

LIT-Tipperary Green Charter

Mission

The mission of the LIT Tipperary Green-Campus committee is to reduce the environmental impact of the LIT Clonmel and LIT Thurles campuses, contributing to the global effort to reduce the impact of humans on the environment. LIT 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 LIT 2020 Vision and the LIT Campus 2030 Masterplan.

The initial focus of LIT Tipperary is on the theme of waste and litter. However, this will not exclude taking action on other themes where possible (e.g. energy, water, biodiversity, transport).

Targets

From 2018 to the end of 2022, LIT 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 2017 baseline. The current recycling rate is 41% (Thurles campus, including composting). The targets are detailed in the following table. Achieving these targets at local level contributes to meeting EU, national and regional objectives.

Year (end)	Waste prevention target as a % of baseline waste production	Recycling target as a % of total waste production
2017 (baseline)		41%
2018	98%	45%
2019	96%	50%
2020	94%	55%
2021	92%	60%
2022	90%	70%

LIT policy statements

On 16th June 2014, 22 Presidents of Higher Education Institutions in Ireland, including LIT, signed the Campus Engage Charter, Article 8 of which states:

Our campus and all our activities will be informed by the sustainability agenda in recognition that a 'green campus' contributes to community well-being and economic development;



The LIT Vision and Strategy to 2020, under the heading of 'Our Places', states that 'LIT will adopt best practice to ensure sustainability in estates management from an environmental point of view.' The LIT Campus 2030 Masterplan includes a one-page appendix on Sustainability, which includes a statement that:

LIT is firmly committed to the principles of sustainability. The Institute recognises that its activities impact upon the environment through its operations, its infrastructural development and its influence on the wider community. We acknowledge a responsibility for, and a commitment to, the protection of the environment on every level of activity.

Regarding Waste Management / Recycling, it is stated that 'LIT will implement sustainable resource management practices based on reduce, reuse and recycle principles'.

The LIT Student's Charter October 2014 – October 2017 states that students are invited and expected to treat all property, buildings and grounds with care and respect, and keep the environment litter free.

Benefits

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

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

Half of any demonstrated waste management savings achieved on the Clonmel and Thurles campuses will be donated by LIT to the LIT Student Assistance Fund.

LIT appreciates the contribution of students to the Green-Campus effort, and recognises this with LIT President's Commendations through the LIT GIVE Programme.

Engaging in Green-Campus

Participation in the Green-Campus committee is open to any member of the LIT community, whether students, staff or contractors. The Green-Campus effort is supported by the student-led Environmental Society in Thurles and Clonmel.



Process

The 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. Examples of this approach include the referendum of students and staff held in April 2012 to select the priority theme, and a consultation process on new bin arrangements for the Thurles campus.

From September 2017, new students receive a presentation on Green-Campus at induction 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.

LIT 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.

Procedures for Waste and Litter

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

- Waste collection points are provided in the canteens and through the public areas and offices of the Clonmel and Thurles campuses.
- 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 (Recycling or Disposal).



- 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).
- Consistent bin bag colours are used across the campus (clear bags for Recycling, black bags for Disposal), and bins have signs with photos and text to guide users. The list of items that should be placed in the recycling bin is based on Recycling List Ireland (recyclinglistireland.ie).

Connecting with LIT Tipperary Green-Campus

Webpage	www.lit.ie/GreenCampus
Facebook	www.facebook.com/LITTIPPERARYGREENCAMPUS
Twitter	@LITTIPPGC
Email	greencampus.tipperary@gmail.com
Phone	0504 28105 (Kevin Healion, Secretary)
Moodle	Green-Campus Moodle page for LIT students and staff

Adoption of this Green Charter

Adopted on 16th November 2018.

Vincent Cunnane

Professor Vincent Cunnane, President of LIT