



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh

NUI GALWAY SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

ACADEMIC YEAR 2018-2019

Our journey towards a green,
smart and healthy campus

learn live lead
www.nuigalway.ie/sustainability



2018 HIGHLIGHTS NUI GALWAY SUSTAINABILITY

Research and Learning



Sustainable Event Checklist created and rolled out

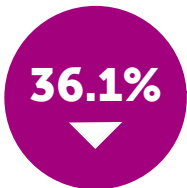


231 Environmental Sustainability modules on offer (increase from 196)



Galway now ranks in top 20 destinations in the world for sustainable conferences & events, the only city in Ireland ranked in the Global Destination Sustainability Index

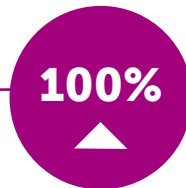
Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions



36.1%
in total energy consumption from baseline (independently verified by SEAI)



150%
in on-site renewable energy generation since 2017



100%
engagement in energy awareness campaigns since 2015 on baseline levels



Nature and Ecosystems



Pollinator Plan developed to create a campus where pollinators can thrive



Biodiversity Trail created on campus



Over 700 students enrolled in at least one module including field-based learning



The strategy sets out a vision to establish NUI Galway as a leading green, smart and healthy campus.



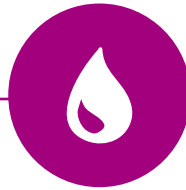
Health and Wellbeing



Switch to compostable catering items



Discount on tea/coffee with a reusable mug



Increase in drinking fountains on campus to reduce plastic bottle use



Self-serve kitchen opened in Áras na Mac Léinn

Built Environment

- Smarter Travel Working Group formed
- NUI Galway Travel Plan Developed



- ↑ 3 Coke Zero Bike Scheme stations launched
- ↑ Increase in use of bicycle racks and facilities
- ↑ Increase of cycling awareness and safety events



First electric fleet vehicle introduced to Buildings & Estates Mail Service



Enhanced web/video conferencing facilities to discourage air travel, located in:

- The Insight Centre for Data Analytics
- Monsignor John Hynes Boardroom
- Martin Ryan Boardroom

Governance and Leadership

- Flagship projects with Galway City Council
 - Plastic Free Galway City Initiative
 - Galway City European Green Leaf Designation
 - "Loving Galway" Sustainability Festival 2018
- Introduction of NUI Galway Student Sustainability Leadership Awards Scheme
- Green Flag application made to An Taisce in September 2018



1 INTRODUCTION

Building on its existing reputation as an environmentally-friendly and societally responsive university, the National University of Ireland Galway (NUI Galway) launched a wide-ranging sustainability strategy in November 2017.

The *NUI Galway Sustainability Strategy 2017-2020* sets out a vision to establish the University as a leading green, smart and healthy campus, where graduates are valued for their world-readiness, where research helps tackle societal challenges, and the campus is a role model for the transition to a more sustainable future. The Strategy utilises a Learn-Live-Lead model organised around six key themes (Research and Learning, Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Nature and Ecosystems, Health and Wellbeing, Built Environment, Governance and Leadership), each comprising objectives and targets to monitor our journey towards sustainability.

This is our First Annual Sustainability Report. Using the Strategy as a framework, the report reviews the progress we have made across the six key themes of the Learn-Live-Lead model, through Academic Year (AY) 2018-2019. Our progress is wide-ranging, from increasing the number of modules that raise awareness of sustainability and the environment, to working with local community groups on sustainability projects, to appointing the University's first Community and University Sustainability Officer. We recognise that engagement of the campus community and other key stakeholders is vital to the success of our Strategy. The report illuminates examples of initiatives we are taking to engage and inspire our campus community, as we journey together towards a more sustainable future.

The report demonstrates our leadership in the achievement of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by connecting and aligning our progress to the goals. At NUI Galway, we recognise the important role that universities play in advancing the SDGs and our Strategy is advancing sustainability from environmental, social and economic perspectives. From a **learn** perspective, we strive to embed sustainability literacy into all aspects of University learning and research. From a **live** perspective, we implement the principles of the SDGs through our campus operations. From a **lead** perspective, we demonstrate leadership in the achievement of the SDGs by promoting sustainability scholarship and global citizenship as graduate and staff attributes, by embedding sustainability in operations and investments, and by building sustainable partnerships with communities.

At NUI Galway we view sustainability as a process rather than an endpoint. We strive to ensure that there are continuous opportunities to actively involve our students and staff, who are our greatest resource, in our work. We appreciate that moving towards sustainability requires long-term cultural change driven by system wide engagement, strong governance and committed leadership.



Members of the Community and University Sustainability Project (CUSP) team at the launch of the NUI Galway Sustainability Strategy in November 2017 with Jim Gannon, CEO, SEAI and Senator Alice Mary Higgins.

The Strategy was launched as a special event on campus called 'Galway City's Sustainability Stories', signalling the community aspect of the initiative from the start of the journey.

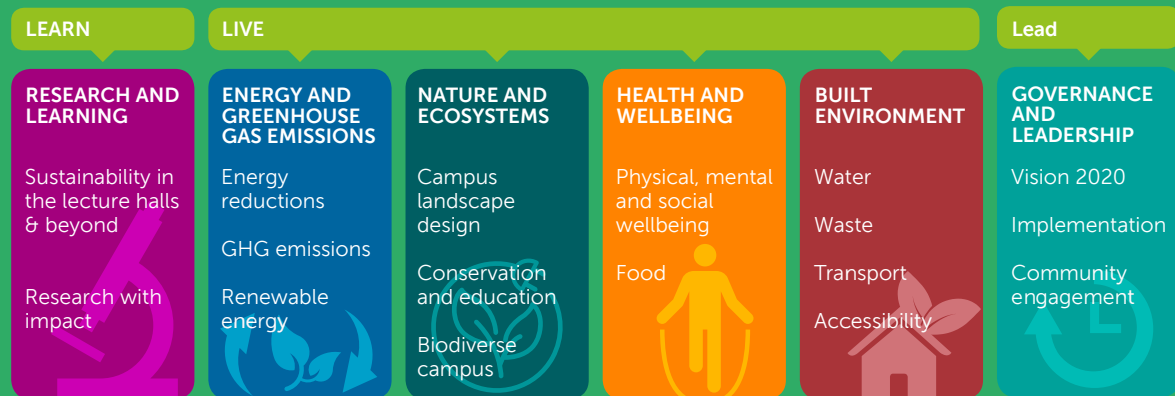


2 GOVERNANCE & APPROACH

The NUI Galway Sustainability Strategy 2017-2020 was developed following extensive engagement with the campus community through the Community and University Sustainability Project (CUSP).

CUSP was established in 2015 under the direction of the Registrar and Deputy President to showcase how a university can become a role model for the transition to a more sustainable future. CUSP operates via a multidisciplinary board of over 30 students and staff - the CUSP General Board. The CUSP General Board meets 5 times per year and reports progress to the Registrar and Deputy President. All CUSP General Board members, are members of a Sustainability Working Group. There are six Sustainability Working Groups organised around the six key themes of the Learn-Live-Lead Model. Each working group has a

working group leader and a set of targets and objectives to achieve by 2020. The working group leader reports progress to the CUSP General Board on a quarterly basis. A Communications and Engagement Team drives marketing and communication initiatives across the working groups. In September 2019 the University appointed a Community and University Sustainability Officer (CUSO). The CUSO reports to the Registrar and Deputy President and working with the CUSP General Board plays a lead role in the implementation of the NUI Galway Sustainability Strategy.





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



In September 2015, The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by The United Nations (UN) General Assembly. At the heart of the 2030 Agenda are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs are a collection of 17 global goals that UN members states are expected to use as a guide for tackling the world's most pressing challenges including ending poverty and hunger and bringing economic prosperity, social inclusion, environmental sustainability, peace and good governance to all countries and all people by 2030.



2 ZERO HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



13 CLIMATE ACTION



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



3 RESEARCH & LEARNING

OUR STRATEGIC AIM

Embed sustainability literacy into all aspects of learning and research so that our entire campus community gain the necessary knowledge and skills to become sustainability role models and leaders in their service to the outside world.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2018, staff, undergraduate and postgraduate students collaborated to identify the extent of sustainability modules in the curriculum. The audit revealed that sustainability is taught across disciplines in all colleges and NUI Galway has increased the number of modules that raise awareness of environment, nature and sustainability from 196 (2015) to 231 (2018).
- A Sustainable Event Checklist has been developed to integrate sustainability principles and practises during the hosting of conferences and other events. The checklist was trialled at six highly visible events throughout 2018 and is now embedded as a formal policy within the university-wide Health and Safety Event Checklist. The checklist contributes to the university's overall Sustainability Strategy by using sustainability research expertise to inform campus operations; reduce environmental impact by conserving resources; promoting sustainable waste management; and enhancing the health and wellbeing of our campus community by promoting sustainable transport options, sustainable food choices, and encouraging physical activity.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

New Masters in Environmental Leadership

2018 saw our first graduates emerge from a new one year taught Masters in Environmental Leadership. The course was created to equip graduates with an advanced level of knowledge and problem solving capabilities, management and communication skills, in key areas relevant to the environment, marine and energy sectors, to address global environmental challenges. This multi-disciplinary course was developed by the College of Science and Engineering in partnership with the Ryan Institute, School of Geography and Archaeology, School of Natural Sciences, School of Business and Economics, School of Law, School of Engineering and School of Physics.

RESEARCH

Research Institutes

The SDG framework continues to inform and influence our research and innovation portfolio at NUI Galway.

NUI Galway supports a large number of research centres related to sustainability, for example, The Ryan Institute is a multi-disciplinary research institute for advancing sustainability and innovation impacts across its four thematic research areas, namely (1) Marine & Coastal, (2) Energy & Climate Change, (3) Agriculture & Bio Economy, and (4) Environment & Health. The 92 Principal Investigators in the Ryan Institute are responsible for over 370 funded research projects which comprise research and partnerships that contribute to the majority of the SDGs. The Ryan Institutes sustainability research represents circa 20% of the overall research income of NUI Galway.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

'Loving Galway' Sustainability Festival

The 'Loving Galway' sustainability festival ran from 20th to 30th September 2018, in celebration of the 'Green and Blue' spaces breathing life into Galway City. The festival built on the unique collaboration between NUI Galway, Galway City Council and the City's environmental community and is a legacy of Galway's European Green Leaf designation in 2017. CUSP members organised and hosted two sustainability showcase events on campus as part of the festival programme; 'Ideas for a Beautiful Planet' and 'Our Sustainability Journey'. The events aimed to engage the campus community and wider public on sustainability by sharing sustainability related research in a practical and accessible way and demonstrating the relevance of sustainability in everyday living.



Above Launch of the 'Loving Galway' sustainability festival in September 2018



4 ENERGY & GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

OUR STRATEGIC AIM

At NUI Galway we are committed to leading the way in reducing energy consumption in new and refurbished buildings, measuring and reporting energy use, implementing energy saving initiatives, investing in renewable energy sources and reinvesting energy cost savings in new sustainability technologies.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2018, NUI Galway achieved re-certification to ISO 50001:2011 for another 3 years. This international energy management standard recognises our efforts to use energy more efficiently and to achieve continuous improvement in energy performance.
- 2018/2019 saw NUI Galway exceed its Public Sector Energy Efficiency target of 33% energy efficiency by 2020, recording a 36.1% reduction in energy consumption since baseline year. This has resulted in a refreshed target of 40% reduction by 2020.
- 2018/2019 saw continued focus on behavioural change to reduce energy use in buildings with numerous campaigns throughout the year including Summer and Winter shut down campaigns, Battle of the Apartments, SAVES etc.
- With support from Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland (SEAI), a number of key projects were implemented by Buildings and Estates through 2018/2019, including the installation of Solar Photovoltaic (PV) to the roofs of Human Biology and Áras na Gaeilge; implementation of Light Emitting Diode (LED) lighting to three large lecture theatres and a further 500 LED panels across campus; installation of 8 no. new electric car charging stations across campus, bringing the total number to 20.
- The conversion of heating systems in two buildings from oil to Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) condensing boilers; upgrade of the Buildings Management Software (BMS) capabilities for monitoring and verification; and the installation of additional meters campus wide to monitor heat, water and power consumption.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

SAVES2

The Union of Students in Ireland (USI) in partnership with NUI Galway Students' Union (SU) are members of the 'Students Achieving Valuable Energy Savings 2' (SAVES2) programme. SAVES2 is funded under the European Union (EU) Horizon 2020 programme and unites students across the EU in learning and implementing energy saving initiatives in their campus accommodation. In 2018, as part of SAVES2, NUI Galway students launched 'Student Switch Off'. The 'Student Switch Off' campaign is designed to help students save energy by providing on-going advice and support to students via energy-efficiency and bill management training, peer-to-peer advice sharing via video blogs and regular e-mail and social media communications.

RESEARCH

ENERGISE

European Network for Research, Good Practise and Innovations for Sustainable Energy (ENERGISE) is a Horizon 2020 funded project led by researchers at NUI Galway. ENERGISE is fundamentally concerned with developing a greater understanding of the social and cultural influences on household energy use. Using a Living Lab approach, the project assesses and compares energy-using practices (e.g. laundry, heating) across hundreds of households located in eight European countries, including Ireland. Findings point toward opportunities for transforming and reducing household energy use using approaches that work across different contexts. The corresponding results feed into national and European policy debates.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Galway Energy Summit

In March 2019, students from the College of Engineering and Informatics and Ryan Institute at NUI Galway hosted Ireland's second annual student-led, Galway Energy Summit 2019. The event welcomed over 500 delegates to NUI Galway ranging from students, industry partners, academics and the general public. The event focused on the theme of 'Changing for our Climate and Can Technology Save US'. Galway Energy Summit was founded in 2018 and is the only summit of its kind in Ireland. Galway Energy Summit demonstrates that our students are leading the way for change when it comes to engaging academic, industry and the public in the hugely important challenge our society faces in tackling climate change.





3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

13 CLIMATE ACTION

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

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11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

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15 LIFE ON LAND

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

5 NATURE & ECO SYSTEMS

OUR STRATEGIC AIM

To improve biodiversity and promote the benefits of interaction with nature.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2018, NUI Galway signed up as a partner with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, formalising our commitment to support pollinators on the campus. A Pollinator Action Plan has been developed with initiatives focusing on pollinator friendly planting schemes, reduced mowing frequency, protecting areas that are good for pollinators, reduced herbicide usage and community engagement and awareness, rolled out.
- A bilingual Biodiversity Trail (Irish and English) has been developed to promote the campus as an educational and recreational resource and as a health and wellbeing initiative to connect people to nature and help them feel restored. The trail is supported by interpretation panels guiding users throughout habitats on campus and a podcast that can be downloaded from the NUI Galway website.
- Numerous initiatives to promote biodiversity have been implemented; for example, tree planting, wildflower sites, herb garden, fruit garden, bird-boxes, bat boxes and insect hotels.
- In 2018/2019 an overview of field based learning (FBL) as a teaching strategy and how to incorporate field based learning in a wide range of subjects was prepared and presented to NUI Galway staff. We currently have over 700 students enrolled in at least one module that uses FBL.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

NUI Galway's Organic Garden

NUI Galway's Organic Garden is ten years old and showcases collaboration between staff, students and the wider community. In 2009, a staff-student committee cleared the site, laid paths and created raised beds, and fruit trees and bushes were planted. The Organic Garden Society plants heather and borage as a source of nectar for bees through-out the year. They also grow tomatoes, apples, lettuce, and potatoes. Vegetable crops in the raised beds are rotated. Students welcome members of the public into the polytunnel during the Summer to harvest produce. The Organic Garden is an important space for people to

connect with the soil and de-stress. The Organic Garden Society ran a Snowdrop Workshop for #Mentalhealthweek, with over 30 people taking snowdrop bulbs home. In addition to being productive, the gardeners learn new skills, interact with others and benefit their health and wellbeing.

RESEARCH

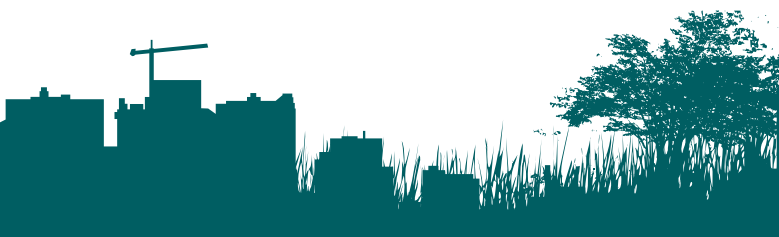
Brown Hairstreak Butterfly

In February 2019, a researcher with the Applied Ecology Unit, Dr Caitriona Carlin, found eggs laid by a rare butterfly Brown Hairstreak on young blackthorn within our campus. Its stronghold is the Burren, so this research confirms that the stronghold extends beyond Galway city. This lead directly to collaboration between Buildings and Estates staff, staff and students from Environmental Science and a local ecological consultancy on how to manage habitats for the butterfly.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Take a Walk on the Wild Side

NUI Galway's Biodiversity Trail was part-funded in collaboration with Galway City Council. Throughout 2018/2019, the trail was widely promoted as a recreational resource and a way to connect people to nature and help them feel restored. The trail has been used by tourists visiting the city, by local environmentally themed community groups, and incorporated as part of conferences and festivals hosted by NUI Galway, including Loving Galway 2018, MojoFest 2019 and Go Wild 2019.



6 BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Over the last year we have demonstrated our commitment to the principles of the SDGs through our effective and efficient use of water, a key natural resource; by preventing and reducing waste and managing waste in a sustainable way and by encouraging and facilitating sustainable transport and travel patterns. We are committed to creating a campus that will have a positive impact on the surrounding environment, promoting resource efficiency, reducing pollution and protecting historic areas of the campus.



WATER

OUR STRATEGIC AIM

To minimise the local, regional and global environmental impacts of water usage by reducing university-wide water usage, increasing the use of reclaimed water and reduce bottled water consumption on campus.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The completion in 2017 by the Building and Estates Office of an extensive leak detection and repair programme on campus resulted in a reduction in cubic metres per occupant of 46% (from a maximum of almost 8 cubic metres per person annually in 2008 to less than 5 cubic metres per person annually in 2017).
- Significant and maintained water savings have been achieved in the Alice Perry Engineering Building through a range of measures including behavioural change measures, improved monitoring, equipment upgrades and issue detection and repair processes. (In 2017, the average weekday water usage at the Alice Perry Engineering Building was determined as 35.08 cubic metres. For a similar period in 2019, the average was determined to be 17.76 cubic metres).
- Through 2018/2019 a programme of installation of water saving devices continued across campus. Projects have included retrofit of current toilet blocks, time control on urinal flushes, percussion taps, twin flush on WCs, and time controls on showers. Regular maintenance on the devices is carried out to ensure maximum efficiency.
- The programme of new metering installation and the automation of existing metering continues on campus
- In 2018/2019, 13 new drinking water fountains have been installed across the campus. New water fountains introduced to the James Hardiman Library building in advance of the 2019 Summer exams dispensed 19,475 litres of water in May and June potentially reducing single use plastic bottle consumption on campus by almost 40,000 units.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Engaged Learning

In 2018/2019, a group of final year undergraduate engineering students worked in conjunction with the Buildings and Estates Office to develop water consumption baselines for NUI Galway buildings. This initiative supports our overall strategic approach to use the campus as a living lab and to implement water consumption reduction on campus by addressing water

usage at an individual building level. In Summer 2019, a CUSP student water intern, working in conjunction with the water work package leader, developed a game-based method for students, staff and visitors to find out more about water as a resource.

RESEARCH

WATERNOMICS

WATERNOMICS is an EU Seventh Framework funded programme, led by a civil engineering research team at NUI Galway, that aims to reduce water consumption of municipalities, corporations and domestic users, by providing water managers and consumers with timely information about water usage and water availability. Researchers from NUI Galway worked with industry partners in Greece, Netherlands and Italy to develop pilots to demonstrate the effectiveness of novel water monitoring techniques and analytics in reducing water consumption. The Alice Perry Engineering Building was a key pilot in the project, which was facilitated and supported by the Buildings and Estates Office through the installation of water metering and data collection systems.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Galway Science & Technology Festival Exhibition Day and Engineering Our Future: Family Fun Day are two major events hosted by NUI Galway to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) with over 25000 attendees this year. Workshops related to water were hosted by NUI Galway researchers. ‘The water we use where does it come from and where do it go’ workshop is designed to help children understand the energy required to have clean running water in their homes and a better understanding of the importance of responsible water use; and ‘Up the Pipe’ workshop explores the vast range of chemicals that we use in our daily lives, which typically end up going down our drain and into our environment.



Launch of Engineering our Future: Family Fun Day March 2019



WASTE

OUR STRATEGIC AIM

Minimise the local, regional and global environmental impacts of our waste by developing policies and procedures that focus on reducing the amount of waste generated on campus and diverting waste from landfill. Engage with the entire campus community to reduce waste generated and promote recycling.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In August 2019, we reached a figure of 54% recycling and our target recycling rate is 60% by 2020.
- We are delivering on our zero waste to landfill strategy through our new waste management contract which commenced in May 2019 .
- To promote compliance with the Department for Communications, Climate Action and Environment 'Recycling List' for Ireland, we hosted two public Recycling Ambassador workshops on campus in conjunction with Galway City Council and Voice Ireland.
- Over 2018/2019, we have supported our food services companies on campus in their efforts to minimise waste:-
 - The two largest catering providers on campus, Sodexo and Food Space are achieving their aim of zero food waste to landfill.
 - Sodexo has introduced a Repak plastic bottle and can recycling station in their 700 seat restaurant and a wash station for long life cups.
 - Saol Cafe have removed all plastic bottles for sale and replaced with glass bottles.
 - We are working closely with caterers across all contracts to reduce quantities of waste arising from disposal food packaging items including single-use cups, plates and cutlery. All customers receive a discount when they purchase a beverage using a long life cup.
 - Many of the on-campus restaurants offer free bags of used coffee grounds that can be used as a fertiliser.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Galway Green Labs

In 2019, the Galway Green Labs project (GGL) was established with the aim of implementing green lab principles and practises in the Biomedical Research Sciences Building. GGL is a student /staff project funded by Explore NUI Galway. With a particular focus on reducing plastic waste, students and staff are working together across different 'Green Teams' strategically based within the five main laboratories to determine areas where

laboratory plastics can be reduced, re-used or replaced with non- fossil based alternatives. A good practise guide will be generated which will incorporate best change management practises for rolling out green lab practices to all NUI Galway labs.

RESEARCH

Waste and the Circular Economy

Prof Piet Lens in the Department of Microbiology at NUI Galway is leading a team of 25 PhD and post-doctoral researchers to transform waste and wastewater treatment into production processes as part of a circular economy. The €5 million research project, funded through an investment under the Science Foundation Ireland Research Professorship Programme, aims to develop new technologies to produce biobased renewable fuels (such as hydrogen and butanol) that are generated from waste products (such as dairy affluent and spent brewery grains). These can be added to Ireland's energy mix, supporting the Government's strategy for an energy self-sufficient Irish bioeconomy.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Annual Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) recycling days are held on campus providing students, staff and members of the public with an opportunity to clear out waste electrical and electronic items from their homes and work places, and send them for recycling and recovery. Working in conjunction with 'WEEE Ireland', Ireland's largest electrical and battery recycling scheme, over 28 tonnes of recyclable waste was collected at a once off collection event on the grounds of NUI Galway in Autumn 2018. This is largest amount of waste collected in any one day event recorded by WEEE Ireland.



Working with our communities to reduce plastic waste





3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



13 CLIMATE ACTION



15 LIFE ON LAND



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



TRANSPORT

OUR STRATEGIC AIM

To cater for the travel needs of University staff and students, and to encourage sustainable modes of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport.

HIGHLIGHTS

- After the successful launch of Coke Zero City Bike Scheme Stations on campus in 2017, usage figures from 2018 shows that a quarter of all Coke Zero bike share journeys in Galway, during 2018, either started at NUI Galway, or had NUI Galway as a destination.
- Lockers, new and improved shower and changing facilities and additional bicycle racks have been installed through-out the campus for our cycling community.
- More LED lighting added to walking and cycling routes, improved campus road line markings and universally accessible pathways developed.
- A new park and ride contract includes Global Positioning System (GPS) bus locations, with on board audio alerting passengers to 'next stop', and display screens advertising upcoming events on campus. (Our Park and Ride Scheme shuttles parking permit holders from a 500 space car park in Dangan as far as the Orbsen building and back throughout core hours).
- Web/video conferencing facilities implemented in meeting rooms north and south campus, to offer an alternative to air travel.
- First electric fleet vehicle introduced.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

SU and Sustainable Transport

NUI Galway Student Union (SU) has been centrally involved in campaigns to promote the shift to more sustainable forms of travel. In October and November 2018, the SU challenged staff and student to reboot their commute by taking part in a nationwide commuter challenge aimed at encouraging more sustainable travel practises. In March 2019, the SU organised NUI Galway teams to compete in the Marchathon challenge, a total

of 205 staff and students took part, taking a total of 33,083,800 steps over the 4 weeks of the challenge. In October 2018, the SU hosted the Road Safety Authority shuttle and crash simulators on campus for a Road Safety Awareness Day.

RESEARCH

Transport Engineering Research

Transport engineering researchers at NUI Galway focus on developing innovative solutions for improving sustainability in the transport system. Research areas include GPS-based apps for transport planning, design of walking and cycling infrastructure, university travel planning, Greenway planning and design and analysis of bike share schemes. The research group works in the related area of cycling aerodynamics with a current focus on elite level cycling through international collaborators (including University of California, Berkeley, Eindhoven University of Technology, KU Leuven) and national and local stakeholders (including Galway City Council, Cycling Ireland, Sport Ireland and Paralympics Ireland).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

An Mheitheal Rothar

An Mheitheal Rothar (AMR) (which roughly translates as the bicycle community) is a not-for-profit and social-sustainable enterprise located at NUI Galway. AMR collaborates with many organisations in the city and regionally on a variety of initiatives that nurture innovative solutions to social and environmental challenges; for example through bike maintenance workshops, bike repair services, cycling safety campaigns and the promotion of more sustainable travel choices. AMR are currently working with Social Entrepreneurs Ireland to expand ReCycle Your Cycle, a bicycle recycle and reuse initiative in conjunction with Local Authorities.



7 HEALTH & WELLBEING

OUR STRATEGIC AIM

To create a healthier, more sustainable campus environment that is committed to the happiness, safety and wellbeing of all students and staff. Provide opportunities for healthy, safe and sustainable food and opportunities for physical activity. Strengthen mental health and resilience. Reduce alcohol and other substance misuse.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In April 2019, the new Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings placed NUI Galway 20th in the world for addressing the UN SDGs for Good Health and Wellbeing. The rankings measure institutional commitment to supporting good health and wellbeing through teaching, research and knowledge transfer.
- Over 2018/19 our five main catering contractors placed a strong emphasis on fresh, local, organic and sustainable, in food offerings. Master Chefs prioritise using local fresh herbs, regional meats, organic Irish eggs and sustainably sourced fish. In October 2018, Food Space won the Celebrate Local and Seasonal award by the London based Sustainable Restaurant Association. The teas, coffees, sugars and condiments in all of the SU Commercial Services outlets are fair trade and organic. Sodexo provide cooking demonstrations and sustainable living talks to students and staff. Saol Café has its own herb garden; it is a social inclusion café and staff look after the herb garden as a project.
- In September 2019, NUI Galway became one of the first Higher Education Institutions in Ireland to achieve a REACT (Responding to Excessive Alcohol Consumption in Third Level) award, an accreditation scheme for 3rd level institutions who implement an action plan in partnership with their students and student leaders that seeks to reduce the adverse consequences of excess alcohol consumption.
- Led by the Societies Office, a student kitchen opened in Áras na Mac Léinn to provide NUI Galway students with a place to cook and bake.
- Our NUI Galway Counselling service has produced a Directory of Wellbeing Supports and Services for students and staff, which features campus and community supports.
- There are over 45 active sport clubs and in 2018 the numbers of students involved in sport clubs exceeded 4,000 and the numbers of those taking part in physical active exceeded 6,700. There are over 100 active societies with a reach of 15,000 students. There are a number of sustainability themed societies including, for example, Botany, Enactus, Energy, Veg, Enviro So, Organic gardening, St Vincent De Paul, Rover etc.
- The Human Resources department hosted a series of events to celebrate National Workplace Wellbeing Day on the 12th April 2019. Themes included 'Wellbeing at Work in a Changing World' and 'Wellbeing-The Power of Gratitude'.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Student Resilience Project

In 2018/2019, The Student Resilience Project, focusing on positive mental health and interpersonal effectiveness, was led by James McCormack (Student Counselling) and Dr Pádraig MacNeela (Psychology) and was piloted with 341 first year Commerce students in partnership with Dr Johanna Clancy and Michael Campion (Business and Economics). The project involves a unique network of collaboration, including Student Services staff, postgraduate students and 30 Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) students from 2nd year Commerce who acted as facilitators in this pilot phase. Feedback was very positive, the impact ranged from minimising student's feeling of isolation or distress to those who felt it helped maximise their positive potential.

RESEARCH

ACTIVE CONSENT

NUI Galway researchers who established and rolled out the National SMART Consent programme, in January 2019, announced a major four-year programme of research and implementation on Active Consent. The Active Consent programme is led by NUI Galway's SMART Consent team; Dr Pádraig MacNeela, Dr Siobhán O'Higgins, and Kate Dawson from the School of Psychology, and Dr Charlotte McIvor from the Centre for Drama and Theatre Studies. The programme targets young people from 16-23 years of age, across three key youth settings (higher education institutions, senior cycle in schools and sports organisations), in order to promote a positive approach to the important issue of sexual consent. It works to promote active consent so that young people feel confident and skilled in communicating with their partners about intimacy.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

SU Wind Down

SU Wind Down week in April 2019 was a campaign that aimed to encourage students to relax, unwind and de-stress before commencing exams. Events included yoga classes, hula hoop classes, drumming workshops, an outdoor cinema and the distribution of exam de-stress items including stress balls, colouring books and skin care products. SU commercial services outlets distributed free porridge to make sure everyone was well fed during exam season. Social spaces, hub central.



1 NO POVERTY



2 ZERO HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY

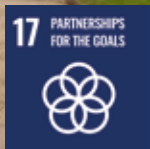


10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS





PARTNERSHIPS

NUI Galway subscribes to a number of national and international sustainability related programmes and partnerships, for example;

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

SEAI Public Sector Partnership Agreement

An Taisce Green Flag

National Transport Authority (NTA) Smarter Travel Workplaces and Campuses

ISO 50001 Energy Management System

Irish Universities Association Sustainability Working Group

University of Sanctuary

Athena SWAN



8 GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP

OUR STRATEGIC AIM

To show leadership in the transition to a more sustainable future by promoting sustainability scholarship, social justice, human rights and global citizenship as graduate and staff attributes, building practical partnerships with communities and other organisations and achieving public sector targets.

HIGHLIGHTS

- NUI Galway has created a new senior leadership role in sustainability. The (inaugural) Community and University Sustainability Officer (CUSO) reports to the Registrar and Deputy President and investment in the role demonstrates the University's commitment to sustainability both within and beyond the campus walls.
- In March 2019, our University was awarded the internationally recognised Green Flag by the An Taisce Green-Campus Programme on behalf of the International Foundation for Environmental Education. The Green Campus Programme is an international environmental education and award scheme that promotes long term whole college action for the environment that empowers both students and staff to create a more balanced community and to reduce environmental impacts and associated costs.
- We continue to include a statement of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) as part of our Annual Financial Report. The CSR Report for year ended 30th Sep 2018 highlights the university's commitment to corporate social responsibility including such measures as ethical investment policy, sustainable energy, family friendly practises, community engagement, and equality, diversity and inclusion.
- We have successfully divested the University's shareholding from companies that generate profits from fossil fuels and in 2019 a sub group of students and staff was convened to promote an ethical investment policy. The recently awarded Investment Management Contract specifies an ethical investment approach to assist the University attain its strategic long term ethical investment objectives.
- In March 2019, NUI Galway welcomed SEAI to campus to sign the SEAI Public Sector Energy Partnership agreement. The programme commits the University to lead by example to meet and exceed the public sector energy efficiency improvement target of 33% energy reduction by 2020. NUI Galway is one of the first Irish universities to surpass

the 33% target by recently achieving energy savings of over 36% and is continuing its efforts with an internal target of 40% by 2020.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

The Student Sustainability Leadership Awards

Seven NUI Galway Students were awarded Student Sustainability Leadership Awards as part of the University drive to advance student participation in sustainability efforts on campus. The awards were made across four project themes areas; namely Energy, Water Nature & Ecosystems and Communication & Engagement. Award recipients undertake summer internships with CUSP and gain experience in sustainability related research application, reporting networking, and communication. The overall aim of the awards is to develop student leaders that are dedicated and enthusiastic about developing a more sustainable campus and community. The awards programme is funded by NUI Galway SU through the Student Project Fund.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Nuns Island Master Plan

In September 2018, NUI Galway in collaboration with Galway City Council launched a public consultation process for the redevelopment of the Nuns' Island area of the city. The purpose of the consultation process is to engage in fresh perspectives on the development of University lands and properties at Nuns' Island and to inform the development of an integrated master plan. The Master plan will set a strategy for a structured approach to regeneration of the lands. A programme of consultation with the public, including focused engagement with local residents, community and business groups as well as other interested parties took place through 2018/2019. The Master Planning Process demonstrates that NUI Galway is committed to working in partnership with Galway City Council and interested stakeholders from within the community to establish a masterplan that will secure the long-term development of Nuns' Island for the betterment of our community.

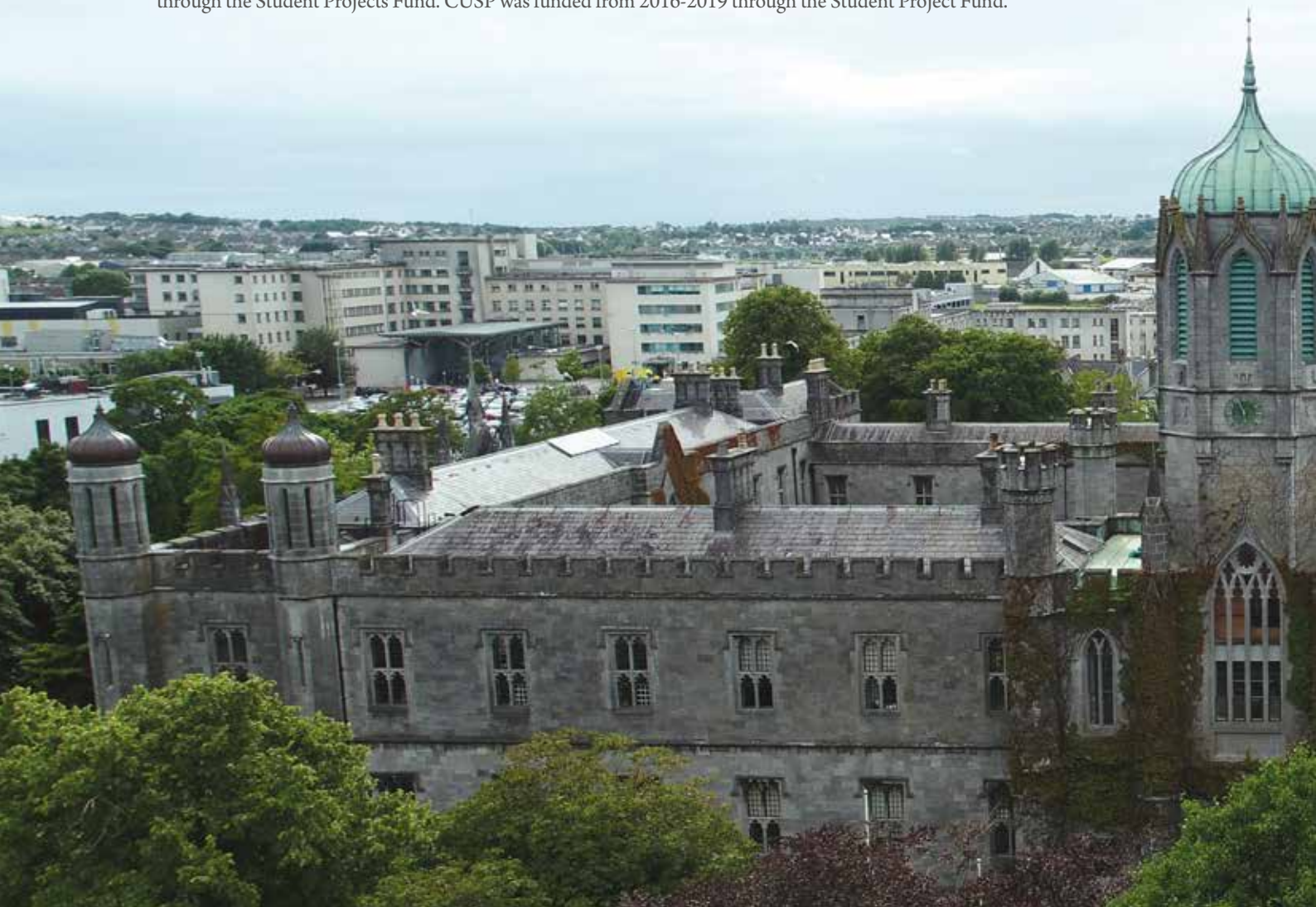
CONCLUSIONS

Following on from the launch of our inaugural sustainability strategy in November 2017, this is NUI Galway's first sustainability report. The actions summarised in the report show we have taken significant steps on our sustainability journey, but this is only the start of a journey rather than an end-point in itself. There is much more we can do, when we consider the global problems and challenges facing the world today. We have about 12 years left to take action on climate change. That's the warning in a report issued by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a UN network of leading climate experts. The message from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), in a landmark Global Assessment Report, is that nature is declining at rates unprecedented in human history. The SDGs are the global community's response to the urgent economic, social and environmental problems facing the world today, from climate change to biodiversity loss, to global poverty and inequality. Universities have a critical role to play in the achievement of the SDGs. At NUI Galway, we are committed to delivering an ambitious sustainability agenda that will have meaningful impact in addressing the SDGs.

As we approach 2020 we must look to the future and plan for success beyond that laid out in the NUI Galway Sustainability Strategy 2017-2020. With this in mind, we are currently in the process of developing our overall Strategic Plan for 2020-2025. This plan will be grounded firmly in the values our campus community share. Based on a recent University Values Survey and strongly influenced by our student voice, 'sustainability' has been identified as one of the four values-led strategic themes to define our purpose and priorities for the next five years. Using this as leverage, we will engage widely and set ourselves ambitious goals and targets necessary for transformations to a more sustainable future. We will continue to seek partners and collaborations with other universities on a similar path, so that we can share experiences, learn from each other, research, innovate, find solutions to problems, and have real impact in addressing the SDGs and play our part in taking action for nature, for the environment, for the climate and for future generations..

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The CUSP Team wishes to acknowledge the support received from NUI Galway and the NUI Galway Students' Union through the Student Projects Fund. CUSP was funded from 2016-2019 through the Student Project Fund.



KEY ACTIONS FOR 2019/2020

RESEARCH AND LEARNING

Extend sustainability teaching and learning programmes

Map teaching and research onto the SDGs



ENERGY AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Reduce energy consumption by 40% from baseline



NATURE AND ECOSYSTEMS

Develop and Implement Biodiversity Plan



HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Extend campus wide facilities to cook and reheat food



BUILT ENVIRONMENT - WATER

Reduce Total Water Consumption by 20%



BUILT ENVIRONMENT - WASTE

Increase recycling rate to 60%



BUILT ENVIRONMENT - TRANSPORT

Increase modal share of sustainable transport to 72%



GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

Embed sustainability into the University Strategic Plan 2020-2025

Participate in the New Times Higher Societal Impact Ranking
Renew Green Flag

