

## **Aim**

The College is committed to reducing its impact on the environment by improving the sustainability of its operations and investments and embedding sustainability in its decisions and processes.

The College will not only continue to comply with environmental regulations and legislation, but aspires to go beyond what is legally required. As such the College will set ambitious but realistic targets to reduce the environmental impact of its activities.

The College recognises both the commitment of Article 2 Section 1 (a) of the 2015 Paris Agreement and the 2019 UK government target of net zero carbon-equivalent emissions by 2050.<sup>1</sup> With these targets in mind, and with an awareness of the acute threat that climate change poses to the future of the College, the College commits to reducing its carbon footprint in a timely manner through improvements in operational performance.

Improvements in operational performance will be made through:

1. Reduction of carbon-equivalent emissions, sustainable management of waste and resources;
2. Reduction of energy and water consumption, transport planning, efficient energy and resource management;
3. Construction of buildings with passive characteristics, reducing the environmental impact of existing historic buildings where feasible, biodiversity enhancement, and careful management of its financial investments.

## **Policy**

### **A. Policy on environmental governance and reporting**

The College will:

1. Establish a Sustainability Working Group to promote the aims of the Sustainability Policy, update the Policy when necessary, and report progress to the Governing Body.
2. Implement systems to collect, analyse and audit the College's environmental data, such as waste produced and energy expenditure, in order that the Sustainability Committee can

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<sup>1</sup> The UK government announced a target of net zero for UK greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 following recommendations made by the Committee on Climate Change. This change to legislation came into force on 27 June 2019 and amended the Climate Change Act 2008 target of an 80% reduction in GHG emissions compared with the 1990 levels.

establish baseline values, set ambitious but realistic targets and track progress towards those targets.

#### **B. Policy on carbon-equivalent emissions**

The College will:

- Subject to the calculation of baseline peak emissions and to the viability of such a reduction from that baseline adopt the University's 2019 carbon target to reduce peak emissions by 50% by 2030<sup>2</sup>. We will assume academic year 2014/5 to be the peak year for Corpus Christi College.
- Aspire to achieve total net zero emissions by 2050.<sup>1</sup>

#### **C. Policy on waste**

The College will:

- Identify base line food waste & material waste levels, using the current year as the baseline year as this is the first year our supplier has permitted us to collect data.
- Aim to reduce food waste from this baseline by 50% by 2030 in line with UN Sustainable Development Goals including plate waste, preparation waste and spoilage.
- Aim to reduce material waste by eradicating single-use plastics where recyclable or reusable alternatives are applicable.
- Implement clear sorting and waste management systems.
- Ensure that waste disposal minimises environmental impact; for instance, food waste should be disposed of via Anaerobic Digestion or through composting and aim for zero landfill waste.

#### **D. Policy on energy and water**

- Refrain: Identify unnecessary energy and water use by mapping the usage across the College and encourage people to refrain from usage through spatial/structural and behavioural change.
- Reduce: Reduce usage by improving efficiency in buildings where possible and by ensuring that new development and refurbishments adhere to best in class principles for sustainability.

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<sup>2</sup> These goals apply to both scope 1 emissions, which arise directly from sources that are owned or controlled by the College, and scope 2 emissions, which derive from the generation of electricity, heat or steam which is purchased by the College.

- **Purchasing:** Ensure that the College sources its energy and water from sustainable sources. The College should aspire to source 100% of its energy from renewable sources.
- **Redeem:** Offset unavoidable emissions from energy use with accredited offsetting schemes or invest in new renewable energy projects with proven additionality to the local grid.

#### **E. Policy on food**

The College will:

1. Reduce animal-derived protein consumption: 1/3 of all meals offered in Hall should be free from animal/farmed protein.
2. Offer equivalently palatable vegetarian and vegan meal options.
3. Minimise the consumption of unseasonal or air-freighted food and source with food airmiles in mind.
4. See 'policy on waste' for food waste policy.

#### **F. Policy on land use and development**

- **Biodiversity Net Gain:** All developments on College land inside or outside of Oxford must be managed by applying the mitigation hierarchy, and aiming for a net-increase in biodiversity with an aim of exceeding statutory minimums.
- Any sale of land for development must also commit the development to achieving biodiversity net gain in excess of statutory minimums if possible. The biodiversity on College land should be carefully managed, preserved and enhanced wherever possible.
- **Sustainability Principles:** Plans for new developments should prioritise minimising environmental impact, prioritise sustainable land use and aim for net-increases of biodiversity. Best practice in terms of sustainability should be used with a goal of minimising environmental impact and carbon footprint. Where feasible and cost/benefit analysis is supportive, ambitious standards such as Passivhaus should be considered on College sites.

#### **G. Policy on travel emissions**

The College will:

- Include clear scrutiny in College funded grant applications on the demand for air travel asking if travel can be avoided, if an alternative to flying is available and requiring an offsetting budget to be included for flight travel that is unavoidable.
- Commit to digital / remote options at conferences and events where possible and invest in the necessary infrastructure to facilitate this.

- Reduce all College business related air travel where possible and consider offsetting College-related travel emissions where practicable.
- Require an offsetting budget to be included in all college funded research grants that involve carbon heavy travel.
- Commit to strategies to limit the commuter emissions of college members and staff and incentivise low-carbon travel alternatives.
- Commit to strategies to reduce the number of student journeys to and from College and to assist through measures such as providing additional storage options on or off-site.

#### **H. Policy on investments<sup>3</sup>**

The College will:

- Adopt a Sustainable Investment Policy to cover both investments as well as its agricultural estates.
- Ensure that this policy is aligned with the United Nations PRI and that prohibited companies and industries are removed from the College's investment portfolios where practicable and without breaching other fiduciary responsibilities.
- The College's SRI Policy will expand on how the College's investment portfolio can properly reflect its ambitions and duties with respect to sustainability and climate change.

CCC Sustainability Working Group  
March 2020

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<sup>3</sup> This should be read in conjunction with the College's SRI Investment Policy