

This is a condensed sustainability strategy for colleges which only includes the general commitments (e.g. 25% reduction in food waste) rather than any action points.

This policy is enacted as the JCR has voted in favour of it. Sustainability policy constructed by the Decarbonise Oxford Campaign in relation to the Oxford Climate Society and OxPOCH conservation hierarchy.

Christ Church Sustainability Policy, Proposed by the JCR

1. Background

An unstable climate, increasing carbon emissions and accelerating biodiversity loss require urgent action. In 2018, the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) stated that if humanity was to have a chance of keeping the rise in average temperatures below 1.5C, thereby ensuring we don't witness run-away climate change, then global emissions must decrease by 45% from 2010 levels by 2030.¹ It is clear that the scale of this emergency demands fast action. This emergency also provides an opportunity for Christ Church to pioneer a carbon-free future for the world, and counter-act the dramatic biodiversity loss currently seen in the UK.

To achieve this, we must commit to carbon and biodiversity targets which are at least as ambitious of those which have recently been proposed by the University, which are **net zero carbon emissions and biodiversity net gain by 2035**² in order to address the global challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss in the organisation. Vice-Chancellor Professor Louise Richardson captures the importance of taking such bold action to combat climate change when she states:

"Today there are innumerable warnings of the impending dangers of climate change and biodiversity loss. We must heed them. Doing so will entail real changes to how we live and work. Just as we have had to challenge all aspects of business as usual in order to be resilient during the pandemic, dealing with the consequences of climate change will require significant, often unwelcome, changes in our daily lives."

The new University strategy was written by the environmental sustainability working group and with the help of world-leading academics such as Prof Myles Allen, Prof Cameron Hepburn, Prof Nick Brown and Prof Richard Barker among others. The University has hopes that colleges 'will implement similar measures and commitments to those' within this strategy document.

It must also be recognised that the commitments in this document can only be met through a partnership between all stakeholders within Christ Church. The student body stands willing to do its own part to help reach these commitments. The student body recognises that reaching these commitments will at times require sacrifices to be made not only from the institution of Christ Church but also from each of us as individuals. However, the student body also believes these sacrifices will be worth making in order to give us a shot of continuing to live in a world that is better, and not worse, than the one we inherited. To demonstrate this both the JCR and the MCR have voted in favour of affirming their support of this policy proposal.

¹ https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/06/SR15_Full_Report_High_Res.pdf

² <https://sustainability.admin.ox.ac.uk/consultation>

2. Commitments

In adopting this policy, the college sets out its intention to do the following:

Primary targets:

- I. Net zero carbon emissions by 2035
- II. Biodiversity net gain on our estate and in our supply chain by 2035

Secondary targets

1. Design new buildings using Passivhaus standards and in line with the University's Sustainability Design Guide³
2. Reduce carbon emissions from college served food to 25% of the 2021 baseline by 2035
3. Reduce college generated waste to 25% of the 2021 baseline by 2035
4. Adopt suitable investment principles such as the Oxford Martin Principles for Climate-Conscious Investment⁴
5. Adopt the Oxford-developed Mitigation Conservation Hierarchy⁵ framework to achieve;
6. Establish an estate biodiversity action plan by using the Oxford-developed Mitigation Conservation Hierarchy⁶, aiming to increase biodiversity on the college's commercial estate by 20% by 2035
7. Establish an off-set policy for the college using the Oxford Offsetting Principles⁷
8. Commit to development projects that are sustainable for biodiversity by ensuring all college development projects target at least 20% biodiversity net gain, and use the best-practice Mitigation Conservation Hierarchy framework to achieve this.

3. Processes

To achieve these targets, the student body is asking that the following actions be taken:

1. Establish a designated Sustainability position (such as a Sustainability fellow or a paid position held by a staff member or student) whose responsibility is to coordinate action across the college and further develop the Sustainability action plan needed to achieve the commitments;
2. Establish a college Sustainability committee which meets regularly throughout the year;
3. Develop a system of monitoring and annual reporting of carbon emissions and other relevant data within the first year;
4. Develop a system of monitoring and annual reporting of biodiversity impact both in the college's estate and supply chain within the first year.

³ <https://sustainability.admin.ox.ac.uk/files/estatesservicesustainabilitydesignguidepdf>

⁴ https://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/downloads/briefings/Principles_For_Climate_Conscious_Investment_Feb2018.pdf

⁵ <https://conservationhierarchy.org/what-is-conservation-hierarchy/>

⁶ <https://conservationhierarchy.org/what-is-conservation-hierarchy/>

⁷ <https://www.smithschool.ox.ac.uk/publications/reports/Oxford-Offsetting-Principles-2020.pdf>

4. Resources for colleges creating Sustainability action plans

The Conference of Colleges Sustainability Working Group, led by Kathy Willis, was set up to develop best practices for sustainability at colleges, and undergo a review of the sustainable action undertaken so far by a wide range of colleges. They are aiming to circulate their report on best practices by Hilary Term 2021, which will provide a valuable resource for colleges to develop their own climate action plans. In addition, the Oxford Sustainability Guild which was started by Bart Ashton, bursar of LMH, has been developing ways of developing the University strategy into college sustainability action plans. The Sustainability Guild will be providing workshops and resources throughout the next few terms. The [first workshop](#) will take place on February 25th, where both college and University sustainability department staff will discuss what the University strategy is and what colleges can take away.