



UCC GREEN CAMPUS



## UCC Green Campus Living Laboratory Seed Fund: Local Action, Global Impact

### Call for Expressions of Interest

#### UCC Green Campus

In 2010, UCC was the first university in the world to be awarded the Green Flag from the Foundation for Environmental Education. UCC currently ranks 9<sup>th</sup> in the UI Green Metric World University Ranking and is the only University outside of North America to have been awarded a Gold Star from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. UCC's Green Campus Programme is "Student-led, Research-informed, and Practice-focused"; the Green Campus Living Laboratory Seed Fund seeks to advance this agenda to demonstrate best practice in campus operations, teaching, research and engagement.

#### What is a Living Laboratory?

A university "Living Laboratory" utilises the knowledge and research capabilities of an Institution's students and staff to solve issues relating to its infrastructure and practices. A Living Laboratory project should aim to:

- Solve a real-life problem
- Be based on a partnership among key stakeholders, often crossing disciplinary and/or sectoral boundaries
- Trial and test ideas in real life settings in order to further refine solutions proposed
- Share data and findings generated openly

Project examples for a Green Campus Living Laboratory could include: workshops to facilitate the integrations of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into modules or programmes; projects that increase the use of renewable energy on campus; projects that reduce the amount of waste created and material resources used on campus; projects that encourage sustainable behaviours.

Examples of funded "Living Laboratory" projects at other institutions can be found at the [University of Edinburgh](#), the [University of Manchester](#) and the [University of Leeds](#).

#### UCC Green Campus Living Laboratory Fund

The UCC Green Campus Living Laboratory Seed Fund will support two types of projects:

1. *Research Masters projects* (including fees, stipend of €18,000 and associated costs, up to a maximum of €30,000). Up to two of these project types will be awarded; at least one of the funded masters projects should address a "plastic-free UCC". Other proposals would be welcomed in areas including (but not exclusively limited to) carbon mitigation, green infrastructure, biodiversity.

2. *Demonstration projects* up to the value of €10,000. The number of demonstration projects awarded will depend on total value of successful projects. **A value for money approach will be taken in determining which projects get funded.** An element of learning and/or research must be included in these projects and awardees will be required to complete a case study at the end of the project.

For either project type, proposals must support the sustainability goals outlined in UCC's [Sustainability Strategy 2016](#) and the priority actions for HEIs outlined in the Department for Education and Skills [National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development in Ireland 2014- 2020](#). To address both strategies, the following should be considered:

- Does the project advance sustainability on campus, under one of the 9 focus areas outlined in the University's Sustainability Strategy?
- Will the project result in the principles of Sustainable Development being integrated into a UCC module/programme as set out in the [UCC Academic Strategy](#)?
- Will the project leverage or create collaborations with industry or other stakeholders?
- Will the project facilitate the exchange of expertise, in the sustainability domain, between UCC and local community organisations?

### **Who Can Apply for Funds?**

Staff from **all disciplines and units** within the university are encouraged to submit Expressions of Interest to develop full proposals that represent innovative projects. Cross disciplinary collaborations are particularly welcome. Projects should take a "whole-institution" approach and include at least two of the following; staff, students, community group/industry. Projects proposed by members of the student community will be welcomed, however they must have been discussed with a potential academic supervisor prior to submission.

Community groups included on project applications cannot lead them. Where industry stakeholders are included, resources should be matched by the industry.

### **Application Process**

Interested parties are asked to complete the **Expression of Interest** form and return it to [m.kirrane@ucc.ie](mailto:m.kirrane@ucc.ie) before **5pm on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019**. Please note that a detailed description of the proposed project is not required at this stage. Only electronic versions of your Expression of Interest will be accepted.

Full applications will open in February 2019 and close in April 2019. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of the review process in June 2019. Projects can begin as soon as possible thereafter, but **no later than September 2019**. The maximum project duration will be 12 months. A Colloquium will be hosted in October 2020, where project results will be presented.

Projects that are deemed suitable will be invited to submit to full applications. Full applications will be reviewed by a Selection Committee. The Selection Committee will review project proposals based on the criteria and guiding questions outlined below. All criteria and guiding questions serve to support the Selection Committee in their review of projects. High scoring projects are not guaranteed to be selected. **A value for money approach will be taken.** Proposals that demonstrate the potential

to become larger funding bids (e.g. EPA or similar) or result in publications and/or conference presentations are encouraged.

### **Criteria and Guiding Questions**

#### **1) Impact on Campus Sustainability Goals**

- Does this support the sustainability goals outlined in UCC'S Sustainability Strategy?
- Does this project lower UCC's greenhouse gas emissions?
- Will the project contribute to the University's [STARS](#) rating?

#### **2) Feasibility**

- Given the application and the project team is this project feasible?
- Have all of the required stakeholders been contacted and the necessary steps been taken to ensure the successful completion of the project?
- Has a clear timeline with SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timebound) goals been identified in the proposal?
- What are the long- and short-term impacts on facilities and maintenance staff?
- How much additional work is required for other university departments?

#### **3) Interdisciplinary or Cross-Departmental Interaction**

- Does the project focus on one area or discipline or does it bring in a wide audience fostering cross-university collaboration?

#### **4) Project Visibility**

- Will this project be visible by the campus community?
- Will the greater community be impacted by the project?
- If it is not visible, does the project have paybacks attached to it?

#### **5) Longevity and Potential for Future Funding**

- Is this a project that will have a long term impact on the campus and/or community?
- Is there potential for the project to sustain itself after funding ends?
- Are there other partner organisations that will assist in the implementation of the project during and/or after funding?
- Are there plans to secure additional grant funding from other sources and in the future?

### **Recommended Reading**

[UCC Sustainability Strategy](#)

[UCC Sustainability Annual Report - – and in particular key priorities for 18/19.](#)

[UCC Academic Strategy](#)

[UCC Biodiversity Action Plan](#)

[National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development](#)

[Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges Living Labs Brief](#)