



Lincoln College  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

## Lincoln College – Sustainability Statement

*Updated November 2023*

Lincoln College is committed to action towards an environmentally sustainable future.

Lincoln College's Sustainability Sub-committee takes the lead in implementing sustainability-related initiatives, measuring the impact, and setting new objectives. Areas of activity are outlined below. 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 Coordinator and Head Gardener. It reports to the Governing Body via the Finance Committee.

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.

Our specific objectives include:

## Objective

### Leadership

Lead by example – model sustainable thinking and behaviour for Lincoln staff, students and alumni, and other institutions.

Embed sustainable thinking and behaviour into the College culture so as to benefit both 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.

### Emissions

Measure our carbon emissions and agree a well-defined and challenging but realistic target for reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

Lincoln's Scope 1 (direct) emissions were 485 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2022. Due to the phase-out of College diesel use in 2023, gas is the only remaining source of scope 1 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.

### 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 encouraging behavioural change.

### 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.

## Objective

### Food

Work to reduce the environmental impact of our food through menus, sourcing, production, and influencing demand.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### Investments

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