

GREEN UCL



# UCL



UCL  
SUSTAINABILITY  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2015-16



# Making an impact beyond our campus

*Professor Graham Hart is Dean of the UCL Faculty of Population Health Sciences and Chair of UCL's Environmental Sustainability Steering Group*

As Chair of the UCL Environmental Sustainability Steering Group, I'm delighted at the progress UCL has made in becoming a more sustainable University.

The past year has seen many highlights, from the relaunch of our Carbon Management Plan to the on-going success of the Green Impact Programme, with contributions from all members of our community. This progress was recognised by the People and Planet University League, which awarded UCL a 'First Class Honours' for our environmental and ethical performance - the second year in a row UCL has been successful in these awards.

Engagement in sustainability has increased year on year at UCL. Our sustainability engagement and environmental accreditation programme – 'Green Impact' – saw 32 teams successfully complete the initiative in 2016. More than 30 students received training in environmental audit and practised their new knowledge by auditing the departments taking part. UCL's Global Citizenship Programme, which brings

together students from across UCL to explore global challenges, has gone from strength to strength with 709 students participating last summer.

Research in sustainability continues to be a strength of UCL. In 2015-16, UCL researchers participated in the Lancet Commission on climate change and global health, which reviewed the impact of climate change on human health and made policy proposals to mitigate these. In November UCL hosted Christiana Figueres, former Executive Secretary of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, who gave a spirited lecture to a packed audience on the global health implications of climate change.

UCL's Estate is undergoing an exciting makeover and I am pleased that sustainability has been embedded into the heart of the £1.2billion transformation project. UCL's Sustainable Building Standard and Carbon Management Plan have been revised and have both set ambitious targets for sustainable design. UCL has also co-created SKA RICS HE, an environmental assessment methodology for refurbishments in the higher education sector.

Since its launch in June 2016, the methodology has been used in 95 projects across the UK and team members have won a variety of awards for their work.

Whilst there has been huge success over the last year to improve UCL's sustainability, increased growth will challenge us to maintain this progress. UCL 2034 includes a commitment to maintain a sustainable estate, which means that new and existing buildings must be highly energy and resource efficient. But changes to technology, the use of more energy intensive equipment and growth in staff and student numbers will put pressure on energy use and resource consumption. A continued team effort from everyone at UCL is needed to tackle the challenges of sustainability and to help make UCL a healthy and environmentally sustainable place to work and study.



# Celebrating collaboration across UCL

*Richard Jackson is Director, Sustainability at UCL. His main focus is driving forward UCL's Sustainability Strategy.*

I am proud of UCL's achievement of maintaining its 1st class position in the People and Planet University League, securing 29th place out of 150 Universities for the second year in a row. This is testament to the high level of engagement that UCL staff and students have shown over the years, to help make the University more environmentally and socially sustainable – from biodiversity projects to embedding sustainability into teaching, enterprise and research. Looking forward, we have a challenging time ahead of us. With UCL's increasingly successful status as a world-leading University, comes a growing student population. The estate is undergoing a large transformation to meet this need, but the challenge for us all is to maintain our position as a leader in sustainability alongside unprecedented growth. We will have to work together in the years to come to rethink how UCL does business, capitalising on how we can share resources better between departments and become more energy efficient as a whole.

Sustainability shouldn't be seen as a hindrance however, but rather an opportunity as many Universities have shown. Sustainability is increasingly becoming an innovative, creative and expanding sector and students with sustainability knowledge are highly sought after by future employers. As UCL continues to transform sustainably, this provides not only environmental and economic benefits, but academic merit too. In improving our approach to social and environmental sustainability, students can work alongside and support local groups and social enterprises, and come up with creative solutions to our global challenges, in our programmes such as the Global Citizenship Programme and the UCL Entrepreneurs' Challenge. I look forward to working with you over the following year, to continue to make UCL a sustainability leader and to solve some of the challenges the world is facing.

## The year in numbers:

**32**  
teams  
took part  
in Green  
Impact...

... receiving 3 Bronze,  
2 Silver, 10 Gold,  
11 Platinum and  
6 Excellence  
Awards

UCL saved  
**1,900** tonnes of  
Carbon... equivalent  
to 87,000 return trips  
from London to Paris  
on the Eurostar!

**30% reduction**  
in vehicles

accessing the  
Bloomsbury  
Campus



**509,593kWh**  
of energy was  
saved during  
the  
Christmas  
Switch Off



UCL receives ...



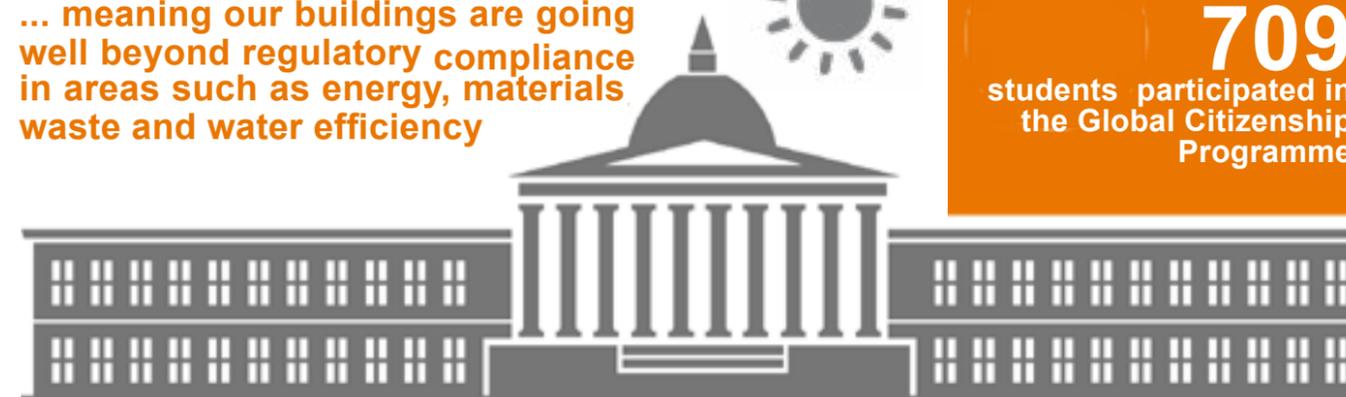
**1<sup>st</sup> class award**  
for the **2<sup>nd</sup> year** in  
the University Green League

**UCL leads the way in sustainable construction**

**5 BREEAM Excellent Projects completed**

**3 SKA Gold Projects completed**

... meaning our buildings are going well beyond regulatory compliance in areas such as energy, materials waste and water efficiency



**709**  
students participated in  
the Global Citizenship  
Programme



**CASE STUDY**  
**Sainsbury Wellcome Centre - UCL's first BREEAM Excellent building**

In early 2016, UCL achieved its first BREEAM Excellent for the Sainsbury Wellcome Centre for its outstanding sustainability credentials.

*What makes the Sainsbury Wellcome Centre at UCL a BREEAM Excellent building?*

- Its combined heat and power system maximises energy efficiency to contribute an 11% reduction in carbon emissions and will supply heating to neighbouring Astor College.
- A smart lab ventilation system, the first of its type in London, continually samples the air to maintain optimum environmental conditions, and is predicted to provide an additional 11% carbon reduction.
- 100% of WC flushing demand will be met from a grey water recycling system.
- Wildflower green roofs, green walls and nesting boxes significantly improve the ecology and biodiversity of the site.
- Building materials with low environmental impacts were used.
- Cycle parking and changing facilities are available for more than half of the building users.
- The contractor achieved exemplary performance under the 'Considerate Constructor's Scheme'. This included minimising environmental and community impacts associated with the construction works, as well as excellent safety practices beyond regulatory compliance.

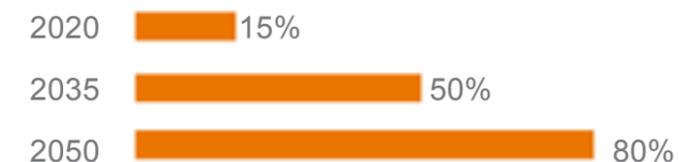


# Creating a sustainable campus

*As UCL undergoes its largest makeover in its history, sustainability has been identified as a core requirement for all construction projects. With a new Carbon Management Plan, Sustainability Building Standard and enthusiastic green champions completing sustainable projects, UCL is becoming increasingly energy efficient and environmentally and socially responsible.*

**Energy and Carbon**

In 2015-16, following an extensive consultation with the UCL community, in which over 3,000 staff and student members participated, UCL's Carbon Management Plan (CMP) was revised. The new CMP outlines a longer term programme of carbon reduction targets stretching as far as the year 2050. The revised carbon reduction targets are as follows:



The new plan also begins to address Scope 3 emissions which are generated from waste, water, transport and the goods and services that UCL uses.

Several projects have already started and will be delivered over the next four years to achieve the CMP targets including:

- Installation of renewable energy within new and existing buildings.
- A new heating and cooling policy to ensure that buildings are not heated and

cooled when not in use and that spaces are not over-heating and over-cooling.

- A long-term project to deliver efficiencies to our district heating network, involving:
  - An evaluation of the future fuels and technologies which could provide heat and generate electricity for the network
  - Consideration of connecting UCL's district heating network to other local heat networks such as University of London and the Camden King's Cross network – allowing a greater diversity of fuel choices.
  - Decommissioning the existing inefficient steam heating network across campus by 2020.
  - Adding a cooling element to the heat network. A test borehole is currently in operation to identify whether we can use the colder ground temperatures beneath UCL to cool our buildings.

During 2015-16 UCL's carbon emissions were 2% lower than in 2005-06. This is despite significant growth experienced by UCL in the last 10 years. Our efficiency has improved with carbon emissions per person down by 37% compared to 2005-06.

### Construction and refurbishment

The UCL estate is undergoing the largest transformation in its history and at the heart of the programme is sustainable design. UCL's new Sustainable Building Standard was launched in 2016. It focuses on reducing resources and carbon whilst increasing the wellbeing of the UCL community through innovative building design. All projects going forward are required to follow the framework.

As a requirement of the brief, UCL's larger projects are required to achieve an Excellent award from BREEAM, the world's leading sustainability assessment method. The following have achieved this at design stage: the New Student Centre, 22 Gordon Street, Charles Bell House and our new Data Centre. The Sainsbury's Wellcome Centre has achieved Excellent at post-construction stage.

UCL's smaller projects have to receive Gold accreditation in RICS Ska, the new sustainability assessment for higher education refurbishments. 3 projects achieved this in 2015-16.

Our logistics programme continues to reduce vehicles on and off campus and helps UCL manage its impact on local air quality. This year there has been a 30% reduction in vehicles accessing the Bloomsbury Campus and a 17% reduction in large goods vehicles.

### Biodiversity

Enhancing UCL's biodiversity continues to be a high priority for the institution. Our latest buildings, 22 Gordon Street and the Sainsbury's Wellcome Centre have green roofs, while UCL's older buildings have swift boxes installed on them. The Conservation Society, have been organising bird walks and insect surveys to record UCL's species and to engage the UCL community with our wildlife.



### CASE STUDY UCL making a home for Swifts

We have been installing swift boxes across the campus in the hope of turning UCL into a Swift City. So far you can view them on the School of Slavonic & East European Studies and the School of Pharmacy. Look out for the swifts during the Spring and Summer months.

Swifts are true aerial experts even amongst birds- flying to and from Africa to breed in the UK each year. Sadly they are in decline; partly due to losing nest sites as modern construction tends to seal buildings more effectively. This is good for energy efficiency but bad news for swifts- leaving them with less space under roof eaves to nest in.

It may take some time for them to arrive and make themselves at home but they remain very loyal to sites once they've bedded in.

### Recycling and Waste

UCL's recycling and waste system continues to perform well. We are currently recycling 65% of our waste, with the rest being turned into energy.

'Junk in the trunk,' our end of term waste reuse programme enables students to send their unwanted items to charity instead of leaving them behind for landfill. 94% of items left last year were reused.

Looking to minimise food waste, we have partnered with bio-bean, a company set up by a UCL alumnus to turn UCL's waste coffee into bio-fuels and we are working with our waste collector to develop a coffee-cup recycling facility. Discounts have been provided for students using reusable cups and a take-away reuse scheme has been implemented to reduce food container waste on campus.

### Food

We have achieved the Silver Food for Life Catering Mark in the JBR Refectory and Bronze in the Housman Room. This is in recognition of UCL's commitment to providing healthy and sustainable food on campus which is Fairtrade, local and organic where possible.

To introduce healthier food options on campus UCL has partnered with student group 'Sugar Snap', to develop a new range of healthy salad pots. UCLU have been working with the Vegetarian society to introduce more vegan and vegetarian offers on campus.

To raise awareness of the Fairtrade Foundation, UCL has put on a host of events including a talk from a Fairtrade coffee producer.



### CASE STUDY UCL start-up bio-bean returns to campus!

In 2016 UCL partnered with UCL graduate Arthur Kay, founder and CEO of bio-bean to turn our coffee waste into sustainable, clean biofuel. Arthur explained:

"It's very exciting to be working with my alma mater, I feel like I'm closing the loop and coming back to the place where it all began. I am especially proud to be working with UCL given bio-bean's links with the university. It's great to know that we're helping to reduce the university's carbon footprint and proving with new products like Coffee Logs, that the sustainable choice can also be the logical one.

"As well as being the place where I came up with the idea for bio-bean, UCL is also where our team of scientists - led by Dr Paul Hellier in Mechanical Engineering - is researching new ways to use waste coffee grounds. I've also joined forces with Professor Henrietta Moore (Director of the UCL Institute for Global Prosperity) to launch Fast Forward 2030, a group of young London-based entrepreneurs to look at enterprise and behaviours that will help deliver the UN's Sustainable Development Goals."



UCL's new vegetarian range



UCL Conservation Society looking out for birds on campus.



Royal Free library team visiting UCL's recycling centre.



PALS raising awareness with their Green Day



The infamous Careers wormery

### CASE STUDY Green Impact Excellence Projects

#### Department of Civil, Environmental & Geomatic Engineering

The CEGE Green Group ran a successful 'Sustainability in Engineering and the Built Environment' photography competition and hosted an exhibition of the prize winners.

#### Department of Geography

The Department of Geography set up a UCL Conservation Group to connect students and staff with biodiversity and conservation. The group has organised multiple events including guided nature and biodiversity walks, talks on Global Environmental Governance, and volunteering activities with local environment groups.

#### Royal Free Medical Library

The Royal Free Medical Library team decided to focus on the theme of waste. They organised multiple events to engage colleagues on the topic, including Meat Free Monday lunches and a trip to Bywaters recycling centre.

#### School of Slavonic and East European Studies Library (SSEES)

The SSEES library team organised and hosted a series of screenings and discussions relating to environmental issues in Eastern Europe and are producing a library guide on the subject.

#### Department of Psychology and Language Science (PALS)

PALS undertook research into environmental behaviours at UCL, ran a student competition to find technological solutions to the challenges of sustainability and ran a Green Day within the division.

#### UCL Careers

UCL Careers have created a biodiversity garden on their roof with help from their pet worms. Careers now have three wormeries digesting their food waste. The garden has attracted birds, bees and other wildlife as well as herbs and food for the department, increasing biodiversity, health and wellbeing. Careers have been coaching other Universities and organisations on how to best look after worms to produce excellent fertiliser.



## Supporting the UCL community

*To make UCL sustainable, we need everyone to get on board. This year we've seen a large number of teams achieving the higher-level awards in the Green Impact programme and undertaking a variety of interesting projects to help make UCL a more pleasant and responsible place to work.*

#### High achieving teams at the Sustainability Awards

At the end of every year we host the UCL Sustainability Awards to recognise the contributions made by our Green Champions and our student auditors who have taken part in the Green Impact programme. This year we had an unprecedented number of teams completing the higher-achieving awards. With 32 teams receiving awards, 10 were

awarded the Gold standard, 11 Platinum and 6 undertook Excellence projects to address the environmental concerns within their own departments.

This year the invite was extended beyond those taking part in Green Impact to include individuals and teams who had made contributions to driving forward our key sustainability aims. Award categories included Embedding Sustainability through Engagement, Creating a Positive Impact

to Society, Building a Sustainable Campus and Supporting Education for Sustainable Development.

### Engaging students in Sustainability

UCL continues to encourage its students to both identify projects and to take part in existing sustainability initiatives. In 2015-16, the Sustainability Team supported the UCLU Green Economy Society to develop its programme of events, lectures, seminars and workshops. An 'ideas' competition also ran to generate ways of resolving some of UCL's challenges. Anna Hands' proposal for 'Green Connect' - a network of students and academics at UCL, alongside seminars and quizzes to keep the community engaged won the competition.

To enhance biodiversity on campus, UCL has also been supporting several gardening initiatives. This includes the UCL Institute of Education (IoE) gardens, a student-led project creating biodiversity gardens on the roofs of the Grade II\* listed IoE building. With support from the Sustainability Team, the student-led project has now grown into two roof gardens that provide a vital resource for biodiversity and help to enhance the environment for staff, students and wildlife at UCL. The team have also been helping the School of Pharmacy to set up a Medicinal Garden that can be used in future studies.

UCL continues to adopt the Student Switch Off campaign in its student residences. The campaign brings together students to take action on energy use as well as waste and recycling within their halls of residence. Part of the campaign included running climate change quizzes with over 650 participants. 47 students trained as Student Switch Off Ambassadors to drive engagement in the campaign and as a result, over 33,000 kwh of energy was saved – equivalent to 18 tonnes of carbon.

### Plans built on consultation and engagement

UCL's new Carbon Management Plan was launched in September 2016 following a major consultation process with the UCL community. With the aim of engaging as many people as possible, the Sustainability team set up an interactive tool (based on research by Dr Tom Cohen) to capture individuals' preferences regarding carbon saving. Over

2,000 responses were received as a result. The team who were behind the tool were subsequently awarded one of the UCL Professional Service Awards for Innovation.

### Building the foundations for sustainable procurement

For Sustainable Procurement this has been a year of building foundations. Following an audit of UCL's procurement methods against the Responsible Procurement Code, we have worked closely with our central procurement team to assist them in revising the UCL Procurement Strategy. "Embedding sustainability into procurement activities" is now one of its six core strategic aims. In order to deliver this aim, we have identified contracts which represent significant social or environmental risk. This



### CASE STUDY UCLU Green Economy wins award for embedding sustainability through engagement

The student-led society 'UCLU Green Economy' have continued to strive this year to engage students on topics and events relating to sustainability, specifically on how to achieve economic growth whilst remaining environmentally sustainable.

In the past year, they have hosted 13 events including environmental lectures on the Circular Economy, Sustainable Branding, Sustainable Investment, a debate on Nuclear Energy, a seminar on environmental policy, a workshop on bioenergy and Natural Capital and a conference on Sustainability lasting four hours and included a panel of speakers from different sectors. They also promoted and hosted events for the Green UCL's Sustainability Challenges, where students were asked to submit a sustainable intervention idea.

process is still under development but it is based upon UCL's significant environmental impacts as identified in our Environmental Management System. Social risks arising from the procurement process will be identified using the Ethical Trading Initiative which has been adopted in the UCL Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy.

### Improving air quality and cycling provision in the local area

To improve local air quality and cycling infrastructure around UCL, the Sustainability team actively campaigned for the retention of the Torrington Place and Tavistock Place trial cycle lanes which run past the Bloomsbury campus. Since their implementation air quality improved by 21% in Tavistock place and cycling increased by 52% east-west along the route in the morning and afternoon rush hours. UCL provided free bike maintenance and security tagging to students on campus whilst urging students and staff to vote for their retention. The President and Provost of UCL, Professor Michael Arthur, as well as many other academics wrote letters of support. This resulted in 15,000 responses, which included 1,387 residents, the highest number ever for a Camden council consultation with 78% in favour of the lanes remaining.

As part of ongoing work to improve bike facilities on campus and to encourage cycling amongst the UCL Community, a Cycling strategy for Bloomsbury has been drafted to identify areas across campus that are suitable for bike parking.



Tavistock Place and Torrington Place cycle lanes



### CASE STUDY UCell wins award for creating a positive impact on society

UCell is a team of PhD students, lecturers and industrial partners based in the Electrochemical Innovation Lab in UCL working on electricity production from hydrogen. The team's aim is to bring future energy technologies into the present day by actively powering events around the country. UCell is also dedicated to engaging with the public; providing a unique opportunity for people to see and touch technologies that will play a vital part in near-future energy production. For this reason they were awarded the 'Creating a Positive Impact on Society' award at the UCL Sustainability Awards 2016.

**CASE STUDY****Global Citizenship programme launches theme on wellbeing in Urban Contexts**

In 2016 the Institute of Global Prosperity (IGP) delivered a strand of the Global Citizenship programme on the theme of wellbeing in urban contexts, focusing on access to and use of natural space. The strand – (Un)Urban: Investigating green spaces in East London – examined the meaning of social and environmental justice in cities, and looked at practical interventions for improving access to quality green space in cities. Students worked with East London actors, whose organisations or individual practices address local people's wellbeing and developed creative solutions to their problems.

Equipped with skills in Human-Centred Design, and with experience of working in collaboration with local partners, the IGP hopes that students will go into their final years at UCL with a greater understanding of the challenges people face in their everyday lives and the power of thinking differently.

**Students worked on challenges such as:**

- How IROKO Theatre Company and the London Local Development Corporation can work together to enhance the wellbeing of elderly people using the open spaces of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park?
- How can Big Local Hackney Wick facilitate positive connections between long-established communities and residents moving into Hackney Wick?
- How can Creative Wick mobilise its networks to improve the wellbeing of Hackney Wick Fish Island locals?



## Supporting UCL's academic aims

*We are facing multiple sustainability challenges as a global society: increasing inequality, rapid urbanisation and climate change, to name but a few. UCL has the responsibility and opportunity to engage its community in such issues, to produce change-making research and graduates equipped to solve our global challenges*

**UCL is using research to combat climate change**

UCL has contributed a significant body of research which addresses environmental and climate change issues. Amongst other things, this research has made a major contribution to the work of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the COP discussions. UCL academics are working with the UK Natural Capital Committee to look at options for carbon mitigation and adaptation needed to meet the Paris Agreement.

UCL researchers have been leading an initiative with the Lancet Commission to address the global health implications of climate change. This year's lecture, entitled Action on climate change for a healthier world- putting the Paris Agreement into practice, was delivered by Christiana Figueres, Former Executive Secretary of UN Framework Convention on

Climate Change. The event had a high turnout and an engaging audience.

**The UCL Environmental Domain connecting environmental research**

UCL has established an Environment Domain to connect the University's extensive research community working on environmentally relevant research activity. It aims to support the development of new insight and expertise on topics covering energy, climate change, sustainable cities, migration and transport.

**Global Citizenship Programme**

Each year UCL's Global Citizenship Programme brings together students from across UCL to explore global challenges in a unique summer programme. The scheme has gone from strength to strength, with 709 students

completing the programme in 2015-16. The programme has six strands which students can choose to study, each addressing pressing global challenges including environmental justice and greening the urban environment.

### Living labs

The UCL Sustainability team has continued to work with academic departments to identify and support projects which use the university campus as a focus for research and as a test bed for new ideas. This year UCL supported several academic areas of research including:

- A study made by students from the Bartlett School looking at whether UCL's environmentally sustainable buildings meet the requirements of their users.
- A research project assessing the benefits and complications with agile working or 'hotdesking'. UCL's Bidborough House was used as the focus of the study.
- A study assessing whether UCL's sustainability fit out programme Ska HE successfully prevents waste and materials from going to landfill.

### UCL ChangeMakers

UCL's ChangeMakers programme enables students and staff to work together to enhance the UCL learning experience. This year students looking to improve the campus by turning unused space into permaculture gardens won the competition. Have a look out for their pockets of greenery around the campus.



Designs of future green spaces at UCL

### UCL Grand Challenges

The UCL Grand Challenges aims to bring researchers and students together, to think outside their specific fields of interest and to focus on solving some of the world's most pressing issues. The programme has fostered several research initiatives on sustainability, particularly under the banner of the Grand Challenge of Sustainable Cities.

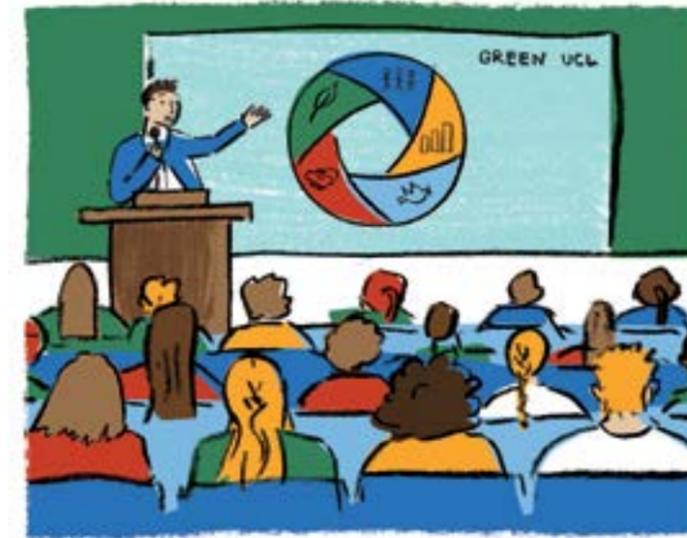
The work has improved the sustainability of the UCL campus, as well as furthering student's understanding of how people's lives can be made more sustainable long-term. In 2015-16 a Grand Challenge grant was issued to the Bartlett School of Planning, to create a UCL Circular Cities research hub. The aim was to investigate circular cities: the concept of circular urban resource flows, which are crucial to sustainable urban futures. The circular city draws on concepts of integrated, low-carbon systems, smart technologies, sharing of resources, localisation and the green economy.

#### CASE STUDY Living Labs project assessing Ska HE

The sustainability team are collaborating with the UCL Institute for Environmental Design and Engineering to look into the true sustainability journey of waste and material items being used in UCL's fit-out projects framed by the RICS Ska HE tool. Miguel Casas is working towards a PhD in this area and has been following the the UCL Confucius Institute fit-out project to gain an understanding of the full environmental impact associated with waste to landfill, recycled materials and reused material.

**Miguel, "I have been able to watch the fit-out process from design to execution and learn and document supply chain dynamics and the management of waste. Working on a live project has helped my PhD study aim which is to reveal opportunities to make fit-out projects more sustainable, based on principles of the circular economy"**

Ska HE has embedded circular thinking into projects, reducing the environmental footprint associated with procuring new materials and sending all strip out material to landfill. Miguel's study has helped UCL improve its sustainable construction approach by helping us understand the full environmental impact of the materials we use and dispose of.



# Creating a wider impact

*UCL has a responsibility to create a wider positive sustainability impact beyond the University. Our pioneering sustainable fit-out tool has been completed and 95 projects across the UK have started to use the methodology whilst students have been creating innovative tools to make the world that little bit better.*

### UCL wins 1st class award in the Green League

UCL received a First Class award for the second year in a row in the People & Planet University League 2016, ranking 29th place out of 151 UK Universities and 6th out of the Russell Group universities.

UCL scored maximum points for our Environmental Policy and Sustainability Engagement Programmes. We also scored highly for our Environmental Management System, Sustainable Food initiatives and for our commitment to embedding Sustainable Development into the curriculum.



### Ska HE launched

The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Ska HE tool is an environmental assessment methodology used by UCL and other Institutions of Higher Education Institution. The methodology embeds sustainability measures into small scale refurbishment or retrofit projects. Ska HE was developed through a collaborative process involving UCL, the RICS, consultants, HE specialists and fit out contractors. UCL was the lead academic partner in the development process, and the programme was launched in June 2016. Over 95 projects across the UK have started to use the methodology.

### Mayors Enterprise Competition

The Mayors Enterprise competition is an opportunity for students to pitch their sustainable business ideas in a 'Dragon's Den' style pitch at City Hall. The winners receive £20,000 in start-up funding and mentoring from Citi Foundation. Year-on-year UCL students are successful- a testament to their creativity, entrepreneurship and sustainability knowledge. This year UCL



#### CASE STUDY Greenseed- finalists of the Mayor's Enterprise Competition

Greenseed- an app for the green fingers is the brainchild of self-proclaimed 'green warriors' Naomi Poyser (BA Classics, UCL, 2016) and Arindra Das (MSc ICT Innovation, UCL 2015). Set up in 2015 with the ambition to revolutionise gardening, the app is now available to download and helps to connect local gardeners with each other.

Greenseed is one of several environmental start-ups to emerge from UCL's student body. In late 2014, Naomi and Arinda met each other at a Hackathon, where they had to create an app in a weekend. Their mutual passion for sustainability and the environment led them to develop Greenseed.

*"We wanted to see who was gardening in our local areas and connect with them. The point was to make gardening more fun and collaborative, and to get younger people in on it," says Naomi.*

Shortly after, the Greenseed co-founders entered the UCL Entrepreneurs' Challenge— and won a social enterprise award for the first phase, and came joint runners-up in the second phase. They began to see one of UCL's Student Business Advisors, Lillian Shapiro, for support and advice and moved into the UCL Hatchery - a space for budding start-ups. They went on to win a 2015 UCL Bright Ideas Award.

In the past year, Greenseed has been part of the Trans-IP pre-accelerator, won a scholarship at the Impact Hub Westminster, and reached the final of the European EIT Digital Idea Challenge, as well as the Mayor of London's low carbon entrepreneur competition. The future looks very bright for Greenseed, as they build their user base and get people excited about their revolutionary new approach to urban gardening. It is wonderful that UCL provides entrepreneurial opportunities for like-minded students to meet and build start-ups with great potential."



## Managing our impacts

*UCL achieves the Eco Campus Gold standard for our Environmental Management System, and is working towards the EcoCampus Platinum award.*

UCL uses an Environmental Sustainability Management System (ESMS) to manage our organisation's impact on the environment. It is an integral part of our approach to sustainability. It provides a structured approach to reducing pollution, ensuring legal compliance and driving continuous improvements to environmental performance.

UCL uses EcoCampus, a leading environmental management and award scheme for the higher and further education sectors to structure this work.

In 2015-16 we successfully achieved our EcoCampus Gold standard and are currently working towards EcoCampus Platinum and ISO 14001 the highest level of award.





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