

## Application

<b>Name of Initiative</b>
UL Birdhouse Builds
<b>Name of Society</b>
UL Environmental Society
<b>College</b>
University of Limerick

<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>
<p>The title of this project was the “UL Birdhouse Builds”.</p> <p>This was one of our most successful projects of the past year. The builds consisted of three separate workshops. To help inform the society about birds, types of species, vulnerable types etc the first workshop (April 2018) was a lecture given by Gordon Young, a local bird watching expert, identifying all of the different birds and wildlife that can be found all across campus.</p> <p>The second workshop was a UL Campus Nature Walk, again led by Gordon Young. While on route, Gordon pointed out various species of bird particular to UL, where they may be predominantly found on campus and also advised which locations would be good locations to build nests.</p> <p>The third and final workshop consisted the fun building of Birdhouses to be erected across campus! Using simple assembly instructions found on the Birdwatch Ireland website, 12 beautiful birdhouses were constructed by our very own society members and erected along the Mill Race river path (coordinated by the UL Buildings and Estates Dept). Each birdhouse was personalised with a pyro pen which allowed simple drawings and messages to be engraved onto the timber.</p> <p>These nest boxes cater for Blue Tits, Great Tits, Tree Sparrows and House Sparrows, with the main difference between each nest box simply being the size of the entrance hole to suit each bird type.</p> <p>This building of the bird boxes was such a fun success, and there was such a need to put loads up around campus, that the society decided that the first society meeting of each semester would be a birdhouse build, as it is fun hands on experience with a very quick and meaningful outcome, while at the same time getting to meet and make friends with new great people.</p> <p>In the past year we have run the workshop 3 times, meaning we have built and erect 36 birdboxes in total.</p>

<b>2. How many were involved in the event</b>
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**1. How did your initiative raise awareness of, and/or impact directly on Green Initiatives**

We impacted directly in that we erected 36 new birdboxes on campus, with many more to come.

Albert Nolan, a writer for the Limerick Leader county newspaper came along for the three workshops and featured us in one of his articles because of how impressed he was with our biodiversity initiative to raise awareness.

It's important to educate people on the need of bird boxes and for the birds, it provides a safe place for birds to build their nest and raise their young. When birds migrate, bird houses also provide them with a place to rest. The bird box are placed on path where they would receive a lot of attention from birds, as there is a lot of them flying around that area.

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

24 people working in pairs (12 birds boxes) x 3 = 72 people

**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?*

All of the wood and supplies and the final erection of the nest boxes by a tree surgeon were kindly donated to the society by the UL Green Campus Committee.

**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.*

We advertised with posters using noticeboards across campus, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, WhatsApp, our ULES website, in our annual society portfolio and we the UL Green Campus blog. Facebook is our main output for social media as it is the platform with the biggest audience, reaching over 400 people.

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

Our society motto and aim is 'Making Real Change On Campus'. These birdboxes offer a real haven for birds nest in. Further to this we have realised that the birdbox building workshop has solved a major problem for our society and we're sure other societies across the country: There can be an awful lot of time spent taking at the start of a semester, and while some people like to talk, a lot of people prefer to do something hands on and get instant results. Our society can suffer from this compared to other societies, as we usually start of a semester looking for ideas and suggestions, which can seem very disorganised to a lot of students meaning they might not return.

However, we have found that the birdbox builds are a perfect way to kick off a semester as you can build one in an hour, meet new people and discuss potential projects as a group at the same time.

We feel the society merits this award for its contribution to biodiversity on campus, and its replicable solution to student participation within the society at the start of semester.

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

# Birdhouse Workshops



UL Environmental Society  
Birdhouse Building Workshops

**Wednesday, 14th March**  
Lunchtime lecture by Gordon Young on bird species across campus in UL. Location TIC. 12pm-2pm

**Thursday, 15th March**  
Lunchtime campus walk with Gordon Young noting where various birds are found across campus. Location TIC. 12pm-2pm

**Friday, 20th March**  
Birdhouse building design workshop. Time & Location TIC.

**Sat. 24th March**  
Birdhouse build workshop. Time & Location TIC.

Tablet awarded to the best birdhouse plus other runner up prizes!

If you are interested in attending any of these workshops RSVP  
EnvironmentalSocietyUL@gmail.com  
with your name and the dates you would like to attend

