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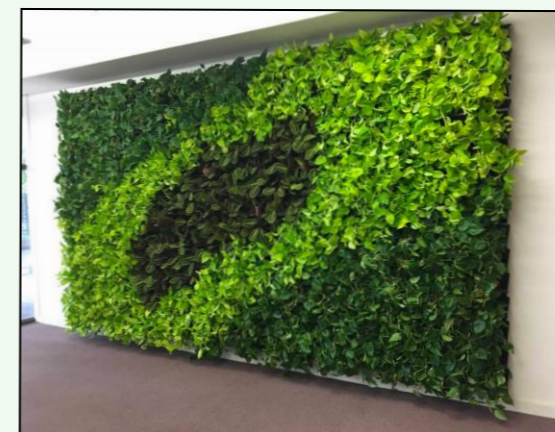
## Welcome to our latest Green Campus Newsletter

UCC Green Campus has had a particularly exciting Summer. In May, our Sustainability Summer School welcomed students and staff from the USA, Columbia, and El Salvador. In late Spring, we welcomed seven honey bee hives to the North Mall Campus.

Other highlights have included: UCC officially becoming a signatory to the UN-supported Principles of Responsible Investment; our partner institution Cork University Hospital being awarded its second Green Flag; and the installation of a beautiful green “living” wall in the Boole Library Quad Reading Room.

We also welcomed marketing and communications intern Killian Kelly, a student of UCC who joined our team towards the end of March and has worked with us over the Summer months.

We hope you enjoy our newsletter and if you have any pieces that you would like included in future editions, then please just get in touch!







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## Arrival of Honey Bees to UCC Campus



A lengthy, and bitterly cold winter saw the anticipated arrival of bees to UCC delayed just a tad. However, on the 4th of April, a local beekeeper, Thomas Quigley, established seven hives and one nucleus hive on our North Mall campus.

The introduction of honey bee colonies to UCC is an effort to further improve the university's conservation efforts, while also supporting the National Biodiversity Data Centre's [All-Ireland Pollinator Plan](#). It coincides with plans to provide more habitat for bees, in the form of wildflower meadows, and the development of our UCC Biodiversity Action Plan.

The arrival of the bees also coincided with the news that the EU has agreed a total ban on neonicotinoid pesticides from all outdoor farming fields in Europe. This is welcome news for all bee species. To find out more about this ban, read our recent [blog post](#).

This summer, UCC Green Campus also held an information stand at Cork Summer Show, to talk about bees and pollinators and the important role that they play in our food chain. This has become a regular slot for Green Campus and we are delighted to be able to share our experiences with the wider public.

Thankfully, our UCC bees are thriving, with good stocks of honey to bring them over the winter months. To find out more about them, or arrange a visit, contact us at the email given below. To read more about our efforts in biodiversity conservation, see the "[Landscape, Heritage and Natural Resources](#)" page on our website.







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## Sustainability Summer School in UCC



In May 2018, UCC's inaugural "Sustainability Summer School" took place. The school was a collaboration between UCC, UMASS Lowell, UNAL Colombia, and the Ludgate Hub in Skibbereen. Participants spent three days at UCC and two days in West Cork, learning about sustainable rural development and visiting a real Irish farm! The school took an interdisciplinary approach in exploring themes of sustainability at local, national, and international levels and focusing on how society can "make sustainability work" through incorporating people, planet, peace, prosperity, and partnership.

Particular focus was given to food as a "nexus" theme, that connects all of the Sustainable Development Goals. The week was a mixture of lectures, roundtable discussions, keynote addresses and workshops. A highlight was our "Sustainability Showcase" in the Aula Maxima, which focused on collaborations between UCC and the local community in the area of sustainability. At the Ludgate Hub in Skibbereen, Eamonn Gilmore, the EU Special Envoy to the Peace Process in Colombia gave a keynote address highlighting the role of sustainable development in maintaining peace. Other speakers included Brendan Touhy, Chair of MaREI and Dr Tara Shine, Mary Robinson Foundation.

The packed timetable was a great demonstration of the level of expertise within UCC in sustainability. We would like to sincerely thank all those staff members who delivered lectures and helped to organise the event.







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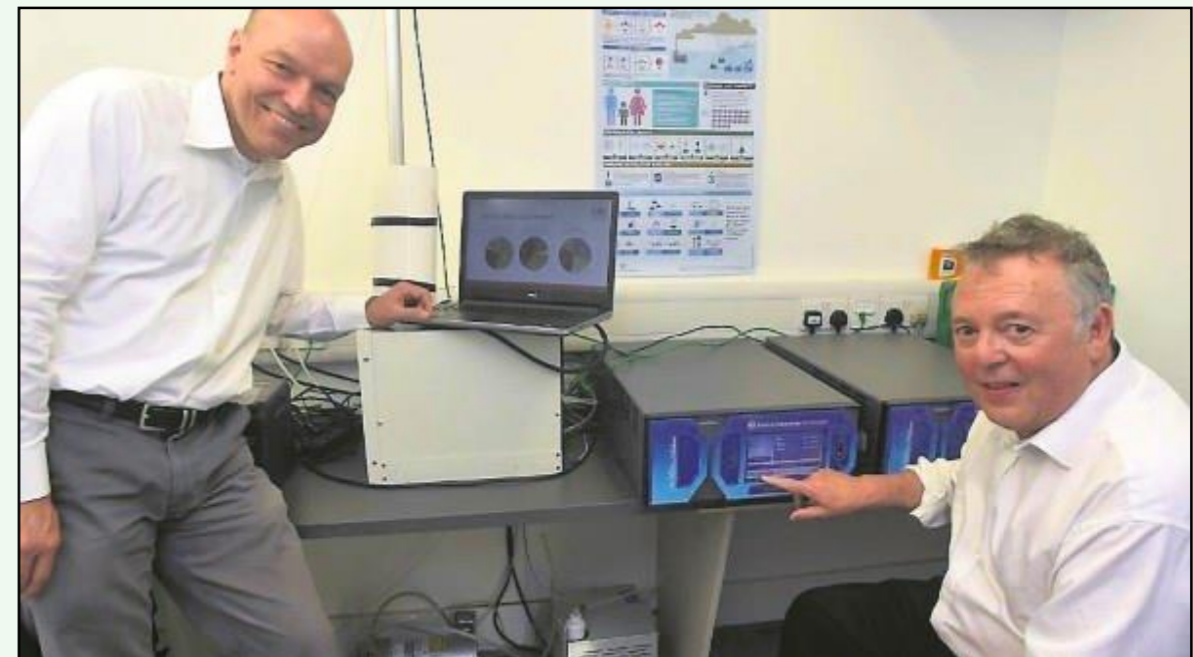
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## Launch of CRAC Air Quality Monitoring Station

Air pollution is reported to lead to 1500 premature deaths each year in Ireland. It is also widely accepted that particulate matter in the air exacerbates many chronic illnesses. Readers might be surprised to know that on the 10th April 2018, Cork city was found to have the same levels of air pollution as the city of London.

This worrying finding demonstrates the importance of measuring particulate matter (PM) in our air and came just a month ahead of the launch of the new UCC Atmospheric Monitoring Station at the North Mall Campus. The station will be used for research projects and will contribute to national and international atmospheric observation and remote sensing networks. It is part of a collaboration between UCC's CRAC Lab, the Irish EPA and Met Eireann.



Pictured above: John Sodeau and Andy Ruth

### Particulate Matter, or PM

“... is a complex mixture of extremely small particles and liquid droplets that is made up of a number of chemical components including acids (like sulphuric and nitric, organic compounds, elemental carbon (soot) and metals (like lead)” - John Sodeau

The Centre for Research into Atmospheric Chemistry (CRAC) currently comprises of researchers Professor John Sodeau, Dr. John Wenger, Dr. Dean Venables and Dr. Andy Ruth. More information is available on their [website](#).





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## UCC Signs Principles for Responsible Investment

University College Cork made headlines in July, as it became the first Irish university to sign the UN-supported Principle for Responsible Investment (PRI).

The news came shortly after the well-received announcement that the fossil fuel Divestment Bill was passed in the Dáil on the 12th of July. Signing the principles commits UCC to go beyond divestment and consider a range of ethical, social, and governance issues when making decisions on investment options. It is hoped that other universities will follow UCC's lead, and indeed a recent Irish Examiner article called for just that.

Other organisations who have signed the PRI include KBI Global Investors, National Treasury Management Agency, Davy's, Atlantic Bridge, and NTR. The PRI were developed by an international group of institutional investors through a process convened by the United Nations Secretary General.



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### Institutions urged to follow UCC in investment pledge

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Thursday, July 19, 2018 - 06:30 AM

By Pádraig Hoare

University College Cork has become the first Irish university to sign up to a United Nations-backed programme aimed at encouraging environmental, social, and good governance for investing funds.

Ireland's Sustainable and Responsible Investment Forum also stated that UCC's signing of the principles was a "tremendous boost in bringing PRI principles to the mainstream". Thanks to Dr Celine McInerney (CUBS) and UCC's Finance office for making this happen.







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## Cork University Hospital Awarded Green Flag



In 2014, Cork University Hospital became the very first hospital campus in the world to be awarded the Green Flag from the Foundation for Environmental Education. In July of this year, the hospital underwent a full reassessment by an external panel of experts, convened by An Taisce, and was successful in renewing its Green Flag.

CUH has seen a significant reduction in energy consumption since it began its Green Campus journey, and is predicting a further decrease of 8% by the end of the year. CUH's CEO Tony McNamara pointed out that by creating healthier environments for both patients and staff, such efforts achieve the "best outcome for the wider community".

Indeed, community engagement is a central element of the hospital's Green Flag approach. The hospital has joined forces with Churchfield Community Trust, to provide local, seasonal herbs and vegetables for use in the canteen.

CUH and UCC have worked together over the last number of years to share experiences and knowledge in relation to our Green Campus activities. UCC nursing students, on placement in CUH, were among those that gave presentations to the assessment panel on the day, highlighting the links between environmental degradation and human health.





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## Saver Saves Scheme update

Over the past year, many of you have been impressed by the efforts of the Boole Library in improving their environmental performance. These activities were part of the library's participation in the "[Saver Saves](#)" scheme, a project that encourages energy savings in some of our most energy intensive buildings.

This year we were delighted to see a rising interest in the scheme, with more departments across UCC now taking part. We now have teams established in a range of sites including the ERI, Cavanagh Building, and the Biosciences Institute; we are putting teams together in a number of other sites. As part of "Greening the Quad", the finance office recently invested in some of our reusable UCC bamboo mugs!

Following the lead of the Boole library, new waste management systems and campaigns around energy consumption will be rolled out across these sites. The savings made in these campaigns will remain with the department, to be reinvested into other environmental projects. This allows for continual improvement in performance and has been instrumental in seeing UCC achieve its Public Sector Energy Efficiency Programme target (of 33% reduction in energy consumption) three years ahead of schedule. Watch this space for more updates on these campaigns.



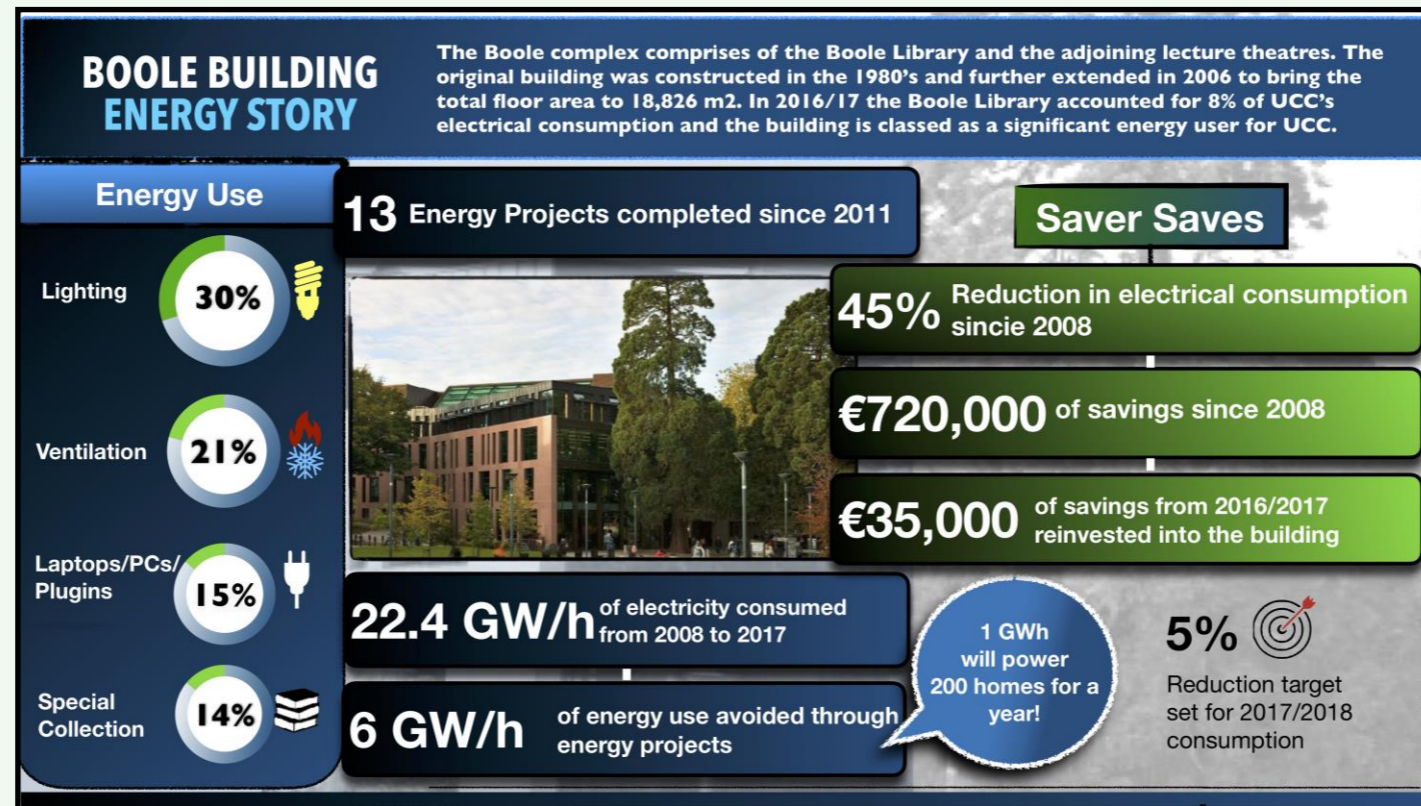




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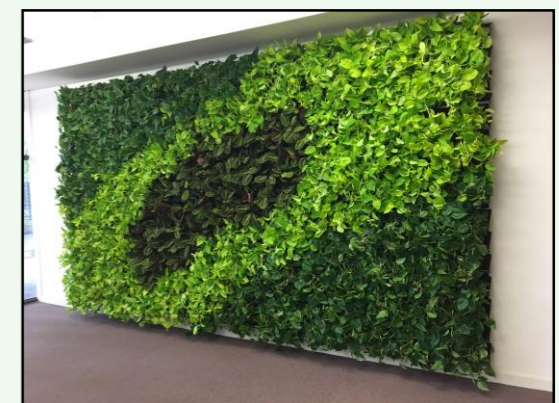
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## Saver Saves Scheme update



This infographic displays some of the significant benefits the Boole Library has seen since taking part in the scheme. What's more, the Library recently invested some of their savings in the installation of a "living wall" in the Quad reading room.

Living walls are known to increase alertness, decrease noise levels, improve air quality and reduce air temperature during hot days. The Library and Green Campus hope that the wall will enhance students' experience, particularly when studying for exams during the dark winter days.







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## MaREI at Volvo Cork Week and ERI Annual Report



Photo: David Branigan/Oceansport

In July UCC's Centre for Marine and Renewable Energy Research and Development (MaREI) collaborated with Volvo Cork Week, and Sailors for the Sea, to develop a 'Clean Regatta'. Some of the measures included providing reusable water bottles for all competitors and volunteers with 'Hydration Stations' located around the site. A key aim was to create awareness among participants about the impact of plastic on marine life. These activities complement the [research](#) being undertaken in MaREI around the issue of marine microplastics. The efforts were also featured on Today FM's Matt Cooper show! We hope that plastic free events will become the norm across UCC and Cork, in the years to come.

The ERI's Annual Report for 2017 was published over the summer, highlighting the wide range of research and outreach activities being undertaken at the institute. In 2017, the ERI hosted 355 researchers across 213 live research projects. The institute brought in €13.2m in new research funding and graduated 39 new postgraduates. More highlights and an in-depth look at some of the exciting research happening at the ERI can be found [here](#).

UCC Green Campus would also like to congratulate Dr Paul Bolger (ERI manager) on being awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to undertake research in the USA. Paul will look at how transdisciplinary collaboration is fostered in US institutions. We are very excited about the learnings that he will bring to UCC on his return.







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## A Green Campus Internship



I joined the UCC Green Campus as an intern in last March working alongside Maria Kirrane - the sustainability officer of UCC, and Pat Mehigan - the energy manager of UCC. The first few weeks saw Green Campus joining with the Boole Library team in supporting the Friends of the Earth 'Sick of Plastic' campaign. Soon after, Bee Keeper Thomas Quigley helped introduce seven new beehives and one nuc hive to UCC, making an exciting start to the internship.

Since then, Green Campus have kept busy with the likes of the sustainability Summer School, the Saver Saves Scheme and building on other campaigns throughout campus. During these months I wrote blogs, did some digital photography work, and also began designing graphics for the campaigns and the Green Campus Webpage.

With a month left, I am excited to see what August brings. I'm also curious to see how our new Facebook page #WatsonUCC does. This new page hopes to create awareness and engagement among staff and students surrounding energy waste in UCC. If successful, we will hopefully have an interactive Facebook page that give lives updates about rooms or buildings that are wasting energy in UCC. Have a look [here](#).

Another project currently underway is the launch of the UCC Green Talk Podcast, which is set to be aired in September. Getting to see the process behind creating a podcast with the UCC's Radio Station Manager, Kieran Hurley, which was great, as was talking to and arranging interviews with guests.

It's been a very insightful time with UCC Green Campus that gave a huge variety of new and exciting experiences; experiences of which I would like to thank my supervisors Pat and Maria for, who supported me throughout the internship. As a student, having the chance to see the hard work that goes on behind the scenes here at UCC, to make it the sustainable campus it is, has been a valuable experience.

- Killian Kelly

