

University of Galway's Green Committee Green Charter

The University Sustainability Strategy details the overarching sustainability objectives of the campus going forward.

Our Green Campus committee is committed to:

- Embed sustainability principles and practices into all programme delivery at all levels of research, learning, events and operations.
- Facilitate collaborations to pilot and launch awareness of sustainability challenges and pathways to overcome them.
- Incorporate sustainability education and training into staff learning and development and provide information on the importance of creating a more sustainable future.
- Promote a sustainability culture within the University that is student lead, research informed and practice focused.
- Engage with local, national and international groups and stakeholders to contribute to more sustainable communities.
- Continue to recruit new students to be involved in the Green Campus.
- Ensuring continuous improvement for sustainability in all activities across the campus.

The Green Campus' focus for 2022 - 2025 includes:

Energy

- We will continue to comply with legal requirements by improving energy efficiency from 33% in 2020 to 50% by 2030
- Maintain our ISO50001:2018 Energy Management Standard Certification
- Increase on-site renewable energy generation by continuing to invest in projects
- Increase engagement in energy awareness campaigns

Water

- Reduce total water consumption by 10% by 2025 (baseline year 2019)
- Eliminate the reliance of staff, students and visitors on single use plastics for water consumption
- Utilise new technologies and methods to reduce water consumption in our Laboratory's and Research labs.
- Deliver on targets set out in the Water Stewardship Charter

Waste

- Increase recycling rate from 52% in 2019 to 55% by 2025
- Continue to work with catering contractors to achieve 50% reduction in food waste by 2025
- Reduce single-use laboratory plastics and promote the use of green alternatives
- Ban specific single-use plastic in line with Single Use Plastics Directive

Travel

- Travel Survey and analysis to be carried out in 2022
- NUI Galway Travel plan to be launched in 2022
- Hybrid Working from Home Policy to be published in 2022
- Promote physical activity through running campaigns such as pedometer and cycle challenges, fun runs, bike maintenance classes etc.

Biodiversity

- Biodiversity Action Plan 2021 – 2025 to be implemented and monitored
- "Leave no Trace" ethos in engagement with biodiversity across campus
- Embed outdoor teaching within the learning experience of our students, staff and wider community
- Continue the rollout of sustainable outdoor seating across the campus
- Actively conserve and enhance campus biodiversity

We are developing a participatory approach among the entire campus community which focuses on all of the themes mentioned above.

The Green Campus team are working to bring about behavioral change through rolling out a number of initiatives across the campus and in the wider community e.g. "One Good Idea", "Switch it Off", "Bin the Bin", Reusable Cups Discounts, WEEE recycling days, etc. It is by getting people to change their behaviour and instilling good practices that we will start to see how little changes in the way we do things can make a big difference. University of Galway's Green Campus consists of volunteer staff and students and is open to all to join and participate to whatever degree they wish. New members are always welcome and our contact details are:

Email: greencampus@universityofgalway.ie

Website: <http://www.universityofgalway.ie/sustainability/>

Twitter: [@GreenCampusUG](https://twitter.com/GreenCampusUG) / Twitter

