



CUH Green Campus Newsletter - September 2015

We are currently inviting staff to take part in the campaign by becoming a Green Advocate. If you'd like to get involved please contact us via email:-
CUH.SustainableEnv@hse.ie

WHAT'S ON September 2015

There are still some places available for the **Green Advocate/Sustainable Healthcare Training** scheduled for **Friday September 11th**. The training will be facilitated by Eric Crowe (Project Engineer and HSE South Sustainability Coordinator) and Edward Murphy (CUH) and is a great opportunity to learn about what is currently happening around sustainability in CUH and the HSE. If you are interested in attending or would like more information please contact Edward at Edward.murphy@hse.ie or ext. 22045.

The Pedometer Challenge kicks off this month on Monday the 7th! There have been plenty teams registering in CUH over the last few weeks but there is still time to get involved! There are plenty of prizes to be won so don't be shy - all you need is a pedometer and a good pair of shoes!

This month also sees CUH play host to an Environmental Symposium in the main auditorium on September 25th. The official programme of events is available on the CUH website <http://www.cuh.hse.ie/News-and-Events/Environmental-Symposium-on-Sustainable-Healthcare.html>. Please contact Alison.Harvey@hse.ie to register for the event.

Introduction

Welcome to the September edition of the CUH Green Campus Newsletter. This time last year, we were busy getting ready to be assessed for the Green Flag award by a panel of assessors representing the Foundation for Environmental Education on September 25th. One year on, the Green Flag has been successfully renewed and the Sustainability Programme continues to grow at CUH.

Fittingly, September looks to be a particularly busy month on the sustainability front. The intervarsity BioBlitz sees educational campuses pitted against each other in a race to map the biodiversity that surrounds us, the Pedometer Challenge begins, CUH is shortlisted for an award by Chambers Ireland and we also welcome a variety of guests for an Environmental Symposium. Read on for all the information!

Corporate Social Responsibility Awards 2015

Cork University Hospital has been shortlisted in the 12th annual Chambers Ireland Corporate Social Responsibility Awards. The hospital's entry, *Achieving a Sustainable Environment at Cork University Hospital*, was shortlisted in the Excellence in Environment category. CUH will also be in the running for the overall award of *Outstanding Achievement in CSR*. The winners will be announced on Thursday 3rd September. Best of luck to all involved!

Website of the Month

The National Biodiversity Data Centre is a national organisation that collates, manages and analyses and disseminates data on Ireland's biodiversity. Biodiversity data are a key requirement for understanding our natural surroundings, for tracking change in our environment and for gaining a greater insight to how we benefit from, and impact upon, the ecosystem goods and services provided by biological diversity; a national asset which contributes at least €2.6 billion to the Irish economy each year. Check out their website <http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/> for biodiversity maps and information on how to identify the many different species of animal and plant life that we have around the country!





Focus On... **BioBlitz**

The Intersarsity BioBlitz will take place on Thursday 24th September. Over 24hrs UCC, DCU, TCD, UL, NUIG, GMIT and Dundalk IT will battle to decide which campus is the most biodiverse in Ireland!

The BioBlitz (<http://bioblitz.biodiversityireland.ie/>) is an event run over 24hrs for each campus to identify and record as many species as possible. The team that records the most species in 24hrs wins! This provides valuable records to the Data Centre, and is a fun way to network and practice your valuable identification skills. The intersarsity competition is the brainchild of the UCC Green Campus Committee and School of BEES. It is supported by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. The UCC BioBlitz team is currently being compiled and it is hoped that some staff at CUH might join them in surveying the Hospital Campus! We hope to assemble a team with skills in the identification of Birds, Mammals, Fish, Invertebrates (terrestrial, freshwater & marine), Higher Plants, Bryophytes, Lichens, Fungi & Diatoms, if possible. UCC has an excellent chance at recording the most species given that the campus has a wide range of habitats, including woodland, grassland, freshwater, intertidal and riparian habitats. CUH is a central teaching hub for UCC's medical and nursing students and our two campuses are very much extensions of one another.



We welcome all recorders, both expert and amateur and we encourage both staff and students to get involved! Please contact Edward Murphy (edward.murphy@hse.ie / ext. 22045) if you would like to get involved for an hour or two on the evening of the 24th! We look forward to having you on our team when we win!

Exploding Environmental Myths



“Climate Change means we need more Organic Agriculture”

ANSWER: The uncomfortable reality is that we already struggle to feed six billion people. Population numbers will rise to more than nine billion by 2050. Although food production is increasing slowly, the growth rate in agricultural productivity is likely to decline below population increases within a few years. The richer half of the world's population will also be eating more meat. Since animals need large amounts of land for every unit of meat they produce, this further threatens food production for the poor. So we need to ensure that as much food as possible is produced on the limited resources of good farmland. Most studies show that yields under organic cultivation are little more than half what can be achieved elsewhere. Unless this figure can be hugely improved, the implication is clear: the world cannot feed its people and produce huge amounts of cellulose for fuels if large acreages are converted to organic cultivation.
