



University College Cork Commitment for Net Zero on Campus

Universities have a vital role to play in addressing the critical global challenges and achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and The Paris Agreement. Universities are in a unique position to solve the climate crisis because we function as bridge builders between science and technology and real-world application.

Universities have a responsibility through our educational programs to teach the next generation of leaders, innovators and thinkers to understand the global climate challenges facing the world and the role we can play in meeting these challenges. Through our research, innovation, and training programs, universities are responsible for ensuring that every graduate understands sustainability. We are essentially upskilling the entire global workforce for a decarbonized future while also engaging in educational outreach. Through our research we are not only developing sustainability solutions, but we are also translating our research results into tangible societal impacts and outcomes that are advancing the SDGs.

Universities hold a high degree of public trust. When universities and our stakeholders commit to a science-based net-zero target, it sets a standard for transparency and rigor that encourages local governments and corporations to follow suit. Universities are unique communities with the intellectual and physical infrastructure to innovate, test and accelerate a green and just transition.

Hence, we, the undersigned university:

- Recognises that the climate crisis is one of the defining challenges of our time
- Stresses the vitally important role that universities can play in achieving a sustainable future through teaching, research and operations
- Undertake research that will support countries, business and communities in developing, monitoring and achieving their net zero goals
- Acknowledges our responsibility to lead by example
- Recognises that future development must take place in a way that is socially, economically and environmentally sustainable, taking into consideration the climate challenges



Agree that we will:

- Support and promote the transformation of our campus into a living laboratory for climate solutions
- Provide educational opportunities for our students to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to lead in a low-carbon economy
- Align our activities with our Net Zero goals, prioritizing transparent environmental, social and governance criteria
- Contribute to the achievement of the Net-Zero goals by ensuring that our operational footprint aligns with the limits of our planet
- Report on our institutional activities to promote transparency and maintain accountability to our students, staff, and local community
- Measure, monitor and report on progress towards Net-Zero goals setting intermediate targets as required

UCC President Professor John O'Halloran and Co-Chair of SDSN Ireland