

Lincoln College, Oxford

Environment and Waste Guide 2024-2025

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INTRODUCTION

This guide is a starting point for member of Lincoln's JCR to discover more about the College's commitment to being more environmentally friendly and learn how you can do your part to help our cause. We understand that university life can be hectic at the best of times, which is why this guide is designed to be read at your own pace, or equally used as a reference guide when you have a particular question about making sustainable choices during your time at Oxford. It contains information regarding environmental awareness, everyday sustainable choices, and what College is up to behind the scenes. Education is the first step towards change, so we really hope you will take the time to read this and reflect on what you could be doing to make a difference.

If you have any further questions or suggestions, don't hesitate to get in touch with me at isabelle.gregory@lincoln.ox.ac.uk, or check out our sustainability pages on the [JCR website](#) and [main college website](#).

Many thanks to my predecessor, Hetty Bieber, for writing the 2023 edition of this guide. Her work forms the foundation of this edition, which I have updated to reflect changes at Lincoln and around Oxford within the past year.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

At Lincoln, we are extremely keen to reduce the amount of general waste that we produce. As part of this, we have a number of guidelines for waste management:

1. **General waste bins are emptied by scouts.** For students with ensuite bathrooms in first- and second-year accommodation, this means that your general waste will be emptied once a fortnight.
2. **Overflowing bins are a student's responsibility.** If your general waste bin becomes too full between scout visits, you should empty it yourself. We would also ask for you to avoid adding waste to overflowing collection point bins (e.g. the bins in the garage) where possible.
3. **Dry mixed recycling is a student's responsibility.** You will find a green bag in your room to put your waste into, which you should then empty when it is full.
4. **Food waste is a student's responsibility.**
5. **Glass recycling is a student's responsibility.**

For those living on Turl Street (Main Site, Lincoln House, Staircase 15 and the Mitre), the primary waste point is the garage (shown in yellow on the map). This can be accessed from Turl Street by scanning your bod card, or via Staircase 15. The garage contains large mixed general waste bins, dry mixed recycling bins, glass recycling bins, food waste bins, a garden waste bin (to dispose of flowers), and a red Haz-Box for batteries.

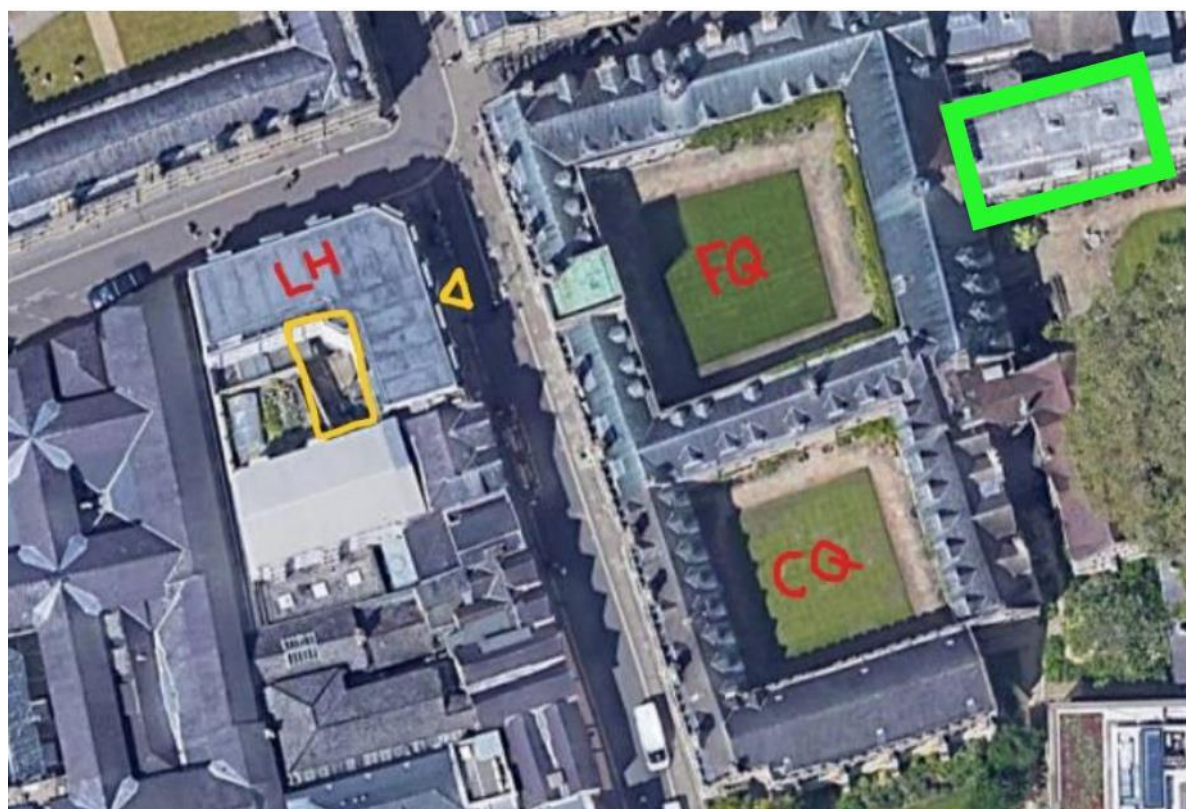
For those living in Bear Lane, the bins can be found beside the entrance. Museum Road's bins are at either end of the yard and the bins in Little Clarendon Street are at the back of the yard.

Smaller waste points can be found across College. Highlighted in green on the map are dry mixed recycling bins in the kitchen which can be accessed by students. Beyond this, there are also recycling points in the JCR, Bear Lane kitchens, Museum Road kitchens and Little Clarendon Street kitchens.

Across our sites, there are also several donation bins which can be used to

dispose of a variety of items, ranging from unwanted clothes to disused crockery. These can be found in the JCR, the Berrow Foundation Building (next to the MCR), the Museum Road Lodge and the Bear Lane IT Room. More information about what exactly can be donated can be found on the [British Heart Foundation website](#), and more about reusing and recycling textiles can be found on the [City Council website](#).

As a JCR, we are also attempting to implement a number of smaller scale changes to improve the lives of our students whilst also being environmentally conscious. The period products supplied by the JCR Gender Rep are from the company Grace and Green, who use organic and biodegradable materials to make their products, and we are currently looking into introducing reusable cups at Entz events and trialing providing plastic-free laundry pods in JCR laundry rooms.

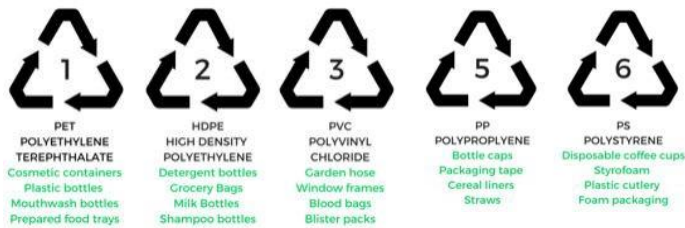


RECYCLING GUIDELINES

Properly separating your general waste from recycling, and then breaking down recycling into further categories, is one of the best ways you can make a difference as a student during your time at Lincoln. The company [SELECT](#) handles our waste management at all sites except St John's Street and Divinity Road, and have their own specific rules for recycling:

DRY MIXED RECYCLING

- **USED** for paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, drinks cans, food tins, and plastics displaying the symbols shown below.
- **NOT USED** for black trays, unclean containers (food and drink alike), or soft plastics*.
- **EITHER** leave materials loose OR recycle in clear bags provided by College (found in Main Site and Lincoln House staircases, and provided in rooms in the Mitre).



FOOD WASTE

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

MIXED GLASS RECYCLING

- **USED** for all colours of glass bottles, glass jars (no lids), and glassware.
- **NOT USED** for heat-proof glass.
- **DO NOT** use bags when disposing of these products.

*Plastic films and items displaying a recycling logo with any variation of 'dispose with bags at large supermarket' can be taken to supermarket collection points found around Oxford. The most convenient for the majority of students at Lincoln will be the collection point in the Magdalen Street Tesco Express, which is just on the right as you go through the entrance.

SINGLE USE REDUCTIONS

University life often comes hand in hand with consumerism. Every item we use has an impact on the environment, from its manufacturing to its disposal, so reducing the number of single use items that you use and instead reusing items can really benefit the planet.

Tote Bags

Having a tote bag which you use regularly is a fantastic alternative to purchasing single use plastic bags when you go shopping, both saving you money and minimising your impact on the environment.

KeepCups

Hot drinks, ranging from a morning coffee to a hot chocolate as a treat, are a common part of many people's university experience. If you relate to this, it might be worth investing in a KeepCup! These replace single use cups, thus decreasing waste production, and also nicely complement student life; many coffee shops (as well as our college bar) offer a discount if you use a KeepCup or reuseable bottle, and KeepCups are allowed in Bodleian libraries, so you can enjoy your drink while studying.

Lincoln has its own clear plastic KeepCup which can be bought at a discounted student price from the lodge, but another common alternative is the Bodleian KeepCup, which is sold in plastic and glass varieties in the Bodleian gift shops (one in the Bodleian quad, the other next to the Weston Library) and can be bought for a discounted price with your Bod Card!



Refill Shops

There are many refill shops around Oxford, where you can take empty containers to have them refilled and purchase ethical alternatives to household products, thus reducing the amount of plastic involved in purchasing toiletries and food staples. These include:

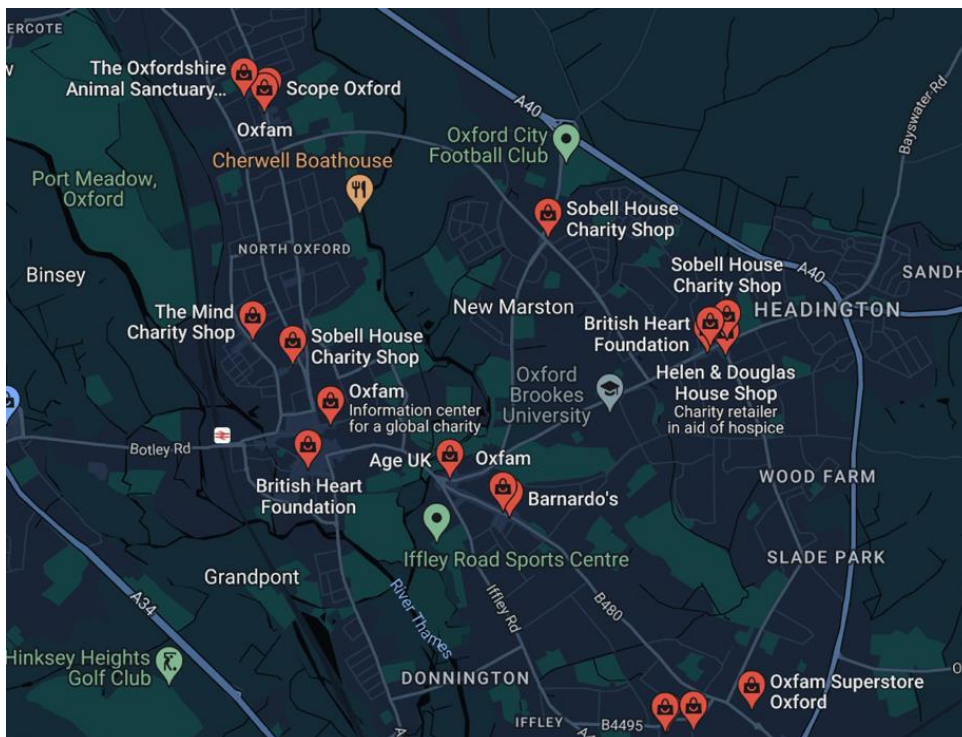
- OxUnBoxed, a non-profit shop in the Covered Market.
- Wild Honey, which has branches on Little Clarendon Street, Magdalen Road and South Parade.

SECOND HAND OPTIONS

Alongside switching from single use items to reusable alternatives, you can minimise your carbon footprint by engaging with charity shops and selling or donating your possessions.

There are lots of charity shops in Oxford. Closest to Lincoln are the Oxfam shop on Broad Street (the first ever Oxfam!), which accepts a wide range of items ranging from clothes to soft furnishings, and the Oxfam bookshop just across from the college on Turl Street, which accepts books in good condition across many genres. Other charity shops include the British Heart Foundation shop near Westgate and Sobell House on Little Clarendon Street. If you want to venture further for a bigger experience, you can also catch a bus to Cowley to visit the Oxfam Superstore.

Formal wear and fancy dress are also often required by students. Unicorn on Ship Street sells a variety of vintage aesthetic outfits. Ballroom Emporium on The Plain (aka. Magdalen Roundabout) sells evening wear, ball gowns and formalwear. Also, if you would rather rent academic dress or formalwear, shops such as Walters of Oxford (Turl Street) or Shephard & Woodward (High Street) have options to do so! If you would rather rent from the comfort of your room, use the apps By Rotation or Hurr to find your next black tie outfit.



Seeking second hand or rented options beyond clothing can also be more sustainable and cost-effective, especially if you only need an item once. [SHARE Oxford](#) aims to help the planet and foster a community within Oxford by providing a Library of Things, which you can pick up in person from their shop on Aristotle Lane or, in some cases, have delivered by bike.

When considering buying something new, try to follow the waste hierarchy, shown here. Avoiding unnecessary purchases both saves you money and minimises your waste. Look into second hand options before buying new, and make sure to make the most of your purchase before disposing of it in the correct manner.



EATING SUSTAINABLY

Making conscious food choices with the climate crisis and ethical implications in mind can greatly reduce your carbon footprint and waste production. All first-year students and the majority of second-year students have limited catering facilities, meaning that your reliance on hall and takeaway food will be greater than at other colleges.

Hall can cater for a wide range of dietary requirements and preferences. Meat and vegetarian options are available at all meals without prior booking required (aside from 2nd hall, which everyone must book). Those who are vegan, have allergies (e.g. gluten free, no dairy), or religious requirements (e.g. halal, kosher) need to book all meals on Lincoln's [meal booking system](#) to ensure that the catering staff know to prepare your meal. You can either book meals as you go or block book meals which you are likely to attend. Meal booking is not available for breakfast, but you can email the kitchen (lincolnkitchen@lincoln.ox.ac.uk) to raise any concerns that you may have. For those who would rather eat in Deepers, a range of vegetarian and vegan options are available, and mention any other restrictions to Simon and he'll see what he can do.

When choosing what to eat, aim to reduce your meat and dairy consumption; even one meat-free day a week can make a big difference! There are also alternative plant-based milks available at breakfast for those who cannot have dairy or are looking to cut back.

Lincoln is also in a prime location for takeaway spots, being a short walk from the Covered Market and Cornmarket Street, and supermarkets, with Tesco, Sainsburys and even an M&S all within five minutes of the college. Try to avoid buying foods wrapped in lots of single-use plastic where possible and aim to dispose of packaging and food containers properly. Don't automatically put packaging in general waste; a lot of packaging only needs a quick rinse or wipe down to make it suitable for recycling, and a lot of plastic films can be returned to supermarkets.

ENERGY USE



Heating and electricity are both vital parts of living in College accommodation. College limits heating to the colder months during Michaelmas and Hilary terms. The vast majority of rooms in Main Site, Lincoln House and Staircase 15, as well as some rooms in the Mitre, have radiators controlled by EcoSync. This system works by scanning a QR code found in your room, which takes you to a Roommate page where you can set the exact temperature you want your room to be within a reasonable margin and set whether you are in or out of the room. College is able to see your energy use through this system, but that does not mean we will ever criticise you for using more energy than your peers. The system is designed so that we can monitor the energy use of a room across a three year period and, from there, work out if there are any structural flaws impacting the room's heating. If your radiator is set to the highest setting but your room is still freezing, get in touch with me at isabelle.gregory@lincoln.ox.ac.uk and I can get in touch with College to see how we can fix the problem.

Students without EcoSync will have traditional radiators operated by turning a valve. When using these radiators, aim to keep the radiator on lower settings; these will often heat your room just as well as higher settings whilst using less energy. Also make sure to turn the radiator off before leaving your room for hours on end, as you would your lights.



In addition to turning off your bedroom lights, try to keep your use of lights in communal areas to a minimum. A key example would be with the lights in the JCR: only use the lights you need depending on the section of the room you are in and the type of event going on (i.e. eating with a couple of friends vs. a packed freshers week event), and make sure to turn them off when you leave! This small change really adds up over time to put less strain on the college's energy use.

TRAVEL

Travel is another important part of student life, whether that be when moving between your home and Oxford or when getting around the city itself. Lincoln is fortunate to be a very central college, meaning that the majority of locations you will frequent will be within a 10-15 minute walk from the main college site. However, sometimes you may wish to go further or get around faster, which is when looking into alternative modes of transport is a good shout.

Cycling tends to be a Lincolnite's preferred mode of transport as it, as well as being good for your health, minimises both your own carbon footprint and local emissions on the whole, thus benefitting the community. Many Lincolnites own their own bikes, which can be registered with the lodge and stored in the garage, but we also run a JCR bike scheme where students can rent a bike that we own for free (short-term and subject to availability but no limit on the number of times you rent a bike). These bikes can be rented by contacting the Bike Rep. You can also read more about cycling in Oxford on the [university website](#), and about purchasing a refurbished bike for yourself on the [OXBIKES website](#). For even longer journeys, public transport, such as buses, should be used as an alternative.



When travelling beyond Oxford, we recommend using sustainable forms of transport where possible. The Oxford Tube is a coach service which runs between Oxford and London for a reasonable price. Oxford also has a train station, perfect for using when going to another part of the country, for example if visiting home. At present, Lincoln only provides storage space during the vacation for international students, but the JCR has an ongoing partnership with the storage company [LOVESPACE](#), wherein the JCR will reimburse you for 50% of the cost incurred by storing items with them over the vacation. This makes it feasible for some people to travel to and from Oxford at the start and end of term by train.

We would also advise making conscious decisions about your transport method when travelling internationally. For some, travel by plane will be unavoidable but do consider travelling by train where possible as plane travel has a much greater environmental impact.

GREEN IMPACT

[Green Impact](#) is a national, award-winning programme which encourages organisations to become more environmentally friendly by breaking down sustainability into actionable targets. Here at Lincoln we have our own Green Impact team, made up of staff and students, who meet at least twice a term to discuss sustainability and to make progress on these targets. We won a Gold award both last year and the year before, now making us eligible to aim for Beyond Gold.

Green Impact is open to all JCR students, and you can get involved by emailing me at isabelle.gregory@lincoln.ox.ac.uk.

FURTHER READING & ENGAGEMENT

- [Sustainability Hub](#) – created by our Student Union, the Sustainability Hub has resources available to all students on a variety of topics, ranging from individual tips to systemic issues.
- [Oxford University Environmental Sustainability Team](#) (insta: @oxfordenvsust) - this team sits in one of the central administrative departments of the University and is responsible for maintaining progress regarding the university's Environmental Sustainability policy.
- Oxford Climate Society (OCS, insta/facebook: @oxfordclimatesoc): This university society provides resources and hosts events dedicated to reducing emissions in Oxford and providing platforms for the next generation of climate leaders to connect with one another. They also run campaigns, such as Decarbonise Oxford.

HELPFUL CONTACTS

[Juliet Tye, Sustainability Coordinator: \[sustainability@lincoln.ox.ac.uk\]\(mailto:sustainability@lincoln.ox.ac.uk\)](#)

Juliet has joined our College staff this year and will be working alongside both staff and students at Lincoln, Exeter and Corpus Christi to holistically tackle the climate crisis and make change possible.