

ENLIGHT Sustainability Staff Week

Programme Overview

We are delighted to welcome you to the University of Galway for the ENLIGHT Sustainability Staff Week, taking place from 17–19 June 2026. This three-day programme brings together colleagues from across the ENLIGHT Alliance to explore how sustainability is embedded in practice across our universities and communities. Through a combination of campus-based activities, place-based learning, and collaborative workshops, the week is designed to support shared learning, strengthen partnerships, and inspire collective action. Participants will engage with sustainability in action on campus, experience the unique living landscape of the Burren, and contribute to interactive sessions focused on strategy, collaboration, and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). The following pages outline the full programme, including session details, locations, and key activities across the three days.



Day 1 Sustainability at the University of Galway – Practice and Impact

Location: Michael D. Higgins Auditorium, Quadrangle, University of Galway

Morning Session: Strategy & Practice

09:00 – Registration, Tea/Coffee and Networking

Event opening and overview of the day's programme – *Michelle O Dowd Lohan*

09:30 – Welcome & launch of the University of Galway Sustainability Strategy 2026-2030

- *Professor Becky Whay, Deputy President and Registrar*
- *Dr Richard Manton, Director of Sustainability*
- *Dr Iain MacLaren, Director of the Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching*
- *Pamela Devins, Head of ENLIGHT at University of Galway*

09:55 – Exploring the University of Galway Sustainability Strategy and approach

- Introduction to CUSP & Learn-Live-Lead – Michelle O'Dowd Lohan
- Research & Learning – Gesche Kindermann
- Nature & Ecosystems – Caitríona Carlin
- Sustainable Living & Wellbeing – Marcus Keane & Bríd Seoige
- Governance & Leadership – Richard Manton

Q&A

- Energy & Transport – Richard Manton
- Exploring our Carbon Footprint – Derek Whelan
- Student and Staff Engagement – Michelle O'Dowd Lohan
- Green Labs – Lorraine Leahy
- Student Leadership – Molly Hickey (Climate Crew)
- Student Leadership – Hugh Gately (Model UN)

Q&A

11:20 – Group Photo and Coffee Break

11:45 – Campus Sustainability Tour

Showcasing sustainability initiatives across campus: Martin Ryan Building, (Romavida Byrne), Herb Garden (Laura O'Connor), Bee study along the Biodiversity Trail (Vicky Henshaw), Green Labs programme within Engineering, (Darragh Mullins), Sustainability Initiatives New Library (Richard Manton)

Lunch

1PM – Lunch served in Moffett's Restaurant, Orben Building

Afternoon Session: Learning, Leadership & Community

14:00 – Embedding Sustainability in Teaching & Leadership

Focused discussion on curricula, pedagogy and academic leadership facilitated by Elizabeth Hurley and Alma Clavin from the Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching

14:45 – Engaging our Campus Communities

- ALIVE Programme & co-created sustainability module – Ann O’ Brien
- Shannon College of Hotel Management – Food and Beverage Department
- Sustainability within Human Resources – Rachel Quinlan

15:15 – Coffee Break

15:30 – Community Partnerships & Impact

- Galway National Park City and Just 3 – Brendan Smith
- Galway County Council & Climate Action Fund – Denise Feeney
- IRUSE & ENLIGHT Research Team – Marcus Keane, Paulo Lissa, Dayanne Peretti

16.30 – Session Close and reflections on Day 1 – Richard Manton



Day 2 Place-Based Sustainability – Learning in the Living Landscape

Location: Burren Region, Co. Clare

Field Trip & Experiential Learning

08:00 – Bus departs from the Quadrangle, University of Galway

- Guided field trip exploring biodiversity, landscapes and sustainable land management *(Led by Gesche Kindermann and Caitríona Carlin)*
- Visit to Burren College / Carron region *(weather dependent)*
- Interactive sessions with local stakeholders and experts
- Discussion: Regional sustainability and its integration with higher education missions
- Reflective walk and shared learning

Please dress comfortably and wear sturdy footwear, as the day will involve walking across uneven and potentially rough terrain.

Evening Programme

19:00 – Networking Dinner

Location: Mc Neills Gastro Pub, Hardiman, Galway City, Postcode H91 NFD2



Day 3 Co-designing the Future – Strategy and Collaboration

Location: Michael D. Higgins Auditorium/ Hynes Boardroom

Morning Session: Parallel Breakouts

09:30 – Introduction to Parallel Sessions (*Michael D Higgins Auditorium*)

Strategic Collaboration for the ENLIGHT Green Network (*Hynes Boardroom-Led by Marco Lange*)

An opportunity for members of the ENLIGHT Green Network to meet, connect and discuss current sustainability activities across the network. This session will provide space for collaboration, knowledge sharing and discussion on future opportunities for joint initiatives and engagement.

Education for Sustainable Development Workshop (*Michael D Higgins Auditorium - Led by Elizabeth Hurley & Alma Clavin, Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching*)

- Designed for academic staff and curriculum leads
- Dialogue on embedding sustainability in teaching and learning
- Collaborative exploration of resources, case studies and pedagogical approaches

11:00 – Coffee Break (*Michael D. Higgins Auditorium*)

Late Morning: Shared Learning (*Michael D. Higgins Auditorium*)

11:15 – Sharing Good Practice Across ENLIGHT Institutions

Each ENLIGHT partner university will showcase its key sustainability initiatives, with time for shared discussion and questions afterwards.

Closing Session (*Richard Manton*)

13:00 – Lunch & Close

Campus Map

Here you will find a [Searchable Campus Map](#) that shows classrooms, restaurants and facilities on campus

University of Galway Address: University of Galway, Newcastle Rd, Galway, H91 YR71

