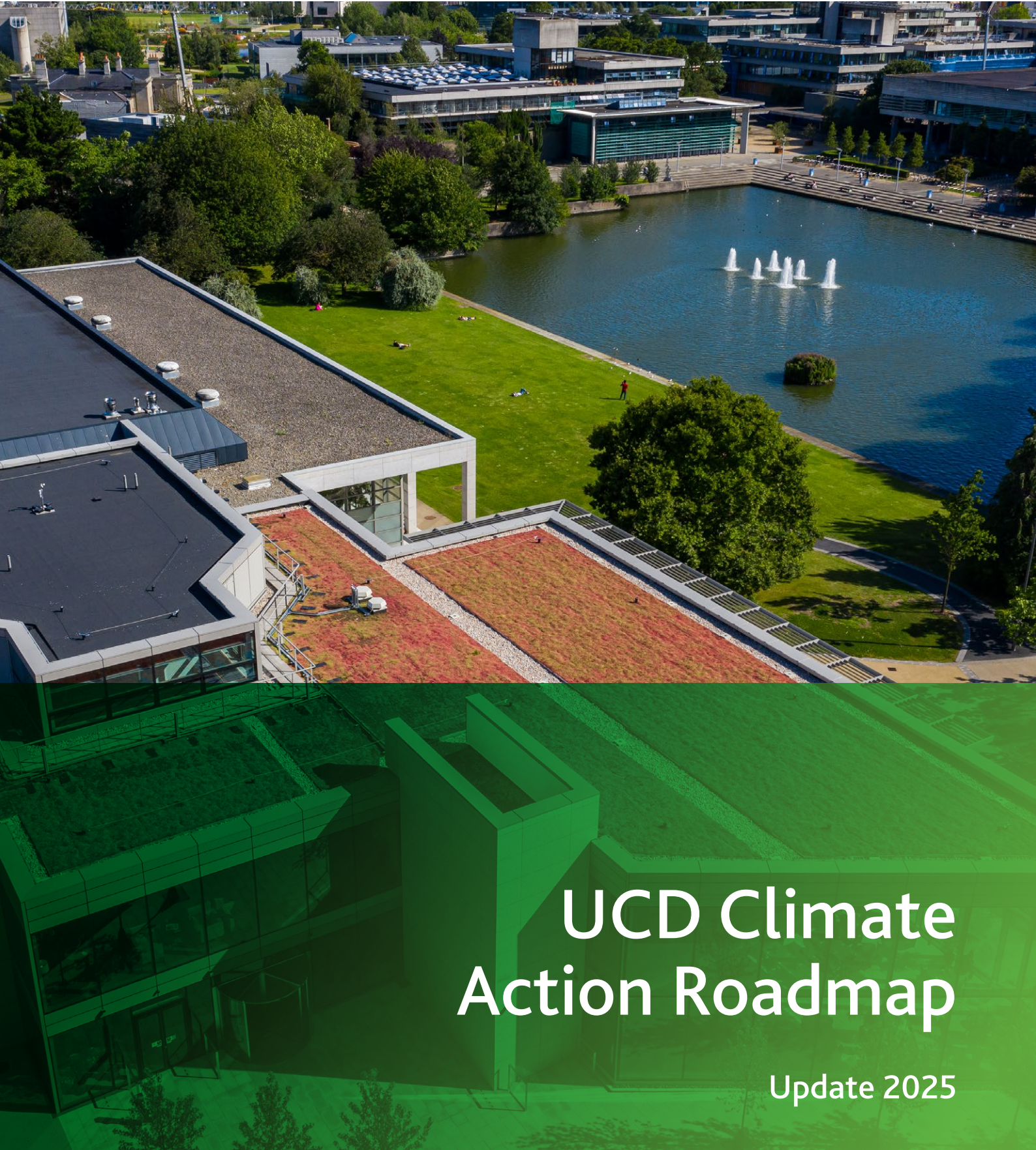




An Coláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath
University College Dublin



UCD Climate Action Roadmap

Update 2025

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President's Foreword

Climate action and sustainability pose an extremely complex and pressing challenge, requiring urgent action at local, national and global scales. Under UCD's Breaking Boundaries strategy to 2030, our university is committed to being a thought and action leader for sustainability and by 2030 we will be on a trajectory to achieve net zero by 2040. For the past two years, UCD has been ranked in the top 50 worldwide and number one in Ireland in the QS World University Rankings for Sustainability and we have been an SDG Champion in 2024-25.

It is my pleasure to present below UCD's Climate Action Roadmap update 2025. It outlines a set of important commitments by the university to meet the requirements specified in the updated Public Sector Climate Action Mandate 2024 and is structured accordingly.

Since last year's update, further progress has been made in meeting our core carbon and energy efficiency targets and a list of potential projects to close the gap to target is provided below. Progress, achievements and commitments are also laid out in relation to our ways of working, our people and our buildings and vehicles.

Nevertheless, it is important to note that this document does not represent the full scope of UCD's ambition and action in relation to climate and sustainability. Since last year's Climate Action Roadmap update, we have launched the **UCD Sustainability Plan to 2030**, which includes our mission and vision for sustainability, together with objectives and a listing of enablers and actions to achieve them.

UCD Sustainability is now well established as the group to carry forward this agenda under the leadership of UCD's Vice President for Sustainability, Professor Tasman Crowe. The UCD Sustainability Unit is expanding and has an increasing emphasis on student involvement and empowerment; the Sustainability Core Working Groups are developing robust recommendations for targeted action through their diverse membership and wide engagement and affiliated groups such as Smarter Travel, Healthy UCD, the UCD Sustainable Research Initiative and the UCD Sustainable Energy Community continue to contribute to our compliance with the Climate Action Mandate and our wider sustainability mission.

Further information is available on www.ucd.ie/sustainability, which also includes links to the unique UCD Sustainability Dashboard which maps infrastructure and initiatives for

sustainability on the campus and to the UCD Sustainability Toolkit developed by students to inform and promote climate action.

A sustainability seed funding programme has been helping to support action by UCD staff, students and external partners to help UCD fulfil its potential as a living lab for workable sustainability solutions. Some of this work was showcased in September 2025 among the 40 events run for UCD's SDG Week, which featured opening remarks by Jeffrey Sachs, the founder of the UN's Sustainable Development Solutions Network, and demonstrated the inspirational degree of commitment to sustainability by the UCD community and its collaborators.

I hope that this report and these additional resources provide useful information around UCD's commitment to sustainability and climate action, which are among the great challenges of our time.



Professor Orla Feely
President



1. Our Targets

1.1 Reduce energy related GHG emissions by 51% in 2030

Baseline and CO₂ Gap

UCD's total energy related carbon emissions baseline, the average of 2016-2018 emissions, is 25,667 tonnes CO₂ (Figure 1.1). This combines purchased electricity and direct (thermal) emissions. Given that decarbonisation of grid electricity is being addressed at a national level, the primary focus of UCD's decarbonisation is on direct thermal emissions. UCD's target for reduction of direct thermal emissions is 5,358 tonnes of CO₂ which represents a 51% reduction from the baseline of 10,934 tonnes of thermal CO₂ in 2016-2018.

Closing the CO₂ Gap

Total CO₂ emissions in 2024 were 31.2% lower than baseline. The CO₂ gap remaining is 9,080 tonnes. This gap will be closed through a combination of grid related improvements and also actions by UCD. The most up to date data indicates that the gap to be closed through actions required on campus is approximately 3,600 tonnes of CO₂.

Multiple energy efficiency and decarbonisation measures have been modelled into the SEAI Gap to Target Tool. This allows achievable pathways to

meeting the 2030 targets to be identified and actioned (subject to finance and planning).

The analysis also includes the projected increase in CO₂ emissions relating to new buildings that will be constructed during the period up to 2030. One such pathway result is illustrated below (Figure 1.2). The corresponding project list is also included below (Table 1.1).

Meeting these targets requires long term planning and significant additional capital investment, which has been itemised and costed by UCD. The finance stream for completion of these projects has not yet been secured but sectoral requests have been made to the government by the Irish Universities Association.

The key decarbonisation measure is the deployment of high efficiency heat pumps to migrate heating inputs from fossil fuel to electricity, particularly in the largest and most thermally intensive heating applications on campus.

Reduction in use of Combined Heat and Power (CHP) is also a potential CO₂ reduction option as CHP becomes less CO₂ efficient as a result of the projected increase in grid renewables. Building and system efficiency improvements will also be required.

Figure 1.1: Overview of baseline to 2024 total CO₂ performance taken from the SEAI Monitoring & Reporting System

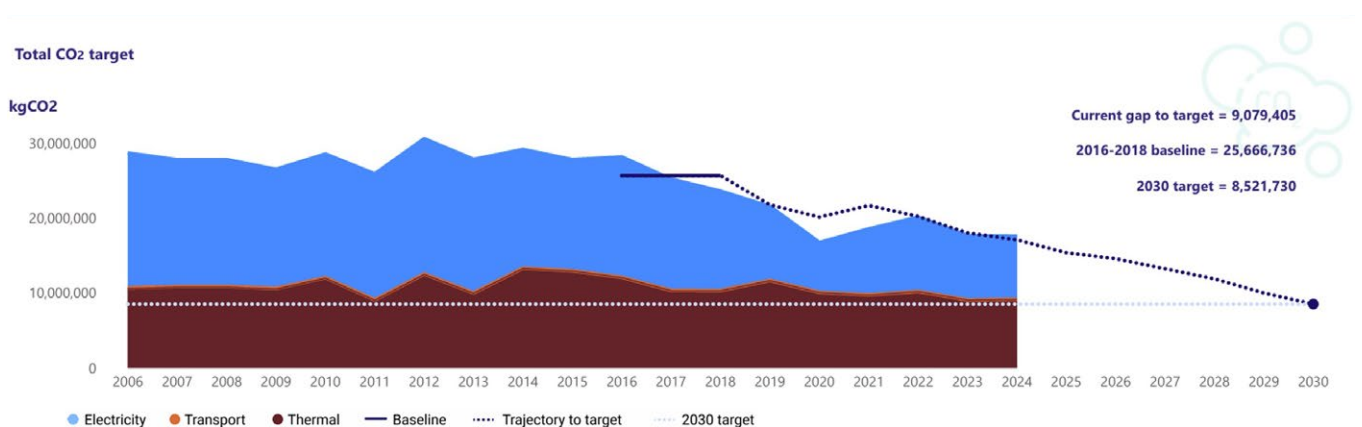


Figure 1.2: Overview of one potential 2030 scenario. This scenario includes planned expansion and CO₂ reduction projects implemented. This information has been extracted from SEAI's Gap to Target spreadsheet.

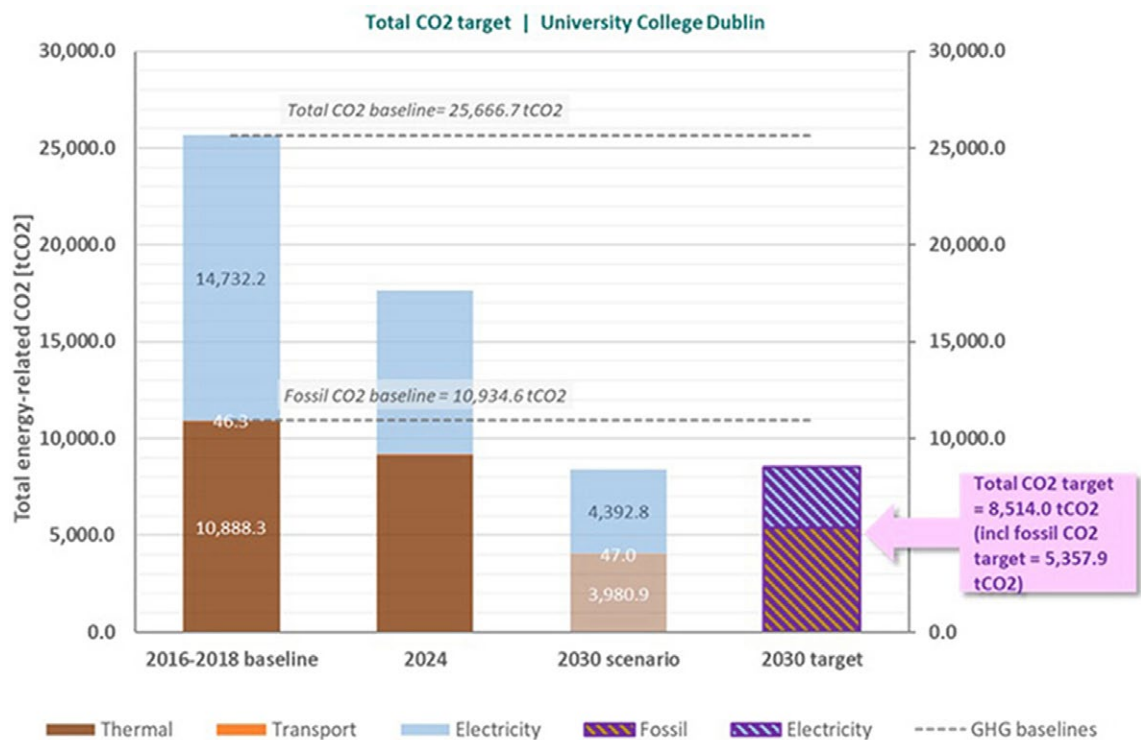


Table 1.1: Project list highlighting potential projects which if implemented would enable UCD meet the 2030 targets

No.	UCD Gap to 2030 target measures – 2025 scenario 1	Potential CO ₂ savings (tonnes) 2030	Project type/ notes	Implementation year	Funding comment	Readiness
Energy efficiency gains from retrofits and other decreases in consumption						
1	Reduce district heating standing losses	140	Optimisation & lagging	2027		
2	Engineering building – connect to district heating for space heating (gas to lower CO ₂ district heating)	170	HVAC – pipework	2027		
Heat – fossil fuel boiler heat pump						
3	Energy centre heat pump (HEA) – increase operation further	120	Hydraulic optimisation	2026		Hot water upgrades underway
4	Blackrock main boiler house – gas boiler to heat pump – bivalent solution	150	Heat pump installation	2027	No project funding identified	Feasibility study completed

Table 1.1: Project list highlighting potential projects which if implemented would enable UCD meet the 2030 targets (continued)

No.	UCD Gap to 2030 target measures – 2025 scenario 1	Potential CO ₂ savings (tonnes) 2030	Project type/ notes	Implementation year	Funding comment	Readiness
5	Conway Institute – gas boiler to heat pump – bivalent solution	120	Heat pump installation	2028	No project funding identified	
6	Vet science – gas boilers to heat pump- bivalent solution	400	Shallow HVAC retrofit	2028	No project funding identified	Feasibility study completed
7	SLLS 50M pool – gas boiler to heat pump(s) inc 4 pipe units and HVAC optimisation	850	Heat pump installation and shallow HVAC retrofit	2028	No project funding identified	Feasibility and outline design planned
8	Roebuck residences – gas boiler to heat pump bivalent solution	180	Heat pump	2028	No project funding identified	
Electricity – grid electricity to 100% renewable						
9	Large solar PV 1000kW e.g. Rosemount/Lyons Farm Estate?	110		2027	No project funding identified	High level feasibility study completed
Operational changes to reduce CO₂ emissions						
10	Reduce CHP operation – reduce gas consumption, increase electricity import, displace heat lost using heat pumps	1,760	CHP operation		Significant Potential increase in OpEx€·TBC.	
Other increases in energy consumption, e.g. new facilities, more activity, expansion						
11	Increased CO ₂ associated with operation of new buildings	-420	Pre construction calculation	2025-2028		
Net CO₂ impact projected by 2030		3,580				

Significant Emitters / Energy Users

UCD engages with appointed specialist energy services providers to analyse consumption on a campus wide and individual building basis and, by extension, significant energy users (SEUs), effectively 'significant emitters', within the University.

UCD's SEUs, which make up the majority of energy consumption on site, have been broken into 6 distinct groups with similar characteristics (Table 1.2). These SEUs are managed in line with our ISO 50001 certified Energy Management System to deliver continual improvement and meet 2030 targets.



Table 1.2: UCD Significant Energy User (SEU) Groups

UCD Significant Energy User (SEU) Groups	
1	Traditional Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioned (HVAC) Buildings
2	Residence Villages
3	Science District Buildings
4	Student Learning, Leisure and Sports Complex (SLLs)
5	Conway Institute
6	Blackrock Campus Buildings

Analysis of our SEUs is extended to teams involved with building operations and teaching and research activities in order to enable operational, technical and behavioural efficiencies, including fault detection and correction, thereby contributing to overall energy efficiencies for the University.

1.2 Achieving the energy efficiency target (50% improvement by 2030)

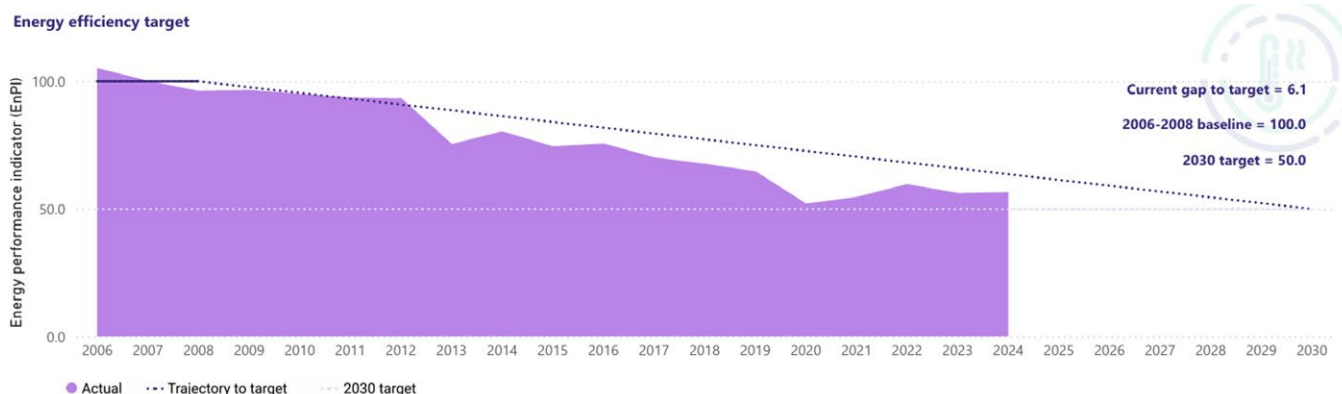
The UCD Total Primary Energy Efficiency baseline is the average of the years 2006-2008. The most recent SEAI score card (2024) shows that since the baseline UCD has already improved energy efficiency per m² by 43.9% towards a 2030 target reduction of 50%. Demonstrating continual energy

efficiency improvement is also a requirement of UCD's ISO 50001 certified Energy Management System. In parallel with the annual SEAI Monitoring and Reporting scorecard report, this metric is tracked carefully with an expectation of meeting the 50% energy efficiency target in advance of meeting the 2030 CO₂ target.

UCD is continually improving its energy efficiency (Figure 1.3). This improvement in efficiency will continue in the coming years and is achieved through:

- improving operations of the university and the ways in which it uses its building stock,
- planned investment in existing buildings to improve their efficiency – for building refurbishments and deep retrofits a minimum

Figure 1.3: Overview of UCD's latest position on the energy efficiency target glide path, chart taken from the SEAI gap to target calculator





target of BER B or better is set which will deliver significant carbon savings as both fabric and plant are upgraded,

- c) designing all new buildings to Near-Zero Energy Building (NZEB) standard with BER A and Energy Efficient Design (EED) techniques incorporated and
- d) establishing further measures to promote individual behavioural change.

1.3 Ensuring UCD's consistency with Section 15(1) of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Act 2021

UCD is committed to annual updates of its Climate Action Roadmap within 6 months of the publication of the Climate Action Plan. The University submitted its first Climate Action Roadmap in March 2023, followed by an update in September 2023 and a subsequent update in June 2024. All are publicly available [here](#).

In November 2024, UCD launched its **Breaking Boundaries Strategy to 2030** and driving sustainability is a cross-cutting theme throughout the strategy. The strategy specifically commits UCD to being a thought and action leader of transformational change for sustainability, and stipulates that this will be evident on our campuses as well as in our education and our research and innovation.

Following this, and drawing on extensive consultation with our community and stakeholders, a detailed

UCD Sustainability Plan was launched in April 2025 with specific objectives, enablers and initiatives to fulfil UCD's ambition to be a leader in knowledge generation, learning and action across the sustainability and climate action agenda, as enshrined in the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It lays out how climate action and sustainability will be carried forward across the breadth of UCD's functions.

As stated in both Breaking Boundaries and our Sustainability Plan, UCD has committed to meeting interim targets by 2030 and being on track for net zero by 2040. The university has officially signed up to the UNFCCC **Race to Zero**, joining over 800 higher education institutions. UCD has developed its 2024 baseline carbon emissions report and will launch a comprehensive net zero action plan by April 2026. This work is guided by a Net Zero Working Group which is composed of UCD staff, faculty and student representatives and draws also on external expertise and best practice.

To support the University's wider sustainability and climate action ambitions, a Responsible Investment Policy has been developed and is in the final stages of approval. This policy will ensure that Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) considerations, such as social justice, ethical conduct and environmental impact, are embedded in UCD's investment processes, alongside more traditional financial considerations.

Summary table: Our targets

2024 requirements	2025 requirements	UCD 2025 response
1.1 Reduce energy related GHG emissions by 51% in 2030.	1.1 Reduce energy related GHG emissions by 51% in 2030.	Total CO2 emissions in 2024 were 31.2% lower than baseline. The most up to date data indicates that the gap to be closed through actions required on campus is approximately 3,600 tonnes of CO2. A list of projects to close the gap to target has been prepared and included in a sectoral request to government for financial support.
1.2 Improve energy efficiency in the public sector by 50% by 2030.	1.2 Improve energy efficiency in the public sector by 50% by 2030.	The most recent SEAI score card (2024) shows that since the baseline UCD has already improved energy efficiency per m² by 43.9% towards a 2030 target reduction of 50%. Energy efficiency is being continually improved through an ongoing process.
1.3 Update Climate Action Roadmaps annually within 6 months of the publication of the Climate Action Plan. Develop Climate Action Roadmaps if none are in place.	1.3 Update Climate Action Roadmaps annually within 6 months of the publication of the Climate Action Plan. Develop Climate Action Roadmaps if none are in place.	UCD is committed to annual updates of its Climate Action Roadmap within 6 months of the publication of the Climate Action Plan. The University submitted its first Climate Action Roadmap in March 2023, followed by an update in September 2023 and a subsequent update in June 2024. All are publicly available here .



2. Our People

2.1 Leadership and governance for climate action

Professor Tasman Crowe is UCD’s Vice-President for Sustainability and acts as UCD’s Climate and Sustainability Champion. Professor Crowe is a member of the University Management Team (UMT) and is responsible for implementing and reporting on the Mandate and delivering on the university’s broader sustainability objectives.

In November 2024, UCD’s **Breaking Boundaries Strategy to 2030** was launched and outlines UCD’s ambition to be a thought and action leader of transformational change for sustainability. The **UCD Sustainability Plan to 2030** was launched in April 2025 and translates those commitments into a mission, a vision and a series of objectives, enablers and actions.

The UCD Sustainability Unit has been established to foster and enable a whole of institution approach to sustainability and is leading the implementation

of UCD’s Sustainability Plan as well the active monitoring and reporting of progress towards UCD’s sustainability objectives.

The UMT Sustainability Group (UMT SUS), a subgroup of the University Management Team (UMT), has been established and acts as UCD’s Green Team. UMT SUS is responsible for advancing sustainability across the University and for making recommendations to the UMT to support this advancement.

To ensure synergy between the University’s broader climate action and the organisation’s strategic energy management, the Vice President for Sustainability and the UCD Sustainability Unit work closely with Tadhg Corcoran, Director of Campus Development, Energy and Sustainability in UCD Estates Services and the wider UCD Estate Services team. Tadhg Corcoran is UCD’s appointed Energy Performance Officer and sits on the UMT Sustainability Group. Tadhg is responsible for leading the development of UCD’s energy management plan and driving the implementation of the actions and projects agreed under this plan.

UMT Sustainability Group Membership – October 2025

Role	Name
Vice-President for Sustainability and Climate and Sustainability Champion (Chair)	Professor Tasman Crowe
Registrar or nominee	Professor Colin Scott
Director of Campus Development, Energy & Sustainability (UCD Estates)	Tadhg Corcoran
Bursar or nominee	Eamonn O’Neill
Chief People Officer or nominee	Tristan Aitken
Chief Technical Officer appointee	Gwyneth MacMaster
Vice-President for Research, Innovation & Impact or nominee	Professor Kate Robson Brown
Vice-President for Strategy and External Engagement or nominee	Triona McCormack
Students' Union President (or nominee)	Michael Roche
Sustainability Unit appointee	Louise Griffin

Full Terms of Reference for UMT SUS are available [here](#).

Four Sustainability Core Working Groups have also been established in key areas and act as integrated drivers of sustainability in UCD (Figure 2.1):

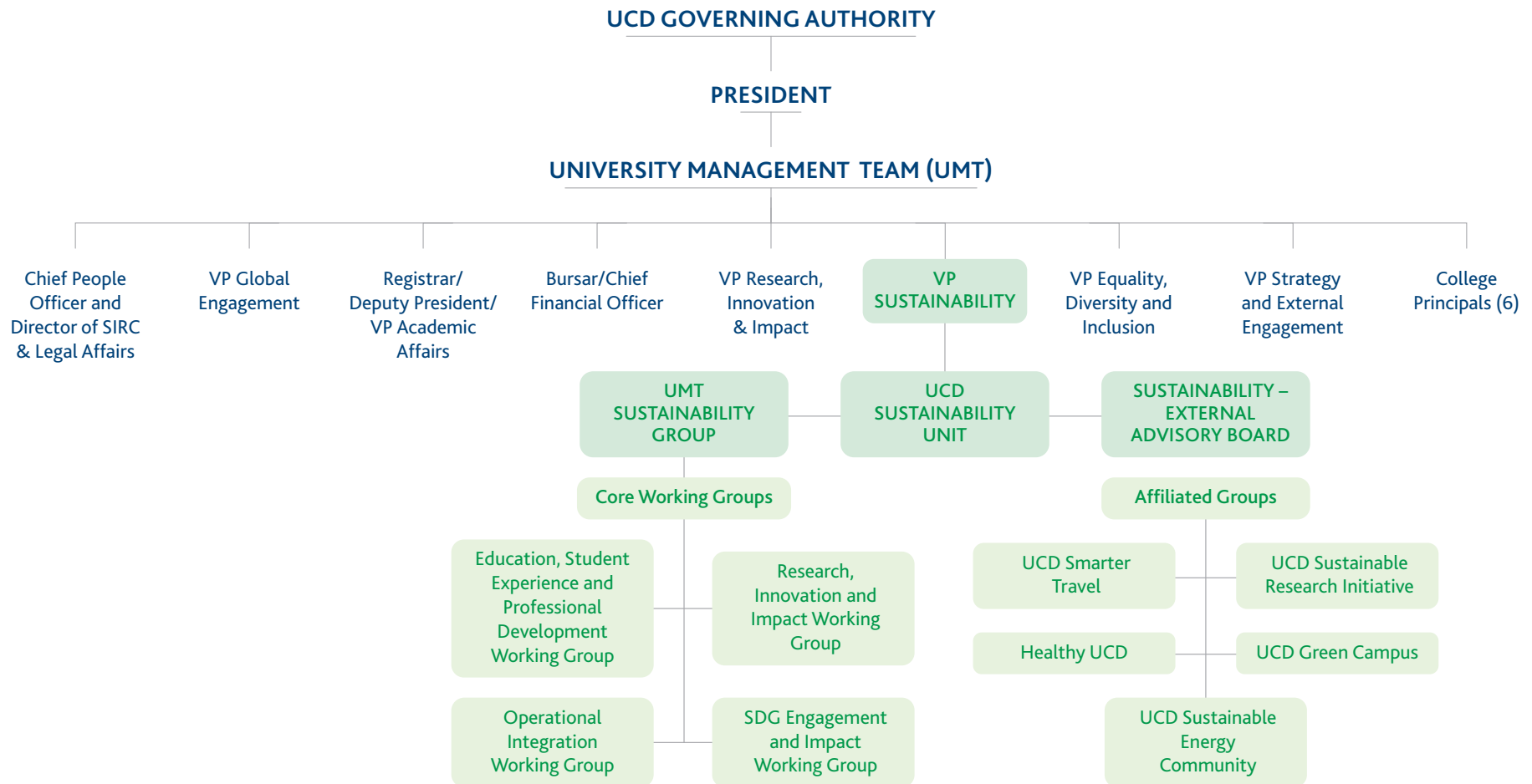
1. Education, student experience and professional development;
2. Research, innovation and impact;
3. Operational integration;
4. SDG engagement and impact.

All four Sustainability Core Working Groups report into UMT SUS and take into account the Mandate requirements when setting out annual work programmes. Learn more about our Sustainability Core Working Groups [here](#).

UCD Sustainability is also committed to working with and supporting a number of established groups including UCD Smarter Travel, Healthy UCD, the UCD Sustainable Research Initiative, the UCD Sustainable Energy Community and UCD Green Campus (Figure 2.1). Learn more about our Affiliated Groups [here](#).



Figure 2.1: UCD governance & management structures for sustainability



2.2 Engaging and training staff

Climate Action Leadership Training has been provided for both the University Management Team (UMT) and the Extended Leadership Group (ELG).

The University Management Team comprises the President, Bursar, Registrar, College Principals, Vice Presidents and senior Heads of Unit.

The ELG is made up of Heads of School, Directors of Research Institutes and Heads of Unit. Training for the UMT addressed the topics below with an emphasis on transformational leadership and effective communication and engagement to drive behavioural change:

- Climate fundamentals
- Climate impacts and adaptations
- Climate scenarios and timing the transition
- Climate leadership
- Climate governance

The ELG training focused on the following with an emphasis on the organisation's legislative requirements and the ELG's role in supporting the University to meet these requirements:

- Climate fundamentals
- Climate legislation and obligations
- Public Sector Climate Action Mandate and the
- UCD Climate Action Roadmap
- Sustainability reporting
- What does climate action leadership in UCD look like and what can we do together?

Online resources were also provided to UMT and ELG to complement and support the training delivered. These resources will continue to be updated and made available to new and existing members of UMT and ELG in conjunction with additional training opportunities.

The Sustainability Unit is liaising with UCD Learning and Development to build on the training delivered to the UMT and the ELG and to incorporate climate action and sustainability into development programmes and training modules for all UCD staff.

Staff in the central UCD Procurement and Contracts function are already fully versed in Green Public Procurement (GPP) requirements. However, over

3,000 individuals in Schools, Colleges and other Units are also responsible for requisitioning and purchasing goods and services. A programme of training and staff development for them will be developed. It is envisaged that guidance resources will be provided, and training workshops will be run to clarify and discuss approaches and procedures.

To enable UCD staff to develop as climate action and sustainability-aware citizens and to contribute effectively to the achievement of UCD's sustainability ambitions, UCD Sustainability has been contributing to the Orientation Programme for New Employees and to the Induction Programme for new Heads of School led by UCD People Development since early 2024. UCD's legal obligations are emphasized during the UCD Sustainability session as are the ways in which UCD staff can get involved with and lead climate action and sustainability initiatives on campus.

UCD Green Week 2025, led by UCD Estates Services, took place in March 2025, with a schedule of activities including tree planting, plastics workshops, UCD woodlands 'walk and talk', bike workshops and more. The aim of UCD Green Week is to raise awareness, stimulate discussion and change attitudes and behaviours in support of environmental action across a week of university-wide engagement.

In addition to this, UCD was selected as an SDG Champion 2024-25 by the then Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. For **UCD SDG Week 2025** (22-26 September 2025) the UCD Sustainability Unit, in conjunction with the Working Group on SDG Engagement and Impact, collaborated with colleagues across the university to deliver over **40 sustainability-focussed** events across campus. The programme of events included building energy awareness, reducing the carbon and environmental footprint of research laboratories and workshops on several topics such as greenwashing, upcycling clothes, reducing your electricity bills, advice and tips on reducing our digital footprint, sustainable finance and green food procurement.

Through a comprehensive **Seed Funding for Sustainability programme**, UCD Sustainability seeks to bring the university community together to unlock the campus' potential as a living lab for sustainability

solutions. Through integrating the University’s operations with our educational, research and community engagement missions, the programme aims to enable UCD students, faculty and staff to work together and with external stakeholders to develop new sustainability solutions or trial novel externally- developed solutions by rolling them out on an experimental basis, monitoring their success, adapting and modifying them as necessary and communicating about them more widely.

Further information on how staff and students can get involved and support climate action and sustainability initiatives and training on campus is available [here](#).

Information on climate/sustainability-related news and events is communicated to our community on a continuous basis and is available [here](#).

Summary table: Our people

2024 requirements	2025 requirements	UCD 2025 response
2.1 Establish and resource Green Teams, reporting to senior management, to become integrated drivers of sustainability in every public sector body.	2.1 Establish and resource Green Teams, reporting to senior management, to become integrated drivers of sustainability in every public sector body.	The UMT Sustainability Group (UMT SUS), a subgroup of the University Management Team (UMT), has been established and acts as UCD’s Green Team. UMT SUS is responsible for advancing sustainability across the University and for making recommendations to the UMT to support this advancement.
2.2 Nominate a member of the Management Board as the Climate and Sustainability Champion with responsibility for implementing and reporting on the Mandate.	2.2 Nominate a member of the Management Board as the Climate and Sustainability Champion with responsibility for implementing and reporting on the Mandate.	Professor Tasman Crowe is UCD’s Vice-President for Sustainability and acts as UCD’s Climate and Sustainability Champion. Professor Crowe is a member of the UMT and is responsible for implementing and reporting on the Mandate and delivering on the university’s broader sustainability objectives.
2.3 Incorporate appropriate climate action and sustainability training (technical and behavioural, including green procurement training) into learning and development strategies for staff.	2.3 Incorporate appropriate climate action and sustainability training (technical and behavioural, including green procurement training) into learning and development strategies for staff.	The Sustainability Unit is liaising with UCD Learning and Development to build on the training delivered to the UMT and the ELG and to incorporate climate action and sustainability into development programmes and training modules for all UCD staff. Staff in the central UCD Procurement and Contracts function are already fully versed in Green Public Procurement (GPP) requirements. It is envisaged that guidance resources will be provided, and training workshops will be run to clarify approaches and procedures for all requisitioners.

Summary table: Our people (continued)

2024 requirements	2025 requirements	UCD 2025 response
2.4 Organise staff workshops (at least annually) to engage on climate issues, including a focus on decreasing the organisation’s carbon footprint.	2.4 Organise staff workshops (at least annually) to engage on climate issues, including a focus on decreasing the organisation’s carbon footprint.	UCD Green Week 2025, led by UCD Estates Services, took place in March 2025, with a schedule of activities including tree planting, plastics workshops, UCD woodlands 'walk and talk', bike workshops and more. For UCD SDG Week 2025, colleagues from across the university collaborated to deliver over 40 sustainability-focussed events across campus. The programme of events included building energy awareness, reducing the carbon and environmental footprint of research laboratories and workshops on several topics such as greenwashing, reducing electricity bills, tips on reducing our digital footprint and green food procurement.
2.5 Ensure all senior management (P.O. level or equivalent and above) and members of State Boards complete a climate action leadership training course in 2023.	2.5 Ensure all senior management (P.O. level or equivalent and above) and members of State Boards complete a climate action leadership training course in 2023.	Climate Action Leadership Training has been provided for both the University Management Team (UMT) and the Extended Leadership Group (ELG) which captures all senior management at grades equivalent to P.O. and above).



3. Our Ways of Working

3.1 Mandate reporting in UCD's Annual Report

The Annual Report of the President serves as UCD's Annual Report. The most recent Annual Report of the President, covering the period September 2023 to August 2024, is available [here](#).

Reports on Climate Action Mandate requirements are presented in the chapter on Finance and Capital Development (p. 63-72) and the Sustainability chapter (p. 73-75). Information on UCD's energy-related GHG emissions is available on p. 70-71.

Circular 1/2020 was discussed by the Irish Universities Association in 2023. It is understood that absent a formal written notification from DFHERIS/HEA that this Circular should be implemented by universities, the Circular does not apply to the traditional universities governed under the 1997 Universities Act. If clarity and more detailed guidance is provided to universities on this matter, UCD is ready to engage.

3.2 SEAI's Monitoring and Reporting System

UCD has been using SEAI's Public Sector Monitoring and Reporting System to report on the implementation of the individual Public Sector Climate Action Mandate requirements using a 'comply or explain' approach.

This has been done through the submission of Statements of Compliance in December 2024 and May 2025 via the Monitoring and Reporting System. Both Statements detail the University's adherence to the Climate Action and Low Carbon Act 2021 and the Public Sector Climate Action Mandate.

3.3 Energy and environmental management systems

The UCD Energy Management System (ENMS) is accredited to the ISO 50001 standard for the management of energy and water consumption on site. This



system is regularly audited and provides a structured methodology for continually improving energy and water management and performance on site.

UCD was audited in June 2025 and was subsequently recertified to ISO 50001.

3.4 Green public procurement

In tendering for goods, services and equipment, the University's Procurement and Contracts Function applies green public procurement criteria by using the EPA's Green Procurement (GPP) Guidance and the GPP criteria.

All tenders advertised by the University have as a standard evaluation criterion 'Environmental / Sustainable / Social Considerations' which mirrors the approach of the Office of Government Procurement. The weighting attached to this criterion depends on the goods, services or equipment that are the subject of the tender process and the importance of environmental and sustainability considerations.

3.5 Construction

UCD has specified low carbon construction methods and low carbon cement material (where applicable) in the relevant procurement processes.

Since 2024, UCD has adhered to the best practice guidelines for the preparation of Resource and Waste Management Plans for construction and demolition

projects for directly procured or supported construction projects from 2024. With regards to capital projects, the contractor must prepare and implement a project specific Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) as part of the Stage 4 project life cycle.

As part of the Construction Framework application process all parties are asked to either:

- confirm their compliance in relation to ISO:14001 (Environmental Management Systems) or, depending on Framework Scale/Value,
- provide a copy of their current Environmental Management Statement.

3.6 Organic food

15.14% of Gather & Gather's offering is certified organic. In addition, 38.2% of KSG's produce is ethically sourced and contributes to an afforestation project in Brazil, supporting sustainable farming practices.

3.7 Food waste

UCD provides segregated organic waste collection services on campus for its commercial and residential premises on campus. Measurement and monitoring is carried out by the appointed waste services contractor. UCD licensees use systems such as Positive Carbon to measure food waste and they use that information to make changes to production levels and portion sizes in order to reduce the amount of waste generated.

The figures reported below (provided by UCD's appointed waste management services contractor) are inclusive of food and other organic compostable materials generated in campus buildings, on-campus student residences and food outlets:

- 90.735 tonnes (UCD Estate Services managed)
- 3.776 tonnes (Campus Sports and Leisure)

* The above figures exclude food waste generated by Main Restaurant, UCD Village, UCD Club / O'Reilly Hall and Blackrock Restaurant which is managed locally.

** The above figures relate to Compostable Food Waste as defined by the Central Statistics Office and so exclude other organic wastes.

UCD provides segregated organic waste collection services on campus for its commercial and residential premises on campus. Measurement and monitoring is carried out by the appointed waste services contractor. UCD licensees use systems such as Positive Carbon to measure food waste and they use that information to make changes to production levels and portion sizes in order to reduce the amount of waste generated

In all our catering tenders, the following requirements must be implemented, with quarterly reporting to ensure that environmental sustainability is embedded from the outset of the Licence/Lease Agreement:

- (i) Sustainable food production methods in relation to food served
- (ii) Local supplier consideration and growth during term of agreement
- (iii) Environmentally responsible vegetable fats and provenance
- (iv) Reducing energy and water consumption in kitchens
- (v) Environmentally sustainable food and hot beverage procurement
- (vi) Reducing impact of food transport, management of food miles and packaging (including takeaway)
- (vii) Food and beverage waste prevention, measurement and reporting
- (viii) Environmental impact of cleaning materials
- (ix) Environmental impact of deliveries to the campus from suppliers.

3.8 ICT Equipment

The Office of Government Procurement (OGP) typically procures centralised arrangements for public bodies to utilise and it would ensure that the green credentials required are in place. UCD liaised with [HEAnet](#) to confirm compliance with this

requirement and HEAnet confirmed that all desktop computers and portable computers, i.e. laptops, have a mandatory requirement to be EPEAT Gold Standard (or equivalent).

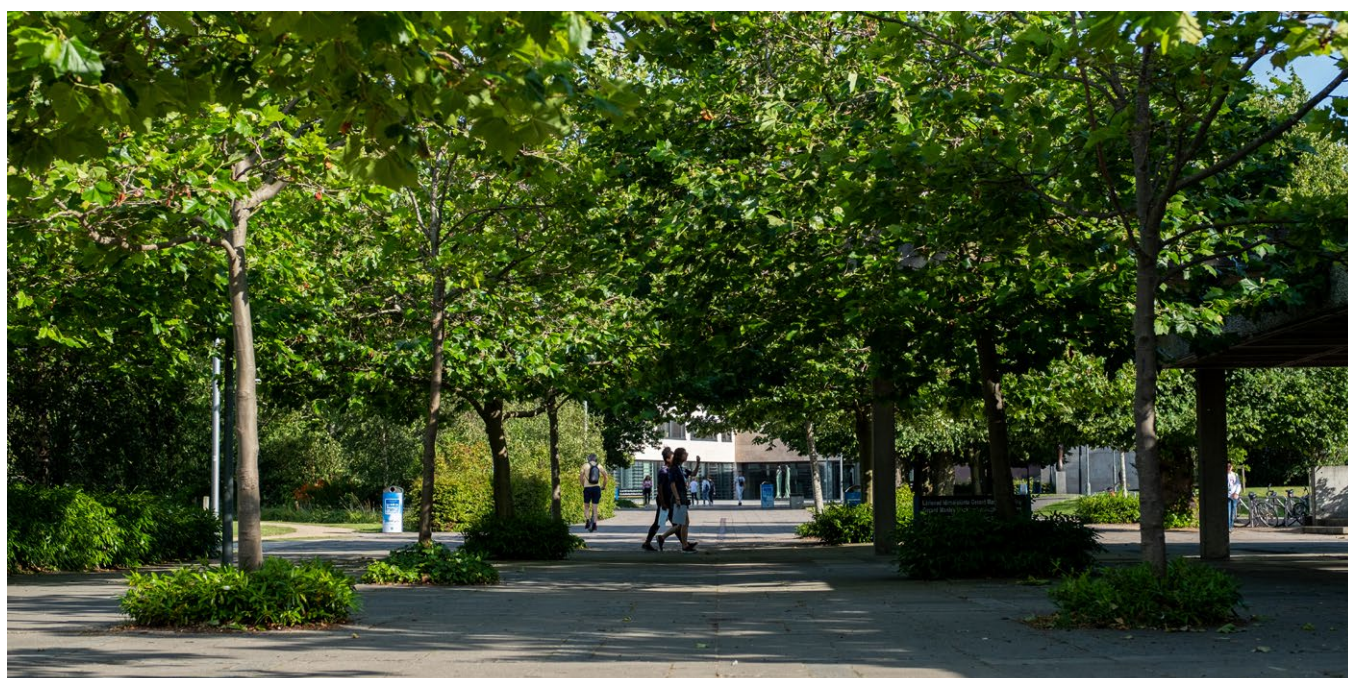
3.9 Paper

UCD sources its paper from the Office of Government Procurement which complies with a range of stated environmental standards.

The university reviews its paper-based processes and evaluates the possibilities for digitisation on a continuous basis. As a result of this, UCD has moved many of its major processes to digital formats and is committed to progressing further towards elimination of these paper-based processes.

UCD's paper is purchased in bulk by CopiPrint, which then distributes it to Schools, Units and to copying and printing facilities for students and staff members. As such, data on total paper consumption and on the breakdown in consumption across the university is available. In 2024, 15,279 reams of varying sizes were purchased by CopiPrint.

This data will be considered in UCD's planning towards the elimination of paper-based processes and measures and actions will be refined accordingly.



____ UCD's main restaurant has installed soft drinks and flavoured sparkling water dispensers, designed for use with reusable glasses to reduce reliance on plastic bottles and cans. Water fountains have been installed in all UCD cafés and restaurants to provide free drinkable water to all customers ____

3.10 Water

Across the publicly accessible campus premises UCD has over 50 accessible water refill points located throughout buildings on its Belfield and Blackrock campuses and one publicly accessible external water refill point outside the Gerard Manley Hopkins Centre.

The UCD Energy Management System (ENMS) is accredited to the ISO 50001 standard for the management of energy and water consumption on site.

This system is regularly audited and provides a structured methodology for continually improving energy and water management and performance on site. Operationally, scheduled & structured meetings take place to analyse water consumption to identify the causes of and rectify any abnormal consumption patterns, faults or leaks.

3.11 Single use

In line with campus licence agreements, single-use items in cafés and restaurants on campus and single-use items available for catered events are compostable. This includes cups, food containers and cutlery. Crockery is available to use in all restaurants and cafés and customers are encouraged to use crockery when visiting the outlets and for catered events.

The '2GoCup' deposit return scheme has been introduced to encourage the use of reusable coffee cups on campus. Customers can purchase a cup via a €2 deposit and return the cup to any participating café (on or off campus) at any time for a refund. The

scheme was launched in September 2023 in Gather & Gather outlets on campus and in September 2024, the scheme was extended to all KSG outlets. In September 2025, Wrights of Howth and the Poolside Café also signed up to the scheme. The UCD Students Union shops will adopt the scheme by the end of 2025. A [communications campaign](#) was launched in September 2025 to support the expansion and successful roll out of the '2GoCup' deposit return scheme and the wider use of reusable cups on campus.

In addition to the above, a '2GoCup' reusable bowl scheme has also been implemented in relevant cafés and restaurants on campus offering customers a sustainable alternative to single-use packaging for soups, salad etc.

Furthermore, UCD's main restaurant has installed soft drinks and flavoured sparkling water dispensers, designed for use with reusable glasses to reduce reliance on plastic bottles and cans. Water fountains have been installed in all UCD cafés and restaurants to provide free drinkable water to all customers.

Since 2023, plastic bottled water has been eliminated from all catered events and internal hospitality. Bottled water may still be provided on occasion if specifically requested by event organisers and tetra packed water has been introduced as an alternative to plastic bottles.

For outdoor events, hydro trucks are hired to supply drinking water without the use of plastic bottles. Wherever possible, reusable items are used to support these events.

3.12 Other materials

UCD has collection facilities for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) materials and also supports the national Deposit Return Scheme on campus.

UCD via its appointed waste management services contractor uses a 3 bin waste collection service, segregated into three waste streams – general waste, dry mixed recycling and organic waste. A separate waste stream for glass is also utilised.

Summary table: Our ways of working

2024 requirements	2025 requirements	UCD 2025 response
3.1 Report on the following in the Annual Report: • GHG emissions, • Implementation of the mandate, • Sustainability activities report, • Compliance with Circular 1/2020: Procedures for offsetting the emissions associated with official air travel.	3.1 Report on the following in the Annual Report: • GHG emissions, • Implementation of the mandate, • Sustainability activities report, • Compliance with Circular 1/2020: Procedures for offsetting the emissions associated with official air travel.	The Annual Report of the President serves as UCD’s Annual Report. The most recent Annual Report of the President, covering the period September 2023 to August 2024, is available here. Circular 1/2020 was discussed by the Irish Universities Association in 2023. It is understood that absent a formal written notification from DFHERIS/HEA that this Circular should be implemented by universities, the Circular does not apply to the traditional universities governed under the 1997 Universities Act. If clarity is provided to universities on this matter, UCD is ready to engage.
3.2 Using SEAI’s Public Sector Monitoring and Reporting System, public bodies are to report annually on implementation of the individual mandate requirements using a ‘comply or explain’ approach.	3.2 Using SEAI’s Public Sector Monitoring and Reporting System, public bodies are to report annually on implementation of the individual mandate requirements using a ‘comply or explain’ approach.	UCD has been using and will continue to use SEAI’s Public Sector Monitoring and Reporting System to report on the implementation of the individual Public Sector Climate Action Mandate requirements using a ‘comply or explain’ approach. Statements of Compliance were submitted in December 2024 and May 2025 via the Monitoring and Reporting System. Both Statements detail the University’s adherence to the Climate Action and Low Carbon Act 2021 and the Public Sector Climate Action Mandate.

Summary table: Our ways of working (continued)

2024 requirements	2025 requirements	UCD 2025 response
3.3 Achieve formal environmental certification for large public sector bodies, such as ISO 50001 (Energy Management Standard) or ISO 14001 (Environmental Management System), with a view to going beyond ISO 14001 to adopting Eco Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS). Specifically: 3.3.1 All public sector bodies with an energy spend greater than €2 million per annum to achieve ISO 50001 certification by end-2024; 3.3.2 All remaining public bodies to implement energy management programmes as per SEAI's energy management guidance (S.I. 426 of 2014) and report to SEAI annually on its M&R system.	3.3 Achieve formal environmental certification for large public sector bodies, such as ISO 50001 (Energy Management Standard) or ISO 14001 (Environmental Management System), with a view to going beyond ISO 14001 to adopting Eco Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS). Specifically: 3.3.1 All public sector bodies with an energy spend greater than €2 million per annum to achieve ISO 50001 certification by end-2024; 3.3.2 All remaining public bodies to implement energy management programmes as per SEAI's energy management guidance (S.I. 426 of 2014) and report to SEAI annually on its M&R system.	The UCD Energy Management System (ENMS) is accredited to the ISO 50001 standard for the management of energy and water consumption on site. UCD was audited in June 2025 and was subsequently recertified to ISO 50001.
3.4 Green Public Procurement 3.4.1 Implement Green Public Procurement, using the EPA Green Public Procurement Guidance and criteria/ Office of Government Procurement's online Green Public Procurement Criteria Search tool as resources.	3.4 Green Public Procurement (New/increased requirement) 3.4.1 Implement Green Public Procurement in accordance with the Green Public Procurement Implementation Mandate set out in Buying Greener: Green Public Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2027, using the EPA Green Public Procurement Guidance and criteria/ Office of Government Procurement's online Green Public Procurement Criteria Search tool as resources. 3.4.2 Adhere to the new circular, which will replace Circular 20/2019, to be published by the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform regarding new Green Public Procurement obligations included in the GPP Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2027.	In tendering for goods, services and equipment, the University's Procurement and Contracts Function applies green public procurement criteria by using the EPA's Green Procurement (GPP) Guidance and the GPP criteria. All tenders advertised by the University have as a standard evaluation criterion 'Environmental / Sustainable / Social Considerations' which mirrors the approach of the Office of Government Procurement. The weighting attached to this criterion depends on the goods, services or equipment that are the subject of the tender process and the importance of associated environmental and sustainability considerations.

Summary table: Our ways of working (continued)

2024 requirements	2025 requirements	UCD 2025 response
3.5 Construction 3.5.1 Specify low carbon construction methods and low carbon cement material as far as practicable for directly procured or supported construction projects from 2023. 3.5.2 Adhere to the best practice guidelines for the preparation of Resource and Waste Management Plans for construction and demolition projects for directly procured or supported construction projects from 2024.	3.5 Construction (New/increased requirement) 3.5.1 Specify low carbon construction methods and low carbon cement material as far as practicable as per guidance issued by Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment for directly procured or supported construction projects from 2024. 3.5.2 Adhere to the best practice guidelines for the preparation of Resource and Waste Management Plans for construction and demolition projects for directly procured or supported construction projects from 2024. 3.5.3 A minimum proportion of construction materials procured by public bodies under new contract arrangements to comprise recycled materials, that is informed by a Circularity Roadmap for the Construction Sector and the 2nd Whole of Government Circular Economy Strategy to be published in 2025.	UCD has specified low carbon construction methods and low carbon cement material (where applicable) in the relevant procurement processes) Since 2024, UCD has adhered to the best practice guidelines for the preparation of Resource and Waste Management Plans for construction and demolition projects for directly procured or supported construction projects. For capital projects, the contractor must prepare and implement a project specific Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). As part of the Construction Framework application process all parties are asked to either: - confirm their compliance in relation to ISO:14001 (Environmental Management Systems) or (depending on Framework Scale/Value) - provide a copy of their current Environmental Management Statement. Requirement 3.5.3 is a new requirement and UCD will work to ensure it is incorporated as appropriate under new, relevant contract arrangements.
	3.6 Organic Food (New/increased requirement) 3.6.1 A minimum of 10% by value (€) of food sought under new contract arrangements (including via contractors such as canteen service providers), is to be certified organic in each of the following categories of Cereals, fresh Beef, Lamb, Pork, Poultry, Fish, Vegetables and Dairy products, where possible.	15.14% of Gather & Gather's offering is certified organic. In addition, 38.2% of KSG's produce is ethically sourced and contributes to an afforestation project in Brazil, supporting sustainable farming practices.

Summary table: Our ways of working (continued)

2024 requirements	2025 requirements	UCD 2025 response
3.6 Food Waste 3.6.1 Measure and monitor the food waste generated on premises from 2024, using a standardised approach to food waste measurement set out in the EPA Protocol/Pathway. 3.6.2 All new contract arrangements related to canteen or food services, including events and conferences, to include measures that are targeted at addressing food waste, with a specific focus on food waste prevention and food waste segregation.	3.7 Food Waste 3.7.1 Measure and monitor the food waste generated on premises from 2024, using a standardised approach to food waste measurement set out in the EPA public sector guidance. 3.7.2 All new contract arrangements related to canteen or food services, including events and conferences, to include measures that are targeted at addressing food waste (with a specific focus on food waste prevention and food waste segregation, taking into account Ireland's commitment to reduce food waste by 50% by 2030.)	UCD provides segregated organic waste collection services on campus for its commercial and residential premises on campus. Measurement and monitoring is carried out by the appointed waste services contractor. UCD licensees use systems such as Positive Carbon to measure food waste and guide changes to production levels and portion sizes to reduce waste . In all UCD catering tenders, a number of requirements are outlined and quarterly reporting is required to ensure that sustainability is implemented during the period of the Licence/Lease Agreement.
	3.8 ICT Equipment (New/increased requirement) 3.8.1 A minimum of 80% of ICT end user products (desktop computers, portable computers and mobile phones) procured by public sector bodies under new contract arrangements are certified to EPEAT Gold Standard (or equivalent), TCO Certified (or equivalent) or will have been remanufactured.	UCD liaised with HEAnet to confirm compliance with this requirement and HEAnet confirmed that all desktop computers and portable computers, i.e. laptops, have a mandatory requirement to be EPEAT Gold Standard (or equivalent).

Summary table: Our ways of working (continued)

2024 requirements	2025 requirements	UCD 2025 response
3.7 Paper 3.7.1 Review any paper-based processes and evaluate the possibilities for digitisation so it becomes the default approach. Eliminate paper-based processes as far as is practicable. Where paper must be procured, ensure that recycled paper is the default. 3.7.2 Measure and monitor paper consumption.	3.9 Paper 3.9.1 Review any paper-based processes and evaluate the possibilities for digitisation so it becomes the default approach. Eliminate paper-based processes as far as is practicable. Where office paper for printing and photocopying must be procured, 100% of the paper must be recycled paper. 3.9.2 Measure and monitor paper consumption.	UCD sources its paper from the Office of Government Procurement which complies with a range of stated environmental standards. UCD has moved many of its major processes to digital formats and is committed to progressing further towards elimination of these paper-based processes. UCD's paper is purchased in bulk by CopiPrint, which then distributes it to Schools, Units and to copying and printing facilities for students and staff members. As such, data on total paper consumption and on the breakdown in consumption across the university is available. In 2024, 15,279 reams of varying sizes were purchased by CopiPrint. This data will be considered in UCD's planning towards the elimination of paper-based processes and measures and actions will be refined accordingly.
3.8 Water Provide suitable drinking water refill points for all staff and in any premises accessed by the public and measure and monitor usage of the refill points.	3.10 Water (New/increased requirement) 3.10.1 Provide suitable drinking water refill points for all staff and in any premises accessed by the public and 3.10.2 Measure and monitor usage for the organisation as a whole.	Across the publicly accessible campus premises UCD has over 50 accessible water refill points located throughout buildings on its Belfield & Blackrock campuses and one publicly accessible external water refill point outside the Gerard Manley Hopkins Centre. The UCD Energy Management System (ENMS) is accredited to the ISO 50001 standard for the management of energy and water consumption on site.

Summary table: Our ways of working (continued)

2024 requirements	2025 requirements	UCD 2025 response
3.9 Single Use 3.9.1 Cease using disposable cups, plates and cutlery in any public sector canteen or closed facility, excluding clinical (i.e., non-canteen healthcare) environments, and in publicly funded advertising or broadcasting, where feasible. 3.9.2 Progressively eliminate all single use items within the organisation and from events organised, funded, or sponsored.	3.11 Single Use 3.11.1 Cease using disposable cups, plates and cutlery in any public sector canteen or closed facility, excluding clinical (i.e., non-canteen healthcare) environments, and in publicly funded advertising or broadcasting. 3.11.2 Eliminate all single use items within the organisation and from events organised, funded, or sponsored.	In line with campus licence agreements, single-use items in cafés and restaurants on campus and single-use items available for catered events are compostable. This includes cups, food containers and cutlery. Crockery is available to use in all restaurants and cafés and customers are encouraged to use crockery when visiting the outlets and for catered events. The '2GoCup' deposit return scheme has been introduced to encourage the use of reusable coffee cups and bowls on campus and to help the campus community move away from single use items.
3.10 Other Materials 3.10.1 Support Ireland's Producer Responsibility Initiatives in the collection and recycling of products. 3.10.2 Use waste collection services that are segregated into a minimum of 3 streams – residual/general waste, recycling waste and organic/bio-waste.	3.12 Other Materials 3.12.1 Support Ireland's Producer Responsibility Initiatives in the collection and recycling of products including the Deposit Return Scheme. 3.12.2 Contract waste collection services that are segregated into a minimum of 3 streams – residual/general waste, recycling waste and organic/bio-waste and monitor weights collected.	UCD has collection facilities for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) materials and also supports the national Deposit Return Scheme on campus. UCD via its appointed waste management services contractor uses a 3 bin waste collection service, segregated into three waste streams – general waste, dry mixed recycling and organic waste. A separate waste stream for glass is also utilised.



4. Our Buildings and Vehicles

UCD’s CO2 emissions are directly linked to its activities in supporting and delivering education and research. UCD has ambitious student growth targets to meet increasing demand from domestic and international students. We are projecting increased faculty numbers to support this demand, and this will also increase our research activities. This population growth will also lead to growth in on campus accommodation. UCD’s estate incorporates over 440,000 m² of building floor area including residential accommodation.

The [UCD Space Policy](#) aims to optimise the efficient and sustainable use of the existing estate such that

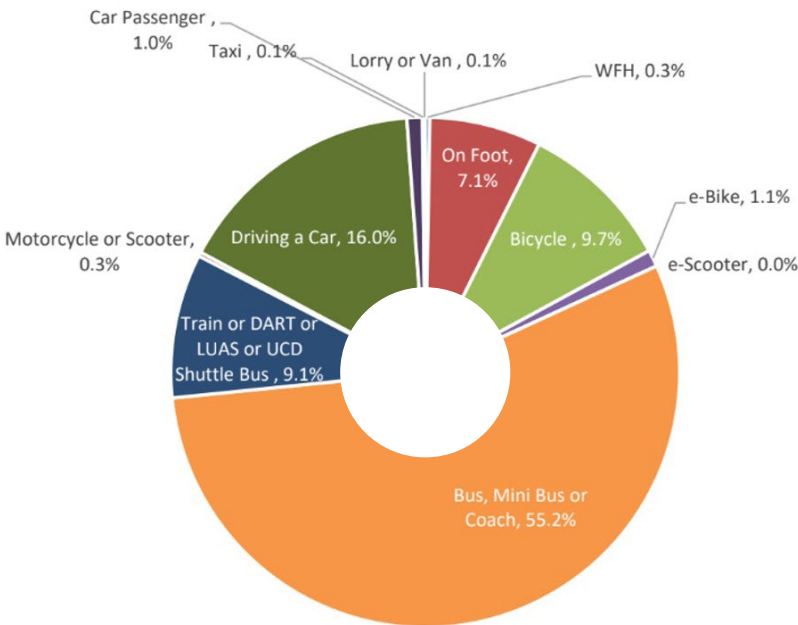
_____ The Estates Strategy and Campus Development Plan 2016-2021-2026 sets out our plans for developing a more sustainable estate through a series of deep and shallow retrofit opportunities to meet the 2030 and 2050 targets. _____

we reduce the requirement for new accommodation. This will assist in remaining within emissions target limits while supporting projected growth. UCD’s buildings’ energy performance reflects the age profile of the estate. The Estates Strategy and Campus Development Plan 2016-2021-2026 sets out our plans for developing a more sustainable estate through a series of deep and shallow retrofit opportunities to meet the 2030 and 2050 targets.

4.1 Promote the use of bicycles and shared mobility options

UCD remains committed to promoting active and sustainable travel choices to our campuses. In 2024/2025, we further exceeded our UCD Travel Plan target of achieving 81% of journeys to campus to be taken by sustainable means by 2026 with over 83% of journeys now taken by sustainable means (Figure 4.1). UCD measures progress against these targets via the annual Travel Survey and findings from the survey are collated into an annual report from which actions are derived.

Figure 4.1: UCD mode split in 2024/2025 (based on the annual commuter survey run by UCD Estates and ground-truthed by direct observation)





Sustained transport modal shift has been enabled in part through the provision of over 5,200 cycle parking spaces on our main Belfield and Blackrock campuses and the provision on site of secure cycle parking facilities on campus in close proximity to buildings. Additionally, the University provides several dedicated pedestrian and cyclist only entrances, public bike repair stands and showering and changing facilities in many buildings throughout the Belfield and Blackrock campuses. UCD has also offered cycling training and operated a pilot bike library to encourage uptake of cycling.

The provision of high-quality mass transit services is critical to the continued success of UCD's transport aims. Through transport partnership with local authorities and statutory bodies further public transport bus services have been delivered to UCD in 2024 via the BusConnects network redesign programme, enhancing the available options for UCD's staff, students and visitors, including three bus services now serving the campus on a 24-hour basis, seven days a week. Under the BusConnects infrastructure programme, it is planned to construct a new bus interchange on campus in proximity to O'Reilly Hall and the centre of campus in the coming years.

In 2024, UCD was awarded the Gold Level Smarter Travel Mark from the National Transport Authority (NTA) for its efforts to support active and sustainable travel to and from its campuses. This award is leveraged across the organisation to highlight our

progress and to highlight alternative options to the private car to current and incoming staff and students and visitors to UCD.

4.2 Phase out parking

Regarding the reduction of parking spaces for locations well served by public transport, UCD has historically adopted a community and campus-wide approach to the provision of parking spaces available to staff, students and visitors to the University, taking account of the long commuting distances undertaken by many staff and students on a daily basis, and transport needs of the UCD community outside of the daily work and study commute, for example child care and other care requirements. In this regard, UCD works in partnership with the National Transport Authority and Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council on long term strategic transport planning across all transport modes.

In 2015, UCD introduced additional parking demand management measures in the form of parking charges for staff, students and visitors to campus. The impact of these measures in addition to the provision of viable transport alternatives can be seen in the transport mode share evolution for staff & students (Figures 4.2, 4.3).

The provision of improved public transport services and infrastructure is critical to the continued mode shift and by extension the longer-term change of use or decommissioning of parking spaces on campus.

Figure 4.2: Evolution of UCD student mode share (based on the annual commuter survey run by UCD Estates and ground-truthed by direct observation)

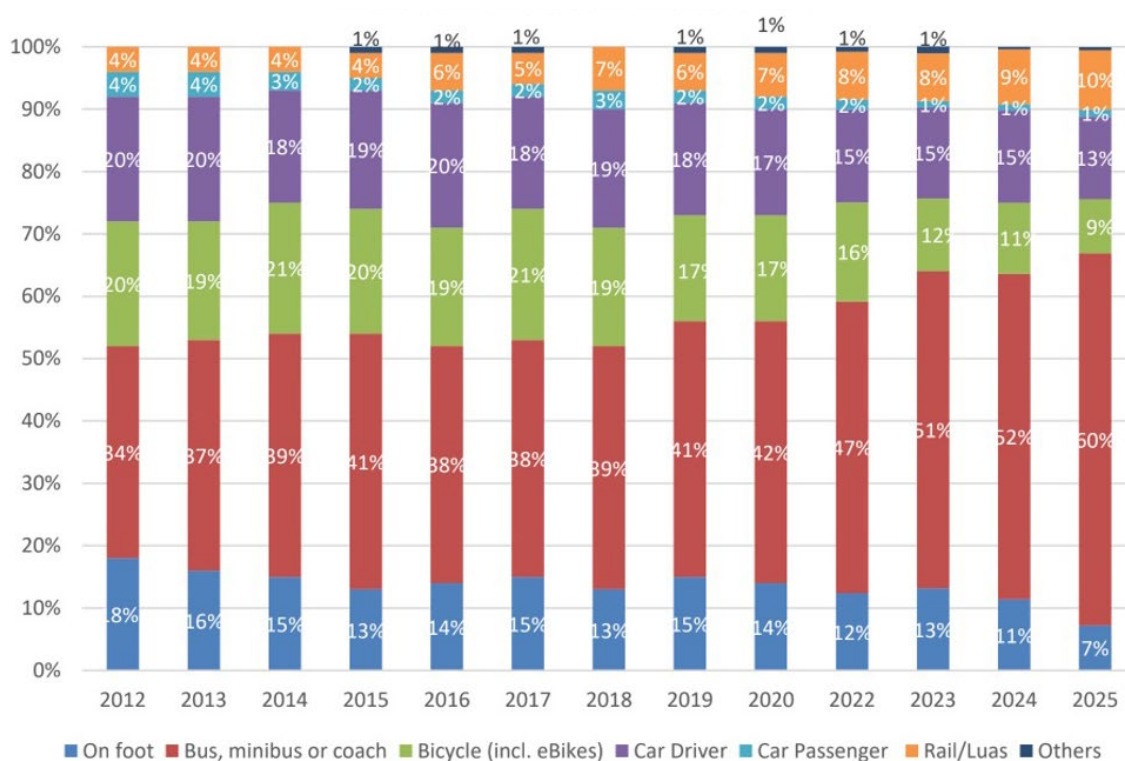
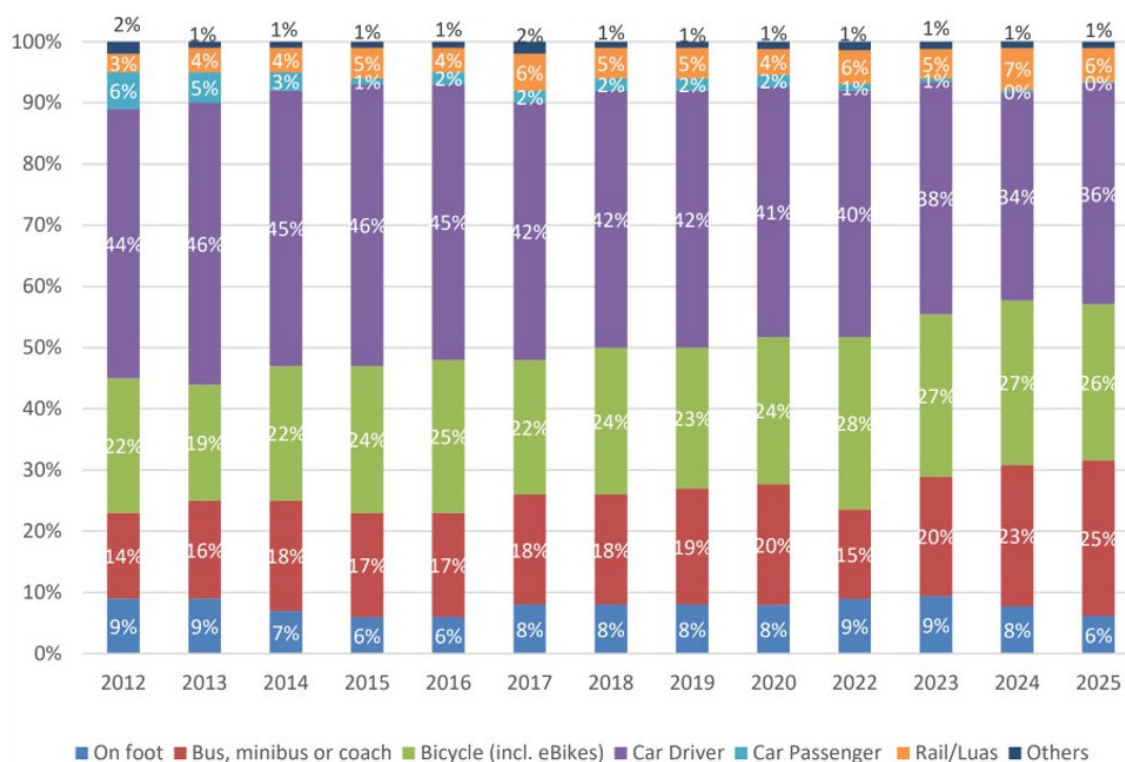


Figure 4.3: Evolution of UCD staff mode share (based on the annual commuter survey run by UCD Estates and ground-truthed by direct observation)



UCD will continue to work in partnership towards this goal.

Within the context of sustainable development of the University and its campus, UCD undertakes a holistic approach to the provision and location of parking spaces in agreement with the National Transport Authority and local councils and planning authorities. The UCD Belfield campus has less than 3,100 parking spaces in total which serve circa 30,000 registered students and circa 4,000 staff. In line with campus development plans, UCD looks to consolidate parking spaces into fewer locations, as seen with the consolidation of parking spaces as part of the O'Connor Centre for Learning, scheduled to open in late 2025 and its associated landscaping.

While UCD is well served by public transport, large numbers of the student and staff population live in areas not well served by transport links to the University and UCD remains the only third level institution in the Greater Dublin Area not directly served by a heavy or light rail link. The continued and future provision of high quality, frequency and capacity public transport services to the University campus is key to the removal of parking spaces on campus into the future.

Major capital projects currently underway, i.e., the Science Phase 3 and the Student & Sport Amenity Project, on delivery will enable student growth and additional journeys. However, these are being constructed without the provision of additional parking spaces, aside from Disability Access Certificate (DAC) spaces within the respective projects.

4.3 Display an up-to-date Display Energy Certificate

UCD has Display Energy Certificates on display in each campus building which is open to the public and conforms to the requirements set out as defined under SI 243/2013. Certificates are publicly accessible in circulation areas of buildings in proximity to building entrances and updated as required.

4.4 Fossil fuel boilers

UCD has committed through procurement and design processes to the measures outlined in the Public Sector Climate Action Mandate to not install heating systems that use fossil fuels after 2023, unless such an installation is required for operational or technical reasons or results in a net final reduction in CO₂ emissions in comparison to renewable systems, as outlined as exceptions within the Mandate.



4.5 Procurement of energy-related products, heating equipment, indoor and outdoor lighting

The inclusion of a requirement for tenderers for such products to provide options that consider environmental sustainability at end of life is a new requirement in this year's Climate Action Mandate. UCD will work to ensure it is incorporated as appropriate into relevant tenders.

4.6 Procurement of cleaning contracts

The OGP Multi Supplier Framework Agreement for the provision of Commercial Cleaning and Window Cleaning Services FCL031F was utilised for the 2025 UCD Cleaning Services tender.

This tender included the Technical Specification TS5. Staff Training from the National GPP criteria for indoor cleaning services in both the specifications and the award criteria.

4.7 Existing buildings

In line with reporting requirements UCD has submitted its Stage 1 Building Stock Plan to the SEAI. In summary, the Building Stock plan details the status of all UCD owned properties and details planned campus expansion of on and off campus facilities to 2030.

In 2024, no campus buildings were earmarked for exit/disposal. As noted above, UCD's energy reporting system monitors the energy performance of campus facilities and the individual significant energy users (buildings/facilities) within the campus. Through our Energy Management System opportunities for efficiency improvements and reductions in emissions are identified. These are then added to a register of opportunities and projects reviewed and if appropriate assessed and modelled into the SEAI Gap to Target Tool. Further commentary on actions to reduce emissions and improve energy efficiency is provided in Sections 1.1 and 1.2.

Table 4.1: Summary of UCD's building stock plan

UCD building	Sum of inside wall area (m²)	UCD building	Sum of inside wall area (m²)
Agriculture And Food Science Centre	10565.73	Blackrock East/West Hall	3291.69
Ardmore Annexe	1181.31	Blackrock Exam Centre	1107.55
Ardmore House	1213.98	Blackrock GSB Main	9754.28
Arts Annex (GI, HSS)	2532.67	Blackrock Library	931.1
Ashfield Student Residences	8737.87	Blackrock Ligouri	1212.26
Beech Hill	4789.14	Blackrock Management House	1614.34
Belfield House (Clinton Centre)	557.4	Blackrock Oratory	240.87
Belfield House Courtyard (ES)	934.91	Blackrock Proby Residence	3764.05
Belfield House Maintenance Sheds	683.88	Blackrock Restaurant	1233.54
Belfield Office Park	5378.67	Building 71	781.93
Belgrove Student Residences	13576.65	Centre For Research In Infectious Disease	961.62
Blackrock Block D	1085.44	Clinton Auditorium	803.73

Table 4.1: Summary of UCD's building stock plan (continued)

UCD building	Sum of inside wall area (m²)	UCD building	Sum of inside wall area (m²)
Computer Centre	892.61	Newman Building	25285.94
Computer Science And Informatics Centre	2854.54	Newman House	3176.21
Conway Building	11517.37	Newstead	8512.92
Crannóg	79.24	Newstead Annex	474.44
Daedalus Building	2452.96	Nova	5321.19
Energy Centre	3059	Oakmount Crèche	750
Engineering and Materials Science Centre	13333.66	O'Brien Centre for Science – East	19989.46
Gerard Manley Hopkins Centre	5376.15	O'Brien Centre for Science – Hub	9508.76
Glebe	145	O'Brien Centre for Science – North	6610.35
Glenomena Student Residences	17727.9	O'Brien Centre for Science – South	15961.62
Health Sciences Centre	17813.85	O'Brien Centre for Science – West	7559.93
Humanities Institute Ireland	514.57	O'Reilly Hall & Club	5616.59
Islandbridge Boatclub	1469	Richview Architecture	2430.2
James Joyce Library Building	21760.18	Richview Building Lab	526.98
Lyons Farm Building	13827	Richview Lecture Building	129.7
Lyons Farm Dairy Building	796	Richview Library	657.72
Lyons Farm Restaurant Building	259.84	Richview Memorial Hall	396.69
Lyons Farm Shed Building	761.07	Richview Pep Building	1122.54
Lyons Laboratory Building	672.4	Richview Research Hub	816.62
Lyons Office Building	225.26	Roebuck Ad Astra Academy	202.52
Magnetic Observatory (Kane)	99.42	Roebuck Castle	3758.16
Maintenance Walk-In Duct	2600	Roebuck Offices	2250.47
Mater Eccles Street	3247.19	Roebuck Student Residences	11463.98
Mater Hospital Nelson St	1152.61	Rosemount	1765.73
Medical Bureau of Road Safety	1995.94	Sports Centre	6488.12
Merville Student Residences	12669.14	Sports Pavillion	416.2
National Virus Reference Laboratory	1878.12	St Vincent's University Hospital	999.83

Table 4.1: Summary of UCD's building stock plan (continued)

UCD building	Sum of inside wall area (m²)	UCD building	Sum of inside wall area (m²)
Student Centre Phase 1	3849.15	UCD Quinn School Of Business	9878.54
Student Centre Phase 2	11004.48	UCD Research Building	631.9
Student Residence Block D	12160.5	UCD Village	8863.26
Student Residence Block E	11555.12	University Lodge	446
Sutherland School of Law	5974	Veterinary Science Centre	12690.09
Systems Biology Ireland	4135	Woodview Annex	292.75
The Coombe Healthcare Centre	300.33	Woodview House	1137.58
Tierney	4799.55	Grand Total	447960.77
UCD Confucius Institute For Ireland	1935.02		

4.8 Procure or lease only zero emission vehicles

The University operates a fleet of 44 vehicles which are in use across the estate in a variety of roles, spanning commercial vehicles, the security fleet i.e., campus patrol, minibuses, cars and agricultural vehicles in use on the Belfield campus and UCD Lyons Research Farm. Of these 34 are diesel, 9 are electric and one is a petrol/electric hybrid.

UCD is committed to the decarbonisation of its vehicle fleet, progressively replacing diesel vehicles with electrical vehicles where operationally suitable.

Furthermore UCD commits to examining in detail options to reduce the carbon impact of the remaining diesel fueled fleet vehicles, including the use of bridging fuels such as Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO). UCD will also develop a timeline between 2025 - 2030 to replace diesel fueled vehicles with suitable electrically powered equivalents.

Operational measures to improve vehicle efficiency also remain in place including regular maintenance and tyre pressure checks, which aside from good fleet management practices can contribute an incremental reduction in fleet related emissions.

4.8.1 Installation of charging infrastructure

In tandem with the decarbonisation of UCD fleet vehicles, the installation of charging infrastructure for fleet vehicles has been completed and UCD now has dedicated electric vehicle charging stations for the Belfield and Blackrock based UCD fleet. UCD will explore the installation of EV chargers on the Lyons Estate to support the transition of suitable agricultural and agricultural support vehicles to electrically powered equivalents.

For the student and staff community, UCD provides 37 EV charging spaces on the Belfield and Blackrock campuses. Additional community EV charging spaces will be provided in line with planning requirements and integrated with the Strategic Campus Development Plan and associated University strategic goals.

Summary table: Our buildings and vehicles

2024 requirements	2025 requirements	UCD 2025 response
4.1 Promote the use of bicycles (including push bikes, electric bikes, and cargo bikes) and shared mobility options as an alternative to car use among employees and visitors by creating and maintaining facilities (both inside and outside of buildings) that support such options, including secure and accessible bicycle parking, shared mobility parking, and charging stations, as appropriate, with a view to achieving the National Transport Authority's Smarter Travel Mark.	4.1 Promote the use of bicycles (including push bikes, electric bikes, and cargo bikes) and shared mobility options as an alternative to car use among employees and visitors by creating and maintaining facilities (both inside and outside of buildings) that support such options, including secure and accessible bicycle parking, shared mobility parking, and charging stations, as appropriate, with a view to achieving the National Transport Authority's Smarter Travel Mark.	In 2024, UCD further exceeded its UCD Travel Plan target of achieving 81% of journeys to campus to be taken by sustainable means by 2026. In 2024, UCD was awarded the Gold Level Smarter Travel Mark. This award is leveraged to highlight our progress and alternative options to the private car to current and incoming staff and students and visitors to UCD.
4.2 Phase out the use of parking in buildings that have access to a range of public transport services and active/shared mobility options for the majority of staff/visitors, while providing that sufficient accessible parking is maintained for those with physical mobility issues.	4.2 Phase out the use of parking in buildings that have access to a range of public transport services and active/shared mobility options for the majority of staff/visitors, while providing that sufficient accessible parking is maintained for those with physical mobility issues.	UCD works in partnership with the NTA and DLRCC on long term strategic transport planning across all transport modes. In 2015, UCD introduced additional parking demand management measures. UCD recognises the requirement for accessible parking for staff and students with mobility issues and maintains accessible parking close to buildings for this purpose. The provision of improved public transport services and infrastructure is critical to the continued mode shift and by extension the longer-term decommissioning or change of use of parking spaces on campus. UCD will continue to work in partnership towards this goal.
4.3 Display an up-to-date Display Energy Certificate in every public building that is open to the public to clearly show energy use.	4.3 Display an up-to-date Display Energy Certificate in every public building that is open to the public to clearly show energy use.	UCD has Display Energy Certificates on display in each campus building which is open to the public and conforms to the requirements set out as defined under SI 243/2013. Certificates are publicly accessible in circulation areas of buildings in proximity to building entrances and updated as required.

Summary table: Our buildings and vehicles (continued)

2024 requirements	2025 requirements	UCD 2025 response
4.4 The public sector will not install heating systems that use fossil fuels after 2023, in (1) new buildings, and "major renovation" retrofit projects as defined in the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) unless at least one of the following exceptions applies: • The fossil-fuel use is only through using electricity from the grid. • There is no technically viable non-fossil alternative (generally only related to applications for a purpose other than space heating). • The installation of a renewable space heating system would increase final CO₂ emissions. • The fossil-fuel use is provided for backup, peaking, or operational purposes (and makes up less than 10% of annual heating energy). • Where the direct replacement of existing fossil fuel heating is required for an emergency maintenance purpose.	4.4 The public sector will not install heating systems that use fossil fuels after 2023, in (1) new buildings, and (2) "major renovation" retrofit projects as defined in the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) unless at least one of the following exceptions applies: • The fossil-fuel use is only through using electricity from the grid. • There is no technically viable non-fossil alternative (generally only related to applications for a purpose other than space heating). • The installation of a renewable space heating system would increase final CO₂ emissions. • The fossil-fuel use is provided for backup, peaking, or operational purposes (and makes up less than 10% of annual heating energy). • Where the direct replacement of existing fossil fuel heating is required for an emergency maintenance purpose.	UCD has committed through procurement and design processes to the measures outlined in the Public Sector Climate Action Mandate to not install heating systems that use fossil fuels after 2023, unless such an installation is required for operational or technical reasons or results in a net final reduction in CO₂ emissions in comparison to renewable systems, as outlined as exceptions within the Mandate.
	4.5 (New/increased requirement) All tenders for the public procurement of energy-related products, heating equipment, or indoor and outdoor lighting to include a requirement for tenderers to specify recommendations and options for the product, when the product or components of the product comes to the end of life, that consider environmental sustainability, including options for reuse, repair, and recycling. Comply with SI 626 of 2016 to procure Triple E registered products or equivalent.	This is a new requirement and UCD will work to ensure it is incorporated as appropriate into relevant tenders.
	4.6 (new/increased requirement) All tenders for the public procurement of indoor cleaning services to include a requirement for tenderers to specify the training that will be put in place to ensure that all staff involved in delivery of the contract have the knowledge and skills to apply cleaning methods, which will reduce the environmental impact of the services.	The OGP Multi Supplier Framework Agreement for the provision of Commercial Cleaning and Window Cleaning Services FCL031F was utilised for the 2025 UCD Cleaning Services tender. This tender included the Technical Specification TSS. Staff Training from the National GPP criteria for indoor cleaning services in both the specifications and the award criteria.

Summary table: Our buildings and vehicles (continued)

2024 requirements	2025 requirements	UCD 2025 response
4.5 In relation to existing buildings: 4.5.1 Public sector bodies and sectoral groups with a large estate should commence a deep retrofit of at least one building in 2024 in pursuit of the 2030 51% emissions reduction target. The planning of deep-retrofit building measures will be undertaken at sectoral level for homogenous sectors, e.g., in relation to the Civil Service, the OPW will plan the deep retrofit of Government Departments' building stock. 4.5.2 Public sector bodies and sectoral groups with a large estate should develop a portfolio building stock plan (including determining the buildings necessary for their activities), in line with guidance published by SEAI, by end 2024 to mobilise large scale programmes towards meeting the Climate Action Plan targets. 4.5.3 As part of the building stock plan, large public sector bodies and sectoral groups with a large estate should undertake data gathering and consider the long term (to 2050) retrofit key performance indicators to upgrade their building stock to Nearly Zero Energy Buildings or Zero Emission Buildings as outlined in the EPBD proposal and recast Energy Efficiency Directive. 4.5.4 Small public sector bodies should include a basic building stock analysis or statement as part of their Climate Action Roadmap, in line with the guidance published by SEAI.	4.7 In relation to existing buildings: (New/increased requirement) 4.7.1 Building stock plans – all public bodies that have not yet completed a stage 1 Building Stock Plan should do so and submit to SEAI. Public bodies that have completed a BSP should update it regularly, minimum every two years. Public bodies are encouraged to include their BSPs in their Climate Action Roadmaps. 4.7.2 National Estate Portfolio Leads are accountable for energy targets within their sectors and for developing pathways to achieve these targets. e.g., in relation to the Civil Service, the OPW will plan the deep retrofit of Government Departments' building stock. The specific sectors are outlined in the stage 1 Building Stock Guidance. These National Estate Portfolio leads (NEPLs) will undertake Stage 2 Building Stock plans for their respective sectors. They shall develop plans and roadmaps of how they & their respective sectors will address national and upcoming EU EPBD and EED directive targets, considering both the short term actions (towards 2030 targets) and long term vision (to 2050 net zero). SEAI will work with the NEPLs and National Working Group on Decarbonising Public Buildings to develop guidance for Stage 2 BSP. With a view to sectors completing initial plans and roadmaps by the end of 2025. SEAI's Monitoring and Reporting system will be enhanced to track national and relevant EU directive targets at NEPL level. 4.7.3 Small public sector bodies should include a basic building stock analysis or statement as part of their Climate Action Roadmap, in line with the guidance published by SEAI.	In line with reporting requirements UCD has submitted its Stage 1 Building Stock Plan to the SEAI. In summary, the Building Stock plan details the status of all UCD owned properties and details planned campus expansion of on and off campus facilities to 2030. In 2024, no campus buildings were earmarked for exit/disposal. As noted above, UCD's energy reporting system monitors the energy performance of campus facilities and the individual significant energy users (buildings/facilities) within the campus. Through our Energy Management System opportunities for efficiency improvements and reductions in emissions are identified. These are then added to a register of opportunities and projects reviewed and if appropriate assessed and modelled into the SEAI Gap to Target Tool.

Summary table: Our buildings and vehicles (continued)

2024 requirements	2025 requirements	UCD 2025 response
4.6 Vehicles Procure (purchase or lease) only zero-emissions vehicles from the end of 2022, enabling Ireland to go beyond the requirements of the EU Directive, amending Directive 2009/33/EC on the promotion of clean and energy-efficient road transport vehicles (EU Directive 2019/1161, the Clean Vehicle Directive) and act as an international leader in this area. An exception applies where the vehicle is exempt under European Communities (Clean and Energy-Efficient Road Transport Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulations (S.I. 381 of 2021). Public sector procurement contracts for delivery and haulage should specify zero-emissions vehicles where possible. 4.6.1 As an enabler for the switch to zero-emissions vehicles and meeting Climate Action Plan targets, in 2024 public sector bodies with a vehicle fleet should develop a plan for installation of charging infrastructure in relevant locations. The plan should align installation of infrastructure with timelines for decarbonisation of the body's fleet. The plan should be included in the body's Climate Action Roadmap.	4.8 Vehicles Procure (purchase or lease) only zero-emissions vehicles from the end of 2022, enabling Ireland to go beyond the requirements of the EU Directive, amending Directive 2009/33/EC on the promotion of clean and energy-efficient road transport vehicles (EU Directive 2019/1161, the Clean Vehicle Directive) and act as an international leader in this area. An exception applies where the vehicle is exempt under European Communities (Clean and Energy-Efficient Road Transport Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulations (S.I. 381 of 2021). Public sector procurement contracts for delivery and haulage should specify zero-emissions vehicles where possible. 4.8.1 As an enabler for the switch to zero-emissions vehicles and meeting Climate Action Plan targets, in 2024 public sector bodies with a vehicle fleet should develop a plan for installation of charging infrastructure in relevant locations. The plan should align installation of infrastructure with timelines for decarbonisation of the body's fleet. The plan should be included in the body's Climate Action Roadmap.	UCD is compliant with the requirements to purchase or lease zero emission vehicles. Ongoing decarbonisation of the fleet will take place as internal combustion engine vehicles reach end of life or otherwise require replacement. In tandem with the decarbonisation of UCD fleet vehicles, the installation of charging infrastructure for fleet vehicles has been completed and UCD now has dedicated electric vehicle charging stations for the Belfield and Blackrock based UCD fleet. UCD will explore the installation of EV chargers on the Lyons Estate to support the transition of suitable agricultural and agricultural support vehicles to electrically powered equivalents. For students and staff, UCD provides 37 EV charging spaces on the Belfield and Blackrock campuses. Additional community EV charging spaces will be provided in line with planning requirements and the Strategic Campus Development Plan.



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