



**ANNUAL
SUSTAINABILITY
REPORT**
Academic Year 2018/2019



UCC
University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh




University College Cork
World's First Green Campus



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1. Foreward

In June 2019, the Department for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment published Ireland's All of Government Plan on Climate Action. The Plan puts an onus on public sector institutions to lead the way in reducing carbon emissions. Academic Year (AY) 2018/19 saw University College Cork become the first campus in the world to be awarded the Green Flag from the Foundation for Environmental Education for the 4th time. The University also took part in the pilot year of the new Times Higher Education Impact Ranking, being ranked 21st overall and number 1 for SDG12: Responsible Consumption and Production. This ranking brings together our operational performance and the research, teaching and engagement activities of the university. Our STARS gold award was a key part of the submission.

The year had many highlights in terms on national and international recognition for our sustainability efforts. In February UCC received the national Green Award for best Public Sector Organisation. In August UCC's Love our Library team were named runner up in the International Federation of Library Associations Green Library Awards. In April 2019, UCC hosted senior university administrators from over 100 countries for the UI Green Metric International Workshop. In May 2019, six successful projects under our pilot UCC Green Campus Living Laboratory Programme were announced. Those projects got underway in September 2019. Also in AY 2018/19 UCC's Student Union created a part time role for an Environmental Officer to work under the Equality Working Group. Across campus our Green Teams continue to go from strength to strength with the School of BEES becoming the most recent addition to the "Saver Saves" Scheme.



UCC Sustainability Highlights Academic Year 18/19



9 in UI Green Metric International Rankings



Presented at EUA (Paris) and ASEF Rectors Forum (Bucharest)



UI Green Metric Conference hosted at UCC



Awarded 4th Green Flag



Named Best Public Sector Organisation at 2019 Green Awards



Sustainability at centre of new Academic Strategy



Six Living Laboratory Projects Launched at UCC



#1 for SDG12 in Times Higher Education Impact Ranking



New Mowing Regime and Wildflower Meadows

“

*John O'Halloran
& Mark Poland
Green Forum
co-chairs*

“The framework adopted at UCC incorporates a bottom-up approach — activism, matched with top-down leadership, support, and strategies. At middle out — a university-wide module on sustainability. This approach has mobilised and inspired a university to contribute towards creating a sustainable future.”

“Sustainability is part of how we do business now in UCC, for example our new Student Hub building, which sees a reimagining of the of the old Windle Building, is built to BREEAM Excellent Standard and will be the first building in UCC to implement the new Sustainable Print Management Policy.”

”

2.1 Sustainability Citizenship

UCC Hosts International Conference on Sustainability in Higher Education

In April 2019, UCC hosted the 5th International Workshop on UI Green Metric. Over 100 delegates from 30 different countries attended the event, including representatives from eight of the top ten ranked universities. On the first day of the meeting, the UI Green Metric Steering Committee members, which included UCC, presented their report on activities within each of their countries. On day 2, representatives from many of the top ranked universities delivered presentations on their individual campus' approaches to sustainability. Presentations included how campuses have developed their sustainability strategies, approaches to becoming carbon neutral, and the methodologies for preparing robust sustainability reports. A "Sustainability Showcase" in the Aula Maxima gave delegates a great overview of the breadth of activities in UCC and Cork that are addressing the SDGs.

Keynote addresses were delivered by An Tanaiste Simon Coveney T.D., Dr Michael John O'Mahony (An Taisce), and Dr Ger Mullally (UCC). Simon Coveney highlighted the important links between sustainable development and our foreign affairs strategy, as well as the need for Ireland to improve its performance in relation to carbon emissions. Together with UCC Conferencing, Green Campus worked to make the event as environmentally friendly as possible. Each delegate was given a gift of a native Irish tree planted in County Clare to offset their carbon emissions, there were no disposable plastics provided in the conference catering, and all of the conference materials were made available on the conference website and therefore not printed.



Strategic Aim



- To engage our student body, staff and wider community in becoming active citizens for sustainability, and establish sustainability citizenship as a central component of the University ethos – with students and staff giving a commitment to learning more about sustainability and taking responsible action.

Table 1. Progress update against "Sustainability Citizenship" targets and indicators.

Indicator	Target	Status
Number of students and/or staff involved in Green Campus initiatives	At least one from each dept., function, society and club	●
Campus awareness of UCC sustainability initiatives	100%	●
Number of student organisations/societies on-campus relating to sustainability	Ten	●
Number of staff organisations/societies on-campus relating to sustainability	At least one focused; all incorporating SDGs into activities where practical	●
Number of students and staff involved in such sustainability relevant organisations	At least one from each dept., function, society and club	●
Overall participation in sustainability initiatives, activities and societies as % of staff and student FTE figures	100% of students and staff have participated in at least one event	●
Green flag status	Maintain	●
Status in the Green metrics and/or other green/sustainability rankings measures	Maintain STARS Gold	●



3.1 Sustainability Citizenship

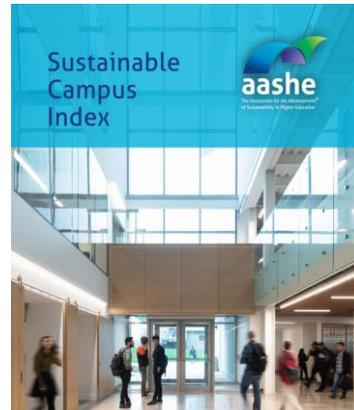
Student-led: Another active year for EnviroSoc

UCC's EnviroSoc are a core part of our Green Campus programme and have been extremely active over the last number of years. The UCC EnviroSoc Climate Conference took place again in February 2019. The event saw speakers from across the country discuss the impacts of Climate Change, how we can better communicate the subject, and what solutions are available. Dr Niall O'Leary of UCC's Microbiology department began the day with a fascinating talk about plastics and the impact they are having on our environment both in terms of carbon emissions and plastic pollution. Following that a panel discussion looked at solutions to the plastic problem from the consumer and business perspective. Rachel Power spoke about communicating climate change impacts and solutions, while journalist John Gibbons gave a thought provoking and sobering overview of the lack of media coverage of the issue. Some inspiring stories followed from the Upcycle Movement and James O'Donovan of Cork Environmental Forum. The event struck a broadly positive tone, with an emphasis on finding solutions and making progress within our local communities. EnviroSoc don't shy away from the hard facts though. In the Summer the students made a hard hitting video "Dear Politicians of Ireland" video, calling our political leaders to account for their inaction. The video was awarded best film in the under 25's category of Kinsale Film Festival.

EnviroSoc students also continue to lead by example, carrying out litter picks in the local community during busy periods in the college year. The students spend a full afternoon walking the streets around campus on Fresher's Week, Rag Week etc. and collect rubbish left behind. In future years we aim to work on the behavioural issues that lead to this littering.

UCC's activities highlighted in AASHE Sustainable Campus Index

In August 2019 UCC was highlighted in AASHE's [Sustainable Campus Index](#). UCC were "top performers" in the Food and Dining, Investment and Finance, and Waste categories. The University of Sanctuary programme was also highlighted as best practice. The Index was based on the data submitted to AASHE in 2018. UCC was ranked number 1 of all institutions for "Investment and Finance", a reflection of the fact that we have divested entirely of fossil fuels and signed the Principles of Responsible Investment.



“

*Lina Skarabis
(Envirosoc,
Green
Campus, SU
Environment
Officer)*

Green Campus is an exemplary initiative, it is proactive, engaging and concerned with the pressing issues of our time. It recognises that we, as a community, need to take action and responsibility for a greener future. It is inspiring to see students and staff working together on an equal footing, learning from each other and contributing their own viewpoints. The diversity of the people involved and their willingness to listen is integral to its successes. These can be seen in the multiple improvements Green Campus has achieved over the years, especially on single-use plastics. Going forward, we hope to see Green Campus follow through on these high standards. The biggest achievement, however, would be if those students involved in the initiative on campus take with them their motivation and the ideas they have been introduced to and help to implement green projects in the new environment they enter as their next step. This way Green Campus can have a substantial impact beyond UCC and can foster a more sustainable society.

”

UCC's Centre for Global Development launches Strategic Plan

It was a very busy year for the Centre for Global Development at UCC, which launched its new Strategic Plan on the 5th June. The Plan sets out a mission to support, enhance and promote UCC's commitment and capacity to promote sustainable global development. In April, the Centre hosted the Irish launch of the EAT Lancet Report on modern diets and their impact on climate change. Report author, Professor Jessica Fanzo presented the findings of the report to a packed Aula Maxima. Professor Fanzo's appearance garnered significant attention for the report in the Irish media, with an appearance on Morning Ireland and feature piece in the Irish Times. In June, the Centre hosted the DSAI Summer School in UCC.

International Knowledge Exchange

In April, Sustainability Officer Dr Maria Kirrane presented UCC's Green Campus story at the European Universities Association Annual Conference in Paris. In May, Professor John O'Halloran delivered a presentation at the ASEF Rectors Forum in Bucharest. Also in May, Green Campus were awarded €3000 in seed funding from the International Sustainable Campus Network to further the relationship with Colombian Universities and mentor them in developing sustainability strategies on their campuses.

2.2 Learning and Teaching

SDG 4 “Quality Education” calls on educators to ensure “that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development”.



Strategic Aims:



- To foster a culture of sustainability citizenship within the University Community through both formal and informal teaching and learning opportunities and activities
- To facilitate the development and empowerment of future leaders in sustainability through our teaching and learning programmes and activities.

Table 2. Progress update against “Learning and Teaching” targets and indicators.

Indicator	Target	Status
Number of sustainability relevant education programmes	45	●
Proportion of students on sustainability relevant education programmes	20%	●
Proportion of ‘other’ students taking sustainability relevant modules	50%	●
Participation by members of the public and other stakeholders in courses with sustainability content	200/yr	●



New Academic Strategy 2018-2022 launched



UCC’s Academic Strategy 2018-2022 was launched in December 2018. The Strategy highlights UCC’s international recognition in embedding sustainability and aims to “facilitate students to develop values, skills and aptitudes that promote civic participation, social inclusion, sustainability, digital fluency and impactful, global citizenship.”

The Strategy builds on our existing strengths in these areas and seeks to develop and extend good practice across campus. The Deputy President and Registrar, and Chair of UCC’s Green Forum, is overseeing the implementation of the plan and delivers regular progress reports through information sessions and Town Hall events as well as the UCC Academic Strategy [webpage](#).

Priority One of the Academic Strategy is to develop a “Connected Curriculum”, a component of which is sustainability. The objective of this connection is that a UCC education is recognised as one that prepares students to contribute in a meaningful way towards a thriving, equitable and ecologically healthy world.

A working group has been established to lead the delivery of the Connected Curriculum and funding has been secured from the National Forum for Teaching and Learning (NFTL) “Strategic Alignment for Teaching and Learning Enhancement” fund. This NFTL project will begin in Jan 2020 and lead to the production of a toolkit for UCC teaching staff to integrate sustainability into their modules and programmes.



3.2 Learning and Teaching

University Wide Module in Sustainability

AY 2018/19 was the fourth year of UCC's University Wide Module in Sustainability. The transdisciplinary module titled "Putting Sustainability in its Place: Putting yourself in the Picture" is coordinated by Dr Ger Mullally (CACSSS) and features lecturers from all four colleges across UCC. 70 people registered on the module, across UCC students, staff and the general public. As always, the highlight of the module was the group projects on the final night, when participants work together to reflect on how an SDG connected to their own lives.



“ I came to the course expecting that “sustainability” from the course perspective was going to be about just climate and environment. I was surprised, but pleased, that the course is taking a more intersectional approach to sustainability; although climate change is an important issue, it is important that we don't try to tackle this issue alone, but look at how it interlinks with the other SDGs.

Anonymous student feedback ”

Centre for Cooperative Studies launches MSc. in Cooperatives, Agrifood and Sustainable Development

The MSc in Co-operatives, Agri-Food & Sustainable Development was launched in September 2018. This programme uniquely addresses the need to adopt collaborative approaches to achieve sustainability outcomes in agri-food systems. Enhancing sustainable food production in Ireland is fundamental to combatting the joint challenges of harmful emissions and biodiversity degradation. Mobilisation of producers, processors, consumers and businesses through collective action is central to tackling these challenges. This MSc programme is offered by Cork University Business School (CUBS) and is fundamental to the CUBS strategic objective of promoting education and research which directly address the challenges of sustainability. As such, it is an important component in implementing the university's core values on sustainability. The programme is run through the Department of Food Business & Development and supported by research at the Centre for Co-operative Studies, UCC. The MSc is accredited by the Institute of Management Consultants and Advisors (IMCA) and is supported by the FDC Group through a generous Scholarship Programme.

Gluckman Gallery Schools Outreach Programme

Tadhg Crowley and the team at the Glucksman Gallery continue to engage with local schools on projects exploring creativity, sustainability and climate change. *People and the Planet* facilitated schools, community groups and children living in Direct Provision to work with artists to develop inventive installations from recyclables and natural materials. Creative sessions took place in the Glucksman as well as outdoors in the University lower grounds so that children could learn about their local habitat. Participating groups explored biodiversity and sustainability, working together to present imaginative artworks for a public exhibition from 21 - 25 November 2018. This coincided with a visit to the Gallery of the Foundation for Environmental Education's National Operators, who met in Cork in November 2018.

In Spring, as part of Cork Chamber 200 celebrations, *Future Forms* invited participants from Cork schools, third-level education and community groups to work with artists to create future visions of what our urban environment will look like 200 years from now. The project explored ideas of active citizenship and encouraged all participants to think about the different ways in which we can positively influence the form of our city. More than 1000 young people have visited the museum to take part in creative workshops exploring climate action, developments in transport, the future of design and sustainable architecture. The works were displayed in the gallery in March 2019.



2.3 Research

Research related to the SDGs is undertaken across all four colleges of the University. Over the next year, UCC's Research Support Office will be undertaking a detailed analysis of the extent of this research, as well as developing systems to capture the impact of UCC research on the SDGs.

UCC's Environmental Research Institute continues to support world class interdisciplinary research aimed at enabling the transition to a zero carbon, resource efficient and sustainable society. In 2018, the Institute supported 405 researchers across 206 live projects. Many of these researchers work at the interface of science and policy, using their findings to inform government on potential solutions to the complex challenge of sustainable development. For example, work carried out by MaREI Energy Policy & Modelling Group, led by Professor Brian Ó Gallachóir, helped inform the IPCC *Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C* published in October 2018.



Professor O'Gallachoir also presented to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Climate Action in December 2018, with colleagues Dr James Glynn, Dr Fionn Rogan and Clare Watson. Also based at MaREI, Climate Ireland is the National Knowledge hub on Climate Adaptation and has been working with local authorities across the country to help them in developing Climate Adaptation Plans.

Greening Laboratory Practices at UCC

As well as researching topics related to sustainability, UCC Green Campus is also eager to explore ways that research could be carried out in a more sustainable manner. Research is one of the most energy intensive activities undertaken in universities and research labs are also the source of many single-use plastic items. Much of this is necessary, however there are improvements and “easy wins” to be achieved.



In the last year, UCC took part in a pilot LEAF (Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework) programme developed by “Green Lab Associates”, a UK based group who have years of expertise in reducing the carbon emissions from laboratories. Tom O'Mahony in the Chemistry department trialled the tool across a number of different lab types in the Kane building. We are reviewing the outcomes of this trial and hoping to work with other departments across UCC, and other Irish Universities to pursue the best way forward in making our lab practices greener.

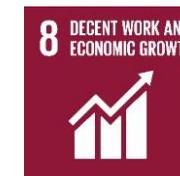
Strategic Aims



- To facilitate the development and empowerment of future leaders in sustainability through our research activities
- To maintain and enhance the University's standing in research on sustainability topics

Table 3. Progress update against “Research” targets and indicators.

Indicator	Target	Status
Research funding for sustainability related research	30% of total	●
Proportion of total research income related to sustainability	30%	●
Number of sustainability related research projects	100	●
Number of sustainability researchers	> 15% of total	●
Number of publications on sustainability and environment (average per year)	> 300	●
Scholarly events related to sustainability and environmental research	> 30	●
Number of internal interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary collaborations	> 20	●



3.3 Research

Promoting and Supporting Interdisciplinarity for Sustainable Development

Dr Paul Bolger is manager of the Environmental Research Institute at University College Cork and Principal Investigator on a number of research projects on climate change and the circular economy. His Fulbright scholarship investigated how interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research is being utilised at four sustainability research institutes in the USA.

Our natural environment and earth systems currently face multiple unprecedented challenges including, but not limited to, the degradation of ecosystems, over exploitation of natural resources, and climate change. The complex nature of these sustainability problems presents a challenge for a university research system which is organised along the lines of traditional disciplines and knowledge, whilst the sustainability transcends sectors, boundaries, and disciplines. Steering society towards a more sustainable path requires a more inter- and trans-disciplinary research approach where academics collaborate with practitioners and others outside of academia along with society at large to build legitimacy for proposed transition pathways.

My Fulbright scholarship investigated how interdisciplinary research is being enabled at four US environmental research institutes to achieve more impactful research outcomes addressing urgent sustainability challenges. I visited the Nicholas Institute at Duke University, the Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future at Cornell University, the Earth Institute at Columbia University, and the Julie Anne Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability at Arizona State University. These institutes encompass many academic disciplines and strongly facilitate inter- and transdisciplinary research approaches.

During my Fulbright, I enjoyed meeting the leadership and researchers at my four host institutes and discussing the opportunities and challenges arising from the establishment and presence of research institutes within universities and how institutes can bring added-value to the academic mission of the university. The Fulbright scholarship has given me a wider perspective on how research institutes can act as catalysts for converting scientific knowledge to impactful actions for addressing environmental challenges.

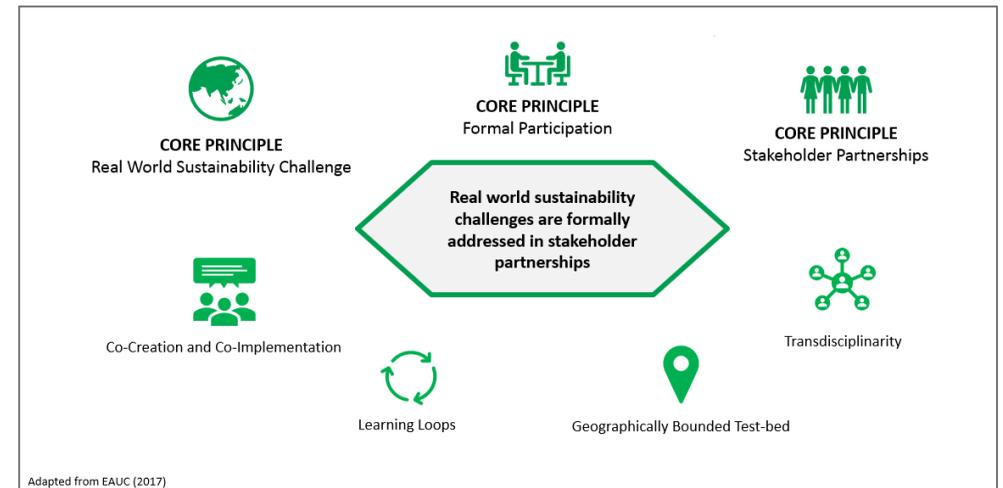


UCC Green Campus Living Laboratory Programme

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. Living Laboratory approaches are widely regarded as best practice in promoting campus sustainability. In 2018/19 UCC Green Campus launched a pilot "Living Laboratory" initiative, aimed at utilising the knowledge and research produced at UCC to make the campus more sustainable. On May 2nd, an expert panel convened to review the proposals submitted to UCC's inaugural "Living Laboratory Research Seed Fund". The panel was composed of Professor John O'Halloran, Mark Poland, Dr Sandra Irwin and Dr Michael John O'Mahony (An Taisce Environmental Education Unit). The idea of a Living Laboratory is that projects should:

- 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

Two research masters (one in SEFS and one in CACSSS) and four demonstration projects were funded, varying in themes from bulky item reuse, green spaces and wellbeing to behavioural science.



3.4 Food, Health and Wellbeing

UCC continues to work with KSG Ireland, the University’s contracted catering service provider to ensure that healthy and sustainable choices are available for students and staff of the university.

Meatless Mondays have also continued with 2 per semester in the main restaurant. In January 2019, KSG ran a “Dirty Broccoli” vegan and vegetarian pop-up at the main restaurant and in Brookfield. Options included a Tofu “spice bag” and buffalo cauliflower “wings”. In 18/19, KSG also teamed up with “Food Choice at Work” to run 1:1 personalised nutrition consultations with a Food Choice Nutritionist throughout October & November 2018.



In August 2018, the UCC Societies Executive approved UCC Vegan Society as an official Society shopping. The Society was extremely active, running potluck meetups and a “buddy” programme to mentor new members on issues such as diet tips and shopping. There is strong expertise within the research community in UCC around nutrition and food production. UCC’s Community Garden continues to go from Strength to strength. In October 2018, the garden hosted a workshop as part of Cork’s annual harvest festival. The workshop focused on food growing in small spaces



Our UCC “Alma Nectar” honey has produced another bumper crop this year, which is available to purchase at the Visitor’s centre. Delegates at this year’s UI Green Metric Conference and Wind Energy Science Conference were delighted with their gifts of a small sample jar of UCC’s, now famous, “Alma Nectar”.

The UCC Health Matters Team continue to work at the interface of environment, health and wellbeing. In Spring 2019, a 7-week series on health and nutrition as organised by the UCC staff wellbeing. On the 12th April 2019, they held a workplace wellbeing day in conjunction with the Mardyke Arena.



Strategic Aim

- To enhance the health and well-being of the University and wider community through the facilitation and promotion of aspects of healthy eating and living as an integral part of sustainable living.

Table 4. Progress update against “Food, Health and Wellbeing” targets and indicators.

Indicator	Target	Status
Proportion of staff and students engaged in regular exercise	70%*	●
Health surveys of students and staff	In line with national and international standards.	●
Availability of sustainable food choices in campus food outlets	Assess	●
Proportion of students and staff actively selecting local sustainable food (food surveys)	Assess	●
Food growing initiatives on-campus	Maintain garden and identify opportunities for staff window boxes	●
Integration and awareness raising projects, research and initiatives between key actors in food, health, well-being and sustainability	Develop 2 flagship joint projects	●
Student and staff involvement in relevant societies/organisations on and off campus	Assess**	●

*A student volunteering report for UCC was completed in Nov 18 and will inform targets going forward.

** Based on SASSI report, target will be refined with UCC Health Matters Team.



3.4 Food, Health and Wellbeing

There are many areas where human wellbeing and environmental protection overlap; one that is becoming increasingly pertinent, over the last number of years, is that of air quality. Researchers at UCC's Centre for Research into Atmospheric Chemistry (CRAC) undertake measurements of urban air quality cross the region, as well as significant engagement activities with policy makers and the public. World Environment Day 2019, focused on Air Pollution and the CRAC team shared some iconic images from across the globe to raise awareness of the impacts of air pollution. One of these images was of a photo of New Dehli in India this year where visibility is severely hampered by smog. These levels of particulate matter in the air that we are breathing are extremely dangerous to human health. They are also a contributing factor in climate change.



Pic: CRAC Lab, UCC

While these levels of smog might not be experienced here in Ireland, CRAC researchers have been featured widely in local press over the last year pointing out the potential dangers of idling cars around school gates leading to hotspots of polluted air, as well as the impacts of solid fuel burning in our cities and towns, which increasingly becoming an issue of concern.

UCC's Centre for Cooperative Studies held events throughout the year looking at the impacts of food production on the health of our environment.

FARMING AND BIODIVERSITY: THE BRIDE PROJECT

Centre for Co-operative Studies & UCC Green Campus:
BIODIVERSITY SEMINAR FOR EARTH WEEK

<p>The BRIDE Project (Biodiversity Regeneration in a Dairying Environment) is an innovative agri-environment project based in the River Bride catchment of north-east County Cork & west Waterford, Ireland.</p> <p>The Project aims to design & implement a results-based approach to conserve, enhance and restore habitats in lowland intensive farmland.</p> <p>For more details visit www.thebrideproject.ie</p>	<p>Where Council Room, UCC</p> <p>When 13.30, Tuesday 5th of March, 2019 Light Lunch provided by the Department of Food Business & Development from 13.15</p> <p>Chair Dr. Noreen Byrne</p> <p>13.30 Welcome by Pro. John O'Halloran, Deputy President & Registrar at UCC</p> <p>13.35 Dr. Maria Kirrane, Sustainability Officer, UCC "The Global Biodiversity Crisis, what can UCC do?"</p> <p>13.45 Donal Sheehan, Farmer & Project Manager, BRIDE Bio-diversity Project; Mobilising Farmers towards Biodiversity</p> <p>14.15 Questions and Answers</p> <p>FREE EVENT OPEN TO ALL</p>
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Living Laboratory Project at UCC School of Education

Dr Wesley O'Brien at UCC's School of Education was awarded one of the four Living Laboratory demonstration projects for his proposal 'Activity to Longevity' (A2L) – The implementation of a 'Physical Literacy' programme for academic, research, and administrative staff at UCC.

The proposal, which also included researchers at UCC's Business Information Systems department and UCC's Wellbeing office, will seek to 'enhance the health and wellbeing of the University and wider community through the facilitation and promotion of healthy eating and living as an integral part of sustainable living.'

The specific aims of the project are:

1. To gather information from an overall staff perspective in UCC on specific levels of physical activity, and movement competence
2. To gather information on the prevalence of physical literacy among UCC staff, in their everyday workplace environment
3. To use the physical literacy data gathered to design and identify a contextually relevant pilot

intervention programme for UCC staff, known as 'Activity to Longevity' (A2L) and priority 4. To assess the effectiveness of the A2L intervention by comparing pre and post physical literacy data

4. Upon completion of the A2L intervention, the research team aim to disseminate their findings through peer-reviewed outputs, and presentation material (nationally, internationally).
5. To improve the existing alignment of the A2L project to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and determine that physical activity participation is a renewable form of healthy energy expenditure, accessible to the workforce at UCC.
6. To develop a sustainable long-term plan for the A2L project, as part of this 'UCC Green Campus Living Laboratory Seed Funding.'



3.5 Landscape, Heritage and Natural Resources

In February 2019, Ireland's first National Biodiversity Conference took place in Dublin. President Higgins delivered the opening address and highlighted the many challenges facing Ireland's wildlife including the decline in species rich grasslands, vital refuges and corridors and stated that "If we were coal miners, we would be up to our knees in dead canaries". The green space on UCC campus sites is a treasured resource amongst the campus community and over the years buildings and estates have worked hard to document and protect the existing biodiversity of UCC. You can read more on the biodiversity surveys and Action Plan on our [website](#).

Strategic Aims



- To promote and engage in the sustainable use and management of the landscape and natural resources of the University, in all its campus areas, with respect to ecosystem services, natural and cultural heritage;
- To minimise the local, regional and global environmental impacts of our educational, research, operations and infrastructural development.

Table 5. Progress update against "Landscape, Heritage, Natural Resources" targets and indicators.

Indicator	Target	Status
Proportion and amount of open spaces on campus	Extend Sli na Slainte to Western Campus	●
Proportion of campus covered in vegetation*	See UCC Biodiversity Action Plan	●
Proportion of 'wild' and/or semi natural areas on campus	See UCC Biodiversity Action Plan	●
Proportion of non-retentive surfaces	Asses Green Infrastructure inclusion in all new builds	●
Proportion of campus mapped for biodiversity, with numbers of key habitats and species	All	●
Number and effectiveness of natural resource awareness campaigns and initiatives	2/year	●
Number of projects/partnerships with local authorities and community groups	1/year	●

In Spring 2019, UCC Buildings and Estates took the decision to reduce the mowing frequency of lawns in line with the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. Simply reducing frequency to every 6 weeks allows flowers like clover, essential food for some of our pollinating insects, to bloom. Of course, the more and greater diversity of flowers the better. So the decision was made to take a mosaic approach – letting some areas go wilder than others depending on use.



Mowing pathways through the grassy areas, gives the campus community the opportunity to experience the feeling of being immersed in nature and makes sure that the areas are still accessible and usable. This is a work in progress and the grounds team have been wonderful at monitoring and adapting their approach where required. We have had extremely positive feedback and hope to see the impact on our pollinating species over the coming years. Signs, made by Michael O'Sullivan in B&E (from upcycled pallets) inform the public on why the areas are looking a little "wild"!

UCC Biodiversity Highlights



Signed up to All Ireland Pollinator Plan



Wildflower meadow gets national attention



Mowing regime reduced across campus



Cavanagh Bridge opens giving access to Lower Grounds



Guest lectures from Bride Project and NBDC



Living Lab project on UCC Trees launched

3.5 Landscape, Heritage and Natural Resources

UCC Wildflower Meadow

The Lower Grounds Wildflower Meadow was a star attraction at UCC campus this summer. The meadow was made possible thanks the improved accessibility of the area on completion of the Cavanagh Bridge. Balancing the public amenity value and biodiversity potential, a decision was taken to dedicate one side of the Lower Grounds to a Wildflower Meadow. The meadow was planted using native Irish seeds and a real highlight, for the campus and wider community, was watching the change in flowers over the course of the Summer and Autumn months. We were thrilled to hear all the positive feedback and especially happy that the meadow proved inspirational to Micheal Martin TD, who brought the idea to Leinster House. The National Biodiversity Data Centre have done a wonderful job in providing guidance to organisations and local authorities on managing their land for Biodiversity, and we were delighted to have Dr Tomas Murray from the NBDC visit the meadow in June and deliver a talk on Citizen Science monitoring programmes for pollinators.

Queen bumblebees need to visit 6,000 flowers after coming out of hibernation in the spring.

Did you know?



Living Laboratory Project at UCC School of BEES will make campus and "Open Arboretum"

Dr Eoin Lettice, from UCC's School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Science is leading the Green Campus Living Laboratory Project "Open Arboretum".

UCC's significant trees have already been mapped, and accessed online [here](#). This project will establish a knowledge platform based on that existing tree collection. The platform will scientifically underpin and demonstrate the use of the collection for teaching, research and as a visitor attraction for the wider city and region.

Trees are an integral part of what makes the UCC campus so popular with staff, students and visitors and adds significantly to its biodiversity value by creating habitats for birds, mammals, insects, epiphytes and other organisms. However, we don't always drill down into their scientific, historical and cultural

significance. This project will rectify this and put the UCC tree collection on centre stage.

The **aims** of the Open Arboretum Project are to:

1. Explore ways of utilising the tree collection for teaching, research and enhancing the visitor experience at UCC, with a focus on the environment, biodiversity and sustainability.
2. Collate and provide the scientific evidence and information as to the value of such urban tree collections to the institution, the city and the region.
3. Promote and engage with relevant stake-holders and users of the collection through the knowledge platform.

Keep an eye out for tours and other interactive sessions that Dr Lettice will be hosting as part of this project.



3.6 Recycling and Waste Management

Plastic Free Café

In September 2018, KSG Ireland and UCC launched Ireland's first single-use plastic free café, the Bio Green Café. Over its first year of operation, the café has resulted in significant reductions in plastics, and other single-use items. As a trial initiative, the replicability and scalability of each alternative has been assessed, and similar changes are now planned across campus. This is not just true of UCC campus, KSG are implementing some of these solutions across their outlets outside of UCC, and similar initiatives are also now happening on other campuses. In January 2019, the Minister of State for Higher Education, Mary Mitchell O'Connor visited the café to see what lessons could be learned for the sector as a whole. Overall, waste generated from this café has reduced by 95%. To celebrate the launch of the café, on the 26 September 2018 a 'Big Plastic Clean-up' was organised in collaboration with KSG, Subowti, UCC Canoe Club, UCC EnviroSoc and Clean Coasts to clean the River Lee, at the Lee Fields and its surroundings. The event saw 16 bags of rubbish collected.

Building on the success of the BioCafe, KSG moved onto also tackling waste from conference catering. All plastic bottles are being removed from catering, and catering for functions in the Boole Library has gone completely disposable free.



Recycling machine for bottles and cans

In November 2018, UCC partnered with Repak to bring a recycling machine for plastic bottles and tin cans onto campus. Initially housed in the main restaurant, the machine moved to the student centre in early 2019. The machine empties and crushes the bottles and cans and users can scan their phone to enter a draw for prizes. The idea of this type of machine is that it collects only waste of a high value which is then guaranteed to enter the proper recycling stream.



Strategic Aims:



- To minimise the local, regional and global environmental impacts of our educational, research, operations, and infrastructural development
- To manage and reduce waste generation by the University community through behavioural and practice change, in accordance with the EU 'waste management hierarchy'.

Table 6. Progress update against "Recycling and Waste Management" targets and indicators.

Indicator	Target	Status
Quantities of total waste and individual categories of waste generated	.05 tonnes/person	●
Waste recycling rates (%)	70%	●
Number and type of audits and actions arising	All SEUs audited	●
Initiatives/workshops/training in relation to behavioural change (proportions of staff/students reached)	100% reach	●

Waste and Recycling Highlights



Ireland's first **Plastic free Café** opens in September 2018.



Repak **Recycling machine** installed for plastic bottles and cans.



ERI and Quad sign up to **binless office** system



New **single-use plastic alternatives** being trialled in Student Centre



95% reduction in waste generation from BioCafe



3 Reuse projects funded through Living Lab programme

3.6 Recycling and Waste Management

Living Laboratory Projects tackle reuse

The submissions to our “Living Laboratory” programme funding call were a clear indication of the degree to which more sustainable consumption behaviours matter to the UCC community. The funded projects below will impact on both our waste tonnages, recycling rates, and procurement practices.

In the **Plastics Free UCC** project, Aoife Hughes will build on existing UCC transdisciplinary capacity to chart and understand progress (including opportunities, levers, obstacles, difficulties and problematic areas) on the journey towards a single-use plastics free UCC. The work will contribute to the university’s policy of realising a single-use plastics free campus by 2023. Aoife began this project in September 2019 and is guided by an interdisciplinary team of supervisors including Claire O’Neill (CUBS), Ed Byrne (School of Engineering), Niall Dunphy (CPPU) and Ger Mullally (CACSSS). It is hoped that by understanding the behavioural underpinnings of the plastics free movement, we will also learn how to take tackle other, broader, environmental issues.

The **ReCircle Container Deposit Return** project aims to develop and demonstrate a tailored deposit-return scheme for reusable lunch boxes for

takeaway food. It’s being rolled out by Tad Kirakowski of NGO Voice Ireland. Working with KSG and other relevant stakeholders, the project will work to transfer the model of the successful Swiss ReCircle social enterprise to the UCC campus. This project is the first of its kind in Ireland though we sure hope it wont be the last! This project is led by Niall Dunphy in the CPPU.

The **International Office Swap Shop** project started in the Autumn of 2018, and was funded under the Living Lab programme in Spring 2019 in order to support the project and ensure its continuation. The concept of the Swap Shop was based on feedback from departing students that they would love to have a place to donate gently used, pre loved items, instead of ending up in landfill. The Student Support Team ran pop-up events rehoming 90% of the items received. The remainder of the items went to charity. The project has been driven by Natalie O’Byrne and Suzanne Buckley in the International Office and in the Spring of 2019, Natalie travelled to Warwick University with Erasmus funding, to learn from their practices. The priority for the next year will be to find more permanent space for this, and other, swap shop events.



Student Centre Initiatives

Terry Brennan and team at the student centre have also been key in contributing to the reduction of single use plastics on campus. Numerous reusable options are available to purchase in the shop, including cans and cartons of water for customers not wishing to purchase plastic water bottles. New initiatives for the Autumn included the installation of a water fountain on the ground floor lobby and cup washing stations at the café. The later has increased reusable cup use by 20%. In line with reducing single use plastics across the whole campus, the student centre also adopted a new market policy, put forward by chair of UCC’s Restaurant Committee Cormac McSweeney. The policy requires that all traders coming on to UCC Campus use alternatives to single-use plastics and provide the adequate waste recycling facilities.

Improved monitoring of waste practices

A key part of being a greener campus is ensuring that we are monitoring our waste practices and putting in place measures to improve them. Over 2018/19, ISS undertook detailed monitoring of all bins across campus. Using this information Green Campus can provide feedback, and progress, to staff in individual buildings on their recycling practices over time. Green Campus is working to provide the knowledge and infrastructure required to improve these recycling rates.

Building	% Recycling (2018)	RANK	% Recycling (2019)	RANK	YOY Change
Aras Na Laoi	61%	17	59%	23	-6
Safari	75%	7	65%	15	-8
Carrigside	64%	14	71%	8	+6
Electrical Engineering	50%	26	56%	25	+1
Geography	89%	2	80%	4	-2
Ferret Avenue	89%	31	80%	33	-2
Kane Building	53%	23	45%	29	-6
Sheraton Court	43%	30	65%	14	+16
Carrigbawn	59%	19	69%	11	+8
Ferry Lodge	83%	6	81%	3	+3
Ardpatrick	87%	4	81%	2	+2
Boote Basement	74%	8	72%	6	+2
Cavanagh Building	50%	25	49%	27	-2
O’ Rahilly Building	59%	18	60%	20	-2
Bioscience	55%	21	44%	30	-9
Civil Engineering	47%	27	38%	32	-5
Main Quadrangle	86%	5	87%	1	+4
Enterprise Centre	55%	22	59%	21	+1
The Cooperage	46%	28	47%	28	-
Butler Building	43%	29	39%	31	-2
Boote Library	66%	11	64%	16	-5
Brighton Villas	62%	15	66%	13	+2
Ashke	69%	10	68%	12	-2
Building& Estates Office	66%	12	62%	17	-5
Gallery	96%	1	72%	7	-6
Student Common Room	88%	3	79%	5	-2
Food Science	56%	20	60%	19	+1
Laurels	70%	9	61%	18	-9
Roseligh	62%	16	59%	22	-6
West Wing	66%	13	56%	24	-11
Environmental Research Institute	50%	24	49%	26	-2
West Lodge	31	31	71%	9	+22
William Thompson	66%	12	70%	10	+21
Average	60%		58%		

University College Cork
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THE UNIVERSITY IMPACT RANKINGS
www.thewur.com

3.7 Energy, Water and Climate Change

UCC continues to make great strides in reducing energy use. We exceeded the national targets with a reduction in energy intensity (per m²) of 57% over the period 2006-2018. Electrical consumption for 2018/19 reduced by 1%, when compared to 2017/18, coming in at 20,136,000 kWh. The 400,000 kWh increase attributed to the occupation of Lapps Quay, the School of Architecture as well as the Student hub construction site were offset by the 550,000 kWh saved through our energy management program.

Gas consumption came in at 2% below 2017/18 and 900,000 kWh of gas use was avoided, again through close management and engagement with our high gas users, particularly in the Food Science building under the guidance of Jim McNamara.

22 energy efficiency projects were carried out over 2018/19 and a sample of the larger projects completed, with grant aid from the SEAI, included the installation of 42kWp of PV arrays on the ORB roof as well as the change out of 750 lamp fittings to LED's at the ERI, including the installation of external car park lighting in line with Dark Sky design guidelines.

UCC's Carbon footprint has been recalculated again for 2018/19, and we are working on an even more detailed approach looking at emissions resulting from procurement activities. This project is being undertaken by Lauren Quinlivan, under the supervision of Dr Niall Dunphy in the CPPU at UCC. Following this analysis, Lauren will be putting together a Climate Action Plan for UCC, with goals and targets over short, medium and long term.

UCC recently signed up the Irish Water's Certified Water Steward Programme and have developed a water charter for the University to be implemented over the next 3 years. Water Conservation measures in the Boole have already saved over 1,250,000 litres in 4 months.

Strategic Aims



- To minimise the local, regional and global environmental impacts of our educational, research, and ancillary operations, and infrastructural development;
- To reduce energy intensity and greenhouse gas emissions (carbon footprint) of the University's operations;
- To reduce the water use on campus.



Table 7. Progress update against "Energy, Water and Climate Change" targets and indicators.

Indicator	Target	Status
Energy consumption (kWh per student FTE)	40% reduction (2008 baseline)	●
Greenhouse gas emitted	0.215 MtCO ₂ e/m ²	●
Water consumption (m3 per staff/student FTE)	25%	●
Quantity of water reused (m3 per staff/student FTE)	5%	●
Proportion of energy from certified renewable sources and onsite renewables (%)	15%	●
Number and effectiveness of awareness raising campaigns in relation to energy, carbon footprint and water	10	●

Energy, Water and Climate Change Highlights



42 kWp additional PV array added to ORB Building, bringing our total PV arrays to 85 kWp



€22,000 in energy savings reinvested in "green" projects.



21% reduction in total energy use 2008-2018



Environmental Research Institute **LED** replacement complete.



Climate Action Plan in development with CPPU



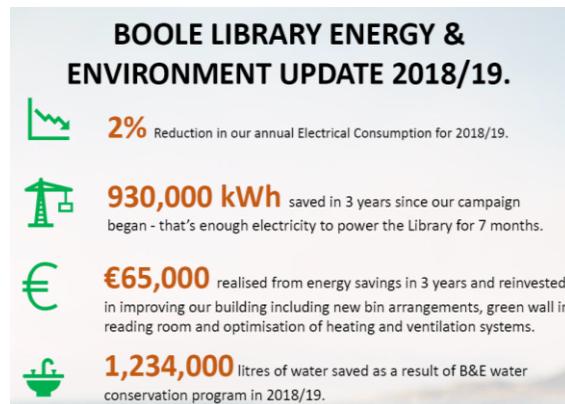
Signed up to Irish **Water Stewardship Programme**.

3.7 Energy, Water and Climate Change

“Saver Saves” Scheme continues to drive change

The “Saver Saves” scheme has been key to many of the most successful “green” projects in UCC over the last number of years. Through the scheme, monetary savings from energy efficiency projects remain with individual departments. Over 2018/19, the Green Teams in the Quad, ERI and Library significantly ramped up their efforts and we were also delighted to welcome the North Mall campus to the scheme. Thanks to the revolving funds, the energy savings can be put towards other projects like water reductions, biodiversity improvements and waste reduction initiatives. The teams are supported with regular feedback from UCC’s energy manager, who monitors consumption regularly and supports teams in identifying what will be the most impactful projects. An example of this feedback for the Boole Library team is presented below.

2019 has been a landmark year in the area of Climate Change; regions and countries around the globe have declared “Climate Emergencies”. The EAUC, of which UCC is a member, declared a climate emergency in May and released a Framework with actions for member institutions to follow in responding to this crisis. UCC is being guided by this Framework and incorporating it into its action plans. More information can be found on our [website](#).



Climate Case Ireland Talk – Centre for Law and the Environment, SHEP Earth Aware

The Centre for Law and the Environment at UCC is now entering its second year. In October 2018, the Centre hosted representatives from Climate Case Ireland in a seminar jointly organised with SHEP Earth Aware in Ballincollig. The focus of the talk was on the upcoming High Court litigation being taken by Friends of the Irish Environment seeking to hold government accountable for its role in knowingly contributing to dangerous levels of climate change. On 22 February 2019, the SU together with Green Campus has organised a solidarity rally in support for the Climate Case.

Imagining2050: Engaging, Envisioning, and Co-Producing Pathways for a Low Carbon, Climate Resilient Ireland

Our team: Gerard Mullally; Alexandra Revez; Niall Dunphy; Brian Ó Gallachóir; Clodagh Harris; Fionn Rogan; Paul Bolger; Edmond Byrne; Connor McGookin; Barry O’ Dwyer; Stephen Flood; Amy Dozier; James Glynn; John Barry; Geraint Ellis; Evan Boyle.

Imagining2050 is a research project that seeks to engage with Irish society to explore in a collaborative manner visions and pathways for a sustainable and socially inclusive future in Ireland. Imagining2050 is hosted by the ERI in UCC. The team is composed of experienced researchers from diverse backgrounds, with a combination of researchers from University College Cork and Queens University Belfast. Considered a flagship project for the ERI, the project is unique in drawing expertise from numerous research centers and units, including MaREI, CPPU, ISS21.

The project’s collaborative network continues to grow, having recently collaborated with UCC Green Campus through the University Wide Module and through ongoing work with Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) Climate Europe in order to advance transdisciplinarity in climate research,

and enhance the role of the social sciences therein.

Imagining2050 leverages the expertise and innovative power of its transdisciplinary consortium to develop of an integrated research approach linking climate mitigation and adaptation, and drawing from different strands of science and various community and local perspectives. The project makes use of performative research practices through visual and interactive communication tools to capture and disseminate research findings among different publics.

A core part of the project is dedicated to staging and evaluating deliberative community engagement initiatives. Imagining2050 has developed an inclusive engagement strategy revolving around two weekend long events exploring local visions and transition pathways in the face of climate change. A dedicated series of academic seminars, civil society workshops and networking with state agencies offers the opportunity to connect this work to the wider societal debate. Some preliminary findings of this work are emerging from the first series of community engagements organized in Athlone (*see images below*).



3.8 Procurement and Contracts

Green procurement is key to achieving the ambitious targets set out in the Government’s Climate Action Plan, and this is particularly true for the Public Sector. In January, the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment announced that all public sector bodies would be banned from purchasing certain single-use plastic items in their catering operations effective from March 2019. UCC, were well ahead of the game on this thanks to the “Plastic Free UCC” petitions that was driven by the Student’s Union and Green Campus in October 2018. The President and Deputy President signed the petition in January 2019, ensuring that UCC would be single-use plastic free by 2023.

A number of recent studies have concluded that, within the public sector, up to 50% of overall carbon emissions can be related to purchased goods and services. We have great potential impact therefore by engaging with suppliers. The Student Centre, for example, engaged with Musgraves to reduce the number of daily deliveries. Thanks to this engagement, Musgraves have changed their delivery operation across Cork to reduce the number of journeys.



Strategic Aims



- To minimise the local, regional and global environmental impacts of our educational, research, and ancillary operations, and infrastructural development
- To systematically include sustainability criteria in the selection criteria for the purchase of goods and services for the University
- To consider life cycle perspectives during the selection of goods and services wherever practical and appropriate.



Table 8. Progress update against “Procurement and Contracts” targets and indicators.

Indicator	Target	Status
Development of sustainable/green procurement policy and process	Achieved	●
Development of guidance document(s) on green procurement for suppliers/ providers	By 2020	●
Number of contracts awarded to suppliers of “green” products and services*	8	●
Number of contractors/suppliers/providers who have achieved environmental or sustainability related awards/standards/certifications*	8	●

* Taking account of OGP requirements and GPP Guidelines.

Procurement and Contracts Highlights



Plastic free UCC
engaging with suppliers
and contractors



New **Printing Contract** awarded with sustainability criteria



Procurement spending being included in **Carbon Footprint** analysis from now on



Public Sector ban on **Single-Use plastic** purchasing



New printers made from **80% recycled** materials.



Re-UCC project will reduce the need to buy large items of furniture

3.8 Procurement and Contracts

Embedding Sustainability Criteria within Tenders

By the end of AY 2018/19, four of UCC's most environmentally impactful contracted activities had been tendered with significant emphasis on sustainability criteria. The implementation of sustainability objectives within UCC's catering contract with KSG continues to be monitored by the University's Catering Committee, and KSG have been exemplary in driving many of the most ambitious projects on campus. The University's cleaning contract also went out to tender within this timeframe and again, sustainability was a significant element of the scoring. The tender for UCC's new managed print service contract, was issued in January 2019, and as part of the award criteria, bidders were expected to take a life cycle approach to the provision of this service. Service providers are also required to engage with the University's Green Forum if successful.

Within these processes tender documents are carefully prepared by UCC Procurement office, with advice from Green Campus. The documents point to UCC's Sustainability accolades and the importance that this University places on environmental responsibility. They highlight the need for providers of campus services to have their own corporate commitment to sustainability, as well as proposing new more sustainable approaches to providing the service itself. As well as maximising the potential that UCC will secure the most sustainable option, this process also sends a message to the market that large organisations see this as important and are looking for innovative solutions. This doesn't always work in the short term, for example, when tendering for our new Park and Ride buses, no potential supplier was in a position to provide lower carbon options like EVs or hydrogen-fuelled buses. The hope is that next time this contract is tendered for, that situation will have changed.



Living Lab Project will rollout new WarpIt Reuse System

The Re-UCC project aims to embed reuse within UCC and initiate pilot projects including a bulky item reuse system, and other re-use initiatives yet to be identified. The Re-UCC project would contribute to Green Campus initiatives, as well as helping to drive towards increased Green Public Procurement. The initial phase of the project was to research existing internal reuse examples from similar organisations. Following this review, the WarpIt reuse system has been selected and will now be piloted across campus. These will enable UCC to exchange items (resources) internally, as well as for the final phase of the project, develop a local cluster with other Cork based organisations with which to trade and share resources.

The primary aim of this project is to embed re-use campus wide, into policy, procedures and actions across UCC and the wider campus include Tyndall National Institute, ERI and MaREI buildings for example. The purpose of this is threefold, to investigate how UCC can:

- Reduce the amount of waste and raw material consumption by UCC, and therefore lessen its environmental

impact locally and globally. (Sustainable Development Goal No. 12) This will also help UCC reduce its carbon footprint and GHG emissions. (Priority Actions 1 (Leadership and Coordination) and Priority Action 8 (Sustainability in Action from the National strategy for Sustainable Development in Ireland 2014-2020.)

- Contribute to the Circular Economy and enable Green Public Procurement, which will in turn enable UCC to make financial savings, with benefits to the tax payers, staff, students and wider community alike. (SDG 9 Industry Innovation & Infrastructure)
- Provide sustainable leadership. Lead by example. Show the wider community locally and nationally that it can be done, and what can be achieved. (SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities)



3.9 Commuting and Business Travel

The last year has seen another welcome reduction in the number of staff travelling by car to campus. The number of students commuting by car has remained relatively stable, at about 30%; however, only half of these are single occupancy drivers.

The Buildings and Estates office are continually working to improve the infrastructure available to staff and students of UCC in order to support them in taking lower carbon transport options. Over AY18/19 for example, three car parking spaces were replaced with bike parking in the Biosciences carpark, which can now accommodate up to 46 bikes.

In line with national priorities to move to from fossil fuel dependant transport to EVs, UCC is also playing it's part. Over the summer, UCC Societies replaced their old van with a fully electric one. Buildings and Estates have also been improving EV charging infrastructure across campus, and any new EV owners can find out more by contacting evcharging@ucc.ie.

The opening of the Cavanagh Bridge (in December 2018) has made the lower grounds more accessible to walkers and cyclists. This space has now become a focal point on campus, providing greater connectivity to the western campus and another crossing point on the River Lee.

Strategic Aims

- To minimise the local, regional and global environmental impacts of our educational, research, and ancillary operations, and infrastructural development in relation to transport
- To promote and encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport for staff and student commuting, and minimise associated impacts of commuting on University neighbours and the wider city community, and the climate.



Table 9. Progress update against “Commuting and Business Travel” targets and indicators.

Indicator	Target	Status
Proportion of staff/students choosing sustainable travel modes	85%/50%	●
Proportion of staff/students cycling to college	15%/10%	●
Number of bicycle racks	1000	●
Number of park and ride patrons	Assess need for further routes	●
Number of Electric Vehicles chargers installed	In line with national best practice	●
Accessibility of, and linkages between other campus areas and main campus	Extend Sli na Slainte walkway to western Campus	●
Number and effectiveness of awareness campaigns on sustainable transport options and impacts	2/year	●

Commuting and Business Travel Highlights



Over **300** staff members signed up to campus bikes



Updated **Commuter Plan** in preparation



14% reduction in staff driving by car from 2018-2019



318 car journeys saved everyday thanks to P&R service



46 secure **bike parking** spaces installed in Bioscience car park



5 new EV charging points installed, bringing total to 12.

3.9 Commuting and Business Travel

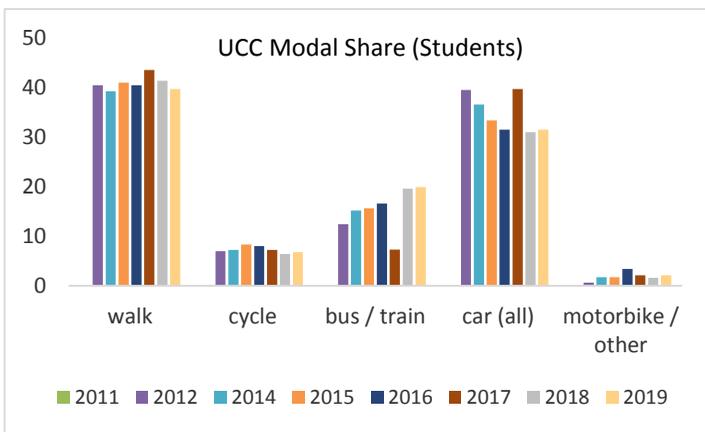
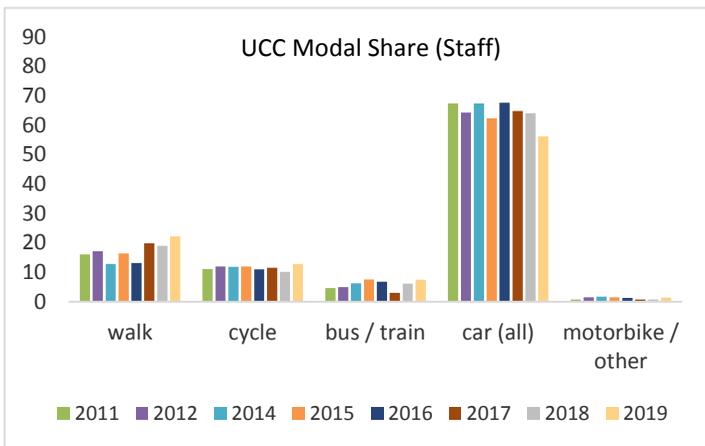
Engaging the campus and wider community

Community behaviours cannot be targeted in isolation; engagement with other employers across Cork is vital to ensuring better infrastructure for all commuters across the city and local townlands.

Cork's 5th Campus Cycle Week was held in April 2019 in collaboration with the three other HEIs in Cork City. UCC also this year has supported the "Cycling Works Cork" initiative, which sees 16 large employers across the city demand better cycling infrastructure for their employees.

On 29th March 2019, UCC, through its engagement with the Cork Transport and Mobility Forum, helped to organise the annual "Mix Your Mode" seminar. This year's seminar focused on "Healthy Commuting Options and the Built Environment" and featured speakers from the Southern Region Assembly, SUSTRANS, and disability rights advocates. Facilitated roundtable discussions followed on themes such as mixed mobility and impact of small changes.

UCC has also inputted into the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and the Cork Movement and Transport Strategy. These will guide future planning for transport infrastructure in the region.



Business Travel

Business travel is a significant source of emissions for all universities. As well as the below, we are working with Professor Jerry Murphy in MaREI to assess transport emissions as a result of academic flights, and potential options to address this over the short and long term.

Did you know?

-  UCC releases approx. 32,000 tonnes of CO2 into the atmosphere each year.
-  One quarter of this carbon footprint is related to commuting and business travel.
-  A single long haul flight emits as much carbon as the average citizen of Burundi in Africa emits per year.
-  New government targets put an onus on the public sector to lead by example.

However....

-  Much of our world class research is aimed at improving environmental and social issues.
-  We live on an island!
-  Project meetings and conference presentations are part of the business of a university.
-  Slow travel is... well... slow!

What is UCC doing?



Setting realistic targets for how/when we might be carbon "neutral"



Investing in technology that could replace unnecessary travel



Exploring offset schemes that are fair on everyone



Working with like-minded institutions to develop solutions

4. Green Campus In the News

Cork News - Live
 21.04.2019 14:47
 HOME | **CORK NEWS - LIVE** | CORK VIEWS | LOTTO | NATIONAL NEWS | SEND US YOUR NEWS

World sustainability experts gather at UCC

Dr Maria Kirrane UCC Sustainability Officer, Prof Rini Sari University of Indonesia, Prof John O'Halloran UCC Deputy President, Kelly Cofe Deputy President UCC Students' Union accepted the award on behalf of UCC and Mark Poland Head of Buildings and Estates UCC. Pictured at the 5th International Workshop on UI GreenMetric World University Rankings (IWGM) Welcome Dinner, in the Imperial Hotel, South Mall, Cork. Pic by Gerard McCarthy

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THE IRISH TIMES
 Wed, Dec 4, 2019
 NEWS | SPORT | BUSINESS | OPINION | LIFE & STYLE | CULTURE

Science > Space

Bringing sustainability in universities up to the next level
 Do sustainability rankings work or are they just self-congratulatory gestures?
 © Thu, Feb 20, 2019, 06:00
 Sylvia Thompson

University College Cork

Campuses where everyone is a student of nature
 Several Irish universities provide the public with green spaces
 © Sat, Mar 30, 2019, 06:00
 Sylvia Thompson
 Follow

UCC named one of the world's 'most sustainable' universities
 University College Cork is home to Ireland's first plastic-free café, which has prevented more than 20,000 disposable items going to waste since it opened in September. Pic: Provision

20/12/2018 - 10:05:59
 Back to Climate change Ireland Home

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UCC's Maria Kirrane learning lessons for climate change

Maria Kirrane: As a consumer, think about the lifecycle of what you buy. Think about what you pick up the shop. UCC is the only university in Ireland to make the top 10 in the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings 2018 ranking of the greenest universities in the world. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

Monday, May 13, 2019 - 06:10 AM

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Maria Kirrane is a leading advocate at UCC for applying the small steps taken by the college on sustainability across the whole of the city. writes **Pádraig Hoare**.

When top management saw the collective groundswell of students demanding change, they bought into environmental change wholeheartedly, according to UCC's sustainability officer Maria Kirrane.

Cork News - Live
 03.07.2019 11:10
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48,000 students and college staff in Cork join forces to demand better cycling infrastructure

Cork's third level education research institutions have come together to call for safer conditions for their staff and students who commute by bicycle. Pictured are: UCC staff and students, Michelle Healy, Sally Cudmore, Aoibhne Rose, Imelda Sheehan, Julian Power, Stephan Koch, Dean Variables. Front: Brian Stockdale, Nick Hogan. Pic: Michael Mac Sweeney/Provision

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UCC becomes first university to receive fourth Green Flag

Dr Maria Kirrane Sustainability Officer UCC with Dara Talbot, UCC Deputy President, and representatives from UCC Students' Union and UCC Clubs Cork today became the world's first university to be awarded the Green Flag. Picture: Michael Mac Sweeney/Provision

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Universities must help teach lessons on sustainability

UCC social work student Sarah Kearney with colleague Michael Crockett and student Saima Mansel. The university's campus is now home to several beehives. Picture: Clare Keogh

By John O'Halloran
 Wednesday, May 29, 2019 - 12:00 AM

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UCC's students called for action on the environment a year ago, and we are following through – as we all should be, writes **John O'Halloran**.

Sustainability rests on all our shoulders. We are the last generation that can fight climate change, and history will judge us harshly if we do not act.





6. Key Actions for AY 19/20

Key Area	Action
Sustainability Citizenship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with DCCAE to further collaboration across public sector organisations. • Work with Community Engagement Office to develop project ideas.
Learning and Teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop SDG toolkit for teaching staff with National Forum funding
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify funding stream to maintain Living Lab programme • Further develop “green labs” programme
Food, Health and Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate potential of further food growing initiatives on campus grounds. • Increase Provision of water fountains. • Work with researchers and CCC on air pollution
Recycling and Waste Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with UCC Student’s Union to develop Plastic Free plan for UCC • Support rollout of sustainable printing policy and new Graduate Studies online submission policy
Landscape, Heritage and Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review impact of new mowing regime • Increase provision of green infrastructure
Energy, Water and Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Carbon Management Plan, including provision for carbon mitigation and onsite renewable technologies. • Assess climate adaptation weaknesses and needs
Procurement and Contracts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further engage with national networks to share best practice • Ensure social aspect of sustainability included
Commuting and Business Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open new secure bike parking at Biosciences • Finalise Commuter Plan update

Any queries concerning the content of this report can be directed to Dr Maria Kirrane, Sustainability Officer m.kirrane@ucc.ie

The report was prepared on behalf of the UCC Green Forum, chaired by Professor John O'Halloran (Deputy President and Registrar) and Mark Poland (Director of Buildings and Estates).

Further information can be found at the UCC Green Campus website <http://greencampus.ucc.ie/> and the UCC [STARS](#) report.

Visitors to UCC campus are invited to download the UCC Green Tours App, available on the Android and Apple stores.



**GREEN
CAMPUS
TOURS**

