

CCC Sustainability Report, MT 2022

Over the past twelve months, the College has been active in promoting greater sustainability both as an operating entity but also within our investment portfolio.

1. We have retained, with Exeter and Lincoln Colleges, a sustainability coordinator who is tasked with shepherding the various initiatives we have, collating data and working with staff, Fellows and students to promote our sustainability agenda and to generate new initiatives. We hope that the shared nature of the post will not only be cost effective but that it will enable best practice across all three colleges.
2. Corpus Christi has been accredited with one of the highest recycling rates across the University, with over 60% of waste recycled. We will be investigating waste more thoroughly over the coming terms as whilst our recycling rate is good, absolute tonnage of waste is unacceptably high.
3. We are rolling out networked heating controls across the College in areas where we have gas heating, allowing greater control over heating and with the ability to automatically reduce heating temperatures if rooms are not occupied. We believe, based on the trial at Banbury Road, that this will reduce gas consumption by 20-30% by volume, adjusting for the effect of empty rooms in the trial buildings. This will be completed over Christmas but has already been substantially rolled out, particularly in common areas which historically were “always on”. We hope to identify a cost-effective solution for those parts of the College still heated by electric heaters and various temperature-controlled time switches are being trialled.
4. The programme of upgrading old sash windows is continuing over the summer in Gentleman Commoners’ Quad with a view to improving the thermal efficiency of our heritage buildings.
5. Progress continues on The Spencer Building, the first Passivhaus building to be linked to a 16th century Grade I listed range of buildings.
6. We have made a budget allowance for a full thermo-efficiency survey of operational buildings as the first stage in identifying where our energy performance is poor. This survey will inform our programme of works over the next decade with a view to ensuring that we can make rapid progress to decarbonising our operational sites.
7. The Bursar has attended a number of Sustainable Finance symposiums, the most recent being held at Keble College in late June 2022. The Development Director attended a virtual conference, Advancing Sustainability in Higher Education 2022, run by The Institute of Government and Public Policy, on the 21st September 2022.
8. We are in the process of negotiating a sustainable energy project of national importance which will be used to deliver green power to UK research infrastructure in Oxfordshire. The College will, we hope, be able to take green power from this site using battery and solar arrays enabling us to audit the source of electricity used by the College. This is an innovative 21st century use of agricultural lands given to us by our Founders with the intention of sustaining the medieval College.
9. We are in early discussions on the use of some parts of the Estate for natural capital projects where there would be a significant uplift in carbon sequestering and increase in biodiversity when compared with current use.
10. We are in the process of auditing the entire rural Estate to establish baseline biodiversity and natural capital opportunities with a view to optimising this over the coming years. This Environmental Opportunity Review will offer a good baseline from which to map improvements across the estate. We are also looking at schemes which we might put in place with our tenant farmers to encourage them to behave sustainably where they might. We are, for example, keen to encourage less aggressive cutting of hedgerows and the re-establishment of hedges lost in the 1970s and 1980s.

11. We have actively engaged with the Land Pool Trust, of which we are a small part, over farming methodology on the Land Pool Trust property ahead of any development. This was in response to local disquiet at the apparently environmentally unfriendly practices being used by the contract farmers.
12. We continue, through ongoing dialogue and an annual audit process, to encourage our Endowment managers to behave sustainably. It is encouraging that many are now taking ESG much more seriously and we have a much higher sign up rate to UN PRI as well as other groupings around sustainability in investments.
13. The Amundi Low Carbon Fund which we incepted with Clare College Cambridge in 2020 now has £400m+ in assets and is fully divested from carbon reserves as well as emphasising green revenues.

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