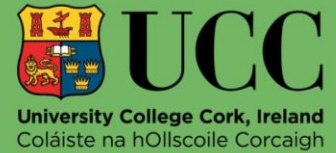




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Welcome to Our Green Campus Newsletter for Spring 2020

We began this year with the excitement of celebrating our 10th anniversary. The aim was to reflect on the positive things that have been achieved over the last ten years, whilst also looking forward to what needs to be achieved over the next decade. Little did we know that this reflection would come during such an unprecedented global crisis as the COVID-19 pandemic. First and foremost, our thoughts are with our UCC community as well our partners, at home in Ireland and across the globe.

You will see many opinion pieces and media articles regarding the impact of COVID-19 on our environment. Most notably, we have seen stark images of reduced emissions from air pollution across China and Europe as a result of the lockdowns.

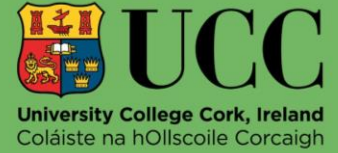
The only certainty at the moment is that it is too early to determine any long term impacts on our environment. Any improvements that have been felt have come at an enormous cost to our economic and social systems. Within UCC, for example, the move to remote working will no doubt have improved our carbon emissions from commuting. But many of us feel lost without the social system of campus life, vital to our productivity and wellbeing.

Sustainability is about balancing environmental, social and economic concerns to create a better future for everyone. The consensus is clear that our current situation is not “the future we want”. However, there are lessons that can be learned from this crisis, and there are discussions that need to be had in order to ensure that our global recovery is supportive of a healthier and more resilient planet. The message from UN Environment is that “as we inch from a “war-time” response to “building back better”, we need to take on board the environmental signals and what they mean for our future and wellbeing”.





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Ten Years of UCC Green Campus

On Wednesday 19th February, we celebrated 10 years since UCC became the first University in the world to raise the FEE Green Flag award. We invited students from primary and secondary schools across Cork City and County to join us for the day so that we could each learn from each other’s experiences.

On the day over 90 local schoolchildren were treated to green tours from J.P. and colleagues in the Visitor’s Centre, and workshops by Tadhg Crowley in the Glucksman, Aoife Deane from MaREI and UCC’s Environmental Society; the latter workshop was captured beautifully in the below illustration.





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Ten Years of UCC Green Campus

The main celebration took place in the Glucksman Gallery, where local schoolchildren, members and friends of UCC Green Campus gathered to discuss our hopes for the future. Professor O’Shea delivered the opening address, followed by Niamh Guiry (Green Campus Co-Chair) and Professor John O’Halloran (Green Forum Co-Chair). One representative from each of the local schools was then invited to address the audience with a two-minute speech on their hopes for the future. The speeches were awe-inspiring and can be found in “Notes from the Future” at the end of this Newsletter.



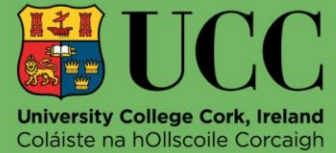
To mark the occasion the Glucksman Gallery ran an entire exhibition on “Creativity and the Climate”. For the past number of years the museum has partnered with **UCC Green Campus** and worked with communities and schools from across the region on creative projects that explore topics such as biodiversity, urban sprawl, climate change and individual responsibility. The exhibition showcased artworks by children who participated in projects such as *A Greener, Brighter Future* (2016), *Blueprints* (2017), *People and the Planet* (2018), and *Future Forms* (2019).

In addition, the Glucksman have released a new [digital toolkit](#) exploring environmental issues through the work of Irish artist **Fiona Kelly**. The toolkit provides a resource for Primary, Post-Primary and Third Level educators to find creative ways to empower their students to explore the environment.

Everyone involved in Green Campus was so inspired and motivated by the events of the day and we would really like to thank everyone that contributed to making the celebrations, as well as the last ten years, such a success.



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Global Sustainability and Climate Experts visit UCC

Over the last semester, two of the most respected global leaders in sustainability and climate change have visited UCC to deliver addresses. On January 27th, David Donoghue, former Irish Permanent Representative to the United Nations, delivered one of the Quercus Active Citizenship lectures. Ambassador Donoghue was one of two UN representatives responsible for negotiating the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, which have now set the global agenda to 2030. In his address, the former ambassador praised “the infinite capacity” of young people for activism. He also highlighted UCC as being a “trailblazer” in embedding the SDGs within higher education.

You can view a short video of David Donoghue discussing the SDGs and UCC at this [link](#).

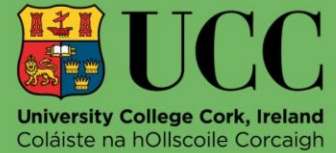
In March, Professor Katharine Hayhoe visited the campus as part of a visiting lecture series she was undertaking across Ireland. Prof Hayhoe is a recipient of the American Geophysical Union’s climate communication prize, and has featured as one of Time Magazine’s 100 Most Influential People, Foreign Policy’s 100 Leading Thinkers, and FORTUNE magazine’s World’s Greatest Leaders

Prof Hayhoe’s talk at UCC was on the topic of “Climate Change: Mitigate, Adapt or Suffer” and was attended by an audience of about 200 people. Prof Hayhoe referred to Climate Change as a “threat multiplier” and used Cork City’s own Climate Adaptation Strategy to highlight the potential impacts and adaptations required in our own locality. She did not mince her words when stating that “Where ever we live, we are at risk from extreme weather, but those risks are increasing.” Speaking to the [Irish Times](#) ahead of her talks, she put the choice facing humanity quite simply; “the more we mitigate, the less adaptation we have to do and the less suffering.” Below Katherine speaks about the changes needed at every level of society to address the Climate Crisis.





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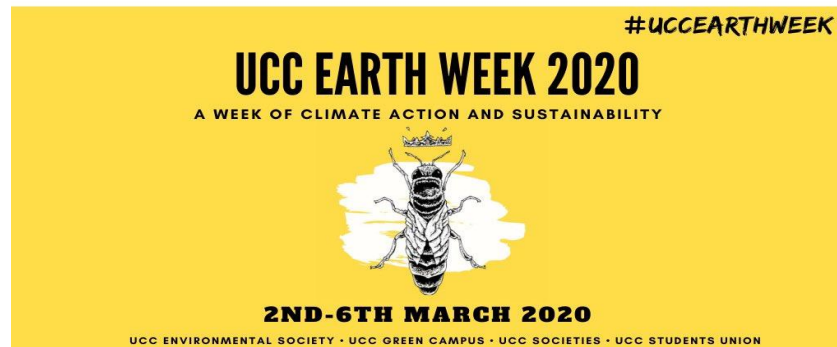
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UCC Celebrates its biggest “Earth Week” yet

UCC Earth Week took place from the 2nd to the 6th March this year. A collaboration between UCC Environmental Society, Green Campus, UCC Societies, and the Students Union, over 20 events took place throughout the week. Kicking off the week, environmental journalist John Gibbons delivered his talk “This is Not a Climate Emergency”, where he explores the facts of the climate and biodiversity crises and what we need to do to save our planet and ourselves. A sobering overview, it was followed on Tuesday by an Eco-Grief panel discussion in collaboration with UCC Samh Society. The panel included Dr. Vincent Wall, Press Officer for Irish Doctors for the Environment, Melanie O’Driscoll, founder of The Green Step and Debra Davis, psychotherapist.

A highlight of the week was the Green Market, that took place in the UCC Hub building on Wednesday 4th March. Stalls included Revolving Wardrobe, Cork Crafts and Irish Handmade Soaps. UCC student Zach Anderson launched his UCC Carpool App at the event, which is now available on the Android App store. UCC Envirosoc finished up the week with one of their regular community litter clearing events. Over the week a number of campaigns and competitions were hosted across social media. The “Humans of Sustainability” Instagram campaign highlighted staff and students across UCC, who dedicate their time to environmental action on campus. Earth Week challenges were posted on Facebook calling on our community to make one change each day to impact the environment.

Throughout the week, our friends at the Mardyke Arena and Student Centre also ran their own Earth Week events. UCC Earth Week 2020 was an incredible example of the entire UCC community coming together to drive forward sustainability on campus. Thanks to everyone that took part and we look forward to building on this success in future years!





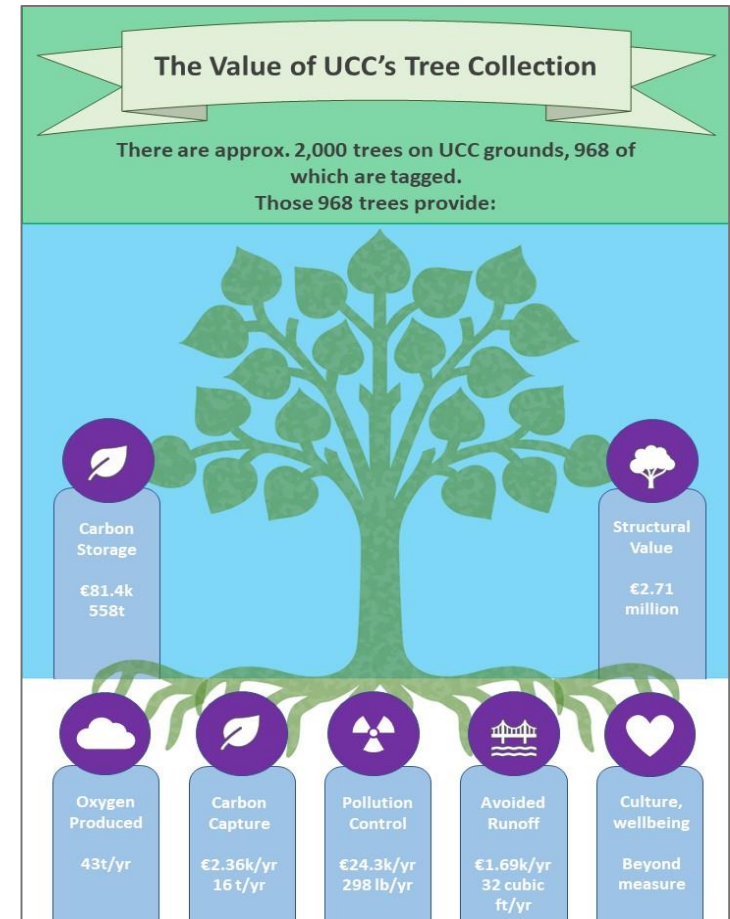
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UCC Tree Tours a “poplar” distraction

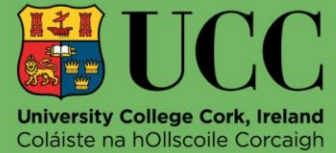
While UCC staff and students are no longer allowed to enter the campus grounds, we have been treated to regular reminders of how beautiful our campus green space is thanks to Dr Eoin Lettice, and the “UCC Trees” project. Through the project, which is part of the UCC Green Campus Living Laboratory programme, Eoin had been working with Tomás Tynner (UCC photographer) to capture the beauty of our significant tree collection. When the campus shutdown came into force, Eoin saw the project as an opportunity to keep the UCC community connected by sharing daily photos and information on some of the most admired specimens. The updates continue on Twitter and you can catch them by following the @UccTrees account.

While we are all enjoying the aesthetic value of UCC’s trees, through the medium of social media, it might also be of interest to know the economic “value” of the trees also. A recent study, carried out on behalf of the Buildings and Estates Office, used the iTrees tool to determine the value of the collection from the many services they provide to the locality including carbon storage, oxygen production and avoided runoff. The full report can be available on the Green Campus website.





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Cork’s SDG Leadership Series launches

As well as marking our ten year anniversary with an event for local schools, UCC Green Campus was also involved in the launch of Cork’s SDG Leadership Series, which kicked off on Wednesday 19th February in the Crawford Gallery. The series is aimed at leaders from the public, private and voluntary sector across Cork and will run for the next two-three years, with workshops covering each individual SDG as well the relationships between all 17 goals.

The first session focused on SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals and was attended by over 40 individuals representing organisations across the city. On the day, introductory addresses were delivered by Denis Barrett (Cork Learning Cities) and Ger Mullally and Maria Kirrane (UCC). This was followed by a panel discussion with Paula Cogan (Cork Chamber), Anne Dennehy (Cork City Council), Siobhan O’Dowd (CESCA) and John O’Halloran (UCC). The panel was chaired by Mary McCarthy (Crawford Gallery). Following the panel, attendees broke into groups where they discussed the role that they, and their organisations, could play in realising a more sustainable Cork. The “ask” for attendees was to commit their organisation to attend all 17 workshops over the duration of the series.

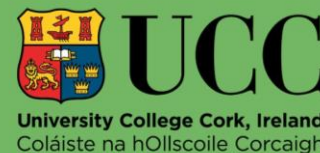
Why Partnerships?

We began our series at the end; SDG 17 underpins all other goals, which can only be achieved through strong commitment to partnership and cooperation. SDG 17 comprises 18 specific targets, of particular relevance to this series target 17.16 seeks to: *“Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries...”*





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UCC Envirosoc Climate Conference 2020

Another event which has gone from strength to strength over the last number of years is UCC Envirosoc’s annual Climate Conference. This years conference took place on Monday 1st February in the Aula Maxima and attracted a packed audience who were eager to hear from the diverse array of speakers covering topics from climate change to biodiversity loss and circular economy to the nutritional value of plant-based diets.

A highlight on the day was Grace O’Sullivan, MEP’s address, where she discussed her background in environmental activism and how it has prepared her for her current role in the European Parliament. Pdraig Fogarty discussed the dire state of biodiversity in Ireland including the disappearance of our pre-agricultural complex forest ecosystems. Dr Derek McLaughlin’s talk later in the day providing an example of how agriculture can contribute to a more sustainable future, if the correct policy drivers are in place.

There was an intense discussion panel with youth activists Saoi O’Connor, Alicia-Joy O’Sullivan, and Aiyana Helder, where they discussed the “burnout” experienced by climate strikers as well as the stereotypes associated with youth activism on climate.

UCC CLIMATE CONFERENCE 2020

PROGRAMME

VENUE:
AULA MAXIMA, UCC

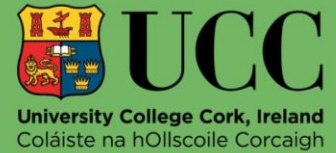
UCC Climate Conference is a much anticipated annual event. It is a day of talks from prominent climate scientists, activists and environmentalists. The conference is a free, non ticketed event. The venue is fully accessible and open to everyone.

CONTACT:
environmental@uccsocieties.ie

10:30 am	Introduction by Niamh Guiry Opening Address by Rachel Power
10:40 am	Grace O’Sullivan ‘The View From Brussels: Climate and Biodiversity As Two Sides Of The Same Coin’
11:20 am	Pádraic Fogarty ‘The Collapse Of Our Biodiversity: Implications and Solutions.’
12:00 pm	<i>Tea & coffee break</i>
12:20 pm	Dr. Marguerite Nyhan ‘Climate Friendly, Sustainable and Healthy Cities For The Future.’
1:00 pm	Laura Niessen ‘Circular Economy For Climate Action.’
1:40 pm	Dr. Conor Kerley ‘The Health Benefits Of A Wholefood, Plant-based Diet.’
2:20 pm	<i>Lunch</i>
3:00 pm	Youth Activist Panel With Saoi O’Connor, Alicia-Joy O’Sullivan & Aiyana Helder
3:40 pm	Dr. Derek McLaughlin ‘The Role of Results Based Agri-Environment Payment Programmes In Delivering A Sustainable Future For All.’
4:20 pm	Manuela Collarella & Luke McConnell ‘A Green New Deal For Europe and Ireland.’
5:00 pm	Closing Address by Dr. Maria Kिरrane Conclusion by Gabriella Chisholm



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UCC Green Campus Co-Chair wins Societies’ Award

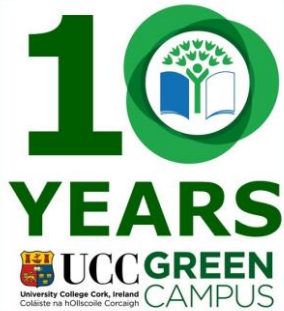
We are so proud of our Green Campus Committee Co-Chair Niamh Guiry, who received a Bene Merente individual award at this years UCC Societies Stars Awards. Niamh has been behind many of the incredible success stories for UCC Green Campus (as well as UCC EnviroSoc, which she chairs) for the last year.

As part of the “Humans of Sustainability” Instagram campaign Niamh had the following to say:

“I think apathy is our greatest enemy. It’s easy for people to forget that we are not the centre of the universe and that humans cannot continue to exploit the earth the way we have in the past. We cannot have infinite growth on a finite planet. If we are to stand any chance against the current climate meltdown, gender inequalities need to be addressed and solved. To be able to work with strong women, to support and encourage them and to have the opportunity to help other women find their voice is what I love about environmentalism. There is an intoxicating energy in our groups, we stand together and we will never stop fighting for climate justice.”

Congrats Niamh and thanks for all that you have contributed to UCC Green Campus!





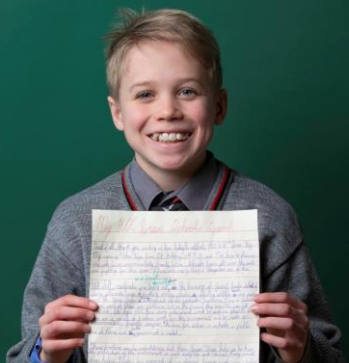
Notes from the future

Inspiring contributions from our local school students....



"Environmental problems can be over whelming but 'Green Flags' help us to keep the protection of the environment in our daily life and choices."

Ethan Wyes of St Anthony's
Ballinlough, Cork City



"We might not be able to stop climate change but we can stop contributing to it. I wish that 'Children fix their own mistakes and not the mistakes made by previous generations.'"

Roisin Cullagh and Amy Noonan
Eglantine Primary School, Cork City



"By taking a stand and informing others, each little step can make a difference."

Clodagh Ní Carthaigh,
Galescoil Uí Drisceoilí Dun Rille Glanmire



"Healthy worms mean healthy soil

Healthy Soil Means healthy plants

Healthy plants mean healthy people

The next time you see a worm say thank you for all it's hard work in keeping the earth's soil healthy."

Liam Allen St Colemans Kanturck



"My hope is to have a world where people work together to care for and protect our planet. People now recycle more but we still have a long way to go."

Chloe Lees of Scoil Bhríde Ráth Chormaic, North Cork



"My goal for the future is to become a teacher to help children of the future to enjoy school as much as I do and show them how to enjoy nature that lives all around us. I would love to see every school encouraged to use only reusable water bottles, compatible bins and vegetable gardens would also be a lovely addition to every school."

Tara Geaney
Glasheen Girls NS, Cork City.



"Each day decisions that we make are affecting our planets future. By taking a stand and informing others, each little step can make a big difference."

Ella Gaynor
St Marie's of the Isle, Cork City



"One small person making a single small change might seem insignificant but if 7 billion people have the same idea, then we're getting somewhere."

Donal Agus Caoimhe
Caelscoil Mhainistir na Corann, Midleton.



"Everyone has a responsibility to look after our planet and small changes can make a big difference. I want to do my bit to slow down climate change."

Faye Dubuisson,
Galescoil Mhichíl Uí Chollaíán



"Stop Wishing and start hoping. Stop saying and start doing"

Eoghan O'Mahony, Colaiste Pobail Bheanntirai, West Cork.

