

University of Limerick

University of Limerick has set its goal of becoming carbon neutral, and reducing carbon emissions is a crucial step towards realising this mission. This can also help UL reduce unnecessary energy costs, increase efficiency, and help attract environmentally conscious students, faculty, and funding. The University has developed a Portfolio of Solutions which will directly reduce its carbon emissions, by increasing energy efficiency of buildings, transitioning to renewable energy sources, promoting active and sustainable transport, and reducing waste.

With a large population of students, faculty, and staff, UL also has the potential to create a culture of sustainability that can influence behaviour and decision-making, including beyond the campus. Sustainability groups and committees are already promoting sustainability education and awareness campaigns. This includes incorporating sustainability into the curriculum and encouraging students to participate in sustainability-related activities and initiatives. Sustainability awareness campaigns are targeted towards faculty and staff, to promote a culture of sustainability across the university community.



10% Energy savings

[over winter period 2022/23, against the baseline year of 2018/19]



51 buildings



Control and scheduling measures



- Minimised the space occupied and heated in accordance with a reduction in occupancy.
- Ensured that operational control is appropriate to hours of work and services delivered.
- Challenged the core and extended hours of building use.
- Reduced electricity use at peak times (5 pm-7pm).



Heating and lighting measures



The following measures were implemented in all buildings:

- Continued to ensure heating schedules for buildings aligned with occupancy.
- Reduced internal space heating temperature by 1°C to 19°C.
- Shut down heat in office buildings at least 1-2 hours before buildings closed.
- Optimised water heating to save energy in buildings.



- Reduced unnecessary use of lighting in buildings.
- Turned off display lighting/window/feature display lighting between 5 and 7 pm every day in buildings.



UL's Bernal Institute BioLabs certified to My Green Lab international standard



Facilities assessments & monitoring measures

Implemented the following measures in all buildings:

- Carried out energy efficiency assessments/audits.
- Operations and Maintenance Audit carried out.
- Operational control and measurement process developed.

Out-of-Hours Walk-throughs were carried out in a number of buildings