



NEW COLLEGE
OXFORD

Environmental Sustainability Strategy

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1. Foreword

New College recognises its role in the climate change emergency and the steps it must now take to ensure it plays its part in the solution.

This strategy sets out the steps we will take to cut our emissions to achieve the net zero carbon targets and reduce our biodiversity loss by 2035.

By focusing on 5 key areas, the College can be an exemplar organisation in Oxford and be able to demonstrate that even historic buildings dating back to the 14th century can improve their energy efficiencies and remove the need to rely on fossil fuels for power, heating and hot water.

The Oxford University Sustainability Strategy published in 2021 expands on many of the key area of focus that our own strategy is based upon

<https://sustainability.admin.ox.ac.uk/files/environmentalsustainabilitystrategy.pdf>

By taking a considered, coordinated approach, working with all our members and our supply chains we are committed to reducing our environmental impacts to net zero by 2035. This strategy demonstrates how New College will continue to lead by example.

2. Executive Summary

New College, Oxford recognises its organisational impact on the global challenges of climate change and loss of biodiversity and is committed to reaching the net zero carbon targets and biodiversity net gain by 2035.

The New College Environmental Sustainability Strategy considers five main priority areas:

- 1. Carbon emissions from College buildings and biodiversity impact**
- 2. Sustainable food procurement**
- 3. Sustainable resource procurement**
- 4. Travel**
- 5. Investments**

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy will be supported by the implementation of three key drivers:

- 1. Make environmental sustainability part of the College Governing Body decision process**
- 2. Report annually on College carbon emissions and biodiversity impact**
- 3. Roll out a stakeholder engagement program to involve all members College**

The objective of this strategy is to achieve net zero carbon by reducing our demand for carbon intensive energy, reducing our collective travel footprint, procuring goods and materials sustainably and engaging fully with our suppliers and members.

3. Strategy

New College will achieve net zero carbon and biodiversity net gain by 2035 by focusing on our five areas of priority.

3.1 Carbon emissions from energy consumption in College buildings and biodiversity impact

The College will record and report against its scope 1 and scope 2 emissions annually and is committed to reducing its carbon emissions from energy consumption.

Scope 1 emissions are our direct carbon emissions, primarily for the College, this is from gas used to heat water and central heating plant and infrastructure.

Scope 2 emissions are indirect and are associated in the main from electricity used in our buildings.

To reduce our Scope 1 emissions, we will

- reduce and remove entirely our need for gas to provide hot water and heating across our estate
- validate the efficiency of and if suitable invest in renewable technology (such as ASHPs and GSHP's) to provide heating and hot water services to our buildings
- replace domestic gas appliances for electrical appliances in our student and commercial kitchens
- improve the energy efficiency of rooms in College by improving insulation, installing secondary glazing or double glazing wherever possible and subject to Listed Building Consent, replacing inefficient radiator valves and managing room temperatures through automated building management systems

To reduce our Scope 2 emissions, we will

- continue to purchase 100% renewable electricity from the National Grid
- reduce the demand on electricity by investment in energy efficient plant and appliances
- educate and promote ways to save energy
- install energy efficient lighting and building controls

To reduce the College negative impact on biodiversity, we will

- recycle, reduce and reuse to decrease pollution
- protect existing habitats and create new green spaces
- reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers in our lawn care

- use environmentally friendly cleaning products

3.2 Sustainable food procurement

The College will reduce its carbon emissions and biodiversity impact related to food procurement.

Food production is a major contributor to biodiversity loss and greenhouse emissions, livestock farms have replaced forests and demands for palm oil and international foods have further contributed to deforestation and carbon emissions.

Through engagement with our supply chain we will seek to reduce our biodiversity impact and carbon output. We will

- remove all single use plastics from our supply chain
- audit our suppliers' carbon footprint and seek to only procure food from net zero producers and distributors
- encourage the uptake in vegetarian and vegan choices, reducing the demand on red meat and fish
- educate and promote ways of reducing personal food miles
- measure and reduce waste through centralised advanced purchasing and controlling production outputs
- ensure food waste goes to a certified food waste recycling centre
- use seasonal fruit and vegetables in our menu planning supplied locally wherever possible

3.3 Sustainable resource procurement

The College will reduce our carbon emissions and biodiversity impact related to its consumption and supply chains.

Through engagement with our supply chain, we will seek to reduce our biodiversity impact and carbon output. We will

- reduce and seek to remove all single use products from our supply chain
- reduce our waste and reuse materials wherever possible
- audit our suppliers carbon footprint and only procure products and materials from net zero producers and distributors
- educate and promote ways of reducing our need for non-renewable resources
- recycle all waste ensuring no waste goes directly to landfill

3.4 Travel

The College will reduce its carbon emissions from staff and students travelling to and from Oxford.

International flights and regular car journeys have significant impacts on climate change through greenhouse emissions as well as causing noise pollution and congestion in a city not designed for motorised traffic.

To reduce our carbon emissions impact through travel, we will

- continue to install electric vehicle charging points
- continue to promote cycling, walking and public transport as means of travel in and around Oxford
- continue to provide access to a tax efficient bus pass scheme for all staff
- continue to access and promote the cycle to work scheme
- investigate 'electric vehicle for work' salary sacrifice schemes
- replace existing petrol and diesel equipment and College vehicles for electrically powered alternatives
- provide access to discounted cycle safety and security equipment
- provide 'paid' vacation residence for international students to reduce the number of flights taken each year
- offer flexible working schemes to reduce the need for staff to travel every day
- provide information for alternative transport options for national and international journeys, including rail and bus routes

3.5 Investments

The College recognises the impact the investment of its charitable endowment can have on the climate. A substantial part of the College endowment is actively managed by Oxford University Endowment Management (OUem)

Through active endowment monitoring, the College will

- Ensure fund managers consider ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) risks before investing in new funds
- Actively manage the Endowment Fund through OUem to be part of the solution to climate change and biodiversity loss. The Oxford Endowment Fund has recently placed restrictions on direct investment in fossil fuels. Investments are thoroughly analysed for potential environmental and social risks to prevent poorly managed negative environmental and social outcomes

- Ensure that the College when developing land for residential use/housing, is fully compliant with the terms within local authority planning consents governing sustainability and biodiversity

4. Conclusion

The New College Environmental Strategy provides us with a framework to net zero through a wide variety of intersecting disciplines. Embedding the ideas and investing in new technology as identified in this strategy are the key enablers for net zero.

Net zero by 2035 is a collective goal and will require all College stakeholders to own their part of the solution. By championing our strategy and engaging widely with our members, we can start to make great strides on the path to net zero.

The strategy needs to be actively managed and flexible in its approach. New technological approaches to climate change should be considered throughout the journey to net zero and the College should be responsive and diligent in considering all options to ending fossil fuel dependency and biodiversity loss.