

Lincoln College, Oxford

Environment and Waste Guide 2023-2024

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Rep

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INTRODUCTION

This guide aims to help members of Lincoln JCR learn about the steps the College is taking to be more environmentally friendly and how you can join in by making eco-friendly choices. It might seem tough, especially while you're at college, but as the Environment and Ethics Representative, my main goal is to make it easier for you.

In this guide, you'll find information about the resources available to promote environmental awareness and make sustainable choices. We'll also share what the College is doing behind the scenes to be eco-friendlier.

In the future, I've also outlined our long-term plans to be more sustainable. One key step in being more environmentally responsible is getting informed. Life at Oxford is quite busy, with lots of things vying for your time and attention. It can be tough to stay informed. This guide is here to help. It's like a starting point for learning more about these issues. The better you understand how to be eco-friendly in your everyday life, the more likely you are to make positive changes.

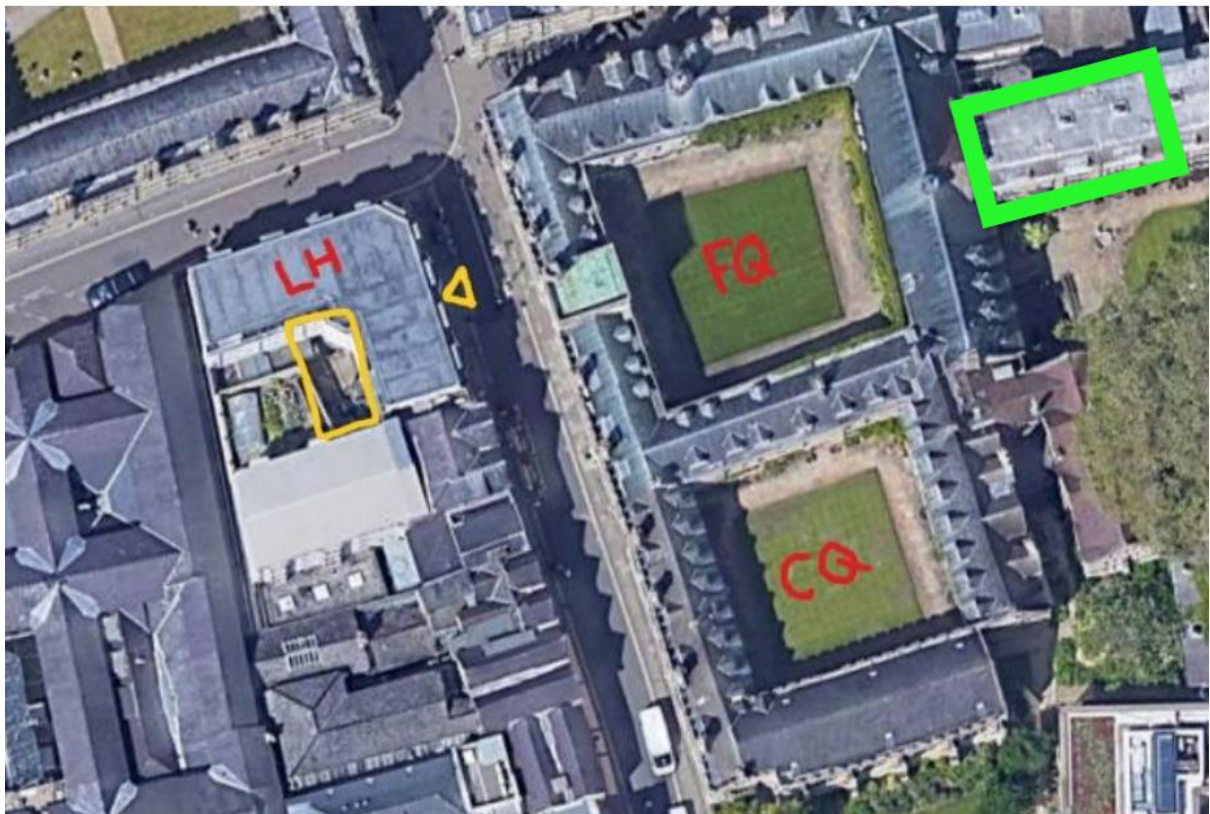
You can read this guide at your own pace, for as long as you like. My main goal is to raise awareness and encourage action on sustainability and the environment. If you have questions or ideas, please get in touch with me at hester.bieber@lincoln.ox.ac.uk.

WASTE MANAGEMENT WASTE MANAGEMENT IS AT THE CENTRE OF LINCOLN'S ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA.

The guidelines for waste management at Lincoln are:

1. Don't overfill bins.
2. The general waste bins in your rooms will always be emptied by scouts.
3. Glass recycling is a students' responsibility.
4. Food waste is a students' responsibility.
5. Dry mixed recycling is a students' responsibility.

There is a good provision of bins in the college garage for those living on site. There are bins available for dry mixed recycling, glass recycling, food waste, and mixed general waste. This is a central location primarily available for the main college site and accommodation on Turl Street.



This map of Lincoln shows the main college bins, located in the garage (shown in yellow). This can be accessed through the metal door on Turl Street between Oxfam and the Nora's Antiques, indicated by the yellow arrow. It can also be accessed, most relevantly for first years, through staircase 15. There are dry mixed recycling bins in the kitchen (indicated in green) that can be accessed by students.

On other college sites, the same range of bins can be found.

There are also more specialist waste bins that can be found on various college sites, such as a collection for unwanted clothes and textiles (Museum Road Accommodation, Turl Street JCR and Bear Lane Computer Room: British Heart Foundation red bin), and a red Haz-Box for used batteries in the college garage.

You can also find more information about reusing textiles and small electricals on the City Council Website:

https://www.oxford.gov.uk/homepage/382/bring_banks_-_alternative_options_for_textiles_and_electricals

Smaller scale changes are also important to waste management. For example, the period products supplied by the JCR Gender Reps are from the company Grace and Green; they are an organisation keen on providing ecologically minded hygiene products. The tampons, for instance, have no plastic in the applicator. This is a small, but extremely effective change.

RECYCLING GUIDELINES

I know this may appear boring reading but doing your recycling properly is one of the few direct ways you can reduce your impact on the environment. Lincoln uses SELECT for waste management who have their own specific rules etc. I have outlined the main points below. If you are so inclined, you can have a look at their website at <https://www.selectenviro.co.uk/> for more details.

DRY MIXED RECYCLING

- **USED** for paper, cardboard, cans and food tins, and most plastics*
- **NOT USED** for black trays or unclean containers (food and drink alike). Soft plastics are not accepted in these bins but can be brought to supermarkets.

FOOD WASTE

- **USED** for out-of-date food, leftovers, tea bags and coffee grounds, and raw or cooked meat/fish.
- **NOT USED** for food (or any other) packaging.

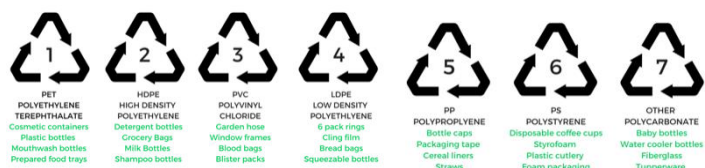
MIXED GLASS RECYCLING

- **USED** for all colours of glass bottles, glass jars (no lids), and glassware.
- **NOT USED** for heat-proof glass.

Key Information:

Make sure your recycling is clean. Generally, avoid putting it in the bin inside a bag that is not college provided

*Ones with these symbols, to be specific:



SINGLE USE REDUCTIONS

Cutting down on personal, single use items is also a great way to improve your own carbon footprint, especially since each object has a certain carbon footprint that carries an environmental impact. Increasing the reuse of an item can reduce the burden of production and consumption emissions.

In university life, drinking cups are significant. Coffee is popular, with an easy opportunity to reduce single use cups offered by college – keep cups. These are glass or sustainable plastic cups with useful lids and the added bonus of being allowed in Bodleian libraries to have coffee whilst studying. Even better, many coffee shops (including the College Bar!) will even offer a discount on your drink if you are using a reusable cup/bottle. In the evenings, it is not uncommon for students to enjoy a few drinks. Having glasses or mugs for your own use is a really good way of cutting down single use cups, often made of plastic.

Lincoln College is actually offering their own college Keep Cup!!!!!! It is made from clear plastic so very sturdy and useful. If you're interested in getting one, please get in touch with me at

hester.bieber@lincoln.ox.ac.uk



Also, if you're looking to reduce single use plastics within toiletries and cleaning products, there are various shops in Oxford that offer refills. For example:

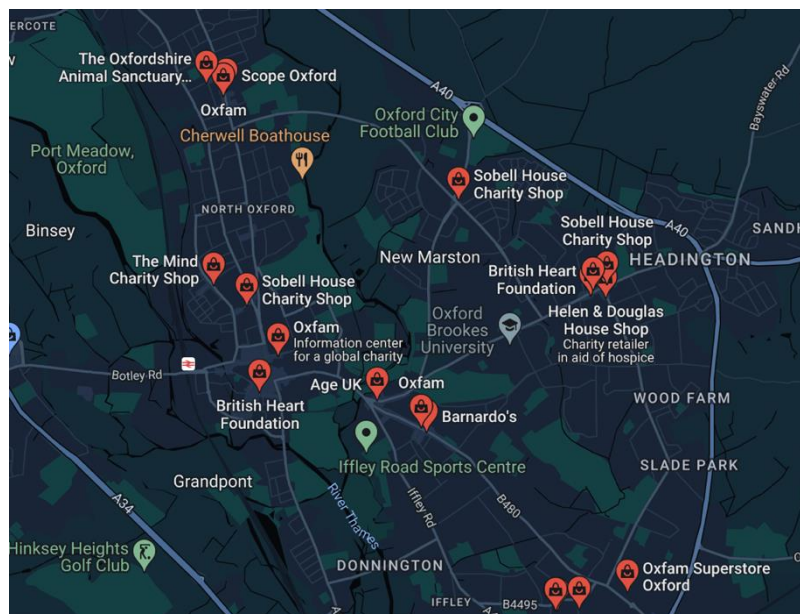
- Wild Honey, branches on Little Clarendon Street, Magdalen Road and South Parade
- Oxford Crafter's Emporium, High Street
- Flo's in the Park, Florence Park
- East Oxford Farmers' Market (also kitchen staples), Saturdays 10am-1pm in East Oxford Primary School behind Cowley Road Tesco's car park

SECOND-HAND IN OXFORD

Reusing can include buying a keep cup as mentioned above, but can also involve selling/donating your possessions. In Oxford, this is simple for everything from books to clothes to whiskey glasses!

The UK's first Oxfam charity shop can be found on Broad Street, about 2 minutes from college. This shop accepts clothes, jewellery, soft furnishings, and more. On Turl Street itself there is an Oxfam

bookshop that takes books from a variety of genres – including textbooks that are in good condition but may be no longer be of use to you. Another Oxfam bookshop can be found on St Giles'. For more of a 'thrifting' experience, there is even an Oxfam



Superstore in Cowley, only a bus ride away from Lincoln.

Other Charity shops include but are not limited to: British Heart Foundation (found near Westgate), Sobell House (Little Clarendon Street), and The Mind (Jericho).

For those looking for second hand ball clothes, fancy dress, or vintage aesthetic wear, there are multiple choices. Close to Lincoln again, is Unicorn (Ship St) where a myriad of outfits can be found. On the Magdalene Roundabout (just before Cowley Road, also named the Plain) there is Ballroom Emporium, and Shephard & Woodward (High St) rent formal attire such as black and white tie suits, as well as academic dress like gowns.

This also applies for objects not just clothes. For things you might only need to use once, like a bike for a one off journey, a carpet cleaner or even a telescope, You could go to The Library of Things, located on Aristotle Lane (<https://shareoxford.org/>).

These are not only more sustainable, especially since the occasions they cater for are often one-off, but are often cheaper than buying things new.

When thinking of buying something new, try to think of the waste hierarchy. If you don't have to get it new, don't! Avoiding unnecessary purchases is one of the easiest ways to reduce your waste and become more sustainable.



EATING SUSTAINABLY

Our diets can also have a massive impact on issues of ethics and sustainability. Lincoln College can cater for a wide variety of dietary preferences and requirements, with vegetarian and vegan options being available for booking in all sittings of Hall. (To enjoy a vegan meal, you'll need to book on the meal booking system for all meals, while vegetarian and meat options are readily available for breakfast, lunch, and first hall without the need for prior booking.)

Other dietary choices and requirements (for example no dairy, no nuts, halal) can be booked through the Meal booking system, at meals.linc.ox.ac.uk. At breakfast there are also alternative milks available to reduce our reliance on dairy, an industry that significantly contributes to global CO2 emissions.

A meat free day is under discussion between the JCR, MCR and others in college so as to reduce the emissions produced by food consumption.

ENERGY USE

The heating of student rooms is limited to the colder months – specifically Michaelmas and Hilary terms. However, in every room in Main Site, Staircase 15, and Lincoln house you will have radiators which can be controlled by EcoSync. A QR code will be located near your door during the introduction of the system in your room. This is how you will control your heating. If you scan the code, you will be taken to the Roommate page where you can set the exact temperature you want, within a very reasonable margin, and, most importantly, set whether you are in or out of the room. This page is non-expiring so can be accessed even away from the QR code so if you forget to input that you are ‘out’ when leaving, you can do it whilst having your lunch or sat in a lecture!



There are other areas in which you can turn off lights which would be a help in putting less strain on energy use. One of these places is the JCR; this is a key location as it has so many lights that can be turned on. The recommendation would be to use only the ones that are particularly required, based on where you are in the room, what time of day, and the level of activity, for example whether you are simply studying, or if there’s a social event on. The opportunity to adjust the way we use energy in this communal space is valuable in reducing the overall energy use of college.

CYCLING

Cycling is a great way to reduce our own carbon footprints but also makes a difference in the wider community. Local emissions are cut more and more, the higher the proportion of the population cycles.



Students are especially keen as they are cheaper than cars, and if well used over a significant period, most likely total up to being cheaper than bus travel. In Oxford, and especially at Lincoln for which much of the college accommodation is central, cycling is a very efficient method of getting around as key locations are within cycling distance, and much of the centre has restricted road use, making even bus travel somewhat difficult and longer than it could be.

However, for all these benefits, cycling can be daunting. There are a few guides below that are helpful in feeling more at ease in Oxford specifically, and more generally sharing roads with cars and with repairs.

- Cycling for Travel in Oxford: <https://travel.admin.ox.ac.uk/bike/oxford>
- Navigating Traffic Whilst Cycling: <https://www.cyclinguk.org/article/cyclingguide/top-ten-tips-for-cycling-in-traffic>
- Looking After a Bike: <https://travel.admin.ox.ac.uk/bike/security#collapse1004021>

This year, Lincoln are running a bike scheme that means JCR students can sign up, on a weekly basis, to rent a bike from ones the JCR own (stored in the garage). This makes it even easier for students to use bikes – no payment needed, and quickly available.

Also, if your looking to buy a bike in oxford you could consider buying from OXBIKES. This company specialises in refurbished bikes and is based in colleges and the city centre.

(either scan the QR code on click on the link: <https://bykeltd.co.uk/>)



GREEN IMPACT

So, this is a national scheme that encourages organisations to improve sustainability. College gets involved in it every year, and last year they got a gold award!

Find out more on their website (<https://greenimpact.nus.org.uk/>) and there should be an initial meeting organised early in the academic year.

If you'd like to be a volunteer for green impact email me at hester.bieber@lincoln.ox.ac.uk

OXFORD SU ADVICE

The Oxford Student Union is keen to encourage college and university level sustainability and environmental awareness. As well as working with JCR and MCR reps, they have resources available to all students on their website, found at the Sustainability Hub.

Here, you can find all manner of help and advice regarding individual changes, politicised actions, and wider systemic matters. Head over to the Sustainability Hub at <https://www.oxfordsu.org/get-involved/sustainability-hub/>

HELPFUL CONTACTS

Peter Nitsche-Whitfield, Sustainability Coordinator:
sustainability@lincoln.ox.ac.uk

Peter has joined the College Staff last year. He is working with those in college, like the Domestic Operations team, and student reps, to maximise the sustainability of college life.