

# Crinniú Campas Glas: Green-Campus Alliance Meeting *Smarter Sustainable Campus Communities*

Croke Park, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2013



**An Taisce**  
*The National Trust for Ireland*



Comhshaoil, Pabal agus Rialtas Áitiúil  
Environment, Community and Local Government

**HEA**

Higher Education Authority  
An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas





## **Green-Campus Overview**

The Green-Campus Programme evolved from the very successful Green-Schools programme (known internationally as Eco-Schools) which was 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. There are currently 24 registered Campuses on the Programme and of these four have been awarded the Green Flag. Green Campus encourages practical environmental education and the empowerment of campuses to become exemplar in environmental stewardship. The pilot phase of the programme provided valuable feedback to inform the development of a robust framework that reflects the diversity in the tertiary education sector. 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 environmental 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.

## Itinerary:

**9:15 Registration**

**9:45 Welcome Address**

Dr. Michael John O'Mahony, Assistant Director, Environmental Education Unit, An Taisce

Deirdre O'Carroll, Environmental Education Unit, An Taisce

**10:00** Second Level Green School students share their experience of Green Schools and the Seven Step Process

**10:15 Coffee Break**

**10:30 The Green-Campus Programme: Experiences Shared**

- Lynda Huxley, GMIT Castlebar: Biodiversity Theme and an Innovative Swifts Conservation Project
- Christopher Fogarty, Energy Manager, Buildings and Estates Department, UL: Energy and Water Conservation Measures in UL
- Involvement in Green-Campus from a Students Union perspective
- Noel McCann, Facilities Officer, TCD: Trinity College Dublin's experience of the Green Campus programme

Questions and Answers Session

**12:30 Lunch & Networking Opportunity**

**2:00 Breakout Sessions/Facilitated Workshops**

- A. Invasive plant species identification, mapping and eradication on campuses
- B. Green Information and Communications Technology session facilitated by HEAnet
- C. Student and staff engagement, incentivising involvement in Green-Campus
- D. Dealing with external contractors, influencing the tendering process and campus environmental policy

**3:30 Closing address**

**To reserve your place please contact:  
Deirdre O'Carroll at:  
[greencampus@eeu.antaisce.org](mailto:greencampus@eeu.antaisce.org) or 01 4002211**

**Before 14<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

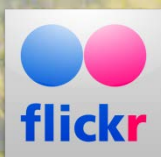
*Green Campus looks conventional but at its core is a dream, and a hope of what education might be like with sustainable development at its core. That is very exciting and inspiring vision.*

Ann Cleary, Dundalk IT Green-Campus Committee Chairperson speaking on the occasion of their Green Flag Raising, November 2012

[www.greencampusireland.org](http://www.greencampusireland.org)



Green-Campus



Green Campus Ireland



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[www.eeuantaisce.org](http://www.eeuantaisce.org)



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