

UL GREEN CHARTER

UL is proud to be considered a Green Campus and continually strives to become more sustainable. This Green Charter sets out UL's sustainability commitments and provides guidance to staff, students and visitors alike on how to make UL an even greener campus.

LITTER AND WASTE

UL is committed to embracing the Waste Framework Directive and continually making improvements to its waste management processes and infrastructure.

UL endeavours to:

- improve its waste management processes by:
 - Liaising with its stakeholders e.g. food outlet management, grounds staff, ITD, waste contractor etc.
 - Using data to help drive decision making
 - Rolling out colour coded waste segregation facilities
- Avoid waste by:
 - Raising awareness of single use plastics especially water bottles and installing water refill stations in high demand spaces.
 - Encouraging use of reusable mugs
 - Providing free use of fleet bikes
- Minimise waste by:
 - Use food digesters in largest food outlets to reduce food waste volume by 85%
 - Roll out of polluter pays principle to food outlets
 - Paperless meetings
 - End of semester donations of blankets and bedclothes left behind in student accommodation to SU student hardship fund
- Reuse waste by:
 - Use of mulch deck mowers to mow grass (grass is mulched and not picked up)
 - Mulch pruned trees and use mulch at base of trees
- Recycle waste by:
 - Devising a waste management process to segregate at source and route to the appropriate external bin
 - Installing infrastructure required to segregate at source
 - Placing litter in the correct waste bins
 - Hosting WEEE collection events
- Ensure waste disposed is recycled / used for energy recovery as appropriate by:
 - Inspecting waste facilities used by waste contractor and establishing final destination for waste

BIODIVERSITY

- Contribute to maintaining/ increasing Ireland's pollinator population by:
 - Maintaining, protecting and sustaining the UL apiary – currently home to 60,000 bees
 - Using UL's apiary as a demonstration and learning hub for trainee beekeepers and bee enthusiasts
 - Donating surplus bees as starter 'nucs' for new beehives off site
 - Protecting bee swarms where necessary by capturing and rehousing
 - Preserving/protecting known solitary bee habitats
 - Installation of unmanaged bee boxes
 - Manage meadows in line with best pollinator practice to encourage increased wildflower biodiversity
 - Maintain hedgerows in line with best practice and not allowing cutting during bird nesting season
 - Ensuring continuity of the UL roof garden
- Maintaining/increasing tree population and bird conservation by:
 - Planting new native trees and involving staff and students in the process where possible
 - Conducting regular tree surveys and taking action where necessary
 - Maintaining installations such as the UL orchard and UL alumni copse
 - Moving and replanting trees that fall within the footprint of new buildings
 - Leaving fallen trees in situ where possible
 - Installing bird boxes
- Protecting existing biodiversity
 - Limiting use of pesticides
 - Continuous monitoring of nutrition requirements of natural playing surfaces by taking soil samples and tissue analysis thereby limiting use of fertilizers
 - Dramatically reducing herbicide usage through:
 - Use of road sweeper on footpaths and road edges to remove weeds
 - Manually edging the lawn where it meets hard surfaces e.g. kerb or footpath
 - Use of bark mulch around trees and hedges (where necessary)
 - Use of Nomix system (targeted spraying reduces volume required by 95%) – primarily used for invasive species containment
 - Undertaking annual UL riverbank clean ups
 - Avoiding littering

TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT

- Continuing with promotions to maintain the trend of a modal shift, among staff and students, towards sustainable forms of travel such as walking, cycling, car-sharing and taking public transport.
- Developing a smarter travel culture on campus.
- Actively engaging with the campus community regarding their travel patterns.
- Continuing to organise challenges, incentives and promotions to encourage alternatives to single-occupancy driving.
- Maintain the role of a smarter travel coordinator to dedicate time to a full range of promotions
- Continuing to actively integrate travel and transport into the curriculum

ENERGY

- Strive to meet binding 2020 energy targets through a blend of energy efficiency upgrades, operational improvements and energy behaviour change.
- Participate in the the optimising power at work energy behaviour change campaign (due to commence in 2019 and run in conjunction with the OPW). This will include:
 - Raising awareness through lectures, workshops, presentations and promotional material
 - Setting up a 'Green Team' which will include an energy officer per building or cluster of buildings.
 - Setting targets
 - Providing feedback
- Continue to raise awareness of Green Campus in general and energy conservation in particular through integration into the curriculum via guest lectures /student projects.
- Switch off lights when not in use particularly in offices, stores, classrooms and large spaces
- Power down equipment when not in use e.g. computers, printers, scanners
- Use stairs instead of elevators

GREEN ICT

- Use the 'For Sale or Wanted' mailing list to donate/seek out unwanted IT equipment.
- When purchasing IT equipment take energy efficiency, hazardous substances, lifetime and end-of-life management into account.
- Dispose of WEEE waste responsibly
- Turn off monitors at break and lunch time
- Use stand-by mode and power saving functions on office equipment e.g. PCs, printers and photocopiers

Green Campus contacts:

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