Maynooth Green Campus

November 2018 report to Faculties

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## Energy AUDIT under ISO50001

We are very pleased to confirm that, under out ISO50001 energy management system, the campus has received a very positive first audit following and surveillance report under the scheme, and site visit on 7 November 2018. Th ISO standard covers both MU and SPCM. The audit was conducted by Lucideon, report number:​TW 20181107. During the assessment no nonconformities were raised, a recommendation for continued certification has been made, and the audit plan was completed without any problems. Ciaran Coffey – Energy Manager / Building Services Engineer, who also leads out green campus energy working group, deserves great credit for this.

Achieving the standard continues to depend on the collective impact of practical endeavours made across campus by staff and students. We therefore thank staff and students all for continued efforts and urge you all to keep up the good work to avoid energy waste and to reduce our carbon footprint. We welcome commments from colleagues highlighting examples of good practice and suggestions for improvement.

## Go-Car on campus

We are happy to say that the campus now hosts a car-sharing Go-Car to Maynooth University Campus. Located In a special parking area in the car park opposite the new Education building, it could be a great addition to the campus if there is reasonable take up. It means that staff who are required to take short occasional journeys do not have to bring their own car to work to undertake those journeys. For example a colleague recently visited Dunboyne College, which is relatively close but without public transport direct access. With Go-Car he booked the car (using the GoCar app) for €8 per hour (covering tax, insurance and fuel). There is also a Go-Car at the train station. This looks like a great solution, reducing costs, hassle and environmental impact. Thanks to Liz Dunne, Michael Rafter and Lar Byrne for this, and to Michael Kenny, Adult and Community Education, of our Green Campus Travel and transport working group for promoting it. We will be looking at the possibility of the University taking out a corporate contract whereby any staff person can book Go-Car for University use but will not have to pay out personally as it will go directly as part of the university expenses. Many companies do this in Dublin. It encourages use rather than using private cars.

## Lecture by Peadar Kirby on Climate transition

Prof Emeritus Peadar Kirby (UL): seminar *on Ireland and the Low Carbon Transition: Changing Development Pathways*, MUSSI Seminar Room, 2nd Floor IONTAS, Tuesday 20th November 2018 4pm-5.30pm. A lively and wide ranging cross-disciplinary conversation engaged with the failures so far to take the issues of climate change seriously in Ireland, as well as looking at issues of broader scope including the backward steps under Trump, and the linkages between climate change and social justice. Reference was made not only to Peadar’s recent book but also the very significant contribution by Ian Gough entitled Heat, Greed and Human Need (Edward Elgar), and a new book by Dr. Lorna Gold of Trócaire, *Climate Generation* (Veritas).

## Maynooth University Environmental Society (MUES)

The society has been busy during 'European Week for Waste Reduction', (19-23 November 2018):

* Monday 19 Nov: ***promotion of the Climate Case online Petition*** The message to Government is: “Climate change is a threat to all of us, yet the Irish Government’s climate policy is weak and unambitious. Ireland’s carbon emissions are among the highest per capita in the EU and they continue to rise. We’re taking the Government to court to demand more climate action. We need your support to show the Government that this case is for all of us.” ***See petition online at climatecaseireland.ie***
* Tuesday: Zero Waste: the *5 Rs* concept with Green Outlook: 10.30-1pm Arts Block
* Wednesday: Climate: Live stream of IPCC report @ 10:30 am in SU meeting room 3/4
* Thursday: Fashion: Film Screening "The True Cost" with NU wardrobe + Q&A in CB9 @6.30
* Friday 23 Nov: Black Friday - "The shop nothing Day"

Thanks to Mireia Guardino-Ferran, Chairperson, MU EnviroSoc and MSU Green Campus Senator and to the MUES team for their energetic work. Mireia is a 3rd Year BA Int. Development & Geography.

## Pugin Hall developments

## Meatless Monday Menu option

## Pugin now offers a €4.00 special as a ‘meatless’ option every Monday in response to the meatless Monday campaign by MUES. This is in addition to the existing menu.

## Purezza water system

## We welcome the introduction of the new "Purezza" water filter system in Pugin, using returnable glass bottles, for conferences and events, to replace plastic bottles. It is a sustainable choice providing still and sparking water. The water comes in an attractive 70cl bottle, which looks great at any conference table, and at only €1 a bottle (on return of the bottle itself), it is also good value.

## Compostable dinner boxes

## Pugin are they are introducing compostable take-way dinner boxes. They are currently working with suppliers for suitable containers. As yet, available boxes are only suitable for "dry" foods, but the team are looking into solutions to stop wet dishes like curry from leaking through.

## 'Eco-Hour'

A new brown bag initiative called 'Eco-Hour' has met for the first time on Wednesday, 21st November. It will discuss and analyse concepts, ideas, articles, books, films and documentaries that deal with ecological and environmental concerns.

* At the first Eco Hour, Eoin Flaherty discussed “Ecological Resilience”, Wednesday, 21st November, 2018, 13.00 – 14.00.
* The second Eco hour will be a presentation by Patrick Bresnihan, TCD, on Natural Capital, Wednesday 5th December 13.00 – 14.00 Venue: Department of Sociology, Resource room Auxilia,

**Contact Eoin Flaherty -** **eoin.flaherty@mu.ie**. ALL WELCOME

## An Taisce Network meeting 2019

Are you interested in participating? The next annual green campus network meeting will take place on 7 February 2019. In the Radisson Blu Hotel, Golden Lane, Dublin 8. The schedule will include a presentation on the work done to win the green Flag on Maynooth campus, setting out its approach to promoting best practice and raising social justice issues related to climate change. There are a few free places at the event, which provides opportunities to learn about what is happening elsewhere on third level campuses. There may be some free places for new participants. Please let us know of your interest at greencampus@mu.ie. The day opens with a welcome and updates from Michael John O'Mahony, An Taisce environmental education unit director, and from Deirdre O’Carroll, An Taisce Green Campus Manager.

## Think before you flush campaign

An Taisce’s Clean Coasts section run a *Think Before You Flush (TBYF)* campaign in several communities around the country. Now in its 3rd year, the simple message is not to throw anything other than toilet paper down the toilet to prevent unnecessary sewage related waste making its way in to rivers, lakes, seas and the ocean. They are keen to work with third level colleges too and they can provide resources on their TBYF campaign. Maynooth town in involved in this campaign and the campus can get involved with it at the following address: tbyf@eee.antaisce.org

## Climate Justice

Lorna Gold’s new book Climate Generation, was launched in the Maynooth bookshop on 27th October by Oisin Coughlin, friends of the Earth. The event was covered by the Liffey Champion.

The book is written from the perspective of a climate campaigner and parent. Lorna works for Trócaire and also teaches a module in climate justice and social policy as part of the Bachelor of Social Science degree.

## Social Justice Week 2019

The climate justice WG will contribute once again to Social Justice Week, scheduled for 4-8 March 2019. We have been represented on the Social Justice Week over several years and look forward to linking up this year with colleagues and students once again.

Social Justice Week will have a special focus on asylum seekers and migration. The committee for the annual week will convent early in November. You can contact Joe.Larragy@mu.ie if planning an event.

Green campus committee changes

Welcome to Dr Susan Giblin (Critical Skills), who has joined the working group and will contribute on the communications work.

Best wishes to Breeda Gibney, who recently retired. We look forward to continuing to work with her, post retirement.

Dorena Bishop, secretary, is currently undertaking a training course related to her work on Green Campus.

We invite new members to join the committee, and particularly staff or students with communication and social media skills.

## Biodiversity, on the grounds

The wildflower meadows suffered from the long summer drought – hence their burned and slightly bedraggled appearance of the meadows near Callan and the student residences in the autumn. However, grounds staff needed to hold on the mowing until late October, at the optimal time for seed dispersion.

The meadows are partly exploratory, and are studied by botanists. They also help with pollination. With the proposed new academic building near Callan, and other proposed developments, we will be working with Estates to identify new sites for wildflower meadows. While some of these will be planted, it is also important to have unplanted meadows.

## Maynooth Tidy Town and Biodiversity

The [2018 Adjudication Report on Maynooth](https://www.tidytowns.ie/u_reports/2018/kildare/2018-County-Kildare-Maynooth-377.pdf) Tidy Town Committee referred to Maynooth’s diverse natural environment, “consisting of agricultural land, native hedgerows, trees, woodlands, canals, lakes, wetlands, rivers and streams. Due to the many housing schemes currently under construction there is significant loss of natural habitat on lands bordering the town.” Noting that “there is an understanding and appreciation of this” by the Committee, they encouraged continued efforts to highlight, conserve and protect as many of these natural areas as possible.” They also noted that “this important natural vegetation, including bramble and scrub which at times can be regarded as unsightly and thus removed, is actually extremely important for its wildlife value” They praised range and quality of several Biodiversity Projects undertaken by MTT in 2018.

## Zero Waste Maynooth

Zero Waste Maynooth group was recently set up. It advocates eliminating waste to landfill or incineration. Maynooth Tidy Towns work with Zero Waste on sustainability. Contact, FB: <https://www.facebook.com/zerowastemaynooth/>

## Sustainability

The Report on Maynooth Tidy Town committee also acknowledged the work undertaken on Maynooth campus to promote electric cars via charge points and by investing in electric utility vehicles. Waste:

### ReUse Food Waste event

Kildare Co.co. hosted a ReUse Food Waste talk and demonstration in Maynooth Library on Tuesday November 20 at 19.00 to 20.00 PM as part of European Week for Waste Reduction. The session provided practical advice for eliminating food waste in everyday life. The event was co-ordinated by Georgina Kemmy, Guardian of the Land in Kildoon <https://m.facebook.com/kildoonwoods/> and Deirdre Lane Founder of ShamrockSpring <https://twitter.com/ShamrockSpring>