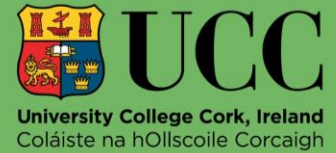




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Welcome to Our Green Campus Newsletter for Autumn 2019!

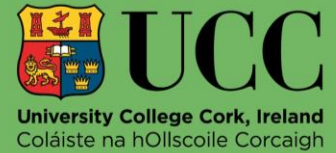
It's been another busy few months for UCC Green Campus; we are particularly excited about the fact that, in June, we became the first University in the world to be awarded a fourth Green Flag from the Foundation for Environmental Education. This incredible achievement is thanks to the work of the entire UCC community in bringing the ethos of Green Campus to their work. This was signified by our Deputy President, Professor John O'Halloran, and SU Deputy President, Kelly Coyle, jointly raising the flag. Hats off to our student intern Lina Skarabis, who put together an incredibly detailed and comprehensive report for the panel of external assessors. The report can be accessed on our [website](#).

The flag raising ceremony was also an opportunity to highlight some of the great "champions" we have across campus. Ann Byrne (Boole Library) was named "staff champion" for being the driving force behind the "Love our Library" campaign. The "Green Service Provider" award went to Caroline Jensen of KSG for her work on the Biocafe. The "Impact" award (for a campaign/initiative that has had a major impact in delivering UCC's Sustainability Strategy) went to Dr Ger Mullally for the University Wide Module in Sustainability.





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Sustainable printing at UCC

Sustainable Printing Policy

The Procurement office in UCC have been huge champions of Green Campus over the last number of years, with Sustainability included within the UCC Procurement Strategy and sustainability criteria being included within many of the contract renewals that have taken place. In June of this year, the University Management Team and Finance Committee approved a new [Sustainable Print Management Policy](#) which was implemented in September 2019. Printing impacts the environment in terms of the resources used (paper, ink energy) and also the waste electronic equipment that arises at the end of life of printers. Desktop printers also impact the air quality within offices. The new printing system will see a transition from old desktop printers to new, more efficient, networked multi-function devices. The new printers that are about to be rolled out across campus belong to the Canon E-Q80 range, so called because 80% of the product's material weight comes from reused material. "Follow-me printing" will reduce the likelihood of printing by accident. The new managed system will see UCC move from "consumer" to "user", a key component in transitioning to a more circular economy.

Research Thesis Submissions to go Digital

In September 2019, UCC Graduate Studies Office announced that research thesis submission is going digital. From January 6th 2020, research graduate students will be able to submit their theses online, via google docs. The electronic process will replace current paper-based practice which requires each research student to submit two soft-bound theses for examination and one final hardbound thesis to the Graduate Studies Office. The new process will save the students €230 each in printing costs. Considering the current system where students submit two soft bound and one hard bound version of their thesis, the paper savings will be enormous; the graduate studies office estimate that these paper saving may be in the region of 400,000 sheets of paper a year.



In the EQ80 range, at least **80%** of the original product's material weight is reused, helping to avoid waste and reducing the dependency on new raw materials.



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Another year of reductions in energy and water consumption

2018/19 saw a 1.5% reduction in electricity consumption (compared to 17/18), a good result considering the addition of Lapps Quay and the CCAE. Over the summer SEAI funding saw the completion of the following projects:

- Over 700 light fittings changed out to LEDs in the ERI
- 40 kWpk PV array installed on the roof of the ORB (photo below)
- New building management system in the Cavanagh Building.

These 3 projects should deliver an additional 250,000 kWh in savings over the next 12 months.



Natural gas consumption, which is used across UCC to provide heating, came in 2% below the expected levels and 15% below 2017/18 levels thanks to upgraded heating controls in the ORB and Main Quad areas coupled with close management of the heating systems. The main campus steam system reported an 8% reduction in annual consumption due to the introduction of new controls on the steam requirements for the Food Science building, thanks to Jim McNamara and the team in the process halls.

Recently the B&E office signed up to Irish Water's Certified Water Steward Program and have developed a water charter for the University to be implemented over the next 3 years. Under the plan Colin O'Brien and Pat Murphy of the Estates office carried out water conservation measures across the Boole Library complex. Through closer management, on line metering and adjustment of the tap settings they have managed to save 1,250,000 litres over a 4 month period. A fantastic achievement to add to our overall water conservation program which has seen a 19% reduction in water use across UCC, when compared to a baseline of 2009.



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Update on Plastic Free UCC


In the Autumn of 2018, UCC Student's Union started a petition to make the University Single-Use plastic free by 2023. The petition received over 8,000 signatures and now Green Campus and the Student Union are working on making it a reality. Some of the actions that have been taken so far are outlined on the infographic to the right.

Delivering on a single-use plastic free campus requires the collaboration of all members of our campus community. Some recent highlights include:

- KSG's removal of plastic water bottles from catering, which will reduce the number of plastic bottles consumed by 10,000 per year. KSG have also switched from plastic to biodegradable containers in Pulse and Elements.
- The Student Centre installing two cup washing stations and a water refill station.
- The Student Union giving free reusable straws to all incoming first years.

There is still a lot more to do before we can say we are free of single-use plastics, but we are well on our way and will have some more exciting updates over the next few months!














Plastic Free UCC


Making it Happen

#saynotosingleuse
#ditchthedisposables

 <p>Plastic bottles are being replaced by reusable glass bottles in hospitality, saving approx. 10,000 bottles per year</p>	 <p>Takeaway salad containers at Elements and Pulse will be compostable from September 2019</p>
 <p>External water fountains are being installed on main campus so anyone can refill their bottle</p>	 <p>Pilot "ReCircle" container reuse project in Elements and Main Restaurant with Voice Ireland.</p>
 <p>Low-cost chilled and sparkling water vending being installed in main restaurant. Tap water refills are free.</p>	 <p>UCCSU will maintain a stock of free* reusable cups and bottles if you can't afford to buy one.</p>
 <p>UCCSU are giving free reusable straws to all incoming 1st year students.</p>	 <p>Bring your own lunchbox at any KSG outlet on campus.</p>



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Green Campus “Living Laboratory” projects get underway

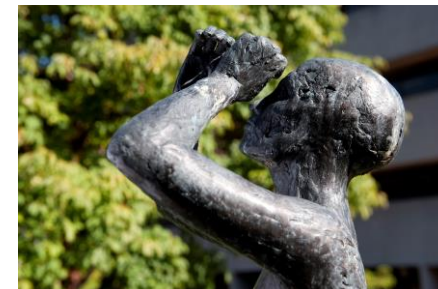
Just before Christmas of last year we launched a Green Campus Living Laboratory Research fund aimed at funding interdisciplinary masters research and demonstration projects that would improve sustainability on campus. A university “Living Laboratory” utilises the knowledge and research capabilities of 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

13 applications were received and, in April 2019, a review panel composed of Professor John O’Halloran, Mark Poland, Sandra Irwin, and Michael John O’Mahony awarded funding to two research masters projects and four demonstration projects.

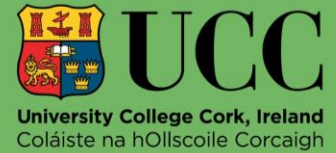
Full descriptions of the projects and team members can be found on the Green Campus [website](#) and we will keep you up to date on the outcomes.

The Living Laboratory fund was launched thanks to one-off funding for Green Campus related projects received from the Higher Education Authority. At the same time UCC Buildings and Estates have funded a Research Support Officer to undertake a full assessment of UCC’s Carbon Footprint. Lauren Quinlivan is working under the supervision of Dr Nail Dunphy (Cleaner Production Promotion Unit) to assess the amount of carbon dioxide the university emits through its activities in a single year. This assessment will include the energy that we use in our offices and labs, as well as the carbon emitted through commuting and business travel and in the procurement of goods and services. Having completed this assessment Lauren will be putting an action plan in place to reduce our carbon footprint.





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Grounds Team Receive UCC Staff Recognition Award

Huge congratulations are due to John Murphy and the UCC Grounds Team who were awarded the “Enhancing the Student Experience” award at last weeks 2019 UCC Staff Recognition awards.

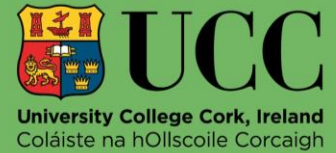
The award was given in recognition of the fact that “The UCC Grounds Team actively work with students in mind, to create spaces that are inviting and calming; where students can go to de-stress and relax while also providing spaces where people can congregate and engage with each other. While they maintain appropriate parts of campus in a formal planting and maintenance design, many other areas are managed for biodiversity and educational purposes. Due in no small part to their dedication, we have a beautiful modern campus, set in a historical setting, maintained to the latest and best standards that is improving and developing all the time.”

UCC’s grounds were particularly impressive this summer thanks to the University taking the decision to sign the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. The stand-out feature was of course the beautiful wildflower meadow on the Lower Grounds, but the care and dedication to supporting wild pollinators was evident across all campus green spaces.





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UCC Green Campus Knowledge Exchange nationally and Internationally

Green Workshops

Thanks to the collaborative nature of UCC's Green Campus Programme, we have made some significant breakthroughs over the last 12 years. This means that we regularly receive queries from other organisations on how our programme works and how sustainability can be embedded within organisations. In September, UCC Sustainability Officer and Energy Manager delivered a trial "Green Shoots" workshop for staff of Teagasc. The workshop took a step-by-step approach to how UCC Green Campus members work together to identify our significant impacts and put in place actions to improve our environmental footprint. The workshop was very well received and we look forward to delivering more for other interested organisations.



International exchanges

UCC has built strong relationships with many international universities through the numerous networks that promote sustainability in Higher Education. In October 2019, UCC Sustainability Officer, Maria Kirrane, travelled to Colombia with funding from the International Sustainable Campus Network. The trip was part of a broader visit by UCC and Cork City delegates under the Learning Cities Programme. Maria and Dr Ger Mullally (Coordinator of UCC's University Wide Module in Sustainability), delivered workshops on Green Campus in four campuses across Colombia. The workshops were attended by HE institutions, secondary school teachers and representatives from local authorities (see photo below). The workshops were part of ongoing collaboration between UCC and Colombian universities on the SDGs.





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Climate Action Gaining Momentum

While it's easy to become overwhelmed by the climate and biodiversity crises our planet is facing, there have been some positive moves in the last number of months. In June, the government published its All of Government Plan on Climate Action. The plan contains many ambitious targets which have been the source of some [criticism](#), however it has also been commended for setting out a [strong governance](#) structure, which will be key to its success.

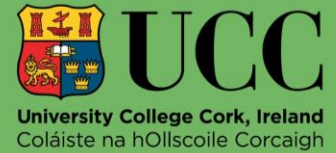
The Climate Emergency is receiving significant coverage in the media, thanks in many ways to the work of Greta Thunberg and the Fridays For the Future protesters. These schoolchildren are the people that will experience the effects of climate change most severely. That's why in September, to mark the Global Day of Action on Climate Change, UCC stood in solidarity with the protesters during a 30-minute strike on the Quad.

Numerous countries, councils and Universities have declared "climate emergencies". UCC are members of the Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges, one of the first groups to take the step to declaring a climate emergency. The EAUC also published a framework for universities to address the situation and UCC's response to this framework is available on our [website](#).





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In other news....

UCC shortlisted in two top sustainability awards

UCC and KSG have been shortlisted under two categories in the annual Pakman Awards for the Biocafe. These awards are run by Repak and highlight waste reduction activities in the public and private sectors. The Biocafe has been shortlisted for under the “waste resources product or service” and “waste prevention business” categories and we will hear the result this week (24th Oct).

UCC have also been shortlisted in the Best Green Procurement Project of the Year at the National Procurement Awards. This nomination is for UCC’s Sustainable Print Procurement project and the results will be revealed on the 14th November.

Green Campus E-Bike trials

E-bikes are often overlooked as a means to reducing our transport carbon footprint. However for a city like Cork, with hill aplenty, they may offer just the solution we need. There is one major downside though, and that’s cost. With even the entry level bikes costing over €1,000, taking the plunge is a big decision

That’s why the team at Green Campus decided to invest in two e-bikes to offer on trial to UCC staff. If a staff member had been considering the switch, but was not ready to make the investment, they could borrow a bike for 4 days and see if it worked for them. The scheme has been a huge success with all dates to Christmas booked up. We even had some high profile early-takers, with the President and Deputy President giving the bikes their seal of approval!

