

# UCC Green Campus

*Student Led – Research Informed – Practice Focused*

## UCC – First Green Flag in 2010

**Green Campus started as a student initiative** in 2007

Initiated by UCC’s Environmental Society students, many of whom attended “Green Schools” prior coming to UCC

First “Green Flag” awarded in 2010 by An Taisce and the Federation for Environmental Education (FEE, Copenhagen)  
Full scale renewal processes in 2013 and 2016

**Green Campus is an overall sustainability strategy,** covering all University activities in Teaching/Learning, Research and Operations

Energy – Waste – Water – Food  
Transport – Biodiversity

*Foster Sustainability Citizenship among the UCC Community*

*Integration of Sustainability into all University strategies, plans and policies as they come up for renewal*

## UCC Green Campus Forum

... composed of academic and admin staff, students and University management, meets on a regular basis.

Initiation of sustainability projects, outreach activities and information of the College community

## UCC Sustainability Strategy

Launched in June 2016

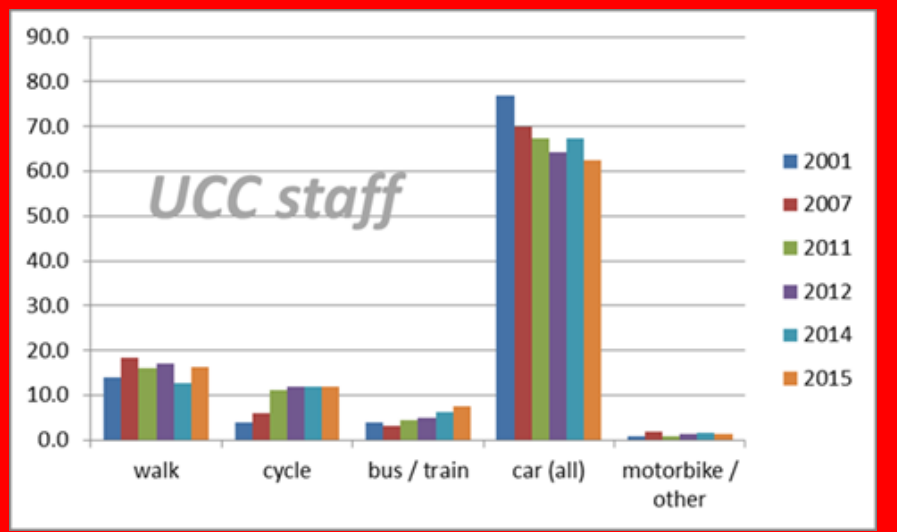


# University College Cork

## World’s First Green Campus

## Transport

UCC has a comprehensive Commuter Plan for sustainable travel in place since 2005



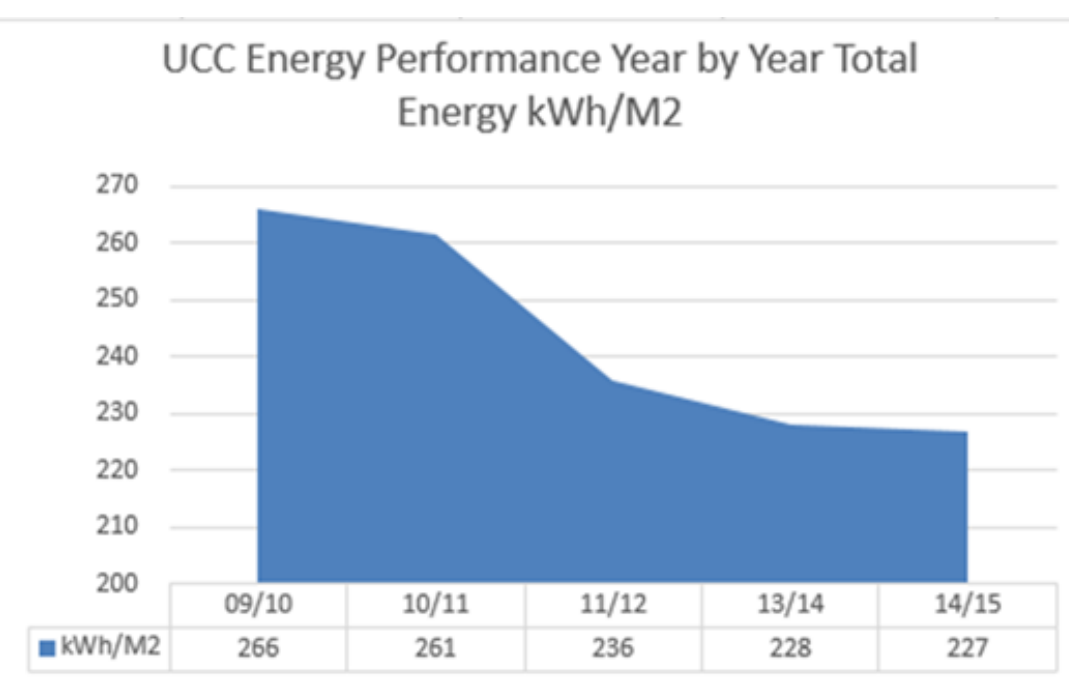
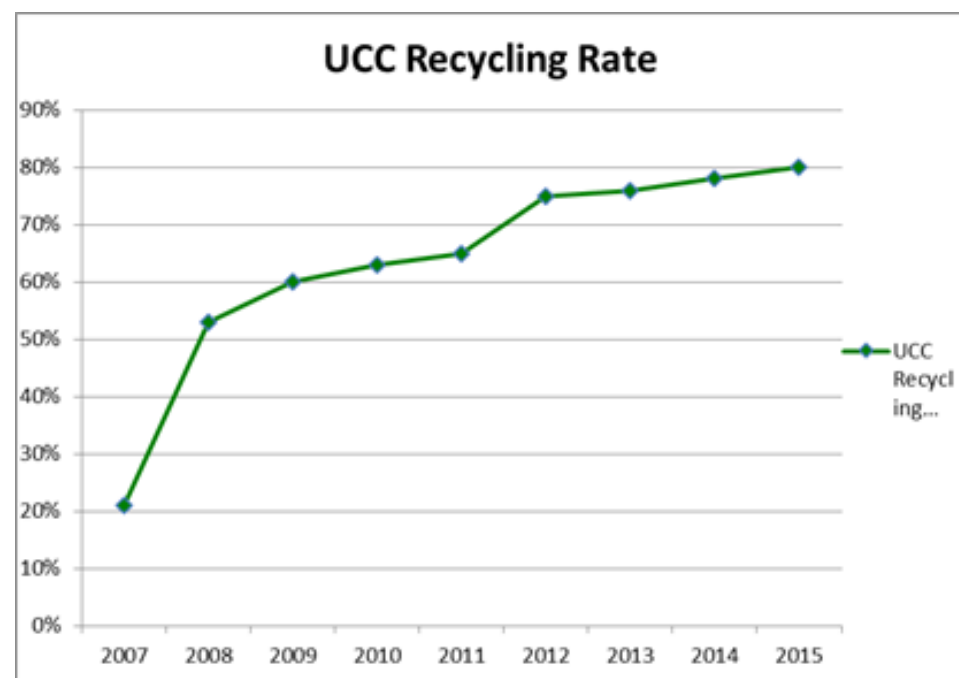
## Home-grown Food for UCC canteens

UCC grows part of the vegetable supply used in the canteens on their own land in Cork suburb. Full buy-in and support from the restaurants’ contractor.

### “Feed the 500” awareness event

Students prepared meals for 500 people out of surplus food which otherwise would have gone to waste. Cooperation with Cork Food Policy Council

“Polytunnel” garden open to all staff/students to learn and try to grow their own vegetable



## Success Factors

Green Campus has been established as part of the University’s identity

Students Union are part of Green Campus Forum by their constitution

Green Campus includes various other groups on campus: UCC Health Matters, Staff/Students Wellbeing (HR), etc.

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## Biodiversity

Annual National “BioBlitz”: Students to discover the largest possible number of species (plants, animals) on Campus within 24 hours in nationwide competition

Tree and wild flower planting of native species



## Challenges

Commitment of students to participate in longer term projects is difficult (short semesters, mostly 3-year degrees)

Continuity of student involvement is an issue

Students Union officers have one-year term only

## Lessons Learnt

“Students want to save the world in 4 weeks”

Have short-term, clear cut projects for students  
Awareness raising – Fun factor is important

Involve a number of committed post-grad students  
UCC Management to lead longer-term projects



# UCC

University College Cork, Ireland  
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

## Town and Gown - Community Outreach

Many initiatives and projects team up with community groups in the City and County

**University Wide Teaching Module on Sustainability** invites all staff, students and the general public

**UCC Green** Route audio guide app for visitors to highlight sustainability features on Campus

**CARL: Community-Academic Research Links** provides independent research support to Civil Society Organisations

## UCC Key Figures

18,000 Students (13.3k under-grads / 4.7k post-grads)  
2,800 staff (faculty, admin, researchers)  
Founded 1845, compact inner city Campus

### Cork City:

130k inhabitants (200k in metro area)  
2<sup>nd</sup> largest city in Republic of Ireland

