



# UCC GREEN CAMPUS



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- > **Education and Learning for Sustainable Development**
- > **Implementing the UCC Biodiversity Action Plan**
- > **UI Green Metric Comes to Cork**
- > **Envirosoc Climate Conference**
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## Welcome to Our Green Campus Newsletter for Spring 2019!

The year has gotten off to a busy start with the launch of our Green Campus “Living Laboratory” Fund. We are also in Year 4 of the University’s hugely successful University Wide Module in Sustainability and are gearing up to welcome colleagues from across the globe to the UI Green Metric International Meeting in April of this year.

2019 also started well with news that the government are moving to prevent public bodies from purchasing single-use plastics. This is timely for UCC, after over 8,000 students signed a petition to make UCC single-use plastic free last Autumn. The announcement also stated that the government would be supporting increased adoption of green procurement policies. UCC have been leading the way in including sustainability within our procurement processes and we very much welcome this renewed focus from government.

We were also delighted to welcome the Minister of State for Higher Education, Mary Mitchell O’Conner to UCC’s Bio Green Café at the start of February. The Minister was impressed with what has been achieved in the café and expressed a desire for this kind of initiative to be rolled out across more campuses in Ireland. Well done Caroline and the KSG team!

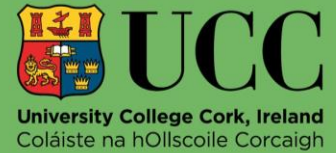
Today we celebrate International Women’s Day along with our UCC colleagues and women across the globe. Sustainable Development Goal 5 addresses Gender Equality and recognises the fact that “gender inequality continues to hold women back and deprives them of basic rights and opportunities” (United Nations).

Information on global progress and measurement of this goal can be found on the [UNSDG Knowledge Platform](#). According to Social Justice Ireland’s Sustainable Progress Index “*Indicators for both the share of women in national parliament and in senior management roles show Ireland well below the EU average and in the bottom 3 countries for both indicators.*”





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## Update on Plastic Free UCC

In the Autumn of 2018, UCC Student’s Union started a petition to make the University Single-Use plastic free. The petition reached over 8,700 signatures calling on UCC to completely eliminate the following single-use plastic items by 2023; Disposable Cups, Plastic Bottles, Plastic Straws, Plastic Salad Containers, Plastic Cutlery & Plastic Packaging for UCC products. The results of the petition were presented to the President and the Green Forum and a working group has been put in place to determine an action plan and timeline to achieve these targets.

UCC have already made significant improvements in this area thanks to the #LoveourLibrary campaign and the fantastic work of KSG in the Bio Green Café. The working group are looking at ways to expand these activities across campus. In the meantime, everyone in UCC can do their bit by remembering to take their reusable cup with them and opting for water refills instead of buying plastic. The Buildings and Estates office will be adding to, and upgrading, water fountains across campus over the summer, so come Autumn there will be ample supply of clean, healthy and free water for everyone on campus. Click the picture above to find out where existing fountains are.

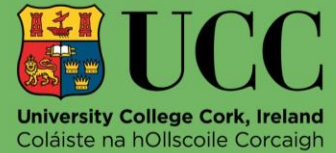


### *Did you know that...*

- Drinking water quality in UCC is tested regularly and all drinking fountains are flushed through every 24hrs to ensure the supply is fresh and safe?
- Refilling instead of purchasing bottled water can save you hundreds of euro a year?
- It takes 3 litres of water to produce a one litre plastic bottle of water.
- You can refill for free across the country, find out more at <https://www.refill.ie/>



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## Education and Learning for Sustainable Development

### University Wide Module in Sustainability

UCC’s incredibly successful University Wide Module in Sustainability is taking place again this term, now in its fourth year. The module was oversubscribed again this year with 70 students signed up to attend the sessions every Thursday night in the Digital Humanities Room. So far this term we have had sessions on: education and learning for sustainable development; circular economy; law and governance; health, wellbeing and ecosystem services; our future energy systems, and the technologies that might get us there. The module is coordinated by Green Forum member Dr Ger Mullally, UCC Sociology Department, and all lecturers give freely of their time each week to deliver the sessions.



### New Academic Strategy

In December 2018, the Office of the Deputy President and Registrar launched UCC’s new Academic Strategy. The Strategy is based around the “Connected Curriculum” with sustainability being one of the six “interconnected” components. As part of the Operational Plan for the Connected Curriculum, good practice examples from across UCC will be highlighted, extended and optimised through staff development opportunities. The Connected Curriculum is a hugely exciting initiative for UCC and is an excellent example of how the Sustainable Development Goals are becoming embedded across the University thanks to champions and leaders like Professor John O’Halloran, our Green Forum co-Chair. More information on the Academic Strategy, and its implementation is available here:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/registrar/theconnecteduniversity/academicstrategy/>



Priority 1 Connected Curriculum



Priority 2 Academic Portfolio



Priority 3 Assessment



Priority 4 Graduate Attributes



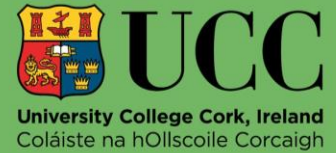
Priority 5 Enrolment Plan



Priority 6 Governance Reform



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## Implementing the UCC Biodiversity Action Plan

Did you know that UCC Campus has a Biodiversity Action Plan? As part of the implementation of this plan UCC Buildings and Estates have reviewed the mowing regime for green spaces on campus. Across campus sites, excluding the Quad and President’s garden, mowing will be reduced to allow dandelions and clover to flower as feed for pollinators in the early spring. This is in keeping with the National Biodiversity Data Centre’s All Ireland Pollinator Plan guidance.

A significant aspect of the Plan is to further engage our staff and students in appreciating green space and biodiversity, both on and off campus. For example, have you seen the wonderful space at the back of the O’Rahilly Building which can now be used for meetings, interactive learning opportunities and connecting with nature. Our campus apiary at North Mall has been quiet over the winter but “*Alma Nectar*” has been flying off the shelves! Any staff or students that wish to visit the bees, when they are back to work, can contact Green Campus to arrange this.

We are also delighted to see Schools and Depts. across UCC include biodiversity in their teaching. Well done to the Centre for Cooperatives Studies for organising a fantastic event on farming and biodiversity on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

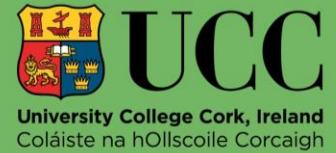


**FARMING AND BIODIVERSITY: THE BRIDE PROJECT**  
Centre for Co-operative Studies & UCC Green Campus:  
BIODIVERSITY SEMINAR FOR EARTH WEEK

The BRIDE Project (Biodiversity Regeneration in a Dairying Environment) is an innovative agri-environment project based in the River Bride catchment of north-east County Cork & west Waterford, Ireland.	<b>Where</b> Council Room, UCC
The Project aims to design & implement a results-based approach to conserve, enhance and restore habitats in lowland intensive farmland.	<b>When</b> 13.30, Tuesday 5th of March, 2019 Light Lunch provided by the Department of Food Business & Development from 13.15
For more details visit <a href="http://www.thebrideproject.ie">www.thebrideproject.ie</a>	<b>Chair</b> Dr. Noreen Byrne
	<b>13.30</b> Welcome by Pro. John O’Halloran, Deputy President & Registrar at UCC
	<b>13.35</b> Dr. Maria Kirrane, Sustainability Officer, UCC “The Global Biodiversity Crisis, what can UCC do?”
	<b>13.45</b> Donal Sheehan, Farmer & Project Manager, BRIDE Bio-diversity Project; Mobilising Farmers towards Biodiversity
	<b>14.15</b> Questions and Answers
	FREE EVENT OPEN TO ALL



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## UI Green Metric Comes to UCC

**The 5<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on UI GreenMetric World University Rankings (IWGM 2019)**  
*Sustainable University in a Changing World: Lessons, Challenges and Opportunities*  
University College Cork, Ireland  
14-16 April 2019

[REGISTER NOW! | iwgm.ui.ac.id/registration2019](https://iwgm.ui.ac.id/registration2019)

VENUE	DATE
University College Cork, Ireland	14-16 April 2019
OPENING REMARKS	KEYNOTE ADDRESSES
 <b>Prof. Dr. Ir. Riri Fitri Sari, MM., MSc.</b> Chairperson of UI GreenMetric	 <b>Dr. Michael John O'Mahony</b> Director of the Environmental Education Unit, An Taisce
 <b>Prof. Patrick O'Shea</b> President of University College Cork	 <b>HE. Mr. Simon Coveney</b> Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister
PARALLEL SESSION 1A   April 15th, 11:00 AM	PARALLEL SESSION 1B   April 15th, 11:00 AM
<b>Issues and Innovation in Managing Setting and Infrastructure</b>	<b>Issues and Innovation in Managing Energy and Climate Change</b>
 <b>Chair: Prof. Paulo J. S. Cruz</b> Pro-Rector for Quality of Life and Infrastructures Universidade do Minho, Portugal	 <b>Chair: Prof. Dr. Ir. Ambariyanto</b> Vice Rector Universitas Diponegoro, Indonesia
 <b>Dr. Liliya Kiryanova</b> Vice-Rector for External Affairs Tomsk Polytechnic University, Russia	 <b>Mr. Andy Nolan</b> Representative of Vice-Chancellor University of Nottingham, UK
 <b>Kitikorn Charmondusit, Ph.D.</b> Acting Vice President for Environment and Sustainable Development, Mahidol University, Thailand	 <b>Prof. Dr. Klaus Helling</b> Representative of President Umwelt - Campus Birkenfeld, Germany
 <b>ing. Sandro Petrucci</b> Representative of Rector University of Turin, Italy	 <b>Mr. Antonio Jose Guerrero Lucendo</b> Representative of Rector Miguel Hernández of Elche University, Spain
 <b>Dr. Freddy Leonardo Franco Idarraga</b> Representative of Rector Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Colombia	 <b>Ms. Samantha Fahy</b> Representative of President Dublin City University, Ireland

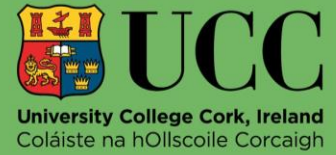
From the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> April this year, the 5<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on Green Metric will take place at UCC. The event will be attended by senior administrators and sustainability personnel from many of the top ranked "greenest" universities in the world. On the 15<sup>th</sup> April, parallel sessions will explore the different themes of the UI Green Metric Ranking, with representatives from the University of Nottingham, Wageningen, Groningen and the Umwelt Campus in Birkenfeld presenting.

The event will be a fantastic opportunity to highlight the work that is being done across UCC's teaching, operations, research and engagement activities. On the evening of the 15<sup>th</sup> April a "Sustainability Showcase" will be held in the Aula Maxima, which will give members of the UCC community an opportunity to showcase what they are doing and meet conference attendees. If you would be interested in showcasing your work please contact Lucy Taylor [lucy.taylor@ucc.ie](mailto:lucy.taylor@ucc.ie).

Keynote speeches will be delivered by Simon Coveney and Dr Michael John O'Mahony. Further information on the event and the remainder of the programme can be found at <https://iwgm.ui.ac.id/program-4/>.



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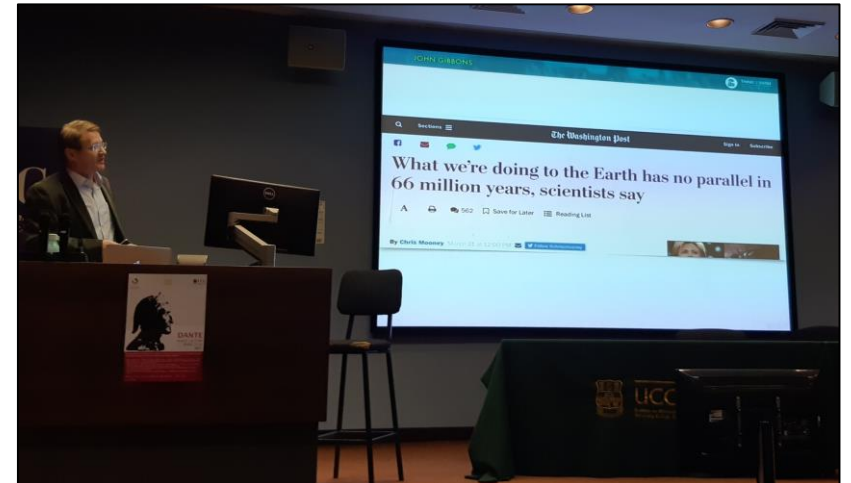
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## Envirosoc Climate Conference: hope on the horizon?

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2019, UCC Environmental Society hosted their second “Climate Conference”. The event saw speakers from across the country discuss the impacts of Climate Change, how we can better communicate the subject, and what solutions are available. Dr Niall O’Leary of UCC’s Microbiology department began the day with a fascinating talk about plastics and the impact they are having on our environment both in terms of carbon emissions and plastic pollution. Following that a panel discussion looked at solutions to the plastic problem from the consumer and business perspective.

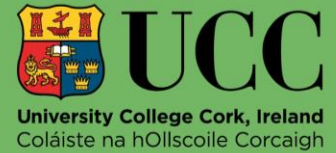
UCC student, and AI Gore Climate Reality trainee, Rachel Power spoke about communicating climate change impacts and solutions, while journalist John Gibbons gave a thought-provoking and sobering overview of the lack of media coverage of the issue. Some inspiring stories followed from the Upcycle Movement and James O’Donovan of Cork Environmental Forum.

The conference was attended by a large audience who spoke passionately about their worries for the future climate. The global children’s strikes were on everyone’s minds, including those children that strike in front of Cork City Hall every Friday.





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## “Saver Saves” scheme continues to grow

Over the last number of months we have welcomed the Quad and BEES to the “Saver Saves” scheme, bringing the number of active teams to 7. The Quad accounts for 2% of UCC’s overall energy consumption while the North Mall campus accounts for 4%. This is due to a number of reasons including the age of the building and intensity of activities that take place there. Any improvements in these sites will therefore have significant impacts on UCC’s overall carbon footprint.

We are excited to be working with our Green Teams across campus and recent improvements have included LED replacement work in North Mall and installation of 2 electric campus bikes at the ERI. We have completed a survey of building occupants in the Quad and will be working through the results of that survey to develop and action plan. As well as being a significant energy user, as the heart of the campus and location of key UCC offices and personnel, we look forward to the Green Quad campaign leading the way for others in UCC.

The Green Library Team continue to inspire change both on and off campus. Their incredible achievements can be followed on the Green Library [libguide](#). Thanks to all our Green Teams across UCC for the incredible work you are doing!





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## Lir, Ireland’s national ocean test facility, is officially opened



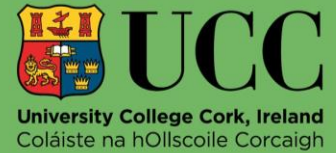
Located in the €20 million UCC Environmental Research Institute (ERI) Beaufort building, Lir – the National Ocean Test Facility provides world-class laboratory testing for offshore wind, wave and tidal energy devices. The state of the art facilities at Lir include four wave tanks that can replicate real ocean conditions and enable testing of various marine innovations, technologies and structures at different scales. As well as the ocean test infrastructure, Lir also offers a highly experienced team of researchers and operators.

Speaking at the opening of Lir, Tánaiste Simon Coveney said, “Lir, the National Ocean Test Facility is key to the development of Ireland’s offshore renewable energy industry and marine research sector.” Professor Patrick G. O’Shea, President University College Cork said “When you consider the energy and environmental challenges society faces globally, research to unlock the potential of our oceans can provide future solutions.” The Ministerial party toured the Lir facility, a 2,600 m<sup>2</sup> tank hall reviewing the Deep Ocean Basin tank, Ocean Basin tank and Electrical Laboratory, and also experienced the wave and current flume capabilities of the tanks, as well as the wave watch flume and adjustable beach.





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## In the news!

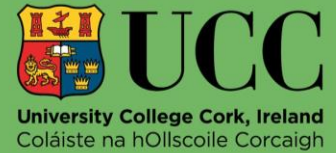
UCC featured in the [Irish Times](#) at the end of February as part of an examination into the methods used to assess university sustainability activities. UCC is the only university in Ireland to be awarded a Gold rating in AASHE’s STARS programme. The STARS tool is widely regarded as being the most comprehensive assessment of sustainability in higher education and is also completely transparent; you can read our full submission [here](#). It is fantastic to see the sustainable development agenda in universities receive coverage in the national press and is testament to the work of An Taisce and all institutions enrolled on the Green Campus programme.

Not shy of celebrating our achievements, UCC were delighted to pick up the award for “Best Public Sector Organisation” at the Green Awards in Dublin on the 26<sup>th</sup> February. UCC’s Sustainability Officer and members of the Green Library team were there to pick up the award on behalf of the University. UCC Green Campus would like to sincerely thank all of the units, departments and individuals across the university that contributed to this award. Particular thanks go to our Green Campus Committee, Green Forum members and all of the Green Teams across campus that are working hard to improve our environmental footprint.





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## Coming up

**MIX YOUR MODE**

**2019 SEMINAR**

**HEALTHY COMMUTING OPTIONS AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

When: 10am to 1pm  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019  
Where: Cork City Hall Council Chambers

Attendees will learn about:

- Sustainable and active travel developments in Cork
- The Healthy Ireland Initiative
- SUSTRANS in Northern Ireland
- The Southern Regional Assembly
- EU projects
- Other best practice examples here and abroad

Our Partners:

CPD accredited by:



## Repak Recycling Machine

Don't forget to make use of our Green Recycling Machine for your glass bottles and cans. You'll find it in the Main restaurant, next to the entrance. The machine is part of a national programme being run by Repak and all proceeds from the UCC machine will go to the UCSCU Raise & Give charities.

## Thanks for Reading!

If you have a story that you think might be of interest for the next issue then please get in touch. Don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) and keep an eye on our [website](#) for updates and other useful information!