



## UCC Green Campus Living Laboratory Seed Fund

### Call for Applications

In 2010, UCC was the first university in the world to be awarded the Green Flag from the Foundation for Environmental Education. Since then, the University has received over 40 awards for its sustainability programme and is globally recognised as a leader in sustainability and climate action. UCC Green Campus is “Student-led, Research-informed, and Practice-focused”; the Green Campus Living Laboratory Programme seeks to advance this agenda to demonstrate best practice in campus operations, teaching, research and engagement.

This is the third call for projects under the Green Campus Living Laboratory Programme, details of previously funded projects can be viewed [here](#).

### What is a Living Laboratory?

A “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

For this call, projects undertaken **within the local community** are also welcome, provided an appropriate community partner has been identified.

### 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 of €5,770, stipend of €18,500, and associated costs up to a maximum of €26,000). Up to one research masters project will be funded in this round. Due to budget constraints, the masters research must be completed within one year of the project start date. It is expected that the masters would be **interdisciplinary in nature**.

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 goals and objectives outlined in UCC's [Sustainability and Climate Action Plan \(2023-28\)](#). Projects that advance our **Green Labs** and **Plastic Free UCC** programmes, that **aim to reduce carbon emissions**, or that **embed sustainability within the Connected Curriculum**, are particularly welcome.

### Who Can Apply for Funds?

Staff from **all disciplines and units** within the university are encouraged to apply. 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/charity/NGO/industry**. Projects proposed by members of the student community will be welcomed, however they must have been discussed with a potential staff partner/academic supervisor prior to submission. The inclusion of community groups, charities, NGOs or industry partners is encouraged; however, these entities cannot lead projects. Where industry stakeholders are included, resources should be matched by the industry partner.

### Application Process

Interested parties are asked to complete the **application form** and return it to [m.kirrane@ucc.ie](mailto:m.kirrane@ucc.ie) before **5pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023**. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the Dr Maria Kirrane, Head of Sustainability and Climate Action Office, in advance of submitting proposals to ensure that their project is suitable. Applicants will be notified if they have been successful in September 2023; projects should start as soon as possible thereafter. The maximum project duration will be 12 months. A Colloquium will be hosted in October 2024, where project results will be presented.

Applications will be reviewed by a Selection Committee based on the **criteria and guiding questions** outlined below. 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.

Proposals should consider how the project will be implemented and **ensure that resources such as staff time, and physical infrastructure are adequately budgeted for.**

### Criteria and Guiding Questions

#### 1) Impact on Campus Sustainability Goals

- Does this support the sustainability goals outlined in UCC's Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (2023-28)?
- Does this project lower UCC's greenhouse gas emissions?

#### 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-Disciplinary 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?

**Any queries should be directed to Dr Maria Kirrane, Head of Sustainability and Climate Action Office: [m.kirrane@ucc.ie](mailto:m.kirrane@ucc.ie)**