



Lincoln College
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Lincoln College – Sustainability Statement

Updated December 2025

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.

Lincoln's specific objectives include:

Objective	Progress
<p data-bbox="204 398 363 432">Leadership</p> <p data-bbox="204 443 788 589">Lead by example – through sustainable thinking and behaviour Lincoln’s leaders will be a model for Lincoln staff, students and alumni, and other institutions.</p> <p data-bbox="204 618 788 763">Embed sustainable thinking and behaviour into the College culture, benefitting current College members and the next generations, both within and outside of the College.</p> <p data-bbox="204 792 788 1016">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.</p>	<p data-bbox="810 398 948 432">2021-2022</p> <p data-bbox="810 443 1278 465">Created Sustainability Sub-committee.</p> <p data-bbox="810 495 1273 517">Received a silver Green impact award.</p> <p data-bbox="810 546 948 580">2022-2023</p> <p data-bbox="810 591 1337 703">Created a shared Sustainability Officer post with Corpus Christi and Exeter colleges in September 2022.</p> <p data-bbox="810 732 1353 844">The JCR made the Environment & Ethics Rep part of its executive team, and renamed the post ‘Environment & Ethics Officer’.</p> <p data-bbox="810 873 1262 896">Received a gold Green Impact award.</p> <p data-bbox="810 925 948 958">2023-2024</p> <p data-bbox="810 969 1369 1037">Appointed a new shared Sustainability Officer in July 2024.</p> <p data-bbox="810 1066 1262 1088">Received a gold Green Impact award.</p> <p data-bbox="810 1120 916 1153">2024-25</p> <p data-bbox="810 1182 1374 1294">Received a Beyond Gold Green Impact award and was one of the top three scoring teams at the University of Oxford.</p> <p data-bbox="810 1323 1362 1435">The MCR reiterated their commitment to sustainable practices in College renaming the MCR Sustainability Representative,</p> <p data-bbox="810 1464 1374 1599">Ongoing Sustainability is a standing item on the agenda of the first Domestic Committee meeting of each term.</p> <p data-bbox="810 1628 1342 1897">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.</p>

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 market-based 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.

2024-25

Changed the reporting period to the 1st August – 31st July to align with University's reporting period.

scope 1 emissions were 484 tCO₂e.

scope 2 emissions were zero from a market-based approach due to Lincoln's longstanding commitment to procuring renewable electricity. From a location-based approach the College's scope 2 emissions were 242 tCO₂e.

The Colleges Sustainability Officer worked with fellow College sustainability leads to build a colleges carbon emissions toolkit to help colleges calculate their emissions moving forward, standardising reporting. New scope 3

Objective	Progress
	category's will be added to this toolkit every year.

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<p data-bbox="204 398 304 432">Energy</p> <p data-bbox="204 443 756 624">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.</p>	<p data-bbox="815 398 943 432">2022-2023</p> <p data-bbox="815 443 1382 535">Installed EcoSync 'smart' TRVs on wet radiators in Lincoln House, Staircase 15, and the main site.</p> <p data-bbox="815 568 1054 602">2023-2024 onwards</p> <p data-bbox="815 613 1366 705">Used EcoSync TRVs to easily adjust or turn off heating during vacation periods, when rooms were not occupied.</p> <p data-bbox="815 739 911 772">2025-25</p> <p data-bbox="815 784 1366 875">Upgraded main site boilers with replacements that are 11% more energy efficient.</p>

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<p data-bbox="204 398 373 432">Biodiversity</p> <p data-bbox="204 443 699 477">Conduct a baseline audit of bio-diversity.</p> <p data-bbox="204 499 780 689">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.</p>	<p data-bbox="810 398 943 432">2022-2023</p> <p data-bbox="810 432 1366 499">Planted a wildflower garden in Bear Lane as part of the Oxford ‘Good Gardener Campaign’.</p> <p data-bbox="810 521 1378 633">Engaged an ecological consultancy to carry out a desk-based assessment of biodiversity net-gain for the land at Forest Hill, Oxford.</p> <p data-bbox="810 667 943 701">2023-2024</p> <p data-bbox="810 701 1361 768">Created a pond in the Fellows’ Garden on the main site.</p> <p data-bbox="810 801 1374 869">Planted a wildflower garden in Bear Lane as part of the Oxford ‘Good Gardener Campaign’.</p> <p data-bbox="810 902 1318 969">Installed bird boxes and a bug hotel in the Library garden.</p> <p data-bbox="810 1003 911 1037">2024-25</p> <p data-bbox="810 1059 1382 1238">Took part in the Big Garden Bird Watch, recorded three species and twelve individuals. This data will be used as a baseline to measure the impact of biodiversity enhancements in the gardens.</p> <p data-bbox="810 1272 1310 1339">Set-up an i-Naturalist account, to track biodiversity sightings on College grounds.</p> <p data-bbox="810 1373 1353 1485">Re-seeded the wildflower garden next to the Library as part of the Oxford ‘Good Gardener Campaign’.</p> <p data-bbox="810 1507 1286 1541">Biodiversity gains in Chapel Quad lawn:</p> <p data-bbox="810 1574 1374 1641">Planted crocus and species tulip bulbs into the lawn.</p> <p data-bbox="810 1675 1353 1776">Planted a variety of low flowering perennials including – lawn daisy, meadow buttercup, birds foot trefoil and selfheal.</p> <p data-bbox="810 1809 1358 1910">We are now leaving the lawn longer and only mowing once every 3 to 4 weeks, down from multiple mows per week.</p>

Objective	Progress
<p>Food</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>2022-2023</p> <p>Held two formal halls with a vegan menu.</p> <p>2023-2024</p> <p>Held termly vegan formal halls. Ongoing</p> <p>Free range eggs are used in the College kitchen.</p> <p>The College uses Rainforest Alliance Certified coffee. Coffee used in the SCR coffee machine is fair trade.</p>
<p>Travel & Transport</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>2022-2023</p> <p>Installed 2 EV charging points in College garage.</p> <p>Replaced the diesel College van with an electric van.</p> <p>2023-2024</p> <p>Implemented a pre-tax, salary sacrifice electric vehicle scheme for staff.</p> <p>2024-25</p> <p>Hosted three Bike Days in collaboration with Corpus Christi and Exeter where members could book-in for free bike repairs and purchase a second-hand bike.</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Due to lack of parking spaces at or near the College, staff commute to work via public transport, bicycle, or on foot.</p> <p>Participate in 'Cyclescheme' (https://www.cyclescheme.co.uk/), a pre-tax salary sacrifice scheme.</p>

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<p data-bbox="204 398 504 432">Sustainable Buildings</p> <p data-bbox="204 443 783 701">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.</p>	<p data-bbox="810 394 943 421">2022-2023</p> <p data-bbox="810 432 1385 499">Replaced roofs and upgraded roof insulation on some staircases in Bear Lane.</p> <p data-bbox="810 528 943 555">2023-2024</p> <p data-bbox="810 566 1369 674">Conducted feasibility study and for the replacement of the main site boilers; explored more sustainable options.</p> <p data-bbox="810 703 1369 810">Replaced roofs, upgraded roof insulation, and installed solar panels along the entirety of the Museum Road Houses (Lincoln Hall)</p> <p data-bbox="810 840 911 866">2024-25</p> <p data-bbox="810 898 1385 1048">The College installed 80 Photo-Voltaic panels at the Museum Road site. As of December 2025, the panels have generated 34,000 kwh of electricity to the EPA Centre.</p> <p data-bbox="810 1077 911 1104">Ongoing</p> <p data-bbox="810 1115 1342 1223">As roofs on College buildings are repaired or replaced, roof insulation is upgraded as a matter of course.</p>

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<p data-bbox="204 394 531 427">Sustainable Purchasing</p> <p data-bbox="204 439 778 663">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.</p>	<p data-bbox="810 394 946 421">2022-2023</p> <p data-bbox="810 432 1385 645">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.</p> <p data-bbox="810 678 914 705">2024-25</p> <p data-bbox="810 739 1385 884">Continue to engage with the College's Shared Procurement service on including sustainability criteria in the appointment of new preferred suppliers.</p> <p data-bbox="810 918 1385 1019">Changed to a new local uniform supplier which are ISO14001 accredited and has released a carbon reduction plan for their business.</p> <p data-bbox="810 1052 914 1079">Ongoing</p> <p data-bbox="810 1090 1337 1191">Efforts are under way to make our procurement more sustainable through the Colleges' Purchasing Shared Service.</p>

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<p>Waste</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>2022-2023</p> <p>The JCR and MCR ran a joint recycling incentive scheme.</p> <p>2023-2024</p> <p>Introduced ‘waste management’ as part of the online student accommodation induction.</p> <p>Introduced a new student recycling policy to make it easier for students to recycle.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>2024-25</p> <p>Ran a student volunteer project called Waste Fairies. These students direct those moving out to dispose of their waste correctly.</p> <p>Started a swap shop project as part of our Green Impact submission. This programme aims to recirculate usable but unwanted items in the College community.</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Waste data is provided to the College on a monthly basis. It is tracked, and reported termly.</p>
<p>Water</p> <p>Use water efficiently and implement measures to reduce the use of mains water. This will be achieved via both technical solutions and behavioural change.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Water restrictors are installed in all showers in student accommodation.</p> <p>2024-25</p> <p>Have a consumption baseline for the meters servicing our central Oxford sites. We can now start tracking how the College’s efforts on water efficiency are reflected in consumption reductions.</p>

Objective	Progress
<p data-bbox="204 398 384 432">Investments</p> <p data-bbox="204 443 751 629">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.</p>	<p data-bbox="810 398 919 432">Ongoing</p> <p data-bbox="810 432 1350 539">The College integrates environmental, social and governance issues into its investment decision-making.</p>