

# Green Living on Campus



LIVE WELL  
on campus



**Campus Life Services**  
UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK



# Contents

Introduction	3
Energy reduction	4
Chemicals	5
Waste and Recycling	6
Travel & Transport	7
Biodiversity & Ecology	8
UL Farmers Market	9
Water Conservation	10
Get Involved!	11

# Introduction

We are very fortunate that our University is located on a beautiful parkland site bordering the River Shannon. With nearly 2600 residents living on campus, Campus Life Services are committed to promoting environmental issues within the Villages, providing information and methods to assist you in reducing your impact on the environment that you live in and doing as much as a company as we can to reduce our carbon footprint on the Campus and its fantastic surroundings. We have implemented a number of environmental and energy saving measures over the years. We are committed to working with our contractors in reducing the overall impact of our operations on the environment through the delivery of key objectives and actions to continuously improve our performance in this area.

## The main priorities and projects for us include:

- Chemicals
- Energy reduction
- Environmental Awareness and behaviour
- Waste and Recycling
- Water
- Travel & Transport
- Biodiversity & Ecology

In this Green Living on Campus booklet, we will explain what projects Campus Life Services has introduced to create awareness and reduce our impact on the environment.



# Energy Reduction

Each year, we run a variety of promotion campaigns within the Villages to promote energy saving behaviour to the residents and staff. It is our aim to reduce energy consumption and to provide a range of energy saving tips to help you reduce your energy usage within your apartment and house.



## The smallest changes can make a big impact:

- Get to know how the heating works in your apartment/house. There are instructions in each booklet that is in your apartment. Please pop into reception if you have any difficulties understanding it and we will be more than happy to explain it to you.
  - Report any heating lighting or water problems to reception as soon as you notice a problem, so that we can resolve it as quickly as possible for you.
  - Ensuring that the heating is turned off in your room when you are not there will reduce wasted heating.
  - When the heating is on, please do not open your windows as this results in wasted heat.
  - Turn off all lights when you leave a room.
  - Turn off all power switches on the wall when you are not using the sockets.
  - Turn off your computer/laptop when you are not using it.
  - When charging phones/ipods/camera batteries, turn off the switches when they are charged.
  - When boiling the kettle, just boil the amount of water you require.
  - Do not leave electrical items such as TV's, oven, hob on when they are not in use.
  - When going away for a night, weekend or longer, unplug all items, turn off power switches and turn off all lights.
  - In Plassey and Kilmurry, only use the immersion if you need to have a shower outside the set hours of hot water.
- There is an energy allocation included in each person's rental fees. Energy usage is monitored per apartment/house. If all members of the house work together to reduce their energy usage, then this will result in a lower usage rate for the house. When an energy allocation is not used, then it is refunded back to you at the end of the year. If you over use as a house/apartment, then the over use will be deducted from your booking deposit at the end of the year.

# Chemicals



## Cleaning Products

**When you are cleaning your accommodation, the following tips are those that you can use to ensure that the products you use do not negatively impact the environment;**

1. Use natural based biodegradable surface cleaning products. Vinegar is a great example of this. Using this over a chlorine based product is better for the environment.
2. Keep cleaning products in their containers and make sure they don't leak.
3. Use products as directed on their instructions
4. Don't pour products down the sink/drain or toilet.
5. When the product containers are empty, please recycle them in the recycling areas in your Village.

# Waste & Recycling

Campus Life Services contract their waste and recycling collections to Mr. Binman. We provide each house/apartment with three bins:

1. Compost bin (small brown bin)
2. Recycling bin
3. General Waste bin



There is also a glass recycling/bottle bank in each Village. All bin bags are available free of charge to residents and can be collected from your Village reception.

At the end of each semester, when residents are checking out, we offer the following further recycling options:

- Books are given to the UL library
- Batteries are given to charities who collect them
- Electrical items are recycled through a WEEE electrical bank in each Village
- Clothing items can be recycled in a recycling bank in each Village
- Non perishable food items are prepared in hampers and given to a local charity
- We work with different UL societies to offer swap shop services to those who wish to pass on items to new incoming residents/students

## What goes in the compost bin?

- Fruit & Veg
- Meat, Fish, Poultry
- Dairy Products & Eggs
- Rice, Pasta & Bread
- Confectionary
- Sauces, Jams & Yoghurts

## What goes in the recycling bin?

- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Cardboard
- Tetrapacks
- Plastic bottles
- Plastic packaging
- Tin cans
- Drink cans

## What goes in the general waste bin?

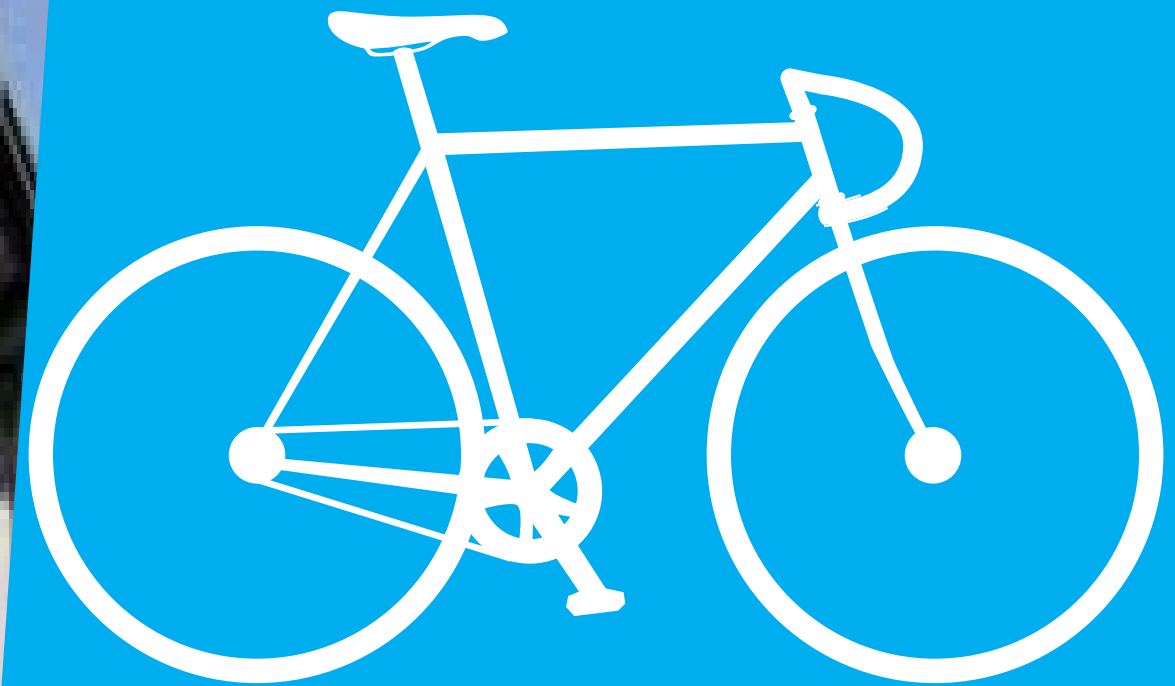
- Any items that cannot be composted or recycled.

## Tips to correct waste and recycling disposal:

- Please use the correct bin for the correct waste type.
- Recyclable items should be cleaned before being placed in the bin
- Please ensure to empty the bins from your accommodation at least once a week. A roster for this between all house mates is the fairest way to make sure this is done.
- Please donate all unwanted items to charity/collection points at the end of your stay, rather than throw them out. They may be of some use to someone else.



# Travel and Transport



The five Villages are all located near different academic buildings on campus. Some Villages are within a 5 minute walk to where your lectures are held. The maximum walking time from any Village to another part of the campus is 20 minutes. We would encourage all residents to commute by foot to their classes as parking is very limited on the main campus.

There are multiple bus services from the centre of campus (outside the student centre) to Limerick City and other locations such as Galway and Dublin. These timetables can be found on [www.buseireann.ie](http://www.buseireann.ie) and [www.dublincoach.ie](http://www.dublincoach.ie)

There is a bus service which starts at Cappavilla Village and services

Thomond and Dromroe villages on its way to Limerick City Centre. The timetables can be found on [www.eurobuslimerick.com](http://www.eurobuslimerick.com)

There are secure and safe bicycle sheds/locked areas in each Village. These areas are accessible through your room key. Just let reception know that you would like access for a bicycle and they will encode your key to allow it.

We are working with the Limerick smarter travel programme to introduce travel initiatives for our residents. You can find out more information about them on [www.limerick.ie/smartertravel](http://www.limerick.ie/smartertravel)



# Biodiversity & Ecology



The University of Limerick extends to over 340 acres. The priority given to the landscape by the University Buildings and Estates department has resulted in a beautiful campus for us to enjoy.

The River Shannon flows through the Campus and is a central focus point. Protection of the River, meadows and alluvial woodland is a priority for the University. Many birds such as swan, cormorant, moorhens, greylag goose, heron, kingfisher, swallow and mallard can be seen on the River.

Campus Life Services work with the University to promote the natural attractions that the campus has. In conjunction with Buildings and Estates, we manage the plants, trees and landscaping so that we can live alongside the birds and mammals without impacting negatively on their living environment.

There is a Flora and Fauna trail on campus which was designed by Buildings and Estates and this highlights the huge variety of trees

and wildlife that are on campus. Giant Redwood, Dawn Redwood and Monterey Cypress are some of the notable trees in UL. The woodland along the River Shannon and particularly on the north bank and islands is an example of one of Ireland's rarest woodland types.

There are many pockets of remnant woodland throughout the campus. Springtime produces a rich ground flora of bluebells, wood anemone, wild garlic and ferns.

Frogs, otters, foxes and bats are all animals which are all frequently seen on campus.

The UL Community Roof Garden is an initiative developed by the University Environmental Committee. If you would like to learn about gardening, or just hang out in a pleasant space, it can be accessed from the D1 corridor in the main building. For more information, you can log onto [www.ulcommunityroofgarden.com](http://www.ulcommunityroofgarden.com)

# The UL Farmers Market



Every Tuesday, the University of Limerick hosts its own Farmers Market. The market is located in the Students Union Courtyard and is open from noon to 5.30 every Tuesday.

The initiative is part of a broader movement to encourage ethical consumption and sustainable development within the University.

By shopping at the UL Farmers Market you will support local food producers and make a positive impact on the environment and helps reduce "food miles".

This market allows the campus community to buy local produce and to meet with regional food producers.

The range of local produce available includes;

- Fresh Irish Fish
- Farm Grown Vegetables
- Handmade Chocolate & Fudge
- Bagels & Pretzels
- Teas and Infusions
- Baked Goods, Breads and Confectionary
- Indian Curries and Spices
- Pies
- Paella & Tapas
- Crepes
- Sushi

# Water Conservation

With the introduction of water rates, we are all conscious that we will need to focus on reducing the amount of the water that we use.

The majority of water that we use ends up going into the drains or sewerage system, where further energy is used in its treatment at local water works. If we can reduce the water we use for drinking, cooking and washing, we can also reduce the amount that we send into the sewerage system.

## Water saving tips:

- Don't leave the tap running while you are brushing your teeth
- Turn the shower on when you get in, rather than have it run while you are getting ready to shower
- Just use the amount of water needed when boiling the kettle for a cup of tea
- There is a basin provided in each apartment/house to use when you are washing up. Please use this rather than keeping the tap running.
- Report any leaking taps, shower or sinks to reception and maintenance will resolve the issue as quickly as possible



# Get Involved!

There are a lot of different opportunities for you as a student to get involved with promoting and organising environmental events on campus. Here is information on just a few of them:

## Campus Life Events

Campus Life Events are run by your Village Management team. As part of the events programme, environmental events such as documentary nights and involvement in Earth Hour are held. If you would like to be involved, or help set up an event, please contact your Village Manager in reception.

## UL Environment Committee

ULEnviroCom is a group of faculty, staff and students that advises the president on environmental issues and promotes environmental awareness in the University of Limerick campus community. The committee is responsible for proposing the adoption and implementation of environmental policies and also for evaluating this implementation. This is with a view to encouraging conscientious environmental management and facilitating mitigation of the university's environmental impact. For more information, log onto [www3.ul.ie/envirocom](http://www3.ul.ie/envirocom)

## UL Green Campus Committee

GreenCampus rewards long term commitment to continuous environmental improvement from the campus community. Green Campus status is achieved by making significant progress in cross campus community collaboration under one or a number of the following themes:

- Energy
- Water
- Travel and Transport
- Biodiversity
- Waste

For more information, log on to [www. Ulgreencampus.com](http://www.Ulgreencampus.com)



**Campus Life Services,**  
Plassey Campus Centre,  
University of Limerick,  
Tel: 061 202433  
Email: [cls@ul.ie](mailto:cls@ul.ie)  
[www.studentliving.ul.ie](http://www.studentliving.ul.ie)



**Campus Life Services**  
UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK



**UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK**  
OILLSCOIL LUIMNIGH