



NAVIGATE STORIES

Cork Climathon 2017

Ongoing work after Storm Ophelia

Cork Climate Action Political Forum

Cork Environmental Forum Awards

Prof John O'Halloran Leadership Award

UCC lead in Energy Management Projects

European Week for Waste Reduction

ERI Launches New Strategic Plan

Help make Christmas a Greener One

Merry Christmas from all at UCC Green Campus

Welcome to the UCC Green Campus Newsletter for Christmas 2017. As the year draws to a close we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been a part of our Green Campus journey in 2017. This year has once again seen UCC make significant reductions in our energy usage and waste generation; this trend of continual improvement is at the heart of the Green Campus Programme. Through various initiatives across campus we have engaged widely, from Meatless Mondays to explorations of the environment through art, and from tree planting to bamboo mugs! We thank each and every person that has played a part in the various initiatives and look forward to working with you on more exciting opportunities in 2018.



Click on links below to visit our website and the Sustainability Strategy



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Cork Climathon 2017 focuses on Transport Solutions for the Campus and City



On the 27th October 2017, UCC's Environmental Research Institute hosted Cork's "Climathon", a global hackathon event coordinated by Climate-KIC to address climate challenges through innovation. The Climathon took place simultaneously across 247 cities that same day. UCC Green Campus joined forces with the ERI and Blackstone LaunchPad at UCC to run an event focussed on sustainable mobility solutions for UCC and the wider Cork City area. The 22 participants were presented with an overview of the transport challenges facing our cities by Aoife Long, ERI, and those specific to an urban campus like UCC by Stephan Koch, UCC Commuter Manager. Páidí O'Reilly (CUBS) gave an overview of how to ideate, while Jeremy Hayes (CUBS) introduced the concept of a business model canvas to help the participants to critically appraise their ideas. The six teams spent the day developing their ideas, before pitching to a jury comprised of Professor John O'Halloran (OVPTL), Stephan Koch and Dr Damien Organ (CUBS). Ideas ranged from a low carbon commuter bus service to a water taxi for Cork Harbour, but the winner on the day was TIDE,



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an interactive transport app that incorporated carbon savings and store discounts. There was a generous prize fund of €2,000 for the top three teams, sponsored by Climate-KIC, Blackstone LaunchPad at UCC and Energy Cork. The winners are also eligible to participate in the Sustainable Nation Cleantech entrepreneurship programme ClimateLaunchpad, and Blackstone LaunchPad's Entrepreneurship programme in Montana.

The ten-hour event was an intense introduction to idea generation, customer discovery and business model generation for many of the participants. The event

embodied what we strive for as a "Green" campus – engaging across the different disciplines and functions of the University to develop innovative solutions to real-world problems. The ERI, UCC Green Campus and Blackstone LaunchPad at UCC would also like to thank Climate-KIC and Sustainable Nation Ireland for their support in this event.

A podcast from the event is available at the following link:

<http://clearlysustainable.com/climathon-event-cork-ireland/>



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Tree work ongoing in the wake of Storm Ophelia



Storm Ophelia hit our shores on the 16th October, and caused significant destruction to the Cork area, which experienced gusts of up to 156km/h. More than 400 trees fell in the Cork region, resulting in the biggest clean-up operation that the county has seen.

Unfortunately, UCC was not left unscathed by Ophelia. There was a significant amount of superficial damage to the trees on campus, with limbs breaking off or dangerous branches left hanging. Regrettably, not all the trees survived. The most notable casualty was the *Fagus Sylvatica Pendula*, or Weeping Beech, outside the main restaurant. A storm like Ophelia can also cause

significant unseen damage to trees, which could go undetected. You may therefore have noticed aerial surveys being carried out over the past two months to assess the extent of that damage. On a positive note, these surveys presented an opportunity to snap some photos of our campus that might not have been possible otherwise, for example this one taken from the top of the Giant Sequoia.

You can read more about UCC's trees via the Green Campus **website** and we will be keeping you up to date on the outcomes of the tree surveys over the next few months.



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UCC hosts Cork Climate Action Political Forum

On the 6th of November 2017, UCC hosted Cork Climate Action's Political Forum "Storms are brewing, what are we doing?" The panel on the night included Michael Martin (FF), Eamon Ryan (Green Party), Mick Barry (PBP) and Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire (SF). Dr Aine Ryall, UCC School of Law, and member of the expert advisory group to the Citizen's Assembly on Climate Change, acted as academic rapporteur. Deirdre O'Shaughnessy of Cork's 96FM chaired. Over one hundred people were in attendance at what was a particularly timely event; the recommendations of the Citizen's Assembly had been released the previous evening and the country was still dealing with the aftermath of Storm Ophelia.

The panel were provided with two set questions ahead of the event; the first concerned the progress of the Fossil Fuel Divestment Bill through the Dáil and the second asked how each of the party's manifestos would address Ireland's





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greenhouse gas emissions targets. The audience was then invited to put questions to the panel. Transport was a major topic on the night, with a call to quadruple current investment in public transport. Eamon Ryan also called for a light rail service in Cork. Frustration over Ireland's lack of progress in meeting its emissions targets was palpable amongst those in attendance, however Dr Ryall reminded the audience that the public can exercise their collective power by continually urging our politicians to take action.

Cork Climate Action was set up in advance of the COP21 Climate Change summit in Paris in November 2015. It is a coalition of non-governmental organisations working together to address climate change. It organises events at local level in support of national and global actions. Current members include: Cork Environmental Forum, Social and Health Education Project (SHEP), Trócaire, UCC Green Campus and UCC Environmental Society.





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UCC Library wins “Best Public Sector” award at Annual Cork Environmental Forum Awards



The “Love our Library” campaign has received the “Best Public Sector” award at the annual Cork Environmental Forum Awards. Cork Environmental Forum is a non-profit that promotes engagement and debate around environmental issues, working to foster sustainability in the region. The judges said that the library campaign was “inspiring”.

Pictured above (l-r): Pat Mehigan (Energy and Utilities Manager), Maria Kirrane (Sustainability Officer), Ann Byrne (Liaison Librarian), Colette McKenna (Director of Library Services), Martin O’Driscoll (Senior Library Assistant), and Olan Hodnett, Down2Earth Materials.

The Love our Library campaign began when the Boole signed up to UCC’s energy management “Saver Saves” scheme. The scheme saw the library save €20,000 euros over 6 months through energy saving projects including switching of lights across whole floors of the postgrad library during low occupancy periods. These savings have been reinvested in further energy saving projects including an air curtain at the library entrance, building controls optimisation, and lighting upgrades. Following on from these successes, the library team decided to tackle the issue of waste. The ban on disposable cups and new bin system detailed in our Autumn Newsletter (see link below) have been a great success in reducing the amount of single-use cups and plastic bags that we are sending to landfill. Congrats to the Green Library team Ann Byrne, Teresa O’Driscoll, Marianne Moore, Grace McGlynn, Emma Horgan, Martin O’Driscoll, and Breeda Herlihy.



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Green Forum Co-Chair Prof John O'Halloran nominated for Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges Leadership award



Pictured above: Ger Mullaly (UCC Sociology Dept), Maria Kirrane (UCC Sustainability Officer) and John O'Halloran (VP for teaching and learning)

The Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges (EAUC) is a UK and Ireland network of higher education institutions working to improve the environmental performance of, and promote sustainability within, the sector. The Association holds an annual awards ceremony, the Green Gown Awards, which recognise best practice across a range of categories. This year's ceremony was held in Manchester and UCC's Vice President for Teaching and Learning, Professor John O'Halloran, was nominated for an award in the "Leadership" category. The judges commented that "John's academic, research and intellectual leadership is an inspiration. Embracing local, national and international scope and scale has put sustainability centre stage at Cork, the local community and beyond. Building on this personal drive, student and curricular engagement, sustainability should now truly flourish."

The awards are judged by an international panel of experts and aim to share excellence across the sector through the promotion of case studies and networking opportunities. The winner on the night was Professor Eunice Simmons from Nottingham Trent University. UCC Green Campus was extremely proud to be represented at these prestigious awards, and to be one of only two Irish nominations across all sixteen categories.



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UCC continues to lead in Energy Management Projects

December 2017 has seen UCC renew its ISO 50001 certification for energy management. ISO 50001 is an international standard that sets out conditions for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and improvement of an organisation's energy management system; UCC were the first university in the world to be accredited to this standard in 2011. Highlights have included the completion of 26 energy saving projects, many through the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland's Better Energy Communities scheme. 34 new meters have also been added across the Western Gateway Building, Food Sciences Building, Pharmacy Building and the Boole to enable better monitoring of energy use. More information on UCC's approach to ISO 50001 is available on the Green Campus [website](#).

In 2017, UCC were also proud to become the first higher education institution in Ireland to achieve our National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP) targets, three years ahead of schedule.

Despite undergoing a significant increase in footprint since 2008, with the addition of buildings such as the Western Gateway Building, Tyndall National Institute, Mardyke Arena and Beaufort, UCC has achieved a 34.4% reduction of its total primary energy requirements (TPER), compared to a baseline of 2006-2008.

Energy Performance Indicators (TPER) Year-On-Year





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Zero Waste Day at UCC marks European Week for Waste Reduction



On the 22nd November, UCC Green Campus committee held a “Zero Waste Day” to coincide with the European Week for Waste Reduction (EWWR). The aim of the EWWR is to raise awareness around waste prevention, and the reuse and recycling of waste materials. As the focus of Green Campus this year has been to “Ditch the Disposables”, this was the perfect opportunity to highlight how we, as a campus, can reduce the amount of waste that we generate. Events on the day included:

- Clothes Swap and Resource Exchange
- Information stands at the Boole Library and Student Centre
- Reusable bamboo mug giveaways
- Recycling workshop with Voice Ireland Recycling Ambassador Programme
- Origami Christmas Decorations workshop using old papers and magazines
- Screening of “A Plastic Ocean” with talk by UCC Researcher Alicia Mateos.

The Green Campus Committee was supported by UCC Envirosoc, UCC Fashion Society, Aras na Mac Leinn, UCC HR dept., and the Union of Students in Ireland in organising and running the events. Thanks to all those who took part on the day, it’s hoped that in the future some of these events might become more regular fixtures in the UCC Green Campus diary.



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Environmental Research Institute (ERI) set to focus on Ireland's transition To Zero Carbon, Resource Efficient and Sustainable Society with new Strategic Plan

The Environmental Research Institute (ERI) at University College Cork launched its new Strategic Plan 2018-2022 on Monday 4th December and has a commitment of over €44M investment in environmental research projects in the coming 3 years. Positioned at the forefront of environmental and sustainability research in Ireland, more than 300 researchers are currently engaged in ERI projects that are driving the organisation's agenda to address climate change, support the development of a circular economy, and maintain a healthy environment. Drawing from a team of interdisciplinary experts in environmental, energy, sustainable food, marine and sustainable materials research across University College Cork's schools and departments as well as affiliated research centres, the ERI's strategy for 2018 to 2022 aims to provide the necessary research and knowledge base to address our current environmental challenges.





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Speaking at the launch of the ERI Strategic Plan, ERI Director Professor Sarah Culloty said, “Our economies are approaching ecological limits, and we are already experiencing some of the constraints of operating outside planetary boundaries in areas such as climate change, biodiversity loss and resource depletion. We need to find new ways to reconcile our high levels of human development with environmental sustainability. Research holds the key to unlocking these major problems in very informed, practical and comprehensive ways, and we see the ERI playing a critical role in this regard. A key element of the strategic

plan is working in partnership with local government, policy makers, civic society organisations and the public to co-create solutions that will ensure that our natural environment can be used sustainably to meet all our needs while providing a healthy living space.”

The ERI Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022 outlines a number of objectives and targets for the organisation to grow its capacity and increase the impact of its research across all economic sectors, and society in the coming five years, under the leadership of Director of ERI Professor Sarah Culloty and the team at ERI.



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Have a very Merry Christmas

There are many ways that you can make your Christmas a greener one, below are just some simple steps to take.

REDUCE ...

- Prepare ahead, make a shopping list and check it twice!
- Remember that a lot of shops reopen on the 27th, so avoid over-stocking food that might go out of date.
- Bring your own shopping bag to avoid needing paper bags to carry your Christmas presents.
- Use LED fairy lights on your Christmas tree to save on energy, and turn the lights off when not in the house.
- Don your Christmas jumper and turn the heating down a notch.

REUSE ...

- Buy rechargeable batteries for new electronics.
- Get creative and use old newspapers etc. to wrap your gifts.
- Consider buying presents that are reusable, for example a reusable cup for the coffee lover in your life.
- Regifting that unwanted present is OK!

RECYCLE ...

- If you get new gadgets or phones for Christmas, donate the old ones to charity.
- If you can't reuse cards or packaging, then be sure to recycle them.
- If you are unsure what goes into your recycling bin, visit <http://recyclinglistireland.ie/>, a newly launched website aimed at taking the confusion out of household recycling.
- Follow your local council's guidelines for correct disposal of your Christmas tree.

If you have any other tips for a Greener Christmas then be sure to let us know via our **Facebook**, **Twitter**, or **Instagram** accounts.