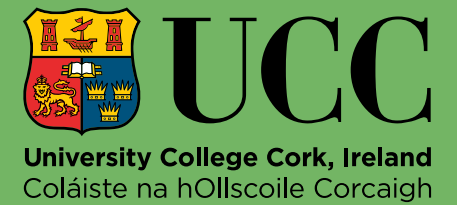




# UCC GREEN CAMPUS

eNews | April 2018



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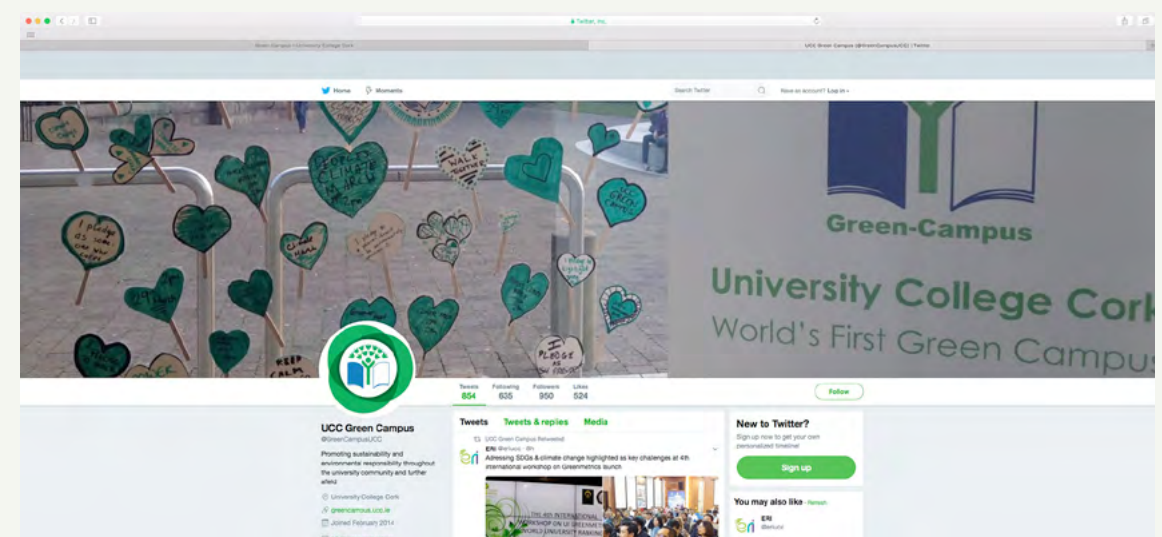
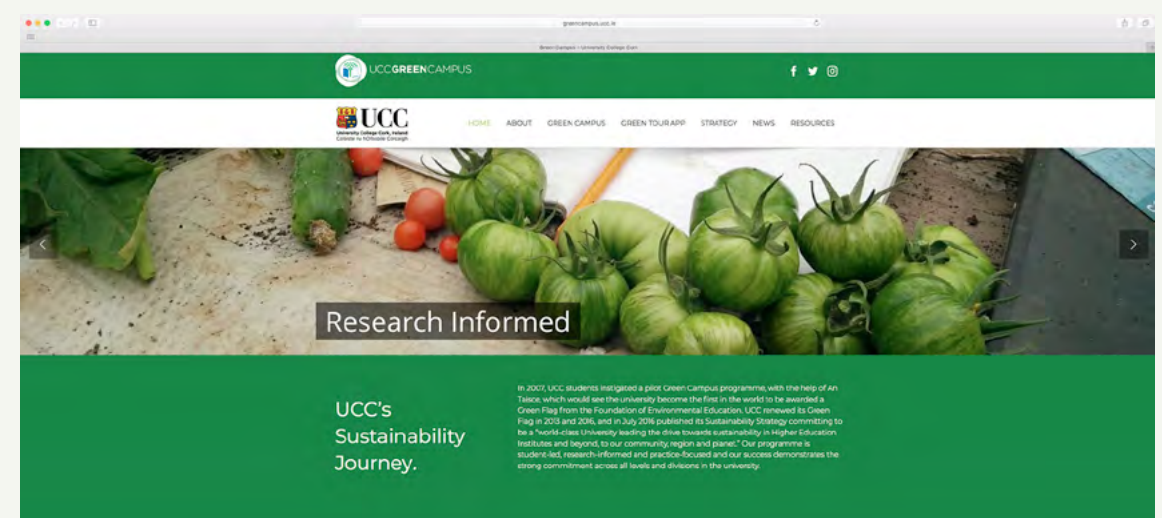
**United Nations Principles of Responsible Investment**

**Other news in brief**

## Welcome to our latest Green Campus newsletter

Welcome to UCC’s Green Campus Newsletter for Spring 2018. It has been another busy term for the Green Campus Committee. We have launched a new farmer’s market on campus, and continue to partner with staff and students across the university to run campaigns and events. UCC’s university wide module in Sustainability has had another successful run and UCC continues to lead the way in sustainability with the recent decision by the university to sign the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment. As always you can find out more about our activities on our website [greencampus.ucc.ie](http://greencampus.ucc.ie) and by following us on **Twitter**, **Instagram** and **Facebook**.

Click on links below to visit our Green Campus website and the read the UCC Sustainability Strategy





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## Another successful year for UCC’s University Wide Module in Sustainability



The final session of UCC’s University Wide Module in Sustainability takes place on the 12th April. Now in its third year, the module is constantly developing and pushing boundaries. This year, as well as the 70 participants in the room in UCC, the sessions were streamed live to the Dingle Hub in Kerry and the Ludgate Hub

in Skibbereen. Altogether, a further 30 people participated from these locations. The module is a fantastic demonstration of the breadth of interdisciplinary research and teaching being undertaken in UCC. Topics covered included environmental law, green finance, the circular economy, wellbeing, rural development, valuing nature, and sustainable agriculture. Each night, two speakers gave an overview of the topic, which was then followed by lively discussion from the participants. The focus of the module is “putting sustainability in its place: putting yourself in the picture”, so linking the global Sustainable Development Goals to our own local area is a key feature. This will be further explored on the final night when participants will present their group projects. The module is coordinated by Ger Mullally in Sociology, and featured lecturers from across SEFS, CACSSS and Business and Law.





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## UCC Green Campus launch “Farmer’s Market”



In keeping with our ambitions to be a “disposable free” campus, we have launched a sustainability market which provides low impact products for the campus community. The market started on the 27th February and ran for 4 weeks before taking a break for the Easter holidays. It will be back in action on the 10th April. Current stalls include:

- **“The Filling Station”**, which sells household products in bulk, so you can bring you own containers and refill them.
- **“All the Glisters”**, which sells reclaimed and vintage jewellery.
- **“Martin’s Homemade Jams”**, which sells homemade jams, chutneys and marmalades.
- **“Organic Republic”**, selling their fresh produce alongside pre-packed veg boxes.
- **“Chicco Foods”**, homemade chutneys and relishes.

We are hoping to add more stalls to the market over the coming months. The aim is to have a vibrant selection of stalls, selling products that students and staff can enjoy at home. We would also encourage members of our local community to visit the campus on market day. Thanks to everyone that has supported the market in our trial phase, and we hope that it is something that everyone will enjoy and benefit from.



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The Environmental Research Institute at UCC is host to the UN Environment GEMS/Water Capacity Development Centre, which provides capacity development in water quality monitoring and assessment. Under the leadership of Dr Debbie Chapman, the GEMS/Water centre is the implementing partner for Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 6.3.2 for Water Quality. Today, 2.1 billion people live without safe drinking water at home; affecting their health, education and livelihoods. World Water day was established by the UN to focus attention on this important subject, and the theme for 2018 was ‘Nature for Water’ – exploring nature-based solutions to the water challenges we face.

## UCC Green Campus, UN GEMS Water CDC, and the Environmental Research Institute celebrate World Water Day

UCC turned blue for the day, with the UN flag flying over the Quad and our campus community encouraged to dress in blue. That night, the UCC Quad and City Hall were lit up in blue. Water information booths were held in the Student Centre, informing people of their “water footprint”. For example, did you know that it takes 2000 gallons of water to grow the cotton for and manufacture one pair of jeans!! Cork Nature Network gave a guided tour along the River Lee to inform people about all the species of plants and animals that rely on our waterways. The day ended with a talk from Dr Simon Harrison (School of BEES, UCC), on the topic “Towards nature-based solutions to river pollution and flooding”, the first in a series of weekly lectures around water nature and humanity organised by the CDC.





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## Glucksman Gallery project takes environmentally themed artworks to local schools



The Glucksman Gallery have embarked on another inspiring educational project with local schools this term. The “Classroom Museum” project takes artworks by Fiona Kelly to three primary schools in rural Cork, Glanworth National School, Scoil Bhríde, Rathcormac and Kilmagner NS. Fiona’s work explores themes of environmental degradation and urban encroachment. At the workshops, the schoolchildren are encouraged to explore the themes of the artworks, and then create their own in response. The students begin by looking at the artwork in detail, then looking at their local community, their local environment and then finishing with global environmental issues.



The project is supported by Cork County Council Arts office and UCC Green Campus were delighted to provide background information on the environmental themes that would be explored in the workshops. The students produced some beautiful and thought-provoking artworks, which will be displayed in the Glucksman Gallery later in the year. Ultimately, the outputs of the projects will feed into a resource pack for use in schools across the country, and perhaps even further afield!



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## UCC Students take part in An Taisce Climate Ambassadors Programme

Susan Butler (Arts International)

The Climate Ambassador Program is a new initiative from An Taisce, in which participants are involved in doing something positive within their local community to raise awareness around Climate Change. The program welcomes people of all ages from secondary school students to retirees who are already involved or who want to be involved to do more in their locality for the environment. The programme runs for twelve months and during that time the Climate Ambassadors work together with the help of An Taisce’s Climate Action Officers.

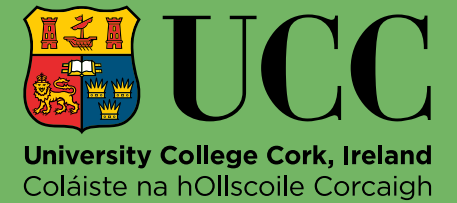
On the 20th of January 2018, I was trained as a Climate Ambassador by the An Taisce team in the Clayton Hotel Cork. This day-long session provided me with education around climate change causes, effects and possible solutions. I was also trained by a communication expert on how to use storytelling as a tool to engage with the wider community on local environmental issues. It was a fantastic and inspiring day to be working alongside many successful people from all walks of life who share

similar goals and values. During the course of the 12 months, I will carry out four actions within my local community which are centered around making a positive difference to the environment. Finally, at the end of the year I will report back to the Climate Action Officers on what I achieved as Climate Ambassador. Overall, this program is a real opportunity to be involved in creating positive change with the help and support of the Environmental Education Unit.





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**Siddarth Joshi**  
(M.Eng.Sc. UCC Dept. of Engineering)

As part of the Climate ambassadorship program, we ran a quiz and treasure hunt at UCC in collaboration with USI’s Student Switchoff campaign and UCC Student’s Union. The idea behind this activity was to generate inquisitiveness in students for sustainable living and how small actions can lead to larger wellbeing. We ran this activity in February with online quizzes and prizes. Currently, I am working on my master’s thesis geared towards illustrating an economic case for new renewable energies to enter the Irish energy mix by 2030. This research piece will highlight the economic and ecological sense for renewable energy and how this new energy mix will be better for Ireland’s energy security. It has been a great experience to work with amazing people from all walks of life, coming together to amalgamate and catalyse this noble aim of developing sustainable behaviour in citizens. We plan to conduct more activities throughout 2018, and we hope that students will provide their roaring support for the cause.

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**Julie Lin**

Most people have a general idea about what climate change is but not many realise the full extent of its effects. Prolonged droughts in poverty-stricken areas, loss of land and displacement of coastal communities due to rising sea-levels, and a devastating sixth mass extinction event (with a potential loss of around fifty-percent of all species during this century) are only a fraction of what is being exacerbated by changing climates all around the world. With such events occurring right at this present moment, Climate Ambassadors recognise the need to address problems locally and encourage others to be more conscious of their own actions. Every ambassador is engaged in projects that are important to them and others in their area. These can be within the limits of a school, a university campus, a town, a farm or beyond. Some of the climate actions taking place include regular beach clean-ups, working to reduce disposables, helping native wildlife and spreading awareness and education about climate change and specific topics among the public.

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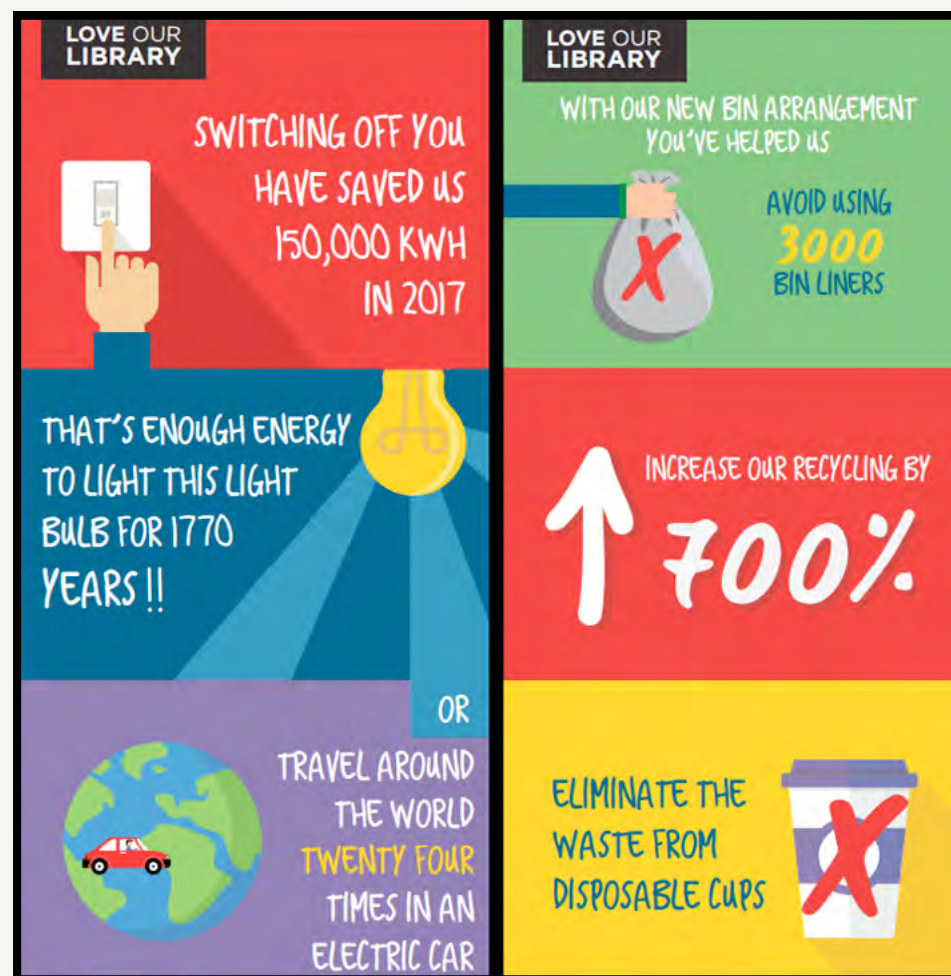
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## “LOVE OUR LIBRARY” UPDATE



The “Love our Library” campaign from the Boole Library’s Green Team is continuing apace and the results speak for themselves. Since the campaign began, the library has:

- **increased recycling rates by 700%**
- **saved over 150,000 KWH in electricity and**
- **avoided using thousands of bin liners**

A Green Energy LibGuide is now live. This guide gives full details and will keep you posted on the work that the team are doing to make the library a more sustainable building. In recognition of all of their efforts the team have also been shortlisted for the award of “Best Library Team” at the Irish Education Awards. The ceremony takes place on the 19th April in Dublin, and we wish the team all the best on the night!

The efforts of the library team have inspired so many members of our campus community that we are delighted to welcome a number of other departments to the Green Campus “Saver Saves” scheme. Watch this space for more exciting updates!





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## NEWS IN BRIEF

# UCC signs up to the United Nations Principles of Responsible Investment

UCC’s University Management Team have taken the decision to sign up to the United Nations Principles of Responsible Investment (UNPRI). Divestment from the fossil fuel industry is imperative if we are to achieve the target set out in the Paris Agreement of limiting global temperature rise to 2°C. UCC divested from fossil fuels a number of years ago, and all of the university’s trust fund is ethically invested.

The UNPRI were developed by an international group of institutional investors through a process convened by the United Nations Secretary General to consider the broad environmental, social and governance issues of investment funds and commit signatories to actively promote and encourage ethical investment. This commitment by UCC goes further than divestment from the fossil fuel industry as becoming a signatory requires the University to openly report on those ethical investments.



It also covers a broader range of environmental and ethical considerations. The UNPRI have been instrumental in large fund managers divesting of assets that are harmful to the environment and/or undermine social justice.



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## Norwegian Ambassador visits Environmental Research Institute



UCC’s Environmental Research Institute recently hosted the Norwegian Ambassador to Ireland, Else Berit Eikeland. Ms. Eikeland’s visit to the Institute re-iterated the strong existing links between researchers in Norway and Ireland and explored potential future collaborations on the themes of Climate Action, Circular Economy and Marine Research. Prior to her appointment as Norway’s Ambassador to Ireland in 2016, Ms. Eikeland held the position as Ambassador in the Norwegian Foreign Department for the Arctic, and upon her visit to the ERI she was presented with a copy of ‘Arctic Biodiversity Assessment’ - a report containing the best available science on the status and trends of Arctic biodiversity, and accompanying policy recommendations for biodiversity conservation. The Ambassador also took the opportunity to highlight the Norwegian Polar Institute exhibition on climate and change and the Arctic, which is currently housed in the Norwegian Embassy in Dublin, and it is anticipated that the ERI will host this exhibition later in 2018.





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## UCC Environmental Society host “UCC Climate Conference 2018”

### UCC CLIMATE CONFERENCE

MONDAY  
FEBRUARY 26TH  
1.30-8PM  
AULA MAXIMA, UCC



The UCC Environmental Society held the “UCC Climate Conference” in the Aula Maxima on the 26th February last. The conference was sponsored by the Environmental Research Institute and featured a host of speakers from across UCC and further afield. The day began

with a panel discussion on the politics and legalities of climate change with Dr Aine Ryall and Dr Bjorn Oliver-Magsig from UCC’s School of Law, as well as Lorna Bogue of the Green Party. The second panel focused on solutions and featured Aisling Byrne (Nu Wardrobe), Sean Lynch (Open Litter Map) and Eimer Delahunty (FoodCloud). Keynote addresses were given by Dr Debbie Chapman (UN GEMS/Water CDC) and Brian Ó Gallachóir (ERI). The focus on solutions was refreshing, and the power of the student body in pushing for change was highlighted in both the opening address delivered by Prof Sarah Culloty and closing remarks made by Professor John O’Halloran.



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## CAMPUS CYCLE WEEK CONTINUES TO GROW

The third “Campus Cycle Week” was held from the 12th to the 16th March and featured UCC, CIT, CUH, Coláiste Stiofáin Naofa, Cork College of Commerce and St John’s Central College. Activities included bike doctors on campus, a bike repair workshop, a lunchtime cycle and roundtable discussion. The highlight of the week was the screening of “Why We Cycle” a new Dutch film that explores the reasons why people cycle, as well as the impact of cycling on individual, cities and societies. The screening took place in the Boole Theatre in UCC and was followed by a lively discussion from those in attendance. Campus Cycle week is becoming a staple of the UCC calendar and we hope it continues to grow year on year.