



Lincoln College
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Lincoln College – Sustainability Statement

Updated September 2024

Lincoln College is committed to actively supporting an environmentally sustainable future.

Lincoln College's Sustainability Sub-committee leads the identification and implementation of sustainability-related initiatives, measuring their impact, and setting new objectives.

The Sustainability Sub-committee has a Senior Officer of the College as chair and includes Fellows, students and members of staff such as the Sustainability Officer and Head Gardener. It reports to the Governing Body via the Domestic and Finance Committees.

The College has undertaken an audit of its energy usage and is undertaking an audit of its biodiversity. These audits will provide baseline data against which we can measure our progress in reducing emissions and enhancing biodiversity, and against which we can set meaningful targets.

Lincoln's specific objectives include:

Objective	Progress
Leadership Lead by example – through sustainable thinking and behaviour Lincoln’s leaders will be a model for Lincoln staff, students and alumni, and other institutions. Embed sustainable thinking and behaviour into the College culture, benefitting current College members and the next generations, both within and outside of the College. Provide public information about our progress toward a more sustainable world. Take into account information about the environmental and social costs, as well as the financial cost, when making investment and business decisions.	2021-2022 Created Sustainability Sub-committee. Received a silver Green impact award. 2022-2023 Created a shared Sustainability Officer post with Corpus Christi and Exeter colleges in September 2022. The JCR made the Environment & Ethics Rep part of its executive team, and renamed the post ‘Environment & Ethics Officer’. Received a gold Green Impact award. 2023-2024 Appointed a new shared Sustainability Officer in July 2024. Received a gold Green Impact award. Ongoing Sustainability is a standing item on the agenda of the first Domestic Committee meeting of each term. The Lincoln College website has a dedicated Sustainability page (divided into 8 sections) which is updated on a regular basis. The Sustainability page in the ‘Current Students’ section has been expanded with more information, including comprehensive information about recycling at Lincoln.

Objective	Progress
Emissions Measure our carbon emissions and agree a well-defined and challenging but realistic target for reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions. The College is developing a Heat Decarbonisation Plan to get to a net-zero timeframe for scope 1 emissions. Scope 2 emissions from electricity use are zero due to Lincoln's long-standing practice of procuring renewable electricity. Lincoln is working towards measuring our scope 3 (indirect) emissions stemming from the College's water and energy use, waste, food, business/student/commuting travel, postage, endowment portfolio, and procurement.	2022-2023 Created a database of meter readings and a method for calculating carbon emissions. Replaced petrol powered gardening equipment with rechargeable battery-operated models. Created a Heat Decarbonisation Roadmap 2022-2027; it is a 'living document', updated as feasibility studies are conducted and projects are developed. 2023-2024 Calculated a confident estimate of scope 1 (direct) carbon emissions for 2023: 497.7 tCO₂e. Due to the phase-out of College diesel use in 2023, gas is the only remaining source of scope 1 emissions. Improved collection of data for scope 3 emissions estimation, and developed initial estimate. In 2023, it is estimated that Lincoln emitted more than 1573.9 tCO₂e in scope 3 emissions, stemming from transport and travel, procurement, waste, and upstream emissions related to utilities.
Energy Reduce College buildings' carbon emissions in line with our greenhouse gas emissions reduction target by reducing overall energy consumption. This will be achieved through technical solutions and behavioural change.	2022-2023 Installed EcoSync 'smart' TRVs on wet radiators in Lincoln House, Staircase 15, and the main site. 2023-2024 Used EcoSync TRVs to easily adjust or turn off heating during vacation periods, when rooms were not occupied.

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Biodiversity Conduct a baseline audit of bio-diversity. Limit our negative impact on natural ecosystems and environments by preserving and, where possible, creating and/or enhancing wildlife habitats in spaces owned by the College.	2022-2023 Planted a wildflower garden in Bear Lane as part of the Oxford 'Good Gardener Campaign'. Engaged an ecological consultancy to carry out a desk-based assessment of biodiversity net-gain for the land at Forest Hill, Oxford. 2023-2024 Created a pond in the Fellows' Garden on the main site. Planted a wildflower garden in Bear Lane as part of the Oxford 'Good Gardener Campaign'. Installed bird boxes and a bug hotel in the Library garden.
Food Work to reduce the environmental impact of our food through menus, sourcing, production, and influencing demand. Raise awareness of how personal diet choices affect health and the environment.	2022-2023 Held two formal halls with a vegan menu. 2023-2024 Held termly vegan formal halls. Ongoing Free range eggs are used in the College kitchen. The College uses Rainforest Alliance Certified coffee. Coffee used in the SCR coffee machine is fair trade.

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Travel & Transport Encourage and support staff, students and visitors to use low and zero carbon modes of transport, both to and from the College and in general. Prioritise rail travel over air wherever possible.	2022-2023 Installed 2 EV charging points in College garage. Replaced the diesel College van with an electric van. 2023-2024 Implemented a pre-tax, salary sacrifice electric vehicle scheme for staff. Ongoing Due to lack of parking spaces at or near the College, staff commute to work via public transport, bicycle, or on foot. Participate in 'Cyclescheme' (https://www.cyclescheme.co.uk/), a pre-tax salary sacrifice scheme.
Sustainable Buildings Environmental sustainability shall be a key consideration in all new buildings. The College will review the range of alternatives to enhance sustainability and reduce the building's carbon impact. The College also has a programme to introduce sustainable operating efficiencies into its existing buildings where it can.	2022-2023 Replaced roofs and upgraded roof insulation on some staircases in Bear Lane. 2023-2024 Conducted feasibility study and for the replacement of the main site boilers; explored more sustainable options. Replaced roofs, upgraded roof insulation, and installed solar panels along the entirety of the Museum Road Houses (Lincoln Hall) Ongoing As roofs on College buildings are repaired or replaced, roof insulation is upgraded as a matter of course.

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Sustainable Purchasing Purchase products and services that reduce the College's environmental impact locally and globally. This could include the products themselves, or means of delivery. Consider the social and environmental, as well as financial costs when making purchasing decisions.	2022-2023 Introduced centralised purchasing of stationery and office supplies via the Domestic Bursary. Orders are made once weekly to reduce deliveries. Turl Street Colleges all order from the same supplier on the same day in order to reduce deliveries further still. Ongoing Efforts are under way to make our procurement more sustainable through the Colleges' Purchasing Shared Service.
Waste Encourage and support behaviour and work practices that minimise waste. Encourage recycling and make it easy for College members to recycle. Review and communicate waste data to facilitate continuous improvement.	2022-2023 The JCR and MCR ran a joint recycling incentive scheme. 2023-2024 Introduced 'waste management' as part of the online student accommodation induction. Introduced a new student recycling policy to make it easier for students to recycle. Ran a student-led campaign to reduce overall waste and increase the amount recycled or repurposed at the end of the academic year. This resulted in Lincoln's highest ever recycling rate for the month of June, and a reduction in overall waste by more than one tonne year-on-year. Ongoing Waste data is provided to the College on a monthly basis. It is tracked, and reported termly.
Water Use water efficiently and implement measures to reduce the use of mains water. This will be achieved via both technical solutions and behavioural change.	Ongoing Water restrictors are installed in all showers in student accommodation.

Objective	Progress
Investments The College believes that well-run companies which promote sustainable, environmental, social and governance policies will ultimately deliver above average long-term returns to their investors.	Ongoing The College integrates environmental, social and governance issues into its investment decision-making.