



NAVIGATE STORIES

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UCC Library leads fight against plastic

Mardyke Arena on a “Green Journey”

Áras na Mac Léinn doing their part

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Welcome to UCC’s Green Campus Newsletter for Autumn 2017

This Autumn marks ten years since UCC students began an initiative that would lead to the development of the Green Campus Programme, not just on our campus but across the world. In the ten years that have followed, UCC is proud to have been the first university in the world to be awarded a Green Flag. We were also the first to successfully renew our Green Flag twice, and to achieve ISO 50001 accreditation for energy management. We continue to maintain our strong standing in global metrics of Green Universities and actively contribute to the sustainable campus agenda on an international level.

We are continually making efforts to improve our impact on the environment and build on the excellent “grassroots” initiatives that are being undertaken in departments and buildings across the campus. You can read more about these initiatives in the pages of this newsletter and by keeping up to date with our activities throughout the year via our newly launched **website**.

The mission of our Green Campus is that all our activities are ‘student led, research informed and practice focused’. This mission continues our long tradition of independent thinking and citizenship, and was further reinforced with the publication of UCC’s **Sustainability Strategy** in July 2016. In May 2017, a Sustainability Officer was appointed to lead on the delivery of this strategy.

As chairs of the Green Forum, we welcome the involvement of the entire campus community in our sustainability initiatives and recognise the immense contributions that both staff and students have made over the last ten years to make our campus more sustainable. We hope to continue these efforts over the coming years, and to further UCC’s role in contributing to a more sustainable society.

**John O’Halloran and Mark Poland
(Green Forum Co-Chairs)**

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



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UCC Library leads the way in the fight against plastic

Did you know... 200 million disposable coffee cups are used in Ireland each year.¹ Only 9% of all plastic ever produced has been recycled.² France has banned all plastic disposable cups, plates and cutlery.

As part of a “Love Our Library” campaign a team of sustainability champions led by Ann Byrne, have been busily monitoring their energy usage and putting in place small changes that have had dramatic results. Switching off lights in unused areas of the postgrad library for example have resulted in savings of €15,000. These savings are being reinvested in an “air curtain” at the library entrance, that will further reduce the library’s electricity demand and improve the working environment for everyone.

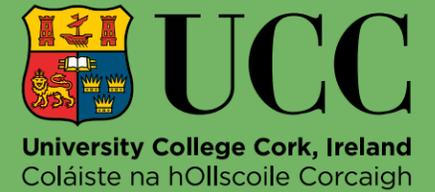
¹<https://consciouscup.ie/>

²<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/07/plastic-produced-recycling-waste-ocean-trash-debris-environment/>





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From September 2017, UCC staff and students are no longer permitted to take disposable coffee cups into the library. To support the transition, discounts are available at outlets across campus when you bring your reusable mug. Green Campus and the library have given away a limited number of sustainably sourced bamboo coffee cups, and more will be available to buy in the coming months. A new waste segregation system has also been rolled out in the library. The “binless” system has seen all small bins removed from every floor, in both the student and staff areas, and two large recycling centres put in place in the ground floor. Students and staff are asked to take their rubbish with them as they leave their desks. If we achieve this, 10,000 plastic bags will be diverted from landfill each year. We love our library and are proud of the work being done by Ann and her team as part of the “Saver Saves” scheme. Please support this great initiative and join us in “ditching the disposables”!



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“Ar dTuras Glas” the Mardyke Arena embarks on a “Green Journey”



The Mardyke Arena are already global leaders, as the first indoor sports centre in the world to be accredited with four international standards including ISO14001 for environmental management and ISO50001 for energy management. However, Patsy Ryan and his team are taking things one step further with their new sustainability initiative “Ar dTuras Glas”. Through an initial Green Audit, the team will assess their baseline environmental impact, including the carbon footprint of the arena. This will be completed before the end of the year, and will inform the actions to be put in place in making the Mardyke more sustainable. Proposed actions include a significant reduction in the printing of brochures and advertising materials as well as improved waste management and procurement processes. The team will also put in place an awareness and education campaign to inform the thousands of people, from school children to retirees, that spend time in the arena throughout the year. UCC Green Campus are delighted to be supporting Patsy and his team with this initiative.



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Áras na Mac Léinn - supporting UCC’s Green Agenda



Over the last number of years Áras na Mac Léinn have been doing their part to improve UCC’s environmental impact. Through discussions with suppliers, Aras manager Terry Brennan, has reduced the number of deliveries to the campus from 10 to 1, that’s 9 less trucks visiting our campus every day and amounts to a significant improvement in our carbon footprint as well as our air quality. Terry has also worked with suppliers to remove packaging from deliveries, reducing the amount of packaging waste that we produce, but also using purchasing power to encourage suppliers to reduce the amount of packaging that they use. These activities reflect broader societal discussions about the amount of waste created through unnecessary packaging, and the need for consumers and policy makers to push producers to reduce this. The bar in Áras na Mac Léinn have also switched to glass bottles instead of plastic to reduce the amount of plastic waste being produced. An extensive energy campaign, has seen replacement of conventional lightbulbs with less energy intensive LED lightbulbs. Overall the campaign has seen an 18% reduction in energy consumption. Áras na Mac Léinn also provide discounts to customers using reusable mugs, helping to contribute to UCC’s vision of one day being a disposable free campus.



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UCC to take part in Horizon 2020 funded project SAVES2 – Students Achieving Valuable Energy Savings



The Union of Students in Ireland are among 10 awardees of EU Horizon 2020 funding to run an energy saving campaign across student residences. UCC, DCU, NUIM and NUIG are the four Irish Universities taking part in this European wide project. SAVES2 will catalyse sustainable energy behaviours among over 219,000 university students in seven countries to help them reduce their exposure to fuel poverty. Student ambassadors will be trained to lead energy saving competitions across residences, with realtime feedback and engagement supported through live energy dashboards. The programme will also provide advice and support to students who rent privately, helping them to make better informed decisions. The project is being coordinated nationally by the Union of Students in Ireland and will be supported in UCC by the Students Union, the Buildings and Estates office and Campus Accommodation.



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The Glucksman Gallery explores creative interpretations of Climate Change with children’s exhibition



Tadhg Crowley and the team at the Glucksman Gallery began a project entitled “A Greener, Brighter Future” in April 2017. School groups were invited to attend the Glucksman to take part in creative workshops that explored climate change and the local environment. The project’s aim was to heighten children’s awareness of environmental issues and over 200 children from local schools took part in the first stage of the project. During the summer, further collaborative workshops with children from Direct Provision Centres, Scout and Girl Guide groups



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took place. The project culminated with a public exhibition in July. A highlight of the project was a “Paper Party” held on July 21st, where donors and friends of the University were invited to the Gallery. The children’s exhibition was on display during this major event in the Gallery’s calendar. On the 22nd July, the exhibition was launched with a mini Paper Party for the children and their families. The Glucksman continues to be a key partner is Green Campus and we look forward to more exciting collaborations in the year ahead.





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UCC WORKS INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME - GREEN CAMPUS INTERNS 17/18



Pictured above (l-r): Ana Pascanu, Susan Butler and Robyn Dennehy attend An Taisce Changemakers Summit in Dublin.

This year, Green Campus are delighted to have seven students undertaking internships with us through the UCC Works Internship Programme. Through this programme students are given a specific project to work on over the course of the academic year. The students receive mentoring from UCC staff for the duration of the project and an award at the end of the internship. Their contribution is also recognised on their diploma supplement. Projects this year are as diverse as calculating the carbon footprint of the university to running a marketing campaign.

Two of our Green Campus Interns attended the Green Campus Ireland Changemakers Summit in Dublin on the 19th October. Susan Butler and Robyn Dennehy presented on the day, giving attendees an overview of activities to date in UCC and their vision for a more sustainable campus. “Having the opportunity to be a Guest Speaker at the Change Makers event at Wood Quay on Thursday was fantastic. Everyone was so supportive and encouraging. Meeting other students from colleges around Ireland who are all working towards similar goals to ourselves was inspiring. I was grateful to be there!” - Susan



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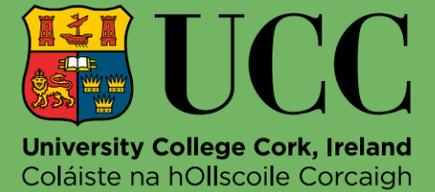
UCC's second Campus Cycle Week took place from the 25th to the 29th September 2017. This time round, CIT and CUH also took part in the event, promoting the benefits of active travel across all three campuses.

Events included:

- Bike Olympics on the Quad
- Lunchtime Roundtable Discussion with UCC Commuter Plan Manager, Cork Cycling Campaign, Cork City Council and National Transport Authority
- Presentation on “Velo-City 2017 conference – A cork perspective”, followed by informal drinks with Cork Cycling Campaign
- Bike Doctor on campus
- “Getting Started” presentation as part of Health Matters Day 2017
- Bike Breakfast with UCC's most famous cyclist, president O'Shea
- Lunchtime cycle between the three participating campuses.



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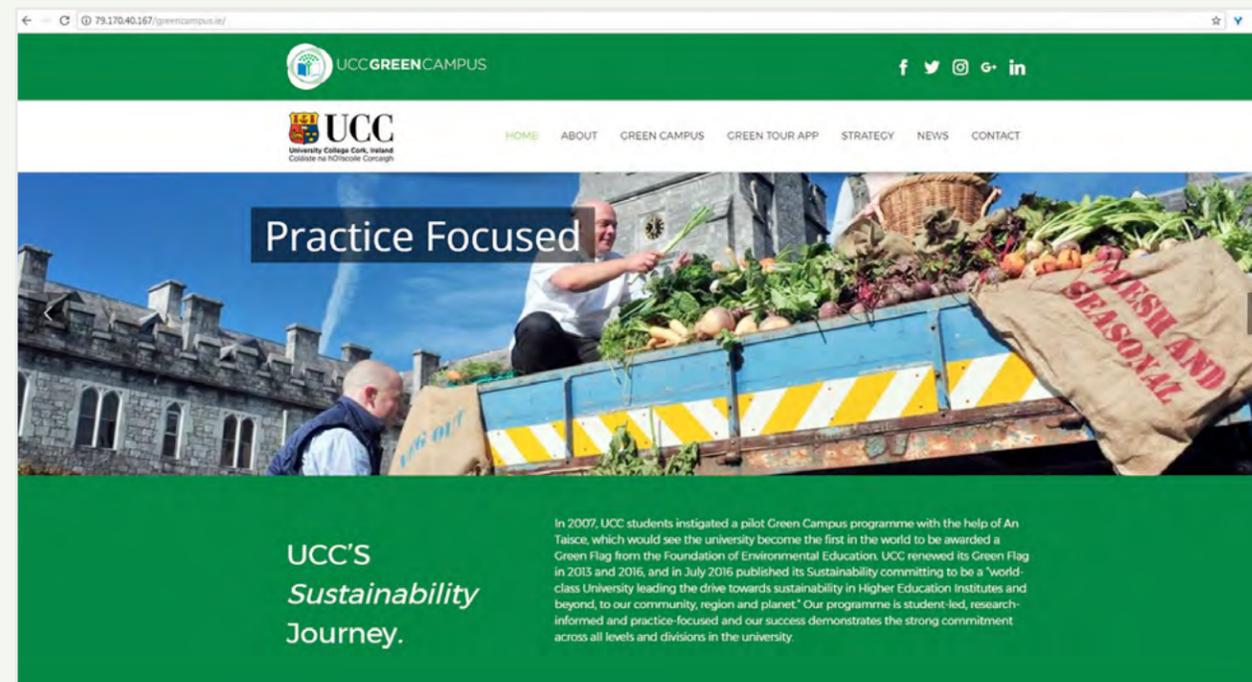
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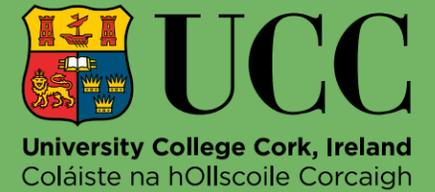
UCC Green Campus have launched a new website available at <http://greencampus.ucc.ie/>

You can follow all of our activities through this website and our social media platforms on facebook, twitter and Instagram.

- **Meatless Mondays** are taking place in the main restaurant again this term. The next will be held on the 13th November.
- UCC Green Campus are proud to work with **UCC Heath Matters** team on various initiatives throughout the year. Health Matters Day was held on September 27th and featured a "Getting Started with Cycling" presentation from UCC Commuter Manager, Stephan Koch.
- Cork hosted the **UNESCO Learning Cities** festival from the 18th to the 20th of September and on the 20th of September, delegates will attend UCC, where they were taken on a tour of the Green Features of our campus.



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Green Campus at Cork Summer Show – the Green Campus team were kept busy during the summer months. A highlight was our stand at Cork Summer Show where we spoke about the importance of bees in agriculture with Tomas Murray of the National Biodiversity Data Centre. We also highlighted the initiatives ongoing in UCC operationally as well as in our research outputs.

Pictured above: UCC Sustainability Officer and Envirosoc students at Cork Summer Show.

