Ollscoil na Gaillimhe
University of Galway

Climate Action Roadmap

2025 update

University of Galway.ie

Contents

Approved by

Prof. Becky Whay, Deputy President & Registrar (Climate & Sustainability Champion)	20 October 2025
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Executive Summary

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, through the Government's Climate Action Plans, requires public sector bodies to achieve certain climate targets and undertake certain actions known as the 'Climate Action Mandate'. The University of Galway must publish a Climate Action Roadmap to demonstrate our vision, coordination, organisation, mobilisation and planning for these targets and actions. This document is an updated roadmap to reflect the Climate Action Mandate 2025 and focuses on these specific requirements. Further information on our broader sustainability work is available here.

The University is strongly committed to sustainability and climate action, a core value of the University's strategy. The University Management Team has undertaken climate action training and has adopted a policy which sets out the roles of senior management. The Deputy President & Registrar is the University's Climate and Sustainability Champion, responsible for implementing and reporting on the Climate Action Mandate. The University has established a Sustainability Office, led by the Director of Sustainability, to implement an ambitious sustainability strategy. Our green team also includes an expert energy team in Buildings & Estates and the wider Community & University Sustainability Partnership. Significant engagement, education and training takes place with the wider University community.

The University has achieved an enormous amount through the dedication and expertise of our green team and community engagement. We have reduced fossil emissions by 35% and improved energy efficiency by 57% (against statutory baselines). These figures are all the more impressive considering the expansion in our student population and facilities in recent years. We aim to exceed our public sector targets in these areas and we have identified a number of carbon reduction projects and programmes; these will require funding to proceed. Our award-winning energy team has demonstrated our capacity to deliver innovative, sustainable projects and we look forward to continuing our collaborations with funding agencies in Ireland and internationally.

We have also implemented the other requirements of the Climate Action Mandate in areas such as energy management systems, digitalisation of processes, green procurement, low-carbon construction, food waste, water, waste, single-use items, sustainable transport and sustainable buildings. As we approach the end of our current sustainability strategy, we are currently reflecting on progress and engaging the University community on our sustainability strategy to 2030. These strategies will be mindful of the urgency of climate action, Ireland's climate ambitions and the leading role played by the University of Galway.

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 and the Government's Climate Action Plans require public bodies to achieve certain climate targets and undertake various actions, known as the Public Sector 'Climate Action Mandate' (Appendix 1). The Government's Climate Action Plan 2025, including an updated Climate Action Mandate, was published on 15 April 2025, followed by guidance in SEAI (2025).

One of the central requirements of the Climate Action Mandate is the publication of a Climate Action Roadmap, the purpose of which is "to encourage strategic vision, coordination, organisation, mobilisation, and planning" (SEAI, 2025). The Climate Action Roadmap must include progress on greenhouse gas emissions reduction, energy efficiency improvement and the other aspects of the Climate Action Mandate. The Climate Action Roadmap must be updated, submitted to SEAI and published within 6 months of the publication of the Government's Climate Action Plan.

The University of Galway is a recognised leader on sustainability and climate action, adopting targets and undertaking actions that go beyond the requirements of the Public Sector Climate Action Mandate (see Section 1.2 and Section 7). This Climate Action Roadmap (available here) reflects the additional requirements arising from the 2025 Climate Action Mandate and demonstrates the progress achieved to date.

It should be noted that the University is subject to other legal and regulatory requirements regarding climate, energy and buildings. These are listed below and incorporated in this Climate Action Roadmap.

- Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, which requires all public bodies to perform their functions in a manner consistent with Ireland's climate ambition.
- SI393/2021 Energy Performance of buildings, which requires installation of Building Automation and Control by 2025 for buildings with HVAC rated output over 290kW; requires installation of electric vehicle charging points in carparks for new or refurbished buildings with more than 10 car parking spaces.
- SI381/2021 Clean Vehicles Directive, which sets targets for the procurement of clean light and heavy-duty vehicles, with the first target falling in 2025 and the second in 2030. The definition of clean vehicle changes to zero emission vehicles in 2025.
- SI4/2017 Energy Performance of Buildings, which requires all new public sector buildings built since 2018 to be "nearly zero emissions".
- SI646/2016, which requires that public bodies only procure energy-using products and vehicles that are on the Triple E register.
- SI426/2014, which requires the public sector to demonstrate exemplary energy management and requires public bodies to undertake energy audits every four years, and also requires that the public sector can only lease or buy buildings with BER A3 or higher.

- SI749/2024 Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, banning public bodies from providing grants for fossil fuel boilers

1.2. Organisational context

The University of Galway has made a strong commitment to sustainability through the University Strategy 2025-2030 , Climate Action and Sustainability Policy (available here) and the Sustainability Strategy 2021-2025 (available here). Using a Learn-Live-Lead framework, the Sustainability Strategy contains 120 objectives and 25 measures of success across 7 areas (research and learning, energy and GHG emissions, nature and ecosystems, built environment, health and wellbeing, governance and leadership, and communications and engagement).

The University has signed the SDG Accord, committing to embed the SDGs into our education, research, leadership, operations, administration and engagement activities. The University participates in various voluntary rating/ranking/certification schemes, such as STARS, THE Impact and Green Campus. Progress against these commitments is reported in Annual Sustainability Reports (here), including activities supporting each of the 17 SDGs. Rather than duplicating the content of the next Annual Sustainability Report, this Climate Action Roadmap focuses on the areas of direct relevance to the Climate Action Mandate.

In 2025, University of Galway published a new Strategy 2025-2030 *Of Galway, For the World* (here). Sustainability remains a core value of the University, aiming to "lead the transition to a sustainable future by embedding sustainability into its teaching, research, operations, and partnerships, fostering the next generation of leaders and innovators to tackle global challenges." Sustainability is embedded in all three strategic priorities and in the key enablers. The Strategy commits to decarbonisation, energy efficiency and carbon neutrality. A new Sustainability Strategy will be developed to 2030, based on our Learn-Live-Lead framework, with actions to achieve our strategic vision for sustainability and climate action.

1.3. Scope

GHG emissions are classified as Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3. In short, for our purposes, Scope 1 includes emissions from our fuel consumption, Scope 2 includes emissions from the electricity we purchase, and Scope 3 includes other indirect emissions from e.g. commuting, business travel, procurement, new buildings. The Public Sector Climate Action Mandate covers Scopes 1 & 2 (see Targets) and these emissions must be reported to the SEAI annually (along with emissions from business travel). Scope 3, which are more challenging to measure accurately, are included in the University of Galway Carbon Footprint Report (here) and are multiple times the size of Scopes 1 & 2.

1.4. Progress to date

The University has been working to increase energy efficiency and reduce GHG emissions for many years and has been very successful. We have developed an expert and award-winning Energy Team in Buildings & Estates (see next section) that has achieved a 35% reduction in fossil emissions and a 57% improvement in energy efficiency against statutory baselines. Their work is support by the Sustainability Office and Community & University Sustainability

Partnership, which implements a broad and ambitious sustainability strategy, including the other components of the Climate Action Mandate.

We have been recognised for the implementation of these and other initiatives:

- University of Galway Energy Team won SEAI Sustainable Energy Awards in 2019, 2020 and 2023
- Ranked #1 in Ireland and Top 5 in the EU by Times Higher Education Impact Rankings
- An Taisce Green Campus Green Flags in 2019, 2022 and 2025
- Gold in Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS)
- Hosted the SEAI Public Sector Conference in May 2025

2. Our People – Leadership and governance

2.1. Senior management commitment

Sustainability is a core value of the University of Galway Strategy 2025-2030 and the University Management Team (UMT) adopted a Climate Action and Sustainability Policy in 2021. This Policy sets out the roles of senior management:

- President - As the Head and Chief Officer of the University, provides leadership, commitment and support for the University's Climate Action and Sustainability Policy.
- Office of the Deputy President & Registrar - The Deputy President is the UMT Leader with responsibility for the sustainability function of the University and oversees compliance with this Policy.
- Office of the Chief Operating Officer - The Chief Operating Officer is the UMT Leader with responsibility for achieving carbon neutrality and net zero emissions.
- University Management Team - Play a lead role in supporting the integration of climate action and sustainability into daily activities and all levels of the University and ensure leadership and implementation of climate and sustainability goals set out in this policy.

The President annually signs the energy and carbon policy which is a requirement of the ISO 50001:2018 plan. The Deputy President & Registrar is the University's Climate and Sustainability Champion (see next section). Senior management has undertaken sustainability training (see below) and representatives frequently participate in University sustainability events.

2.2. Climate and sustainability champion

According to SEAI (2025): "The two primary functions of the Climate and Sustainability Champion are: to implement and report on the Public Sector Climate Action Mandate; and to function as a sponsor at management board level for the organisation's Green Team."

The Deputy President & Registrar, Prof. Becky What is the University's Climate and Sustainability Champion. Prof. Whay is a member of the UMT, which is collectively responsible for the effective day-to-day management of the University. Prof. Whay also chairs the University Sustainability Advisory Board and is the line manager for the Director of Sustainability.

2.3. Governance structure

Further to the role of senior management described above, the governance of sustainability at the University is described in Sustainability Governance Handbook, including the roles and composition of the Sustainability Office, University Sustainability Advisory Board, CUSP General Board, and reporting to UMT and Údarás na hOllscoile Standing & Strategic Planning Committee. These are summarised in Figure 1 and Figure 2.

Led by the Director of Sustainability, the purpose of the Sustainability Office is to lead and promote sustainability in all aspects of University learning and research, culture, operations and governance structures, and to empower its diverse communities of staff, students and partners to co-create tomorrow's sustainable campus and deliver the Sustainable Development Goals. The Sustainability Office works in close collaboration with other academic and

professional services units, including Colleges, Buildings & Estates and the Centre for Excellence in Learning & Teaching.

Figure 1. Reporting structure

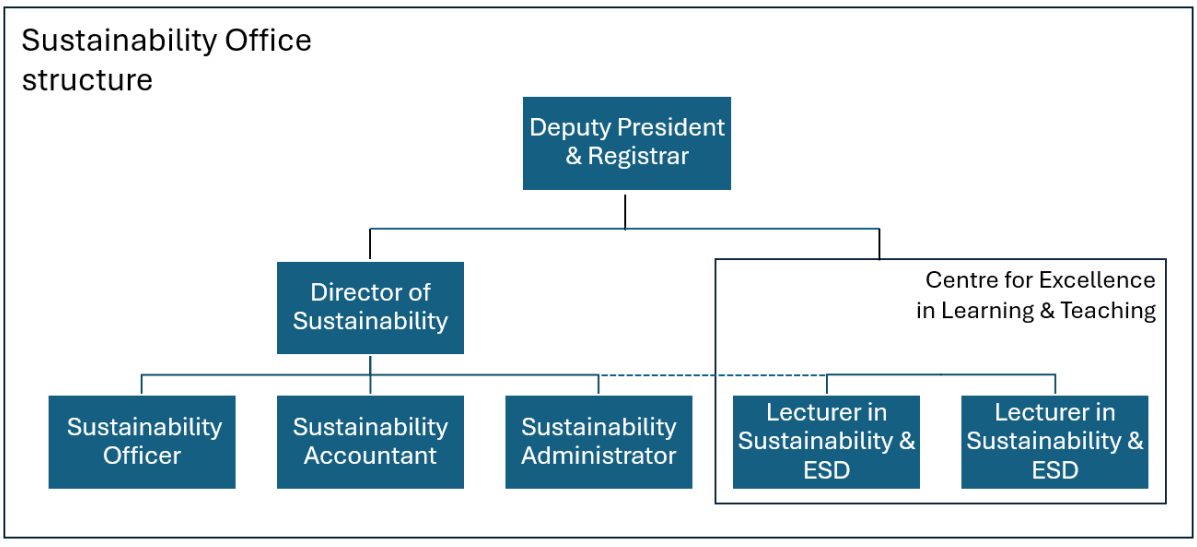

Figure 2. Sustainability Office structure

2.4. Green team

According to SEAI (2025): "The Green Team has two main objectives: To influence decision making so that climate and environmental criteria are to the fore; To influence colleagues to commit to working and living sustainably". The University's Green Team comprises the Sustainability Office, Energy Team and other units as part of the Community University Sustainability Partnership (CUSP). Based on the Learn-Live-Lead framework, CUSP is structured around six work areas as shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3. Thematic areas from Sustainability Strategy

CUSP is a multi-disciplinary team of over 100 students and staff from across the University of Galway and community partners – all working together to showcase how a university can become a role model for the transition to a sustainable future.

The Energy Team comprises Denis O'Connor (Director of Real Estate & Energy Performance Officer), Seán Farrell (Head of Building Services), Anthony Nevin (Mechanical Supervisor), Kenneth O'Toole (Electrical Supervisor), Lorraine Rushe (Environmental, Health & Safety Manager), Karl Byrne (Building Management Systems' Consultant) and John Harrington (Energy Management Systems' Consultant).

The Sustainability Office comprises Richard Manton (Director of Sustainability), Michelle O'Dowd Lohan (Community & University Sustainability Officer), Derek Whelan (Sustainability Accountant), Lorraine Leahy (Sustainability Administrator) and works closely with two Lecturers in Education for Sustainable Development. The Sustainability Office reports to the Deputy President & Registrar (Prof. Becky Whay), who is also the Climate & Sustainability Champion.

Our Green Team has the correct balance of human resources with educational, financial, technical, and specialised skillsets and we will continually review the make-up of our team as needs change or arise.

3. Our People – Engaging our staff

3.1. Student education and staff training

The University has incorporated sustainability and climate action into both student education and staff training. The University currently offers more than 300 sustainability modules with offerings available in every school in the University. Several projects are underway to map the curriculum to the Sustainable Development Goals.

One noteworthy module is 'Introduction to Sustainability', future oriented and exploring the concept of sustainability in the face of global change. It encompasses a wide range of theory and practice, including social, economic and environmental issues, and links international examples to local context and relevance. The module introduces students to the concept of sustainability and a broad range of relevant topics relating to all aspects of sustainability, including environmental, social and economic sustainability, and how these relate to each other. It utilises the expertise of staff from across the university who teach on this module and introduces students to relevant topics and research.

The University has also recruited two Lecturers in Education for Sustainable Development to work with academic and professional support colleagues to ensure that the SDGs, sustainability, the climate emergency, and related environmental issues are embedded across all of our degree programmes, undergraduate and postgraduate, and that our staff (academic and professional support) are provided with professional development in these topics as well as in aspects of appropriate pedagogical approaches.

The greening of laboratories has been a particular focus for the University. A training programme has been developed entitled 'Green Labs: Principles and Practices' and is available to lab-based staff and students. It covers key environmental concepts such as climate change, plastic pollution, sustainability, and biodiversity. In addition, the lifecyle of materials, and the environmental impact of the resources and equipment typically used in scientific laboratories are be examined in some detail. These ideas form the backdrop to a focused study on how the organisation of, and practices in, scientific laboratories can be reformed to reduce their environmental footprint and be established on a more sustainable basis.

Finally, all staff must undergo induction training, including sustainability (nature & ecosystems, energy & GHG emissions, built environment, health & wellbeing) and sustainable public procurement. Other relevant staff training includes unconscious bias training and equality, diversity and inclusion training.

3.2. Climate action and sustainability workshops

University of Galway's flagship engagement activity on climate action and sustainability is SDG Week. SDG Week 2025, our third SDG Week, took place between 20-27 September and was dedicated to increasing awareness, engagement and action to help achieve the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG Week activities included a parkrun, a Green Flag raising ceremony, a climate assembly, learn to darn workshop, a water and sustainability showcase, a Student Union-led panel discussion on how to make campuses more sustainable,

seed donation, eco-anxiety café, research talks, table quiz, beach clean and consultations with staff and students to help shape the University's next Sustainability Strategy.

The University has conducted workshops to engage on climate issues and energy awareness measures that focus on decreasing our carbon footprint. During these events we invite suppliers of energy efficient equipment, renewable energy systems and experts in the field of energy and carbon measurement and management to share their technologies and techniques to enable staff, students and the wider public to educate themselves on climate actions they can take to reduce their environmental impacts. We also enable the technical officers of each of our buildings to review energy and carbon emissions associated with their buildings so that they can manage and improve each of their building's energy and carbon performances.

We participate in the Green Campus programme by An Taisce. In 2025, we achieved our third green flag (previously achieved in 2019 and 2022, renewed every three years). Our green flag themes are energy, travel, waste, water, biodiversity and green labs – we became the first organisation in Ireland to be awarded a green flag for the green labs theme, reflecting our leadership in this area. We are committed to continuous improvement and to sharing our experiences with other green campus partners through the Green Campus Network.

We are also partner with SEAI under their Public Sector Partnership Programme and use the SEAI resources, in particular the Energy Academy, Engaging People at Work Accelerator and Energy Basics & Carbon Basics Training Programmes to bolster the skillsets of our staff.

Staff and students are encouraged regularly through awareness campaigns to Switch Off during bank holiday weekends, extended holiday breaks and through social media campaigns. Students and staff have taken part in #ReduceYourUse campaigns led by SEAI and OPW, awareness campaigns and staff events outlined how we can save energy at work and home.

3.3. Senior leadership training

Climate Action Leadership Training was held for the University Management Team on 15 June 2023.

4. Our targets

The two headline targets set by the Climate Action Mandate are:

- Reduce energy related GHG emissions by 51% in 2030.
- Improve energy efficiency by 50% by 2030.

The University has also committed to more ambitious targets (see Section 7).

To measure performance against these targets, the University reports data to the SEAI on a calendar year basis using the Public Sector Monitoring & Reporting (M&R) System. This enables validation of data, systematic analysis of performance and benchmarking against other public bodies (including other universities). The M&R also hosts the gap-to-target tool, which models the impact of future energy-saving projects. The data presented below has been exported from the M&R.

4.1. Greenhouse gas emissions

To achieve the Climate Action Mandate targets, the University must reduce fossil emissions (mostly from heating) by 51% and total emissions (mostly heating and electricity by 70%). Our statutory baseline is our average annual emissions between 2016 and 2018, which are 3,635,469 $kgCO_2$ for fossil emissions 11,222,763 $kgCO_2$ for total emissions. By the end of the 2024 calendar year, we reduced fossil emissions by 35.3% and total emissions by 50.9%. This is a major achievement and shows that the University is on track to achieve/surpass the targets. Fossil emissions must reduce by at least another 24.2% and total emissions by 38.2%.

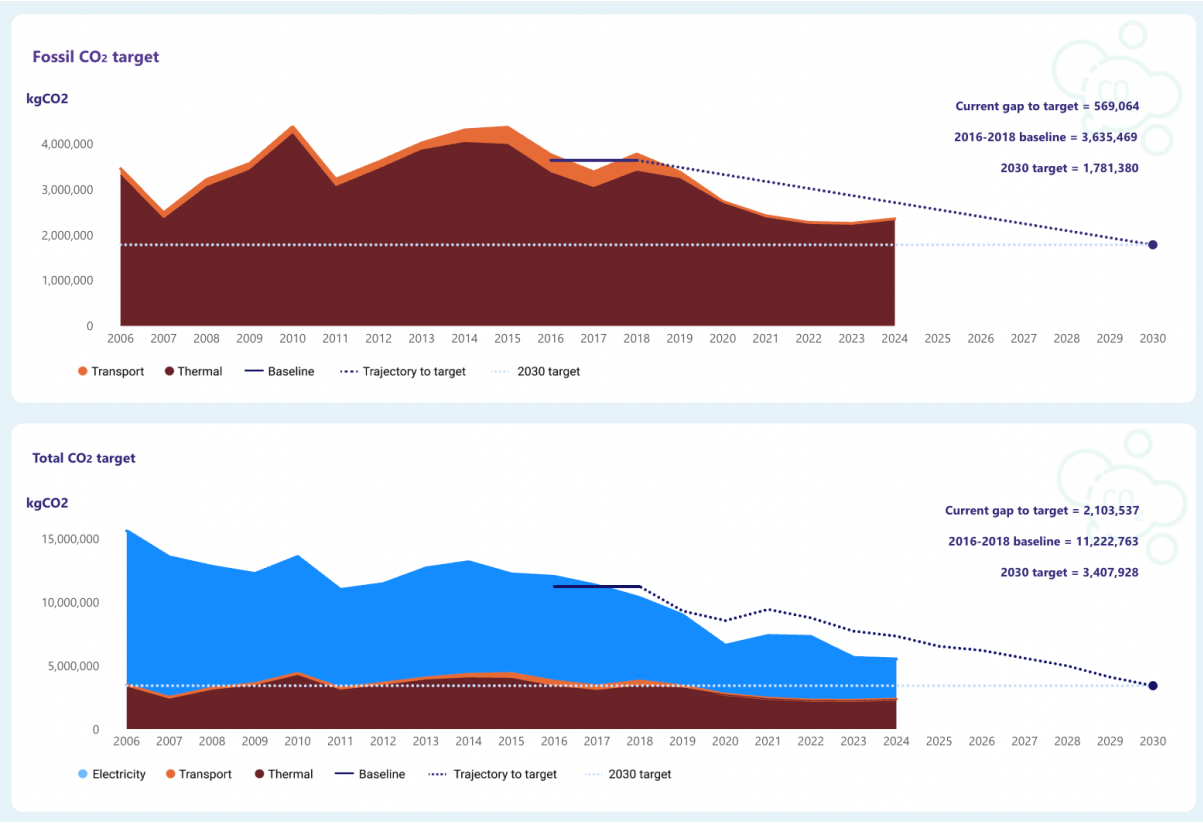

Figure 4. Fossil CO_2 and total CO_2 performance (exported from M&R)

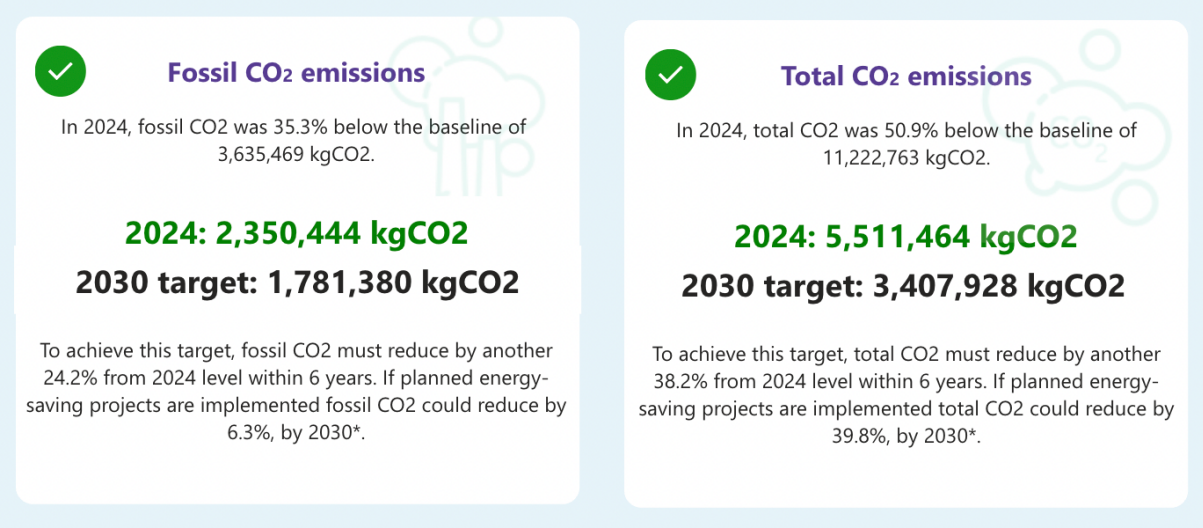

Figure 5. Fossil CO_2 and total CO_2 summary (exported from M&R)

These reductions are all the more impressive when the expansion of the University is considered. Between 2006 and 2024, the University has grown from approx. 15,000 students to approx. 20,000 students. During this time, the CO_2 emitted per students has been reduced from more than 1 tonne to 286kg. Figure 6 also shows that our projected emissions per student to continue to fall to 2030.

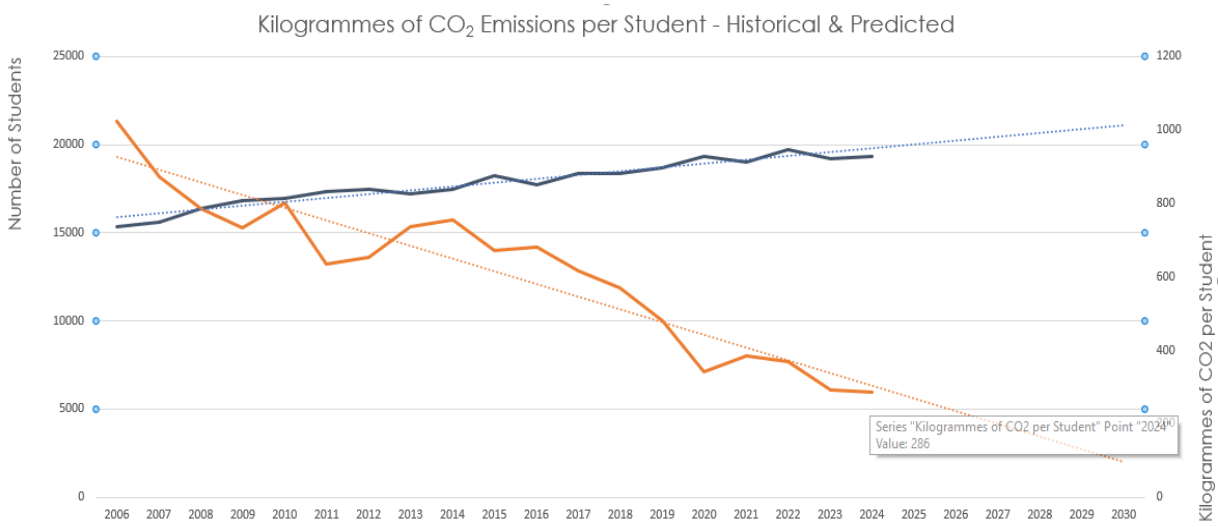

Figure 6. Emissions per student 2006-2030

4.2. Energy efficiency

The energy efficiency target is based on the Energy Performance Indicator (EnPI), which calculated by dividing energy consumption (in kWh) by treated floor area (in square-metres). Our statutory baseline is the annual average of 2006 and 2008, and this baseline is indexed to 100. Our 2030 target is a 50% improvement, which is a EnPI of 50.

At the end of 2024, the University's EnPI was 42.8, which is a 57.2% improvement in energy efficiency. If energy performance is maintained at this level for another 6 years, the efficiency target will be achieved. Figure 7 shows the export from the M&R.

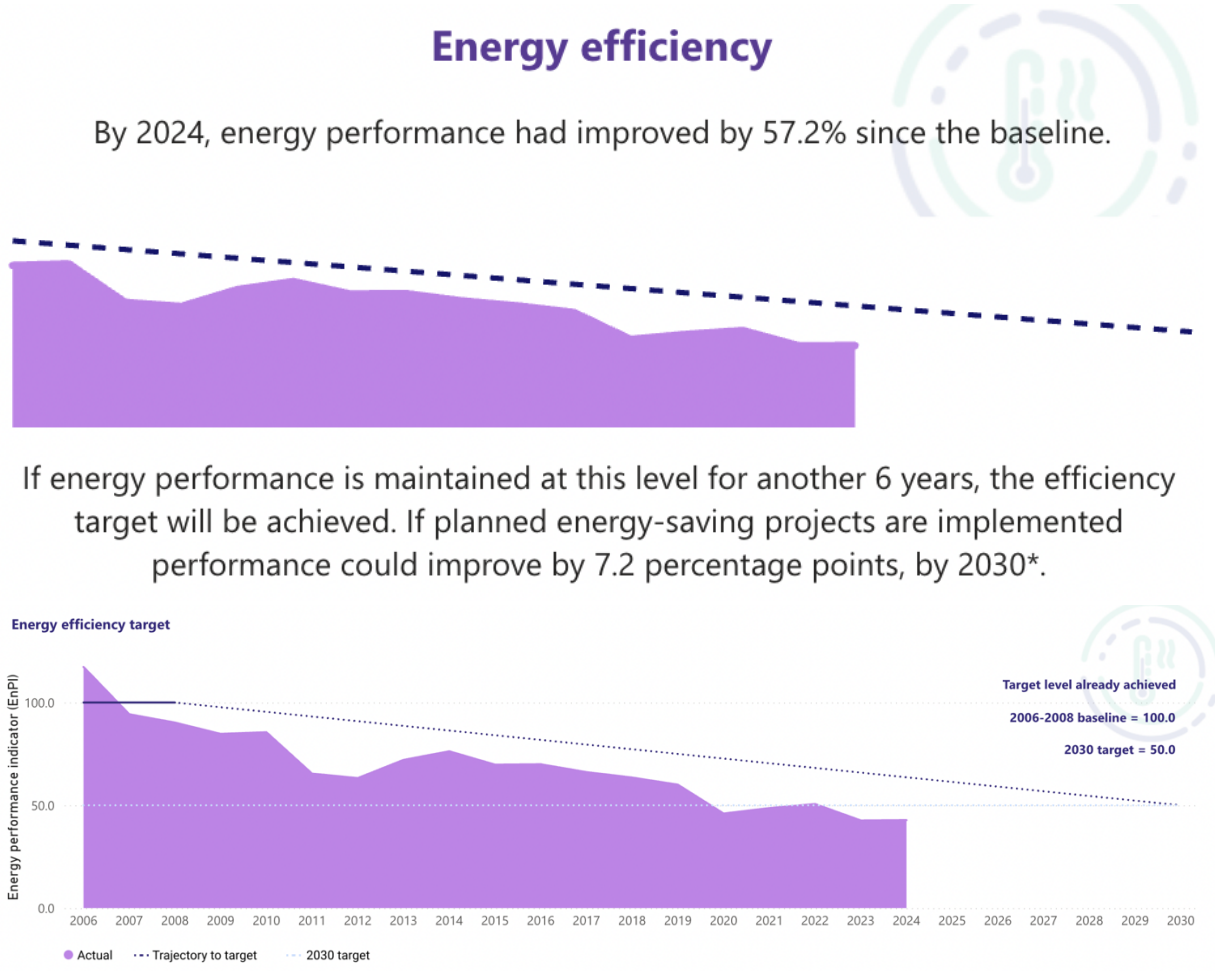

Figure 7. Energy efficiency performance (exported from M&R)

4.3. Analysis

The University is on track to achieve both the GHG emissions target and the energy efficiency target. We are very proud of these achievements. Listed below are some of the factors which have enabled these achievements.

- **People**: The Energy Team has been pivotal in managing energy and GHG emissions for many years. The team has been recognised with SEAI Sustainable Energy Awards in 2019, 2020 and 2023. There are strong collaborations in place with funding bodies (e.g. SEAI, HEA and DFHERIS), CUSP, Galway City Council, Galway County Council, HSE and ATU. There is also buy-in from the wider campus population with students, researchers and other staff have ensured that their energy behaviour has supported our targets. This has been bolstered through behaviour change campaigns (e.g. 12 Days of Energy Christmas campaign, seasonal tips and advice at holidays, Switch Off and Save).

- **Energy management**: the University has maintained certification to ISO50001: 2018 Energy Management System standard, which we use to continuously improve our energy and carbon performance. Energy usage at each of our significant energy using buildings is monitored using our bespoke building energy management system software, actively discussed at energy review meetings and improvements identified for facilities, equipment, systems and energy using processes on a regular basis.

- **Demonstrator projects**: We have successfully completed several projects to as exemplar and pathfinder projects to understand the implications and standards necessary. This has included the SEAI/HEA Pathfinder project Áras De Brún (new air-to-water 200kW heat pump, LED lighting upgrade, 35kW PV Panels completed on the roof, radiators and a new Building Management system installed). Another demonstrator project was GEOFIT (installation of 18 No. 150m boreholes, district heating pipework, 2 No. new 50 kW heat pumps to link to the Kingfisher swimming pool providing a secondary heat source). No 9 Distillery Road was also refurbished as an exemplar building, improving from a BER of G to A2.

- **Other notable projects in recent years**:
    - Extensive upgrades at the two largest energy users, Bioscience Research Building and Human Biology Building, including new steam traps, new chillers, exact heating, cooling & humidity controls and awareness campaigns.
    - Installation of new fabric roof upgrade to Áras na MacLéinn with installation of 150kw Solar PV installation and new Building Management Control System
    - More than 500kw solar PV installed on campus rooftops
    - Transition to EV fleet and installation of 20 EV charging points around campus
    - 1000s of LED lights installed throughout campus buildings
    - 1MW Wood Pellet Boilers serving Alice Perry and the Quadrangle
    - Improved control strategies across older building stock, replacement of equipment that was no longer energy efficient, boilers, pumps, air handling units, fume cupboard fans, light fittings and electric motors

- Collaboration with researchers and students on a wide variety of projects, e.g. Waterway, Geofit Thermal Heat Pump, HITTHEGAP, DE-RISK Project, wave and wind research.

4.4. Actions/projects required to meet targets

We have modelled a scenario to 2030 to enable the University to achieve and surpass the Climate Action Mandate targets. In our modelled scenario, by 2030, fossil emissions would be 1,476,440 $kgCO_2$ and total emissions would be 3,052,154 $kgCO_2$. This would represent a 73% reduction in total emissions. Many of the projects included in the model are seeking funding and therefore the achievement of these reductions are entirely funding dependent. The inputs and outputs of the model are detailed below.

Figure 8 shows the modelled 2030 scenario in the context of our baseline, 2024 result and 2030 target. Figure 9 is the waterfall chart of this modelled 2030 scenario demonstrating the reductions from the supply side and retrofits as well as the increased energy use from campus expansion. Finally, Figure 10 shows the modelled scenario to 2050.

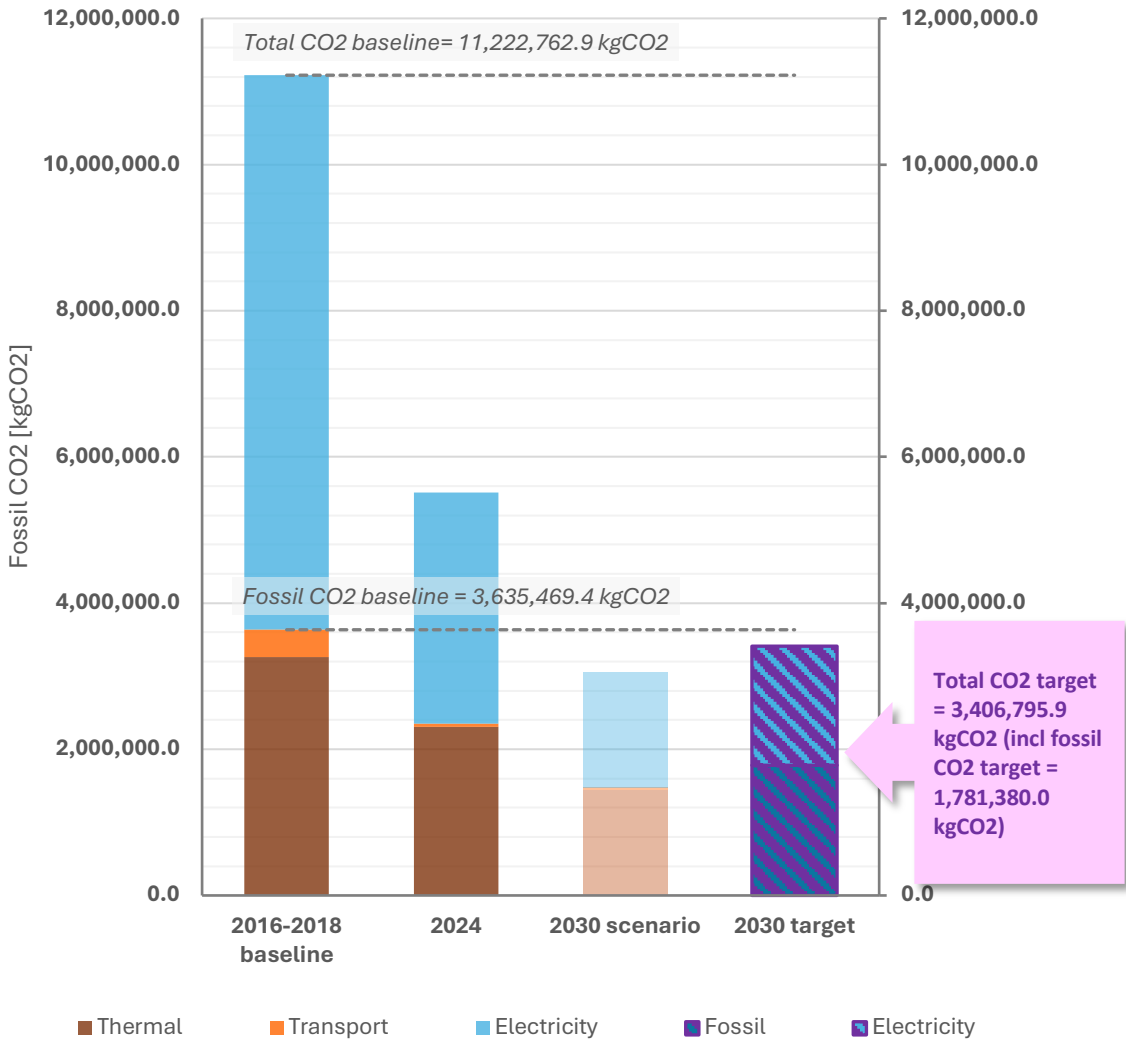

Figure 8. Modelled 2030 scenario (exported from gap-to-target tool)

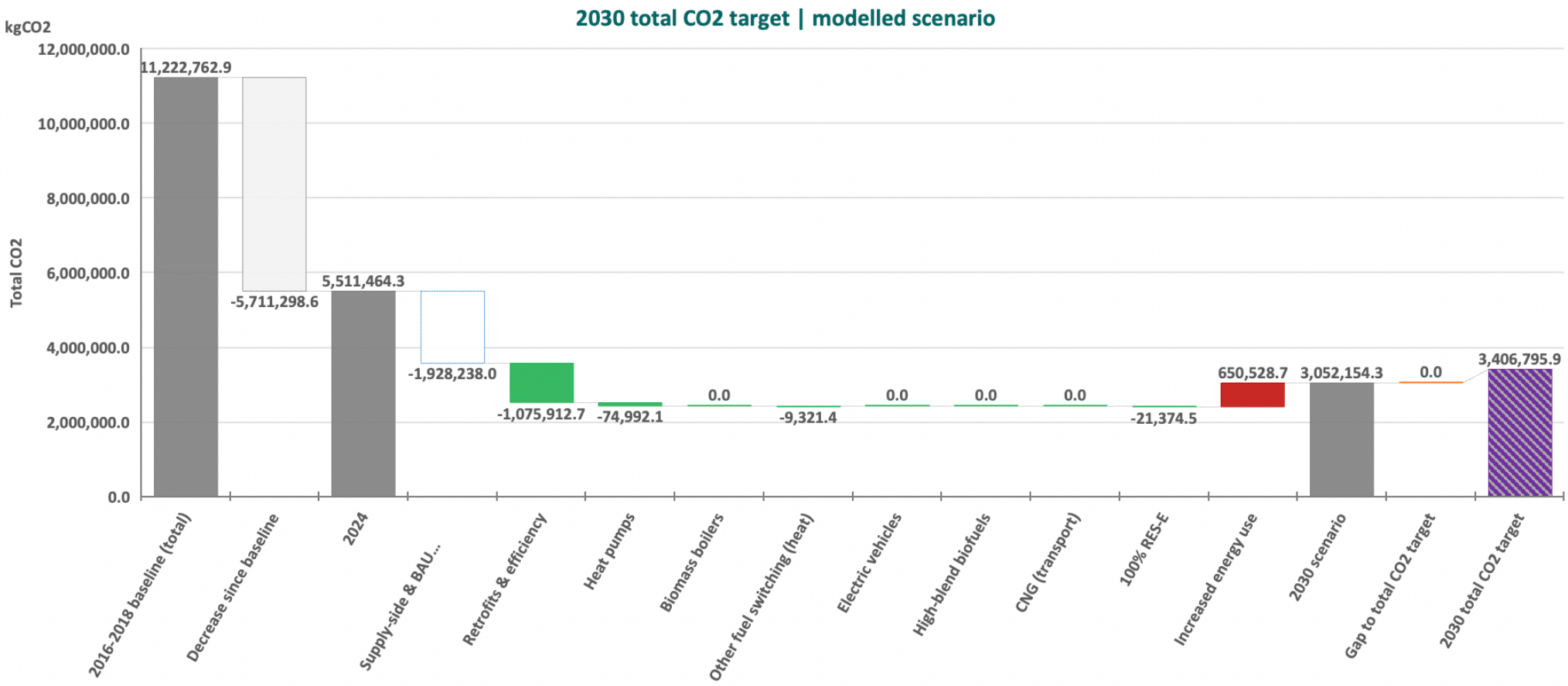

Figure 9. Modelled decarbonisation scenario to 2030

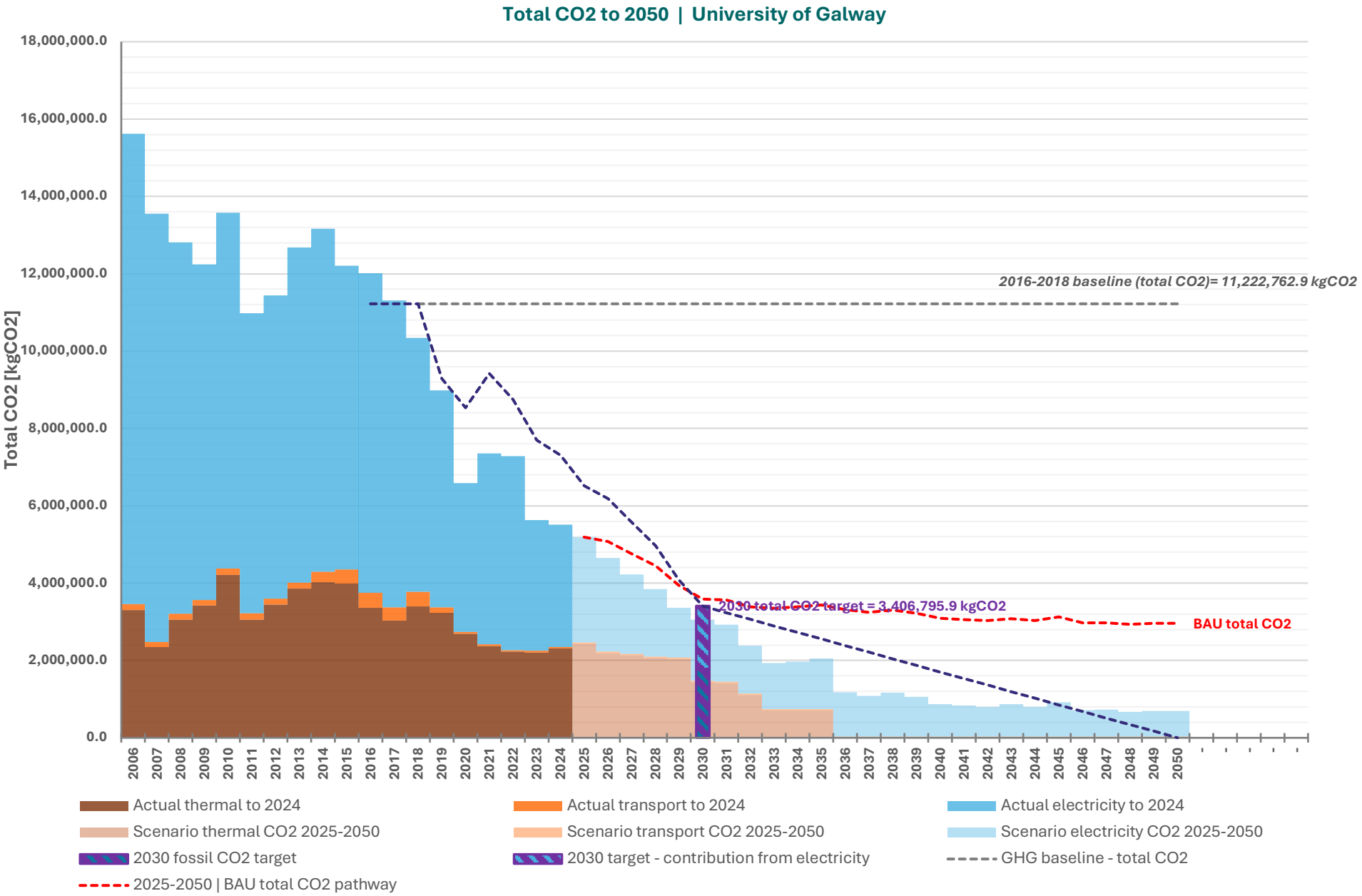

Figure 10. Total CO_2 pathway to 2050

The Energy Team has developed a range of energy efficiency projects and new builds. We are using nZEB – nearly zero energy building techniques and technologies on the new library buildings. Additionally, we are using the results from the Áras de Brun deep retrofit project to roll out similar projects, on similar buildings, into the future. The Energy Team and indeed all of the Building & Estates Department continues to identify potential boiler-house upgrade projects, LED lighting replacement projects, Set-back HVAC opportunities (e.g. using interlocked HVAC-occupancy sensors e.g. at the Cairns Building) and pumps/ motors replaced with modern energy efficient equivalents. The boiler house upgrades include fuel switching and installing hydrogenated vegetable oil – HVO boiler systems on boiler systems at # 10 Newcastle Road, and 3 other properties on Distillery Road. It also is continuing to 'roll out' renewable energy projects such as the installation of large scale geothermal, photovoltaic, solar hot water and biomass boiler systems and power plant upgrades and the combination of results will lead to large-scale decarbonisation.

The most significant projects include the Medium Voltage MV electricity distribution system upgrade project (installation and commissioning of new cabling systems and new ESB sub-station), the continued roll out of energy efficient boiler house upgrades, the ongoing replacement of florescent light fittings (with LED equivalents) and upgrades to the Building Management System with resulting improvements to air treatment controls and efficiencies. Additionally, the Buildings and Estates team continue to roll out photovoltaic electricity generation projects.

One of the highlight action plans relates to the University of Galway 2030 Zero Carbon Action Plan. The University is formulating a fully costed action plan to transition to a zero-carbon campus in the next decade. It includes the installation of a district heating network, heat pump related thermal energy sources, occupancy controls, and other key actions relate to upgrading numerous fume cupboards; and retrofitting energy efficient motors, sensors, and hoods/doors/screens, carrying out behavioural change campaigns to improve the energy efficiency of laboratories and reviewing the buildings fabric with the view to improving U-values and the thermal mass of buildings.

An ongoing list of opportunities for improvement and potential projects are outlined in the Register of Opportunities. This is an active document with twenty-six opportunities in the 'Seeking Funding Category,' twenty-one opportunities have been recently approved, one hundred and nine have been completed.

Information was extracted from the Register of Opportunities and entered in the gap-to-target tool. The following assumptions should be noted:

- Many of the projects included in the model are seeking funding and therefore the achievement of these reductions are entirely funding dependent
- The largest project included in the model is District Heating system Phase 1 for North Campus which is entered for 2029.
- Energy from expansion of the campus to 300,000 m^2 TUFA by 2030 has been included.
- Large post-2030 projects are District Heating for South Campus, District Heating Phase 2, Solar PV Farm and Arts-Science upgrade.

5. Our Way of Working

5.1. Energy and environmental management systems

The University achieved ISO 50001 certification in 2011 and achieved re-certification to ISO 50001:2018 Monitoring and Reporting. This is an international energy management standard aligned to SDGs and recognises our efforts to use energy more efficiently and to achieve continuous improvement in energy performance. The President annually signs the energy and carbon policy which is a requirement of the ISO 50001:2018 plan.

The Energy team, led by the Energy Performance Officer, leads the University in its quest for continuous improvement in its energy footprint and efficiency, and compliance with external regulations and standards for:

- Ensuring the EnMS is established, implemented, maintained and undergoes continuous improvement in compliance with the standard.
- Allocating responsibility for energy management activities to the Energy & Utilities Manager.
- Reporting back to the University Management Team (UMT) meetings on energy performance and adherence to the EnMS.
- Ensuring that the energy measures are in line with the University's Energy Policy, promoting the awareness of the Energy Policy and objectives throughout the University and ensuring that the operation of the EnMS is appropriate and effective.
- Ensuring the energy management approach supports the University's Energy Policy,
- Engaging with external funding bodies SEAI and HEA to carry out energy projects as part of Pathways.
- Set targets and actions from the Register of Opportunities.
- Members of the U9 group of University Energy engineers.
- Actively promote energy reduction and run energy campaigns to encourage students to reduce energy consumption.

5.2. Digitisation of processes

The University's Sustainable Public Procurement Handbook refers to the Irish GPP Criteria for Paper and Printing Services and requires the following to be included in tender documents: Legal harvest of timber for pulp production; Sustainable sourcing of fibres for pulp production; Waste (for converted or printed paper products); and Recyclability (for converted or printed paper products). Criteria are also included in the Handbook for the impact of printing (paper, chemicals, inks, energy, water, waste) and event/conference paper products (deforestation, air, water and soil pollution, energy and chemical use in processing, printing, waste).

The University has strived to digitalise services and reduce printing and paper use through a variety of measures, including procurement and behaviour change. The University's Waste Reduction, Reuse & Recycling Guidelines include sections on mixed recycling and the Binless Office Policy (students and staff must bring any waste to the nearest recycling station located in communal areas). A paper recycling tray is provided on each desk in teaching venues and offices. The University monitors the procurement of paper products and services.

The Student Digital Pathways programme is transforming University processes and IT with the implementation of a new student records management solution. The programme has a core aim to review and improve the organisation, processes, underlying technology and data used to manage the students' journey at University of Galway – from recruitment to graduation. Staff and students will have access to a single platform, the SRMS, for all student services and data. The solution will be available across multiple platforms, mobile and desktop, for accessibility. This is a large and complex programme and one of the many benefits will be the digitalisation of previously manual processes. This programme will be completed under the University of Galway Strategy 2025-2030.

5.3. Green procurement

As part of the University's commitment to developing its organisational resilience, and to mitigating the loss of goods and services that support its critical academic, research, and support functions, it will incorporate measures into its procurement processes and procedures to evaluate the effectiveness of its critical suppliers' business continuity arrangements.

The University of Galway Procurement Policy 2023 pledges to 'incorporate the use of Green Procurement practices in our processes and procedures, in an effort to reduce our environmental impact in conjunction with CUSP'. Clause 15 of the University of Galway's Procurement Policy relates to sustainability. The University is committed to working with the relevant Government agencies to develop green procurement criteria that will be used where relevant when tendering for goods, services and works.

In incorporating sustainable and social considerations into tenders, Units seek to ensure that:

- the sustainable and social consideration does not result in discrimination,
- sustainable and social considerations are linked to the subject matter of the contract,
- value for money is maintained to ensure sustainable delivery of services,
- the objective of the sustainable and social consideration is proportionate to the contract,
- the targeted benefit is capable of being measured and monitored during the execution of the contract (the necessary staffing, arrangements and resources should be allocated to this task having regard to the principle of proportionality), and
- the clauses do not negatively impact on the SME sector

The University of Galway Sustainable Public Procurement Handbook provides guidance on ways to reduce environmental impact, promote economic development, and support social responsibility when purchasing goods and services. The Handbook is based on legal/regulatory requirements including

- Circular 17/2025: Updated Green Public Procurement Instructions for Public Sector Bodies, regarding new Green Public Procurement obligations included in the GPP Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2027
- Green Public Procurement Implementation Mandate set out in Buying Greener: Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2027)
- EPA Green Public Procurement Guidance and Criteria

In the Climate Action Mandate 2025, specifications have been introduced for procurement in the following categories:

- Organic food: A minimum of 10% by value (€) of food sought under new contract arrangements (including via contractors such as canteen service providers), is to be certified organic in each of the following categories of Cereals, fresh Beef, Lamb, Pork, Poultry, Fish, Vegetables and Dairy products, where possible.
- Food waste: All new contract arrangements related to canteen or food services, including events and conferences, to include measures that are targeted at addressing food waste (with a specific focus on food waste prevention and food waste segregation, taking into account Ireland's commitment to reduce food waste by 50% by 2030.
- ICT Equipment: A minimum of 80% of ICT end user products (desktop computers, portable computers and mobile phones) procured by public sector bodies under new contract arrangements are certified to EPEAT Gold Standard (or equivalent), TCO Certified (or equivalent) or will have been remanufactured.
- Energy-related products: All tenders for the public procurement of energy-related products, heating equipment, or indoor and outdoor lighting to include a requirement for tenderers to specify recommendations and options for the product, when the product or components of the product comes to the end of life, that consider environmental sustainability, including options for reuse, repair, and recycling. Comply with SI 626 of 2016 to procure Triple E registered products or equivalent.
- Indoor cleaning services: All tenders for the public procurement of indoor cleaning services to include a requirement for tenderers to specify the training that will be put in place to ensure that all staff involved in delivery of the contract have the knowledge and skills to apply cleaning methods, which will reduce the environmental impact of the services.
- Construction: A minimum proportion of construction materials procured by public bodies under new contract arrangements to comprise recycled materials, that is informed by a Circularity Roadmap for the Construction Sector and the 2nd Whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy to be published in 2025.

The University of Galway Sustainable Public Procurement Handbook is currently being updated to reflect the mandate in these areas as well as updated guidance from the EPA.

5.4. Low carbon construction methods

All new buildings refurbishments are designed and built to sustainable standards. The University's Waste Reduction, Reuse & Recycling Guidelines include the need to consider end of life disposal costs and environmental impact when making procurement decisions including the construction of new or refurbished buildings.

The two most recently completed developments on the University campus are student accommodation developments: Goldcrest and Dunlin. Goldcrest is a 426-bed student residence in North Campus. The development has a DEC cert of A3. The development is equipped with a centralised energy centre and Building Energy Management System (BEMS); energy-efficient LED lighting is installed throughout the development. Natural ventilation is used and there is a high level of insulation and air tightness (2.9m^3/m^2/hr@50Pa).

Dunlin is a 674-bed student residence, also in North Campus. It has received BREEAM certification with a 'very good' rating. Engineers JV Tierney describe the environmental credentials as follows: "The development is NZEB compliant and BER A3 rated, with sustainable and energy-efficient design features such as LED lighting, Photovoltaics, A & A+ Green Materials, Air Source Heat Pumps, an advanced Continuous Mechanical Extract Ventilation (CMEV) system to improve occupant comfort and air quality, a Building Energy Management System (BEMS), and high levels of airtightness and insulation."

5.5. Resource use

Food Waste

Organic waste, composed of food waste arising from catering services and green waste arising from plant trimmings and grass cuttings, is segregated. The waste is sent to Barna Recycling where it enters a controlled industrial scale composting process. The resultant compost is returned to the University, where it is used as a fertiliser on the campus grounds.

The University of Galway Student Pantry is a student led initiative where leftover food is collected from supermarkets and re-distributed to students. The food is sourced through FoodCloud, a system creating links with local supermarkets to redistribute food and reduce food wastage. The collections consist of surplus food, food with damaged packaging, end of line items and food that is nearing its best before date. As well as a valuable food waste reduction initiative, the food has proven invaluable to many University of Galway students struggling to make ends meet.

We provide for the collection of organic food waste in all food venues across campus – this is a requirement of all catering partners to have in place and we encourage students to utilise the bins correctly through awareness campaigns. We work closely with our catering & commercial partners who operate the cafes, bars, restaurants, student residences and venues across campus to ensure they are aligned with our waste management goals.

Catering partners are required to abide by our Waste Management Policy and track the amount of waste they produce as well as the recycling rate. In 2024, 46,306 tonnes of food waste was measured in campus catering outlets. This represents a 11% decrease in food waste when compared to 2023 (52,162 tonnes).

Water

University of Galway is committed to reducing bottled water consumption on campus by increasing drinking water facilities, improving signage and implementing a programme of education and awareness. The University has installed drinking water refill points throughout the campus, inside and outside buildings. The locations of these fountains are displayed on a drinking water map (available here) which is shared with the campus community. Refillable water bottles have been distributed to incoming first year students and at special events.

University of Galway is committed to the effective and efficient use of water throughout the campus and the appropriate treatment, management and disposal of wastewater. The University is striving to reduce its water usage and increase the use of harvested rainwater through a series of measures, including: water leakage detection and repair programme, education and outreach, process-related efficiency measures, greywater and rainwater harvesting.

The University of Galway Water Stewardship Charter outlines our key actions and targets. The Charter commits to maintaining and achieving further reductions in water usage on campus and to highlighting the importance of water of as a critical and limited resource. It aims to ensure that our future water professionals are cognisant of best, sustainable practices in water resource management, treatment and supply, through research-led teaching and on-campus applied solutions. The Certified Water Stewardship badge demonstrates that key staff have undertaken a course designed to show leadership and set goals/targets in reducing water consumption.

Single Use

As of August 2024, the University and on-campus catering outlets have ceased using disposable coffee cups. This is the culmination of engagement with catering companies and promoting reuseable cups, including the introduction of the 2GoCup deposit-and-return scheme.

As per our Sustainability Strategy, we work with staff, students and visitors to eliminate single-use plastics for water consumption by extending the network of drinking water fountains across the campus. See section on water above.

As part of Galway Green Labs programme, we seek to reduce single-use laboratory plastics and promote the use of green products/alternatives. We substitute single-use plastic with other reusable materials and work with suppliers to reduce packaging plastic.

Other Materials

The University has made great strides in the reduction, reuse and recycling of waste on campus. University of Galway's Waste Management Plan gives an overview of these achievements, outlines our current processes in dealing with various waste streams and sets out some ambitious targets for the future. We have set clear guidelines through the Waste Reduction Reuse Recycling Guidelines on campus.

University of Galway is accredited with a “Zero Waste to Landfill” certificate. Zero Waste to Landfill is the process by which waste generated on the University of Galway campus is processed to maximise the recovery of the recyclable materials and that any residual waste that cannot be recycled is processed as refuse derived fuel for incineration. The energy generated, is used to generate electricity at waste to energy plants.

Bin The Bin is a binless office scheme, focusing on enhancing recycling in the workplace. It removes the traditional under-desk office bin and replaces this with dedicated recycling

stations in key communal locations on every floor of the building. Three-stream waste and recycling stations are available throughout the campus. Buildings & Estates provides a waste management service for general waste, recycling, glass, organic (partial), confidential waste (partial) and WEEE waste.

Glassary is a student led equipment reuse initiative, part of the ALIVE volunteering programme, that encourages University of Galway students to divert unwanted household items from landfill. Equipment collection points are set up at student accommodation centres across the campus and students are encourage to donate unwanted white goods, household items and clothing. The items are donated to charity, or stored for the benefit of incoming students. This circular economy initiative is now in its third cycle.

6. Our buildings and vehicles

6.1. Vehicles

Promoting alternatives to car use

University of Galway is committed to sustainable transportation planning and implementing, and continuously improving and promoting sustainable transportation opportunities and programmes for the campus community. University of Galway is a National Transport Authority - Smarter Travel Campus partner. Smarter Travel Campus is a hands-on programme working with Third Level Institutions to implement campus travel plans – or actions to encourage and support students and staff to walk, cycle, take public transport or carpool on the commute to campus. In 2025, the University achieved the NTA Smarter Travel Mark at the 'Silver' level.

Some examples of sustainable travel facilities on campus:

- Secure and covered bike park
- Accessible, family friendly covered bicycle parking
- Bike sharing station
- An Mheitheal Rothar community bicycle workshop
- Electric vehicle charging spaces
- Showers, changing rooms and lockers
- Fully signposted riverside walking and cycling route
- Accessible route

Phasing out parking

The Climate Action Mandate requires: "Phase out the use of parking in buildings that have access to a range of public transport services and active/shared mobility options for the majority of staff/visitors, while providing that sufficient accessible parking is maintained for those with physical mobility issues."

Parking on the University campus is restricted. There are different types of spaces on campus, including spaces for staff permit holders only, student permit holders only, shared use (staff student permit holders), visitor/non-permit holder pay-and-display/Pay by Phone (P&D) spaces. Drivers of vehicles requiring the use of 'universally accessible parking bays' may do so if their vehicle displays a valid and registered "blue badge" permit issued by the IWA. If they have a blue badge, drivers may use any of the universally accessible bays for free throughout the University, regardless of whether they hold a permit or not. The University Park & Ride facility is located in the North Campus and is serviced by an electric shuttle bus service.

The University does not have access to public transport services with sufficient capacity, frequency and reliability. A new Campus Travel Plan will detail the University's approach to advocating for improved public transport services.

Procurement of zero emission vehicles

We procure only zero-emissions vehicles, unless there is no viable option. We are committed to continuing the process of upgrading our university transport fleet with electric vehicles. We continue to seek funding to replace diesel vehicles with electric alternatives. Electric vehicle changing points have been installed at various locations throughout the campus. We report under the Clean Vehicles Directive.

6.2. Buildings

A Building Stock Plan has been completed and uploaded.

Our strategy is to incorporate the principle of energy efficiency first, the use of renewable energy technologies and heat pump systems, when replacing gas and oil boiler systems. We will not use any new fossil fuel heating systems after 2023. Our design brief for all new and retrofit projects/ buildings will be to achieve nearly zero-energy building (nZEB) standard. We will use best available technologies not entailing excessive costs (BATNECC) and will incorporate life cycle cost analysis exercises in all capital projects. Up-to-date Display Energy Certificates are displayed in all public buildings.

Our planned and proposed projects (including retrofits) are outlined in our Register of Opportunities and included in the modelled scenario to 2030 (see Section 4.4). As described in Section 4.4, the University is developing a fully costed action plan to transition to a zero-carbon campus in the next decade. It includes the installation of a district heating network, heat pump related thermal energy sources, occupancy controls, and other key actions relate to upgrading numerous fume cupboards; and retrofitting energy efficient motors, sensors, and hoods/doors/screens, carrying out behavioural change campaigns to improve the energy efficiency of laboratories and reviewing the buildings fabric with the view to improving U-values and the thermal mass of buildings.

We are cognisant of the scale of the challenge and the cost barriers associated with designing, building, installing and commissioning energy efficient & renewable energy projects/ buildings. Our approach will be to position applications for funding. It is essential that the University has a pipeline of projects ready for potential funding support (e.g. Pathfinder projects).

7. Our wider climate action plans

The University of Galway is recognised nationally and internationally for sustainability achievements:

- Ranked as the top university in Ireland and top 5 in the EU for performance on the Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs);
- The first higher education institution to be designated a National SDG Champion
- Received a Gold rating in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS), the premier international certification system for sustainability in higher education;
- The first in Europe to be awarded Green Lab certification; and
- Renewed Green Campus status by An Taisce.

The University of Galway Sustainability Strategy 2021-2025 sets out our vision and commitment to lead the implementation of sustainability across the university mission and beyond. Using a Learn- Live-Lead approach, our strategic aim is to embed sustainability in our culture, operational policies and governance structures and empower our communities to be champions of sustainability.

The focus of learn is to embed sustainability literacy into all aspects of university learning and research, the focus of live is to implement the principles of sustainability through campus operations and engagement activities, from a learn perspective the aim is to play a central and transformative role in attaining the SDGs by 2030.

The Community & University Sustainability Partnership (CUSP) operates through a multidisciplinary board and each member aligns to sustainability working groups which are organised around the learn-live-lead themes: research and learning, sustainable living and wellbeing, nature and ecosystems, and governance and leadership.

The University has signed the SDG Accord, committing to embed the SDGs into our education, research, leadership, operations, administration and engagement activities. The University is also designated a National SDG Champion (now SDG Ambassador) with the aim of raising public awareness of the SDGs and highlight institutions making significant progress towards achieving them.

The University is currently developing a new Sustainability Strategy 2026-2030. To date, this has included workshops, surveys, stakeholder engagements and committee discussions. The new Sustainability Strategy will reflect the University's wide-ranging commitments on sustainability and climate action, increased level of ambition and the Public Sector Climate Action Mandate.

For further information on sustainability at the University of Galway, see https://www.universityofgalway.ie/sustainability/

Appendix 1. Public Sector Climate Action Mandate 2025

Requirement	Roadmap Section
1.1 Reduce energy related GHG emissions by 51% in 2030.	4.1
1.2 Improve energy efficiency in the public sector by 50% by 2030.	4.2
1.3 Update Climate Action Roadmaps annually within 6 months of the publication of the Climate Action Plan. Develop Climate Action Roadmaps if none are in place.	All
2.1 Establish and resource Green Teams, reporting to senior management, to become integrated drivers of sustainability in every public sector body.	2.4
2.2 Nominate a member of the Management Board as the Climate and Sustainability Champion with responsibility for implementing and reporting on the mandate.	2.2
2.3 Incorporate appropriate climate action and sustainability training (technical and behavioural, including green procurement training) into learning and development strategies for staff.	3.1
2.4 Organise staff workshops (at least annually) to engage on climate issues, including a focus on decreasing the organisation's carbon footprint.	3.2
2.5 Ensure all senior management (P.O. level or equivalent and above) and members of State Boards, complete a climate action leadership training course.	3.3
3.1 Report on the following in the Annual Report of the public sector body: • GHG emissions; • Implementation of the mandate; • Sustainability activities; • Compliance with Circular 1/2020: Procedures for offsetting the emissions associated with official air travel.	*Annual Report*
3.2 Using SEAI's Public Sector M&R System, public bodies are to report annually on implementation of the individual mandate requirements using a "comply and explain" approach.	*M&R System*
3.3 Achieve formal environmental certification for large public sector bodies, such as ISO 50001 (Energy Management Standard) or ISO 14001 (Environmental Management System), with a view to going beyond ISO 14001 to adopting Eco Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS). Specifically: 3.3.1 All public sector bodies with an energy spend greater than €2 million per annum to achieve ISO 50001 certification by end-2024; 3.3.2 All remaining public bodies to implement energy management programmes as per SEAI's energy management guidance (S.I. 426 of 2014) and report to SEAI annually on its M&R system.	5.1
3.4 Green Public Procurement: 3.4.1 Implement Green Public Procurement in accordance with the Green Public Procurement Implementation Mandate set out in Buying Greener: Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2027, using the EPA Green Public Procurement Guidance and criteria/Office of Government Procurement's online Green Public Procurement Criteria Search tool as resources. 3.4.2 Adhere to the new circular, which will replace Circular 20/2019, to be published by the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform regarding new Green Public Procurement obligations included in the GPP Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2027.	5.3
3.5 Construction 3.5.1 Specify low carbon construction methods and low carbon cement material as far as practicable for directly procured or supported construction projects from 2024.	5.4

3.5.2 Adhere to the best practice guidelines for the preparation of Resource and Waste Management Plans for construction and demolition projects for directly procured or supported construction projects from 2024. 3.5.3. A minimum proportion of construction materials procured by public bodies under new contract arrangements to comprise recycled materials, that is informed by a Circularity Roadmap for the Construction Sector and the 2nd Whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy to be published in 2025	
3.6 Organic Food 3.6.1. A minimum of 10% by value (€) of food sought under new contract arrangements (including via contractors such as canteen service providers), is to be certified organic in each of the following categories of Cereals, fresh Beef, Lamb, Pork, Poultry, Fish, Vegetables and Dairy products, where possible.	5.3
3.7 Food Waste 3.7.1. Measure and monitor the food waste generated on premises from 2024, using a standardised approach to food waste measurement set out in the EPA public sector guidance. 3.7.2. All new contract arrangements related to canteen or food services, including events and conferences, to include measures that are targeted at addressing food waste (with a specific focus on food waste prevention and food waste segregation, taking into account Ireland's commitment to reduce food waste by 50% by 2030.	5.5
3.8 ICT Equipment 3.8.1. A minimum of 80% of ICT end user products (desktop computers, portable computers and mobile phones) procured by public sector bodies under new contract arrangements are certified to EPEAT Gold Standard (or equivalent), TCO Certified (or equivalent) or will have been remanufactured.	5.3
3.9 Paper 3.9.1 Review any paper-based processes and evaluate the possibilities for digitisation so it becomes the default approach. Eliminate paper-based processes as far as is practicable. Where paper must be procured, ensure that recycled paper is the default. 3.9.2 Measure and monitor paper consumption	5.2
3.10 Water 3.10.1. Provide suitable drinking water refill points for all staff and in any premises accessed by the public and 3.10.2. Measure and monitor total water usage for the organisation as a whole	5.5
3.11 Single Use 3.11.1 Cease using disposable cups, plates and cutlery in any public sector canteen or closed facility, excluding clinical (i.e., non-canteen healthcare) environments, and in publicly funded advertising or broadcasting, where feasible. 3.11.2 Progressively eliminate all single use items within the organisation and from events organised, funded, or sponsored.	5.5
3.12 Other Materials 3.12.1 Support Ireland's Producer Responsibility Initiatives in the collection and recycling of products. 3.12.2 Use waste collection services that are segregated into a minimum of 3 streams – residual/general waste, recycling waste and organic/biowaste.	5.5
4.1 Promote the use of bicycles (including push bikes, electric bikes, and cargo bikes) and shared mobility options as an alternative to car use among employees and visitors by creating and maintaining facilities (both inside and outside of buildings) that support such options, including secure and accessible bicycle parking, shared mobility parking, and charging stations, as appropriate, with a view to achieving the National Transport Authority's Smarter Travel Mark.	6.1

4.2 Phase out the use of parking in buildings that have access to a range of public transport services and active/shared mobility options for the majority of staff/visitors, while providing that sufficient accessible parking is maintained for those with physical mobility issues.	6.1
4.3 Display an up-to-date Display Energy Certificate in every public building that is open to the public to clearly show energy use.	6.2
4.4 The public sector will not install heating systems that use fossil fuels after 2023, in (1) new buildings, and (2) "major renovation" retrofit projects as defined in the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) unless at least one of the following exceptions applies: The fossil-fuel use is only through using electricity from the grid. • There is no technically viable non-fossil alternative (generally only related to applications for a purpose other than space heating). • The installation of a renewable space heating system would increase final CO2 emissions. • The fossil-fuel use is provided for backup, peaking, or operational purposes (and makes up less than 10% of annual heating energy). • Where the direct replacement of existing fossil fuel heating is required for an emergency maintenance purpose.	6.2
4.5 All tenders for the public procurement of energy-related products, heating equipment, or indoor and outdoor lighting to include a requirement for tenderers to specify recommendations and options for the product, when the product or components of the product comes to the end of life, that consider environmental sustainability, including options for reuse, repair, and recycling. Comply with SI 626 of 2016 to procure Triple E registered products or equivalent.	5.3
4.6 All tenders for the public procurement of indoor cleaning services to include a requirement for tenderers to specify the training that will be put in place to ensure that all staff involved in delivery of the contract have the knowledge and skills to apply cleaning methods, which will reduce the environmental impact of the services.	5.3
4.7 Buildings 4.7.1 Building stock plans – all public bodies that have not yet completed a stage 1 Building Stock Plan should do so and submit to SEAI. Public bodies that have completed a BSP should update it regularly, minimum every two years. Public bodies are encouraged to include their BSPs in their Climate Action Roadmaps 4.7.2 National Estate Portfolio Leads are accountable for energy targets within their sectors and for developing pathways to achieve these targets. e.g., in relation to the Civil Service, the OPW will plan the deep retrofit of Government Departments' building stock. The specific sectors are outlined in the stage 1 Building Stock Guidance. These National Estate Portfolio leads (NEPLs) will undertake Stage 2 Building Stock plans for their respective sectors. They shall develop plans and roadmaps of how they & their respective sectors will address national and upcoming EU EPBD and EED directive targets, considering both the short term actions (towards 2030 targets) and long term vision (to 2050 net zero). SEAI will work with the NEPLs and National Working Group on Decarbonising Public Buildings to develop guidance for Stage 2 BSP. With a view to sectors completing initial plans and roadmaps by the end of 2025. SEAIs Monitoring and Reporting system will be enhanced to track national and relevant EU directive targets at NEPL level. 4.7.4. Small public sector bodies should include a basic building stock analysis or statement as part of their Climate Action Roadmap, in line with the guidance published by SEAI.	6.2
4.8 Vehicles Procure (purchase or lease) only zero-emissions vehicles from the end of 2022, enabling Ireland to go beyond the requirements of the EU Directive, amending Directive 2009/33/EC on the promotion of clean and energy-efficient road transport vehicles (EU Directive 2019/1161, the Clean Vehicle Directive) and act as an international leader in	6.1

this area. An exception applies where the vehicle is exempt under European Communities (Clean and Energy-Efficient Road Transport Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulations (S.I. 381 of 2021)79. Public sector procurement contracts for delivery and haulage should specify zero-emissions vehicles where possible. 4.8.1. As an enabler for the switch to zero-emissions vehicles and meeting Climate Action Plan targets, in 2024 public sector bodies with a vehicle fleet should develop a plan for installation of charging infrastructure in relevant locations. The plan should align installation of infrastructure with timelines for decarbonisation of the body's fleet. The plan should be included in the body's Climate Action Roadmap.	