

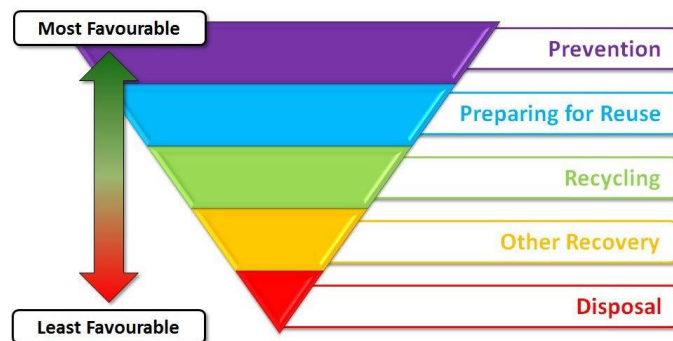
## Introduction

### 1.0 Drivers for Waste Management

RCSI is committed to fostering a sustainable and environmentally responsible campus by reducing waste generation, increasing recycling, and minimising single-use items. The waste policy is designed to align with best practices in sustainability and environmental stewardship, ensuring that waste management is embedded within all aspects of university operations. This policy outlines RCSI’s strategies for tracking, reducing, and responsibly managing waste to meet its goal of zero waste to landfill and a plastic-free environment.

### 2.0 Key principles of Sustainable Waste Management the Waste Hierarchy

The Waste Hierarchy model (implemented through Waste Regulations in Ireland) sets out the “most favorable” and “least favorable” options for waste management. Where disposal is the only remaining option, the College aims for 100% of waste to be diverted from landfill.



### 3.0 Waste Production Tracking and Reduction Planning

RCSI actively tracks waste production to understand current waste levels and set strategic plans for reduction. Comprehensive data collection and analysis enable informed decision-making, helping the university identify trends, prioritise actions, and monitor progress toward reduction targets.

#### **4.0 Sustainable Procurement Practices**

- **Integration with Waste Management Goals:** Procurement processes are structured to ensure that waste management objectives are integrated from the start. This approach ensures that waste is minimised at every stage of project and purchase planning.
- **Engagement with Waste Contractors:** RCSI collaborates with waste contractors who align with its sustainability objectives, contributing to the broader mission of waste minimisation.

#### **5.0 Campus Waste Management Facilities**

RCSI provides sufficient, fit-for-purpose waste management facilities across campus. These facilities are designed for continuity and display a clear visual identity, making waste disposal straightforward for all users and promoting proper waste segregation and disposal practices.

#### **6.0 Identifying and Addressing Key Waste Streams**

RCSI identifies significant waste streams that have potential for prevention, reuse, or increased recycling. By focusing on these areas, the university develops targeted action plans to enhance waste diversion and sustainability.

#### **7.0 Stakeholder Engagement**

RCSI will work closely with stakeholders to ensure waste management operations are conducted with maximum efficiency

##### **Key objectives:**

- Reduce general waste volume.
- Increase both recycling and reuse options and volume.

#### **8.0 Robust Monitoring and Reporting Systems**

RCSI has established transparent and effective systems for monitoring and measuring all waste-related activities. These systems ensure accountability and provide clear data on waste reduction performance, facilitating continuous improvement

#### **9.0 Polystyrene Recycling Commitment**

RCSI pledges to recycle polystyrene in collaboration with laboratory teams. This commitment includes analysing polystyrene waste stream metrics to optimise recycling processes and reduce waste associated with research and educational activities.

#### **10.0 Reducing Single-Use Items**

Reducing the use of single-use plastic and disposable items is a top priority for RCSI. Significant achievements include:

- **Reduction Initiatives Since 2022:** RCSI has taken steps to significantly reduce the presence of single-use products across campus, aligning with the “reduce, reuse, recycle” hierarchy.
- **Elimination of Disposable Cups:** In 2018, RCSI removed 200,000 disposable cups from staff rooms, preventing 3.5 tons of waste annually.
- **Plastic-Free Efforts:** Plastic cutlery, straws, and styrofoam takeaway containers have been eliminated, and all takeaway food packaging is now compostable, furthering RCSI’s commitment to sustainable alternatives.

## **11.0 Zero to Landfill Policy**

RCSI operates as a zero-to-landfill organisation, ensuring that all waste produced is managed through recycling, composting, or other environmentally responsible methods, thereby avoiding landfill contributions

## **12.0 Measuring Waste Success**

### **Monitoring and Measurement**

#### **Key objectives:**

- Ensure that 100% of waste data is accurately uploaded to the CAFAM System by waste contractors.
- Develop targets and KPIs for all areas of waste management and review progress against these regularly.
- Explore options for measuring waste at the 'per' building scale and ensure this information is available to building users.

### **Communication and Reporting**

#### **Key objectives:**

- Contribute towards the annual sustainability successes report.
- Maintain a consistent presence on the College social media platforms.

### **Continuous Improvement**

#### **Key objectives:**

- Build and maintain strong relationships with other peer universities waste teams, external organizations such as the EAUC, suppliers and contractors to keep up-to-date with advances in waste management practices.

## **Signature**

Ronan Baxter  
Director Estate & Support services

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ronan Baxter', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Environmental Performance Officer



