Sustainability Guide: What you can do to make Corpus more sustainable

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1. Being energy friendly

Tips for Winter and Autumn

**Lights off:** turn off the lights if you’re the last one to leave the room

**Boil less:** only boil as much water as you need

**Switch off:** turn off appliances at the socket when not in use, and try to keep electric heaters off for good

**Layer up:** bring a jumper for comfort during the winter months and close windows and doors (except during periodic air circulations) - for more information see the next section

**Power down:** turn off your computer and screen at the end of the day, and make sure your computer is set to ‘hibernate’ if you’re away from your desk

Tips for Summer

**Breeze in, sun out:** Let the breeze in during the cooler hours and keep the sun out by closing blinds to rooms in direct sunlight.

**Drink up:** Remember to stay hydrated. You may need to drink up to three litres of water on a very hot day.

**Dress for the weather:** loose fitting clothing and light fabrics help air flow to your body.

**Cool to 26:** We’re cooling buildings to 26°C to save energy, so don’t go below this level. Remember, setting a lower temperature doesn’t cool the space quicker.

**Switch off:** All appliances emit heat. Turn them off at the socket when not in use. If you can access local controls, turn off the air conditioning when you leave the room. And turn off your computer and screen at the end of the working day, and switch to ‘hibernate’ if you’re away from your desk.

For more information see: Be energy friendly | University of Oxford
2. **Understanding Ecosync**

The key three things to remember are:

1. Open windows fully for about 5 minutes to get fresh air and then close them again so that your radiator can reach a comfortable temperature again. Your radiators will learn when you open windows and respond by turning themselves off.
2. Turn the heating off when you leave your room. This is a major saving point and can easily be done via your QR code. We will be installing more easily accessible QR codes and Ecosync will change the settings so that you can change your temperatures in your room remotely throughout the term.
3. The heating is automatically on 7-10.30am and 4.30-10pm but you can use the boost function to turn it on outside of those hours.
FAQ
What time is the heating on? The heating is automatically on your temperature setting at 7:00-10.30am and 4.30-10pm. Outside of those times the temperature in your room is set to 17°C.

Can I adjust the temperature of the heating? Yes! If you scan the QR code in your room, you can decrease or increase the temperature in the range of 15°C to 22°C. Please remember that twenty’s plenty and that increasing your temperature by 1 degree increases your heating emissions by around 8%.

What is the ‘boost’ function for? It gives you an hour of heating outside of the hours that the heating is automatically on.

Can I use the ‘boost’ function more than once? Yes! You can use it as much as you need at any time of day and night.

What is the function of the ‘away’ button? It switches the heating down to 17°C. Please use this function when you’re out of your room.

If I have the ‘away’ function on for a long time, will my room get really cold? No. The temperature in your room will not go below 17°C in away/night mode. Freeze protection and the lowest temperature you can set your room at is 15°C.

Who do I contact if I have questions/suggestions about the heating system? You can contact the JCR and MCR E&E Officers as well as the Sustainability Officer.
3. Waste management

**Preventing waste is the first step to reducing waste issues.** Consider which items you need and act accordingly. When you no longer require items which can still be used, reusing them is the best way to go about this. Thus, at the end of the year in Trinity Term, Corpus organises a charity collection for things you no longer need but are perfectly usable. Look out for information about the British Heart Foundation Collection towards the end of Trinity from the JCR Ethics & Environment Rep. The box should be available from around 15th June and will be collected twice – the last time in the week of the 24th. You can find more information about what to do with unwanted textiles and electrical items on the [City Council website](https://www.oxfordcity.gov.uk).

For items that cannot be reused, the next step is to **check whether they can be recycled**. For students living in Chilswell or Banbury Road houses our waste is collected by Oxford City Council – the rules for this can be found here [What goes in each bin | Oxford City Council](https://www.oxfordcity.gov.uk).

In all other sites the university’s waste collector SELECT collects dry mixed recycling, mixed glass recycling and food waste according to the rules displayed to the left and below. On the main site we are also collecting coffee grounds separately in Thomas yard. Only the remaining non-recyclable and non-hazardous items should go into general waste. Please note that paper towels should go into general waste and not recycling as they are not clean and dry!
Batteries can be collected in the lodge battery bin. This bin can also take alkaline and lithium-ion batteries so do please bring any batteries from phones, shavers or laptops etc. in as well. Please never put this hazardous waste into the general waste collection.

You can also recycle pens in the library, which are brought to a recycling point by the JCR Ethics and Environment Officer.

For more information and an accessible version check out the University’s Waste Guide and SELECT.
4. Cycling in Oxford

Cycling is a popular and quick way to get around Oxford. We have bike storage at the main site and our various accommodations. You will have to register your bike at the Lodge to be able to park in College.

Bikes are regularly sold after the bike cull in Michaelmas Term but you may also want to consider renting a bike daily or termly through OxBikes. We recommend that you register your bike on the national Bike Register at one of the University’s events and that you get a Strong D-lock and good bike lights, both of which are available at a discount from the University.

If you want to learn to ride with confidence, the University provides up to six hours of free bike training. There is also a helpful online map of low-traffic cycle routes and the University has further information and resources to help keep your bike in good repair and secure.

5. Parcel Deliveries to Corpus Christi College Lodge

Corpus Christi College is participating in a cargo bike delivery scheme which means our parcels are delivered into College by cargo bike, reducing emissions and traffic. For more information check out Pedal & Post’s explainer.

Please ensure you have set your delivery address for parcels to the College Lodge as follows:

[Your Name]
Corpus Christi College
Pedal and Post
Oxford, OX2 0EX

6. Living sustainably in Oxford

For detailed guides on how to live sustainably in Oxford see Living Sustainably in Oxford and Sustainable Consumption Guide.

Some simple tips are to:

- **Go small and local** – support small businesses in your local community. Buy your gifts locally and more sustainably using the Oxford Local Businesses list from the Bodleian Libraries.

- **Check out the library of things and repair cafes** – there are various options for borrowing items such as bike repair kits from the Lodge, or having a look at SHARE Oxford which has an overview of repair cafes and things you can borrow in Oxford.
7. Sustainable gifting

- **Go Fairtrade**: crafts, wine, chocolate, flowers, cosmetics, olive oil, and other Fairtrade products are perfect gifts. You can find a wonderful variety in Oxford Fairtrade shops. You’ll be giving twice, including the producer who earns fair payment for their products.

- **Support a worthy cause**

- **Buy a gift with added value** such as products made from recycled ocean plastic, purchased from a charity shop or social enterprise.

- **Give eco-friendly items** that will support a more sustainable lifestyle, such as a bee house or reusable products.

- **Give an experience** such as tickets to the theatre.

- **Use a swapping platform** to give away your old toys and receive pre-loved ones.

Some more ideas for a sustainable Christmas are below:

- How to [avoid wasteful crackers](#).
- Does your [tree](#) come from a sustainable source?
- How to have a [greener festive meal](#).
- Be mindful of waste when buying holiday cards and [wrapping gifts](#).

8. **How to get further involved in sustainability in Oxford and Corpus**

Lastly, if you are interested in getting involved in sustainability further you can join Corpus’ Green Impact Team by contacting the Sustainability Officer at sustainability@ccc.ox.ac.uk.

To find more information you can also find out more about [Sustainability at Corpus](#) on the College website and have a look at the [Oxford SU Sustainability Hub](#), the [Students Organising for Sustainability Website](#), as well as the [Sustainable Students Oxford Website](#). There is also a [five-minute video environmental sustainability induction](#) from the University.