award.

Action Plan Alignment: Ensure the action plan aligns with the Green Campus criteria.

Documentation: Maintain thorough documentation of all sustainability initiatives and their impacts.

Community Involvement: Engage the wider school community, including parents and local organizations, in sustainability efforts.

Evaluation: Conduct regular evaluations to assess progress and make necessary adjustments to the action plan.

Expected Outcomes:

Significant strides towards meeting the Green Campus criteria.

Increased community involvement and support for the school's sustainability initiatives.

Recognition of the school's commitment to environmental sustainability.

Implementation and review

This Statement was implemented on 6th January 2025. To ensure Monaghan Institute strives to improve its work within sustainability and climate action, the Statement will be reviewed annually.