Green-Campus Ireland

Smarter Sustainable Campus Communities

The Green-Campus Programme is an evolution of Green-Schools (known internationally as Eco-Schools) which is a programme developed by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE). The Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce is the Irish National Operator for all programmes of FEE. FEE is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation promoting sustainable development through environmental education. Established in 1981 FEE was originally a European initiative primarily active in environmental education through internal meetings, external seminars and conferences, and in a number of publications. Today FEE operates globally and is mainly active through its five environmental education programmes: Blue Flag, Eco-Schools, Young Reporters for the Environment, Learning about Forests and Green Key.

The Green-Campus Programme has been in operation in Ireland since 2007. At present twenty Campuses are formally registered on the Programme and nine of these have been awarded the Green Flag. The Programme encourages practical environmental education and the empowerment of campuses to become exemplar in environmental stewardship. Throughout the pilot research and subsequent work with tertiary education providers it was found that the environmental impact of the tertiary education sector is significant, yet rates of campus uptake of traditional environmental management systems are low. Stakeholder driven, bottom up approaches to environmental management as facilitated by Green-Campus has delivered benefits to the environment, campus management, students and learning, and to local and wider communities. It must be noted that the Green-Campus Programme does not reward specific environmental projects or implementation of a new technology instead it rewards long term commitment to continuous improvement from the campus community.

Green-Campus Programme Structure

The seven steps of the programme are:

1. Establishing a Green-Campus Committee incorporating student and staff representatives.
2. Undertaking an environmental review.
3. Implementing an action plan.
4. Monitoring and evaluating actions carried out.
5. Linking the programme to learning on campus.
6. Informing and involving the campus and wider community.
7. Developing a Green Charter.

The Green Flag Award

The assessment phase of the Green-Campus Programme culminates in both a written and demonstrative application. An assessment panel reviews the written and oral submissions of the applicant campuses, with the decision to award the Green Flag being made following the implementation of recommendations from the panel. The Green-Campus Programme is not stand alone; it compliments and is complimented by many additional environmental projects and programmes. Participant campuses have benefitted from using the Green-Campus Programme as a method to amalgamate environmentally themed groups and projects to work towards common and shared goals.

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Awarded Campuses

The Green-Campus Programme is open to all post secondary and third level educational institutions.

Campus	Year of award	Themes up to Sep 2015	Student Numbers
University College Cork	2010, 2013, 2016	Litter and Waste Energy Conservation Water Conservation and Protection Biodiversity Travel & Transport Green Procurement Climate Change	>16,000
Galway Mayo Institute of Technology, Mayo Campus	2011, 2014	Litter and Waste Energy Conservation Water Conservation and Protection Biodiversity Travel & Transport	~1,000
Ballsbridge College of Further Education	2013, 2016	Litter and Waste Energy Conservation	<500
Trinity College Dublin	2013, 2016	Energy and Climate Change Waste Management Water Conservation and Protection Sustainable Transport Resource Use and Sustainable Food Biodiversity Green Procurement	<17,000
GMIT Letterfrack	2014	Litter and Waste Biodiversity	~250
Dublin City University	2014	Litter and Waste Energy Conservation Biodiversity Water Conservation and Protection Travel & Transport	>10,000
Cork University Hospital	2014	Major: Litter and Waste Energy Conservation Minor: Sustainable Transport Biodiversity	234,202 average Patient Bed Days per annum (average figure based on 2012, 2013 & 2014 figures)
Pearse College	2014	Litter and Waste Water Conservation Travel and Transport	~900
University of Limerick	2015	Travel and Transport Energy Biodiversity	~13,000
HEAnet (Green-Campus Partner)	2015	Participant in a pilot programme for service providers into third level education institutes.	

Get Involved

In order for a Campus to participate in the Green-Campus Programme a committee representative of the campus community must be formed. This committee must then register its intent to implement the Green-Campus Programme with the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce. The Green-Campus Office then facilitates each registered campus through the programme. Depending on the structure of the college and the Green Campus Committee, a multi-themed or single themed approach can be adopted. The committee consult with the Green Campus Office before choosing an approach. Themes include: Litter and Waste Prevention and Management, Water Conservation and Protection, Energy Conservation, Travel and Transport, and Biodiversity.

The criteria and other scheme materials are solely for the use of third level educational institutions wishing to join the Green Campus Programme. Copying or use of the criteria or other programme material for any other purpose will be subject to approval by the Foundation for Environmental Education. An Taisce is the sole authorised advisory and assessment body for the Green-Campus Programme. Only officers trained and appointed by An Taisce are authorised to advise or assess a Campus on their performance under the Eco-Schools/Green-Campus criteria. Non-appointed officers may not represent the Green-Campus Programme and should not claim to understand the details of the assessment requirements or awards as they relate to any site. Information regarding the Green-Campus Programme will only be sent directly to Campuses and not via a third party or advisor. All applications/registrations to the Green-Campus Programme must be made by the Green-Campus Committee and not through a third party or advisor.