

## Application Form

Answer the questions in the application. Maximum of three A4 pages of writing, (longer applications will not be accepted).

Add a copy of your poster/brochure/timetable if applicable plus at least 4 photos from your event, links to any videos and websites, and save as one PDF file.

Upload your completed application to [bics.ie](http://bics.ie)

# BICS Green Initiative Award

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### Rules:

1. The initiative(s) must be organised by at least one society in a member college.
2. This award is open to **all** societies and is not limited to environmental societies.
3. The initiative(s) must raise awareness of, and/or impact directly on, Green Initiatives, including, but not exclusive to: Recycling, Carbon Footprint Reduction, Green Energy, Sustainability/Biodiversity, Energy/Water Conservation, Clean Travel, Climate Change.
4. The application form must be completed by **March 19<sup>th</sup> 2019 at 2pm.**
5. The initiative must take place between March 14<sup>th</sup> 2018 and March 18<sup>th</sup> 2019.
6. There are no restrictions on the number of initiatives per college which are submitted
7. The initiative may be open to the public.

### The winning entry will be chosen as follows:

- A panel of adjudicators will short list to 3 nominees who will be notified on **March 29<sup>th</sup>** and must book the Awards tickets by **April 5<sup>th</sup>**.
- The winner will be announced at the Awards. their decision is final.

Sponsored by An Taisce



 An Taisce

## Application

|                                   |
|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Name of Initiative</b>         |
| An Evening of Weather and Climate |
| <b>Name of Society</b>            |
| UCC Physics and Astronomy Society |
| <b>College</b>                    |
| University College Cork           |

|   |
|---|
| <b>Please provide a brief description of the event.</b>   |
| <i>Include if this was a new event, if not how did it improve on last year. Did you face any challenges, What you were most proud of?</i>   |
| <i>This event was an evening conference on topics in weather and climate, in collaboration with the Irish Meteorological Society (IMS). We had four 30min talks on a variety of topics, with a short break for tea and coffee in the middle to allow attendees to stretch their legs and socialise.</i> |

|   |
|---|
| <b>1. How did your initiative raise awareness of, and/or impact directly on Green Initiatives</b>   |
| <p>A big part of our conference was education, giving people scientific and factual knowledge about climate and how it's changing. We believe that education itself raises awareness about environmental issues, and by explaining exactly how weather and climate work scientifically (without any political or environmental agenda) we believe that we gave the attendees the tools to come to their own informed decisions.</p> <p>One initiative it raised awareness of is the ClimAtt (Climate Change Attribution of Extreme Weather Events for Ireland) project, which aims to quantify the impact of climate change on particular extreme weather events. The conference provided a platform for one of the researchers to share their work and discuss what they do with the general public and student population.</p> <p>Another initiative the event discussed was community-based flood warning systems. One of our speakers had worked in creating such a system in Blackpool, and shared his knowledge and experience with the audience. Afterwards, an attendee who happened to be visiting from Australia came up to tell him about similar problems they were having and asked to use his code! Community-based initiatives such as this one really thrive on exposure, as the more people that are aware of them, the more people that interact with them and make them really great - by collaborating and especially by sharing knowledge, experience, and past mistakes.</p> <p>By providing a platform for speakers both national and local, we raised awareness of some of the weather and climate issues that affect us all. With weather being such a big part of our culture, the talks really hit home with the audience and by associating</p> |

climate change with locally visible disasters such as flooding the talks hopefully gave them greater cause for action.

## **2. How many were involved in the event**

*Include number on the organising committee, how many attended from each college, additional attendees e.g. audience.*

From our side, we had a conference subcommittee of 4 people, 2 of whom were part of the main organising group of 7 people (including IMS representatives, some speakers, and representatives from the Physics and Geography departments) and 2 of whom looked after other organisational matters on our end, particularly the nitty-gritty details of hosting. In addition, we had several more committee members helping out on the day.

We had 5 speakers for the event, and around 80 people attended the conference, the majority of whom were simply interested members of the public, along with a good number of students. We also had many people from Met Eireann attending who were not involved in the organisation of the event.

## **3 How did you fare financially?**

*What grant did you receive, how successful was your sponsorship/ fundraising. What was the entry fee and what did it include. What was your overall income and expenditure?*

We received a grant of €1515 from the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) to cover the cost of the conference.

|                            | #   | €     |
|----------------------------|-----|-------|
| Catering                   | 100 | 300   |
| Speakers/Organisers Dinner | 12  | 480   |
| Travel (Dublin/Cork)       | 3   | 150   |
| Accommodation              | 5   | 450   |
| Brochure                   | 200 | 250   |
| Total                      |     | 1,630 |

This budget was drawn up jointly by the IMS and our organising subcommittee, taking into account the expenses of transport and accommodation for the IMS speakers travelling down from Dublin as well as promotion and brochures for the day.

The grant covered dinner for two of our committee members, the 5 speakers, and several IMS members, as the IMS brought so many people to the dinner they covered the excess dinner expenses.

We also took charge of organising catering for the event. As this was the first year of the event it was hard to estimate the numbers and to avoid overpaying for food/drinks we were conservative with our estimates. We went for the cheapest option but the attendees seemed to be very satisfied with their teas and coffees.

Additionally, we received €30 funding from the UCC Societies Guild to cover a

*token of appreciation for our speaker. Although we had initially applied for €120 to cover dinner as well, we were actually able to cover this with the EPA money.*

#### **4 Please give details of the methods used to promote event.**

*How successful were you at your PR and getting people involved. Tips: It is important to detail variety of publicity methods used as well as the creativity and innovation of the publicity utilised.*

- The event was advertised via our own mailing list, as well as being posted on our Facebook, Instagram, put into group chats, and posters put up around campus.
- We drafted a press release and sent it off to various media outlets, such as 96fm and the Today Show with Daithí Ó Sé and Maura Derrane.
- We promoted the event via staff and research mailing lists some of the organisers had access to.
- The event was publicised on the IMS and UCC Environmental Research Institute websites.

#### **5 What would it mean to the society to win this award and why do you feel the society merits the award?**

It would mean a great deal for our society to win this award, because while our focus over the years has tended to be on the more abstract side of physics (particle physics, astrophysics etc), the research that has led to the majority of climate change studies has been based in physics. At Physoc we believe that the application of physics to alleviate climate change is a noble pursuit, and this event embodied that belief. With direct examples of physics being used to solve community and global problems we believe we have inspired and encouraged our members to do the same and to always be mindful of their responsibilities to use their knowledge for the betterment of humanity, and not just exploitative gain. Because of that, winning a green initiative award for this event would be a heartwarming recognition of our strong stance on the issue of climate change.

***Include poster, brochure and at least FOUR photos of your event plus links to any videos and websites.***

**Please see the following page:**

# An evening of weather and climate



**The Organisers**

**UCC Physics and Astronomy Society**

The UCC Physics and Astronomy Society is a student-led organization that provides an excellent opportunity for students to engage with the latest research in physics and astronomy. The society organizes a variety of events, including lectures, seminars, and social events, to help students develop their understanding of these subjects and to provide a supportive environment for their studies.

**UCC Environmental Research Institute (ERI)**

The ERI is a multi-disciplinary research center that focuses on the study of the environment and the impact of human activities on the planet. The institute is led by Professor John O'Connell and is home to a number of leading researchers in the field of environmental science. The ERI is committed to the advancement of knowledge and the development of sustainable solutions to the world's most pressing environmental challenges.

**Conference Programme**

18:00 Registration

18:30 **UCC and UCC Physoc in Geography Building**

19:00 **UCC and UCC Physoc in Geography Building**

19:30 **UCC and UCC Physoc in Geography Building**

20:00 **UCC and UCC Physoc in Geography Building**

20:30 **UCC and UCC Physoc in Geography Building**

21:00 **UCC and UCC Physoc in Geography Building**

21:30 **UCC and UCC Physoc in Geography Building**

22:00 **UCC and UCC Physoc in Geography Building**

22:30 **UCC and UCC Physoc in Geography Building**

23:00 **UCC and UCC Physoc in Geography Building**

**Speakers**

**Dr. Evelyn Cusack** is a senior lecturer in the Department of Geography at UCC. She has a PhD in Geography from UCC and has published a number of papers on the topic of climate change. She is currently working on a project that aims to assess the impact of climate change on the environment in Ireland. Dr. Cusack is also a member of the UCC Environmental Research Institute and is involved in a number of other research projects.

**Dr. John O'Connell** is a senior lecturer in the Department of Physics at UCC. He has a PhD in Physics from UCC and has published a number of papers on the topic of quantum mechanics. He is currently working on a project that aims to develop new materials for use in quantum computing. Dr. O'Connell is also a member of the UCC Environmental Research Institute and is involved in a number of other research projects.

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## The brochure distributed on the evening



## Pictures of the event from our social media

