



A defining characteristic of the *UCD Strategic Plan to 2014* is to build on excellence in teaching and research, and to place greater emphasis on the impact that these activities have on the economic, environmental, social and political life of the nation. University College Dublin actively promotes the collective engagement of the University community in sustainable academic, development and operational practice through strategic planning, communication, shared learning, and programme delivery. UCD recognises that sustainability represents a positive long-term commitment to both current and future generations. The vision of a sustainable healthy and living campus is a central theme of the *UCD Campus Development Plan 2005-2010-2015*.

Sustainability Policy

The University will strive to enhance the environment in which it operates by balanced consideration of environmental, health, social, economic as well as academic drivers in decision-making processes. In its pursuit of academic excellence, the University recognises that sustainability is an implicit aspect of that aim, which requires a positive and proactive role to communicate the need to develop and implement sustainable practices both within the University and the wider community. The University is committed to implementing the Sustainability Policy through the following:

- Continued integration of the principles of a sustainable and healthy living campus into teaching, training, research, innovation, administration and operations, and by fostering a culture of open-participation, shared responsibility and efficient use of resources.
- Implementation of the Campus Masterplan which supports the provision of new major buildings, enhances land utilisation and envisages the sustainable redevelopment of existing major buildings.
- Commitment to the principles of environmental protection and sustainable development in the design, construction, redevelopment and operation of campus buildings and facilities. Undertake to meet or exceed applicable legislation and regulation requirements for educational institutions in the context of sustainability.
- Endeavouring to reduce its carbon footprint through the promotion of renewable energies and energy efficient technologies; UCD has already put in place initiatives aimed at reducing dependency on primary fossil fuels, in line with the *National Climate Change Strategy* and *EU Directives*. There is an increased emphasis on low energy design based on passive solar gain, heat recovery, maximum use of day-lighting, natural ventilation and environmentally sensitive materials for the development of both new and existing facilities. Development of management strategies for water and waste.
- Continued implementation of the Campus Commuting Framework to develop sustainable transport infrastructure including pedestrian and cyclist directed amenities, multi-storey commuting facilities, and the longer term development of Bus Rapid Transport Systems and other mass transportation initiatives.
- Seeking to undertake and promote strategic procurement processes which carefully consider full life cycle costs, value for money, reduced paper and packaging requirements, and other related social and environment impacts.

- Communication and promotion of the Sustainability Policy and the benefits of sustainable practices to staff, students, visitors and the wider community through general education and communication activities.
- Establishment of measurable sustainability goals and monitoring, evaluation and highlighting the environmental performance of University buildings and activities.

The vision of creating a Sustainable Healthy and Living Campus is expressed in the following documents:

- *UCD Strategic Plan to 2014*
- *UCD Campus Development Plan 2005-2010-2015*
- *UCD Commuting Framework 2009-2012-2015*
- *UCD Energy Strategy 2008 -2012*
- *UCD Landscape Framework 2010-2015-2020*