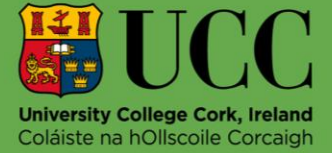




UCC **GREEN** CAMPUS



**A TRADITION OF
INDEPENDENT
THINKING**



University College Cork Green Campus

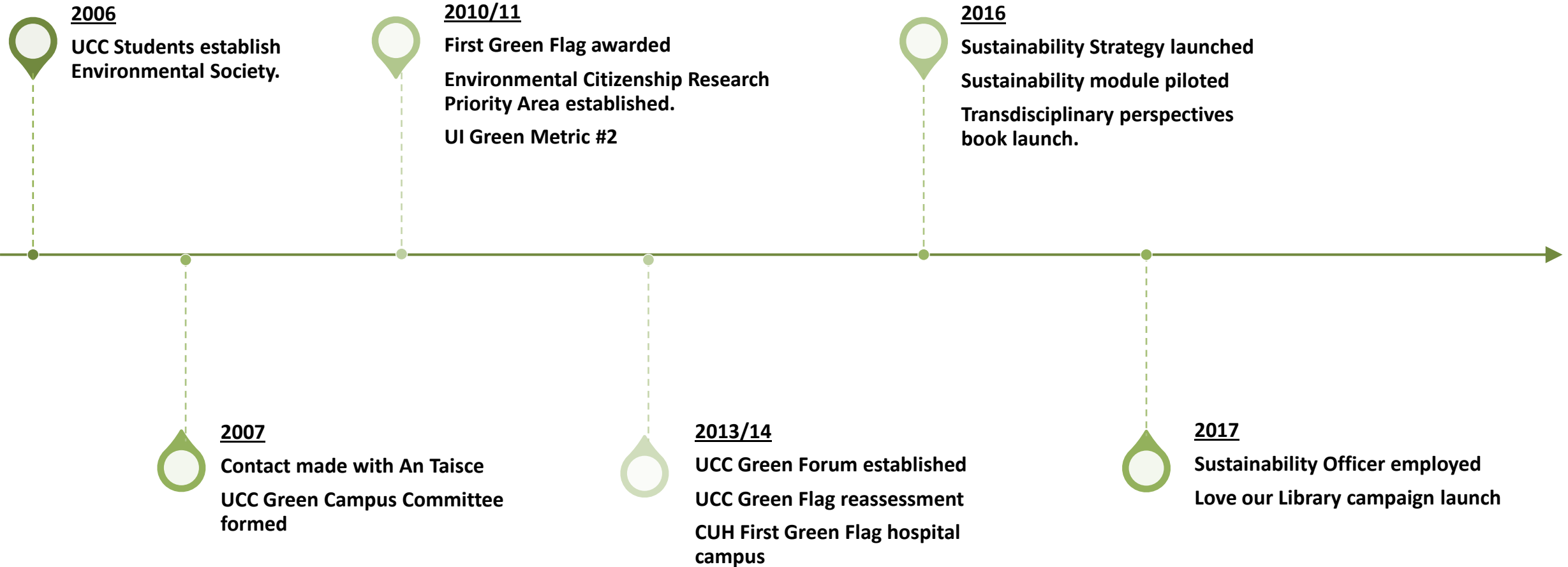
Dr Maria Kirrane
Sustainability Officer

University College Cork

- One of seven Irish Universities
- Established in 1845
- 21,000 students
- 3,000 staff



UCC Green Flag Journey



The beginnings at UCC

- Students had come from Green Flag schools.
- Waste segregation was a serious issue on campus.
- Support from university president.
- Students demonstrated clear commitment – waste audit!
- Key decisions
 - Membership of committee – short cycle of students and academic year
 - Themed approach – strong support from buildings office
- Lots of low-hanging fruit.
- Huge opportunities for monetary savings.
- A coherent structure and framework for engagement and action.



UCC Sustainability



- Student focused
- Chaired by Envirosoc and SU
- Staff representation from key operational posts

**Green
Campus
Committee**

- Buildings and Estates
- Deputy president
- Every six weeks, monitors progress against action plan

**Sustainability
Review
Group**

Green Forum

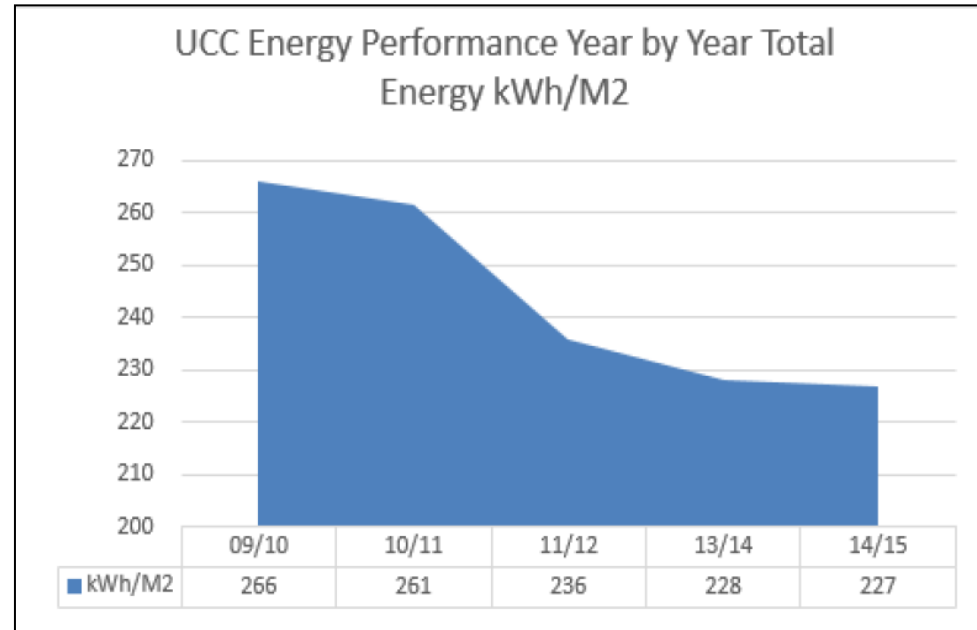
- Twice a year
- Chaired by deputy president and Director of B&E
- Academia and contractors



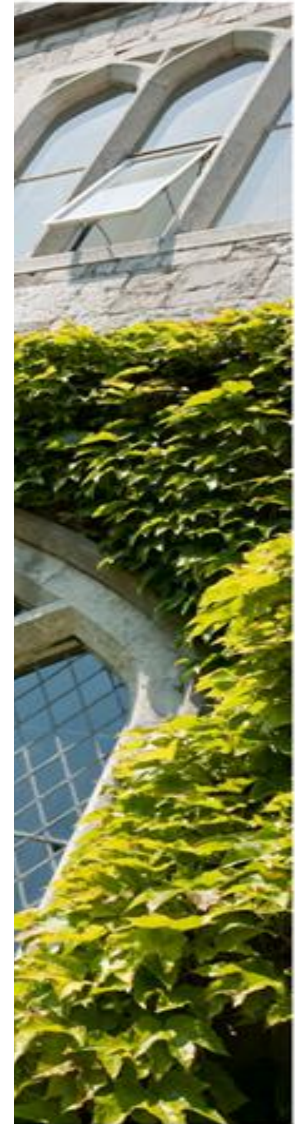
Some highlights - Operations



- New recycling system introduced.
- Recycling rate is twice the national average.
- University saved €1 million.
- Cumulative Waste Tonnage -1,297 Tonnes.



- Retrofitting of old buildings and improved efficiency
- Target of 33% reduction in energy consumption reached.
- First university certified to ISO 50001 energy management system.



Some highlights - Operations



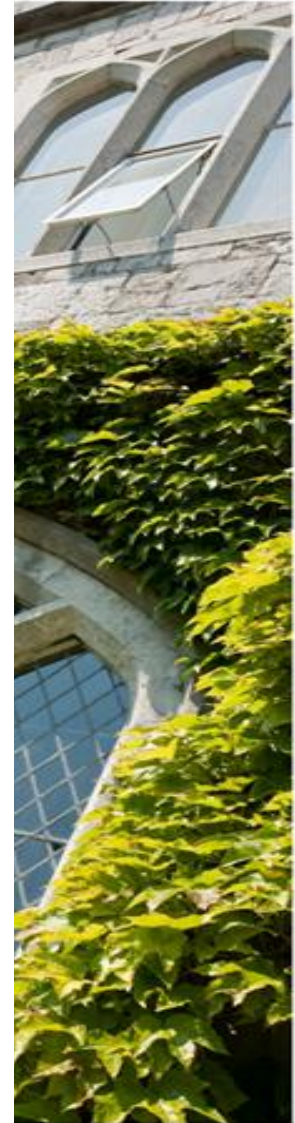
- Wildflower garden for pollinators.
- Habitat assessments undertaken to inform Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Management of significant trees.



- Fleet of campus bikes for travel between, to and from campus.
- Car pooling encouraged.
- Park and Ride facilities.
- Campus grounds vehicles are electric.

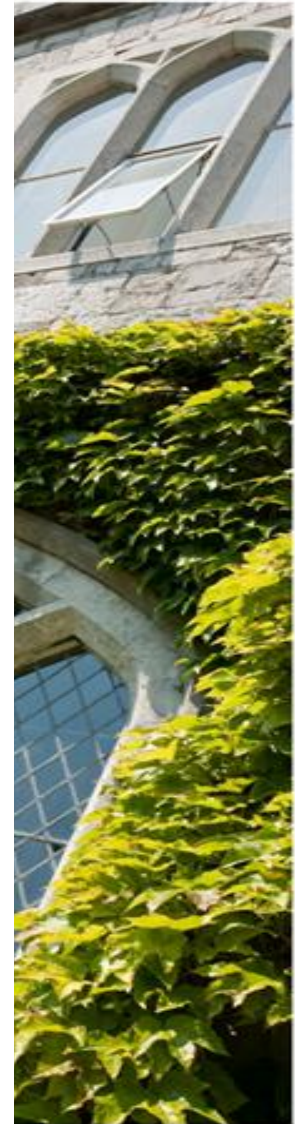


Some highlights - Operations



- From November to February, vegetables served in main campus restaurant are harvested from campus farm.
- Herbs are grown in on-campus glass houses year round.
- Our catering contract was awarded with sustainability criteria.
- Students and staff can grow their own food in an on-campus “community garden”.

Some highlights – Engaging our community



- A growing network of sustainability “champions” across the university.
- Adapting the programme to suit individual departments.
- “Saver Saves” scheme incentivises action.
- Initiatives improve environmental performance, as well as individual wellbeing.

Bring your own mug and get discounted coffees and teas across campus!



#loveourlibrary

- Sustainability inclusion in procurement
- Team of “champions” in library
- Combination of “carrot” and “stick” approach
- **COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT**

Creative education and outreach – Glucksman Gallery



Gallery workshop – “A Greener Brighter Future



Classroom Museum with local primary schools.

UCC's University Wide Module - Sustainability

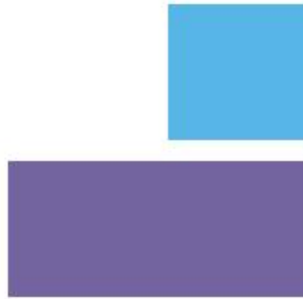
Module Objective: To provide students with a broadly based interdisciplinary introduction to sustainability issues as a foundation for 'sustainability citizenship'.

Module Content:

- Framing sustainability - what does sustainability mean to you?
- Changing climate - changing technological systems;
- Questioning growth - building a sustainable economy;
- Sustainable agriculture - pathways to sufficiency and food security;
- Promoting health and well-being for a sustainable society;
- Heritage and culture - the past and present of the future;
- Protecting and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity;
- Regulating change - law, governance and sustainability;
- Equity, diversity and inclusion for social sustainability;
- Making connections - co-creating a sustainable community.




- Citizenship
- Teaching & Learning
- Research
- Food, Health & Well-being
- Landscape, Heritage and Natural Resources
- Recycling & Waste Management
- Energy, Water & Climate Change
- Procurement & Contracts
- Commuting & Business Travel



**UCC
SUSTAINABILITY
STRATEGY**

JUNE 2016


UCC

University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh



University College Cork
World's First Green Campus

Sustainability Strategy Goal

Our key strategic goal is to increase the sustainability of the University through the **embedding of sustainability goals and targets into all aspects of the University's educational, research, ancillary operations, infrastructural developments and interactions with the community.** And by doing so to maintain and improve our position as one of the leading green universities in Ireland and the world.



UCC Strategic Plan 2017-22

Institutional focus on **interdisciplinary thematic areas** will be informed by UCC's 2015 Research Quality Review as well as external drivers including the **United Nation Sustainable Development Goals**. High-level, interdisciplinary research areas of current interest include, but are not limited to:

- sustainability and climate action;** future and emergent technologies;
- financial and business services; **creative and engaged local/global citizenship;** and chronic disease and food, health and social wellbeing.



Addressing the challenges

Student involvement

- **Students Union added Green Campus participation to constitution.**
 - Deputy SU President -> Chairs all Meetings
 - EnviroSoc Representative attends all meetings.
- Strong Promotion during orientation and throughout the year.
- Run interesting and worthwhile campaigns and events.
- Responsibility – provide a budget
- Give students credit
 - UCC Works Internship Programme.
 - Postgraduate Module in Outreach.



Some secrets to success (or failure??)

High-Level Support



Celebrate achievements



A common goal



Dedicated student activists



Taking Risks



Thank You

greencampus.ucc.ie

UCC GREEN CAMPUS

UCC
University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

HOME ABOUT GREEN CAMPUS GREEN TOUR APP STRATEGY NEWS RESOURCES

Research Informed

UCC's Sustainability Journey.

In 2007, UCC students instigated a pilot Green Campus programme, with the help of An Taisce, which would see the university become the first in the world to be awarded a Green Flag from the Foundation of Environmental Education. UCC renewed its Green Flag in 2013 and 2016, and in July 2016 published its Sustainability Strategy committing to be a "world-class University leading the drive towards sustainability in Higher Education Institutes and beyond, to our community, region and planet." Our programme is student-led, research-informed and practice-focused and our success demonstrates the strong commitment across all levels and divisions in the university.

