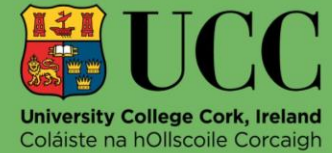




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Welcome to Our Green Campus Newsletter for Autumn 2020

As we head into the 2020/21 Academic Year, we are acutely aware of the difficulties faced by many of our staff and students over the last six months. We wish everyone the very best of luck over the next year and hope that Green Campus can continue to be a valuable asset to the campus community in these tough times.

Over the last number of months, we have been working hard to move more and more of our content online. We were delighted to be included in the Transition In programme for international students and the UCC online induction programme. More resources will be made available over the course of the year so keep an eye out!

We are also delighted to launch our updated Green Tour App, with information on all of the amazing work undertaken by our staff and students over the last number of years. Read on for more information.

Like all of our colleagues in the environmental movement, we have been busy assessing both the short and long term impacts of the pandemic on our carbon footprint. This work is ongoing, and will inform much of what we do over the next year.



Despite some setbacks, we are as committed as ever to driving further emissions reductions and this year will see the publication of our first Climate Action Plan, which has been in development over the last 12 months.

We hope that you enjoy our newsletter and, as always, if you have any comments or wish to get involved then please get in touch at greencampus@ucc.ie.



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Launching our new Green Tour App!

In 2016, the UCC Green Campus team launched our “Green Campus Tours App” a downloadable tour taking visitors through the various “green” features of UCC campus. The University has made huge strides in its sustainability agenda since then, and this Autumn we are relaunching our updated tour, featuring the most up to date information on all things “green” and sustainable at UCC.

The new tour includes information on recent developments like the BioCafe and Wildflower Meadow. If you are welcoming visitors to UCC campus then please be sure to let them know about the tour and encourage them to take it! As always, feedback is welcome and you can do so by emailing green-campus@ucc.ie

The app can be downloaded on via the [Google Play Store](#) or the [App Store](#).



Note: If you already have the UCC Green Campus Tours App on your mobile device make sure to update it to the latest version for all our new content.





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New Postgraduate Diploma: Sustainability in Enterprise Launched

In June, UCC was awarded funding through the Higher Education Authority's Human Capital Initiative for a new postgraduate diploma in Sustainability and Enterprise. The funding, part of the government's industry focused upskilling programme, means that course places are highly subsidised for students wishing to enrol.

The Higher Diploma leverages UCC's Sustainability Strategy and the interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary strengths and capacity developed over 20 years within the Environmental Research Institute. It also draws on the strength of UCC's commitment and success of the Green Campus initiative, which embeds sustainability in all university strategies and activities. This Higher Diploma aims to build on this success to support the transformation to a low carbon economy across a range of industry sectors using a flexible approach that is responsive to emerging skills needs. The strong links between learning, research and teaching have been key to UCC's success in sustainability and this approach will underpin the successful delivery of the programme. Due to the interdisciplinary nature of the sustainability challenge, it is necessary for the Higher Diploma to reach across a number of Colleges and Schools.

Through a blend of academic coursework, interdisciplinary insights, business case studies and application, peer learning and individual reflection, participants will become part of a community of business leaders that will lead the transition to sustainable business practices. During this course participants will also develop a deep reconsideration of skills and competences needed to deliver such a transition.

The Higher Diploma will produce a community of leaders equipped to lead the transition to sustainable enterprise practices through decarbonisation. Along with a focus on the technological and business challenges of a transition to a zero carbon business, this course will include a deep reconsideration of, and reflection on, the transversal skills and competences needed to deliver such a societal transition.

The course is being coordinated by Dr Marguerite Nyhan, UCC's School of Engineering.





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The Value of our Campus Green Space for the UCC and wider Community

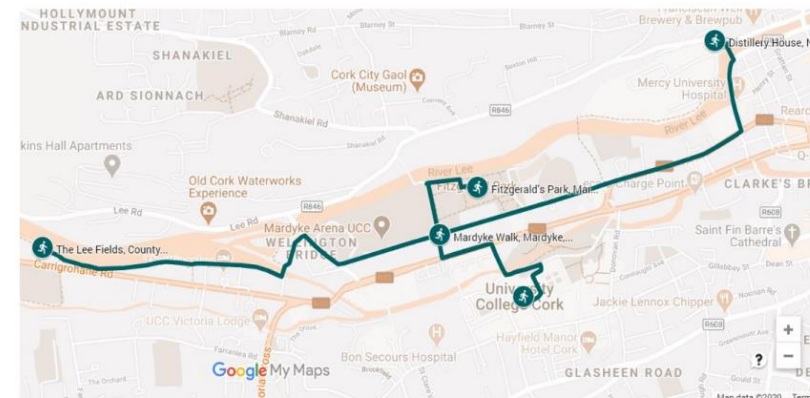
One of the things that we collectively learned during the height of the COVID19 lockdown in the spring, was the value of green space and nature to our mental health and wellbeing. This is an area that has been researched by many over the years, and one of significant interest to the UCC Green Campus team considering the exceptional green spaces available on our campus.

To mark World Environment Day back in June, we shared some research from a team led by Dr Annalisa Setti at the School of Applied Psychology in UCC, which looked at the impact of exposure to virtual green space on exam anxiety in students. The study revealed a promising link between exposure to green environments via virtual reality and the subsequent reduction in feelings of negative affect for students with high exam anxiety prior to a testing situation.

Dr Marica Cassarino, also of the School of Applied Psychology in UCC recently ran a survey of pedestrian experiences and walkability in Cork City and County with the community advocacy group Pedestrian Cork, with UCC campus emerging being in the top 20 most walkable locations in Cork.

The number one reason for survey respondents choosing UCC was the presence of nature on campus. UCC campus was seen as an integral part of a green walking route from the Distillery House on North Mall (Banks of the Lee walkway) through to UCC main campus, back on to the Mardyke Walk to Fitzgerald's Park and onward to the Lee Fields.

You can find out more about this work on the Pedestrian Cork website. We will be working with Drs Setti and Cassarino, as well as staff and student groups across the university, to further support and enhance the use of our campus green space over the coming year.





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Year Two of UCC's Wildflower Meadow

It would be impossible to mention our campus green space without sharing some stunning images from year two of UCC's wildflower meadow.



The images were captured by photographer Clare Keogh and complement a beautiful video with head gardener John Murphy explaining the ethos behind planting a meadow like this. You can view the video [here](#).

Allowing areas of campus to grow “wild” is a daunting endeavour, nature can be unpredictable! There is a stark contrast in the composition of last year's meadow compared to this year, the latter being dominated by ox-eye daisy. Both years, the space has been a literal hive of activity with bees and other pollinators and we just can't wait to see what next summer will bring! Thanks to John and all the grounds team at UCC for taking care of this wonderful space.





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COVID-19 Impacts on UCC Sustainability

There has been much speculation over the last six months regarding the impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic on the environment. Many UCC voices have featured in the media discussing this very topic. As we head into the new academic term, it's clear that the pandemic will have both positive and negative impacts on our university's environmental footprint.

Unfortunately you are likely to see a temporary increase in the use of disposable items on campus, both to protect our community from the virus and also in our catering outlets. We would urge everyone to invest in reusable facemasks and avoid the single-use plastic ones. With regard to our catering outlets, the return to disposables is a temporary one and we remind everyone that the vast majority of these items are fully compostable and should be placed in the food waste bin. We are still committed to becoming single-use plastic free and fully intend on driving this agenda forward when the time is right to do so.

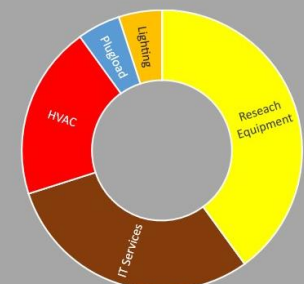
Remote working will of course have had a significant impact on our carbon emissions from commuting and we have been working with Dr Hannah Daly (Engineering) to assess long-term

potential impacts arising from this, as well as staff attitudes and needs.

With regard to our emissions from electricity and heating, while consumption dropped dramatically as a result of the campus closure, we will see a significant increase in consumption over the next year due to increased demands on our ventilation systems. Buildings and Estates are monitoring this closely. The team are also working with departments whose consumption remained high throughout the closure to identify potential improvements in efficiency. For more see our [blog post](#). The good news is, as of May 1st 2020, 100% of the University's energy is supplied from renewable sources.

Electricity use has **decreased** by **42%** during the COVID-19 closure.

COVID Electrical End Users





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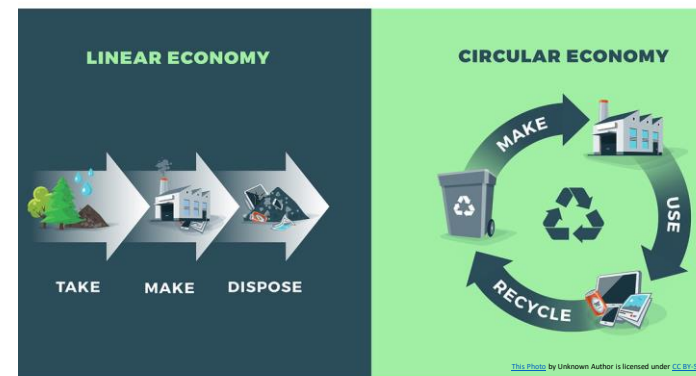
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UCC Printing Policy featured in Canon Europe Case Study

Last year, UCC Procurement Office awarded a new printing contract for UCC. The tendering process included strong sustainability criteria and the awarding of the new contract was accompanied by the rollout of a new print policy for UCC. The whole process involved many months of preparatory work by UCC's Procurement Office, IT Services Staff and Buildings and Estates staff. We were delighted to see the new policy embraced by the UCC community, who once again demonstrated their strong commitment to sustainability on campus.

This summer, UCC was featured by Canon Europe as a case study in streamlining the printing process in order to reduce waste and carbon emissions. The case study highlighted in, in particular, the fact that the “new” multi-function printers supplied as part of the contract are in fact remanufactured devices. These EQ80 machines have reached end of contract with other customers (after 3-5 years of use) and are then taken to Germany by Canon to be disassembled and rebuilt. The process maintains the highest quality control standards at up to 80% lower carbon emissions compared with supplying brand new printers.

The Canon [case study](#) highlights that UCC “considered to be one of the most sustainable universities in the world, they view the entirety of the university through an impact perspective and have scrutinised every element of campus activity to create ‘green’ policies that are both realistic, ambitious and – most importantly – widely actionable.”



The new system is an example of the “circular economy”, where items once considered “end-of-life” are repurposed for further use. The circular economy disrupts the current model of over consumption and is seen as critical in achieving UN SDG12: Sustainable Consumption and Production.



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Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

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UCC Green Campus Launches New E-Bike Trial for Staff

Following on from the success of last year's UCC Staff E-Bike Trial, Green Campus launched a second trial in June of this year to support the return of staff to campus post-lockdown. We are aware that many of our campus community are wary of taking public transport during the pandemic and are looking for alternative options. E-bikes are a great solution for those travelling within a certain distance of campus. They are also an ideal solution to Cork's hilly landscape!

We were delighted to have a huge uptake for the trial, which is still ongoing and even more delighted to receive some great feedback from participants!



"I collected my e-bike for my weeks trial yesterday from the Bike Shed and cycled home. It was fantastic in the windy/showery conditions. It also flattens most hills which is great in hilly Cork." Liz Hales



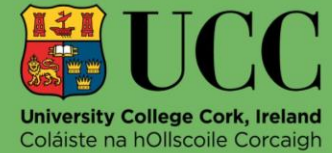
"UCC's Green Campus kindly provided me a Raleigh Motus Tour for 5 days. Wow! This machine is a delight. It brings the fun back to cycling. A 4 hour cycle trip yesterday up hills in Tower was just fun"
Maura O'Neill

Special thanks goes to The Bike Shed at Dennehy's Cross for the logistical support with this initiative. If you wish to take part in the trial please contact green-campus@ucc.ie.



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UCC SDG Teaching Toolkit Project: Get Involved!

UCC recently launched a new [project](#) (funded by the National Forum for Teaching and Learning) to strengthen our institutional commitments towards sustainability by developing a suite of digital resources to assist teaching staff with the integration of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into UCC curricula. The project is being jointly led through Green Campus and UCC's Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (CITRL). It builds on the success of our University Wide Module in Sustainability run through the Department of Sociology and Criminology, with input from all four Colleges in the University. Dr John Barimo is the Research Support Officer.

The project aims to provide evidence-based, flexible and inclusive professional development of UCC teaching staff. Specifically, the SDG project is developing resources for teaching staff including workshops and an online toolkit using lessons learned from UCC and global best practice, and will employ active learning pedagogy including project-based learning, case study, and/or problem-base learning. The project aims for better coverage, measurement and assessment of SDG integration within UCC curricula.

In the upcoming months, there will be a series of facilitated focus groups to seek input from teaching staff and students regarding specific resource needs within the toolkit, the toolkit's overall structure and to continue the process of documenting best practices within UCC. If you are interested in further information on this project, contributing to these focus groups, and/or being a member of this emerging community of practice please contact Dr Barimo at john.barimo@ucc.ie.





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Wishing all our students and staff the very best of luck for AY 20/21

We know that this year is going to be a very different one for all of our staff and students. For many people, sustainability might not seem like a priority right now, but there are still lots of little things that we can do to keep our campus (and homes) a little greener. Below are just some of the tips put together by UCC Envirosoc and Green Campus over the summer.

Stay tuned to our website and social media throughout the year to for our new initiatives and ways that you can get involved.




REUSABLE MASKS!

In many public places, you have to practice social distancing and/or wear a face mask. Cloth face masks are a great choice; they'll protect you, they're comfortable, reusable and easy to wash!

Search online for cloth face masks being produced in your local area.



GET ON YOUR BIKE!



Cycling instead of driving can put a serious dent in your carbon emissions. Dust off your old bike and use that as your primary mode of transport (it's also a great way to get in some exercise!).

Hot tip: If you don't own a bike, check DoneDeal for a secondhand bike or if you live in & around Cork City, check out the Coke Bikes initiative.



CONSERVE YOUR ENERGY!



We're all spending a lot more time at home than usual and it makes sense that we're using more energy.

Actions like turning off lights, unplugging and turning off appliances instead of leaving them on standby when not in use are easy to do and help to reduce your emissions.

