



Tobacco and E-Cigarettes Policy

1. Context

Healthy Trinity 2030 is one of three targets in [Trinity Sustainability Strategy 2025-2030](#). The Tobacco and E-Cigarettes Policy acts towards Healthy Trinity 2030 by responding to the Sustainability Strategy Actions:

- **3.5.6a:** “Support Healthy Trinity’s vision of the University as a ‘health enhancing’ university, including expanding Tobacco free campus to include e-cigarettes ("vapes")”
- **3.5.6d** “Establish a Commercial Determinants of Health Lab in Trinity College Dublin with the aim of teaching, researching and communicating the intersections between a healthy planet and a healthy population.”

Tobacco Free Trinity was established in 2016 in response to the governments Tobacco Free Ireland strategy and has since delivered a Living Lab for Tobacco Free policy that from 2016-2020, observed a [79% reduction in smoking](#) on campus with 90% of smokers complying with the policy when reminded of it. [Healthy Trinity](#) developed from the Tobacco Free Trinity initiative and is Trinity’s implementation of the [HEA Healthy Campus Charter](#).

2. Purpose

The Tobacco and E-Cigarettes Policy:

- a) creates positive, student-led communications on being tobacco and vape free, disseminated digitally and in person, that highlight freedom over nicotine addiction and the benefits of not smoking/vaping for Healthy People and a Healthy Planet.
- b) Restricts outdoor smoking and vaping on campus
- c) Monitors smoking and vaping on campus using a Living Lab approach
- d) Offers support to stop smoking/vaping on campus
- e) Includes upstream campaigns that positively and constructively use the [World Health Organization’s Commercial Determinants of Health](#) agenda to ask the Irish government to strengthen regulation of e-cigarettes for a Healthy Planet and Healthy People.

3. Scope

The Policy applies to students, staff and visitors on Trinity’s College Green campus.

4. Principles

The Policy meets Trinity’s Strategic Plan 2025 values as follows:

Taking responsibility – Trinity is pursuing the government’s Tobacco Free Ireland goal of 5% smoking. Tobacco is Ireland’s leading cause of preventable death, nicotine addiction limits the freedom of our community to thrive and we demonstrate that Tobacco/Vape free policies, when accompanied by a consistent implementation strategy can reduce observed smoking/vaping in our university.

Respecting and caring – The Policy supports those who wish to stop smoking/vaping through respectful interactions and biannual stop smoking/vaping courses on campus.



Always imagining – In 1967, 70% of Irish men smoked. That is now 18%. If we imagine nicotine as a 20th century phenomenon, a 21st century without nicotine seems obvious.

Achieving together – The Policy has developed and been implemented through a whole-university partnership of students and staff as part of Healthy Trinity.

Being nature positive – Every year the tobacco and e-cigarettes industry harms nature through deforestation, air and water pollution, and the creation of vast amounts of non-biodegradable plastic waste. Tobacco farming also contributes to soil degradation and biodiversity loss.

5. Definitions

Commercial Determinants of Health are the private sector activities that affect people’s health, directly or indirectly, positively or negatively. Commercial determinants of health impact a wide range of risk factors, including smoking and vaping. Commercial determinants of health affect everyone, but young people are especially at risk, and unhealthy commodities worsen pre-existing economic, social and racial inequities.

6. Policy

Trinity is a tobacco and e-cigarettes free campus with three designated smoking/vaping areas as per the map in figure 1.

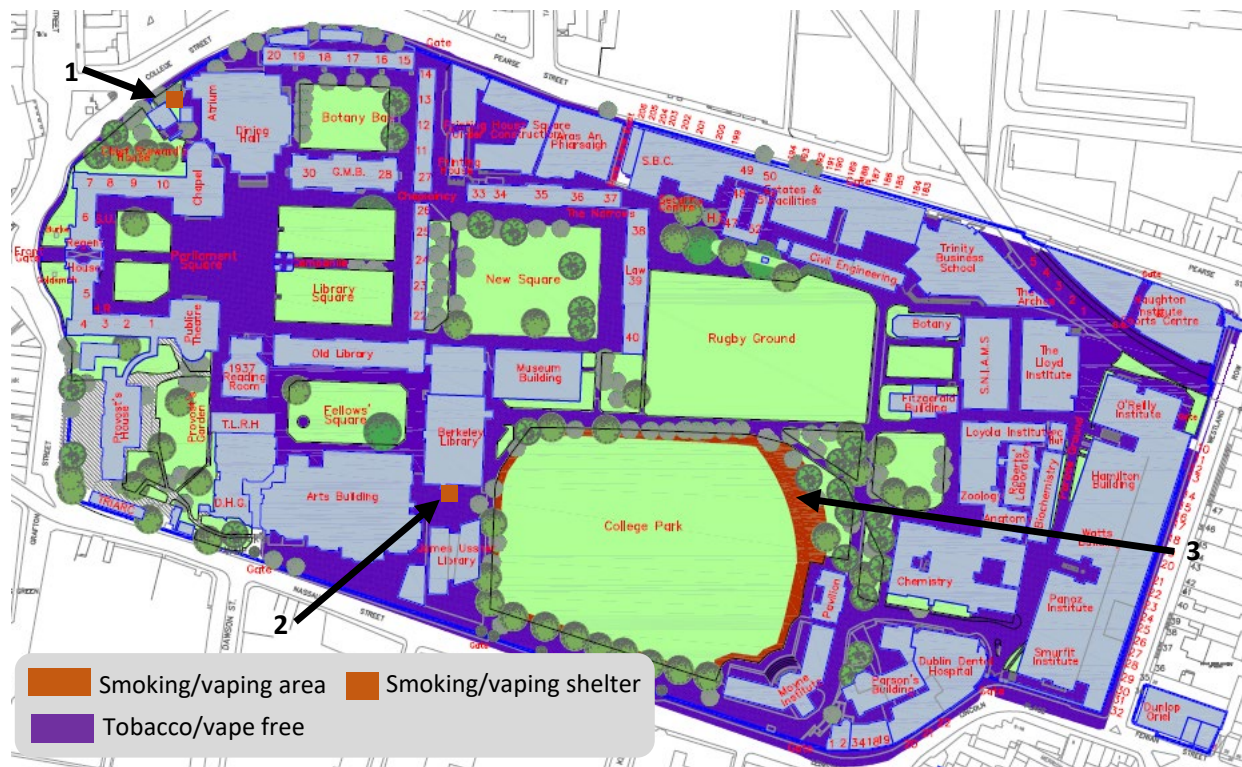


Figure 1: Tobacco/vape free campus shown in purple. Designated smoking/vaping areas in brown.

7. Policy Owner

VP Biodiversity and Climate Action and Director of College Health.



8. Responsibility and Implementation

The Healthy Trinity: Tobacco Group will implement this policy co-led by the Director of the College Health Service and the Healthy Campus Manager in Trinity Sustainability and working with the Health Promotion Officer in College Health.

9. Related Documents

Documents and information on this policy are maintained and updated at:

<https://www.tcd.ie/healthytrinity/smoking/>

10. Document/version Control for New Policies

Approved by: Board

Date policy approved: 12 December 2018

Date of next review: 2030/31

Officer responsible for review: VP Biodiversity and Climate Action and Director of College Health

Document Control for Revised Policies

11.1 Date of initial approval: 12 December 2018

11.2 Date revised policy approved: 28 January 2026

11.3 Date policy effective from: 28 January 2026

11.4 Date of next review: Academic Year 2030/31