

ITEM NO. 11

[FSS.2015-2016.65]

Maynooth Green Campus:

May 2016, Report to Faculty

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Climate Justice

MU – first on Divestment

Maynooth University is the first university in Ireland to take a position on not investing in fossil fuels. In a statement for Trócaire’s divestment campaign launch event, it stated: "Maynooth University has no funds invested in fossil fuel industries. It is also the first university in Ireland to publicly commit to fossil-free investment policy in the future, and is committed more generally to proactively developing and being guided by ethical investment principles that are protective of the environment and society."

“The Burning Question”

Trócaire launched the new campaign on divestment in Busswell’s Hotel on 21st April.

<http://www.trocaire.org/getinvolved/climate-justice/burning-question>

Transit of Mercury: joining the dots

On 9 May, between 1pm and 4pm, Maynooth Green Campus teams up with the Physics Department for a safe viewing of the transit of Mercury between the Earth and the Sun. We will be using special viewers and telescopes, on the rooftop of the John Hume Building to witness this rare event.

Weather permitting, we hope for a unique shared experience, as when we witnessed the solar eclipse last year. Lest we forget, mercury of another kind is rising in thermometers across our own planet at an alarming rate – it's time to join the dots and act!

Biodiversity:

Kildare Biodiversity Week

Maynooth University Biology Department, with Maynooth Tidy Towns, will be leading out on 25th May as part of Kildare's input to [National Biodiversity Week](#). Our events will begin in the Library at 10am. Dr Jane Stout (TCD) will speak on the national pollinator plan. Dr Conor Meade will speak about Biodiversity in the Midlands. The morning session finishes with a campus biodiversity talk and walk led by Stephen Seaman, Grounds Department. Lunch follows and Dr. Jim Carolan, Department of Biology, will give a talk on bees and pollination, followed by a campus bee identification walk.

Wed 25th May - Going wild in Maynooth University- Programme

Maynooth University in conjunction with Maynooth Tidy Towns will host a Biodiversity day.

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| 10.00-10.30 | Tea/Coffee Introduction/Meet and Greet The MU Green Campus Initiative |
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| 10.30 11.10 | Dr Jane Stout (TCD) Natural Capital, Biodiversity and the AIPP |
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| 11.10-11.30 | Dr Conor Meade (MU) Biodiversity-A Midlands Perspective |
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| 11.30-12.00 | Presentations from Maynooth Tidy Towns |
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| 12.00-13.00 | Walk and Talk Campus Tour emphasizing Biodiversity measures (Stephen Seamen-Head Groundsperson MU) |
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| 13.00-14.00 | Lunch |
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| 14.00-16.00 | Campus Bee Walk and Talk -Bee Catching and Identification on the "fly" (Dr Jim Carolan) |

Kildare County Council also has a [biodiversity plan](#). There will be a number of other events during the week in Maynooth.

Bumblebees

Further to our report on bumblebee nests on campus related to doctoral research in the Department of Biology, we are happy to report that Maynooth campus will be a partner in the national pollinator plan.

Travel and Transport: Bicycles

A date in May to be confirmed there will be a bike clinic for all staff will take place. There is a free health-check and discounts on repairs needed.

Waste:

Recycling of mattresses

Every year, in the Dublin area alone, approximately 100,000 mattresses are disposed of – mostly into landfill. This is the worst possible way to dispose of them. In Maynooth University, every summer many mattresses are disposed of in the end of year cleaning operation, particularly in the student apartments. We are delighted to say that for the past couple of years, Niamh Banks, Residences Supervisor, has arranged for the mattresses to be recycled through a Dublin-based social economy organisation called [Eco Mattresses Recycling](#). There, 99% of mattress materials are recycled. For more information, check out [Eco Eye](#) (21 minutes in). Well done Niamh and all concerned!

Spring Clean

This year we participated once again in An Taisce's annual spring clean. We would like to express our thanks to all the students and staff who participated.

WEEE

Thanks to departments for participation in the Electrical and electronic waste collection organised last month.

Paper and printing survey

We are still keen to have reports from departments with information on paper usage and printing practices. A number of departments have responded and we encourage others to do likewise.

Master Plan

We engaged with the consultations on the master plan and helped to ensure that sustainability issues were put in a central place. We would like to see biodiversity planning integrated into the plan. We have also raised proposals to examine alternative energy sources and water resources that might be developed on campus.