

# Christ's College, Cambridge

## Environmental Sustainability Strategy

### Our Vision

As a leading academic institution for over 500 years, with core values of education and research, our vision is that our environmental impact should not negatively harm future generations.

Environmental sustainability is a symbiotic and responsible co-existence with the natural environment. We strive to live in such a way as to maintain the environment without adverse impact or harm.

Now, more than ever, we recognise our responsibility to conserve and protect natural resources, encourage diverse global ecosystems, enhance biodiversity, and support the health and wellbeing of our communities by making choices that maintain, if not improve, the environment for future generations. To this aim, several Fellows are engaged in research related to climate change and one of our Fellow-Commoners, Prof Charlie Kennel, has endowed a fund that supports an annual seminar series on Climate Change.

The College community has almost 500 undergraduates and postgraduates who live in student accommodation within the grounds of the College or in external hostels within Cambridge, and about 70 Fellows and 130 staff members with varied working patterns.

The College consumes an average of 3,936,548 KWh Gas and 1,615,950 KWh Electric a year (based on 2018/19 data) and serves over 80,000 meals, hosting a wide range of events and functions throughout the year.

Given that activity to improve sustainability must not materially disturb current students' education and research activity, implementing an environmental sustainability strategy in an organisation with many historic buildings is a significant and costly challenge that will take many years to complete.

### Science-Based Targets and Journey to Net Zero

We have given early attention to quantifying our environmental carbon impact and establishing our Science-Based Targets (SBTs). However, as described later, many actions have also been undertaken in the past few years.

In early 2020, the College established a baseline audit of emissions using the SBT model – a set of tools that helps organisations determine what they need for sustainable change and to measure their progress. The SBT model reflects how global emissions need to be reduced to achieve goals set out in the 2015 Paris Agreement.

SBTs relate to Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions. For the College, Scope 1 targets involve removing gas; Scope 2 involves increasing renewable electricity supplies; and Scope 3 involves the wider impact of college, such as travel.

Our primary efforts have concentrated on Scope 1 and 2 emissions to reduce our carbon footprint. More work is needed to understand how the College can reduce Scope 3 emissions.

funding beyond this has not yet been agreed or identified. It is likely to require a combination of government funding, internal College resources, donations, and long-term loans.

The College is also committed to reviewing all its building projects to comply with and exceed environmental building regulations, as demonstrated by the replacement of gas boilers with cleaner Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) technology in Yusuf Hamied Court (currently under construction).

The College is also focused on reducing the usage and wastage of water within college buildings to preserve these precious resources.

### What have we done so far?

The College has completed a boiler efficiency programme that replaces the existing gas boilers on the Domus site with more efficient condenser boilers, reducing gas consumption by an average over 600,000kwh per year.

In 2018, the College removed gas as the primary source of heating in Hamied Villa, replacing it with an ASHP and significantly improving the thermal properties of the building. This hostel was the pilot for 'degasifying' other College hostels in future years.

As previously mentioned, Yusuf Hamied Court will also be heated by ASHPs, and the thermal properties are 10x more than those specified by building regulations. The new commercial retail space within the building on King Street will not be provided with any gas connections either, with tenants required to use electricity for all their energy.

The College procures its electricity from a green tariff provider, and a rolling plan to upgrade lighting to low energy LED bulbs - and install motion sensor lighting wherever practical - has also been undertaken.

The College has promoted the benefits of washing laundry at 30 degrees and the benefits of efficient use of heating to students. Aerated showerheads within our accommodation save water, water coolers have timer switches to reduce unnecessary costs at night, and all College bathrooms are fitted with water-saving devices.

With the support of the Students Union (JCR) and Graduate Society (MCR), all students are inducted on relevant environmental issues within the College, led by active JCR & MCR Green Officers who front the Colleges Green Engagement initiatives each year.

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## What are our next steps?

More work is needed to develop a biodiversity baseline audit and formulate a biodiversity action plan for the College. The University has undertaken its own [Biodiversity Baseline](#) and produced a Biodiversity [Action Plan](#). The College will learn from the University's experience.

Catering will conduct a chemical review, taking the additional learnings from the Housekeeping department's review.

## Strand 3: Social Behaviour and Sustainable Procurement

Christ's College is committed to encouraging the community to live and work sustainably; behavioural change is a vital aspect of any successful sustainability strategy. The College is actively engaged with the community to find solutions to reduce, re-use and recycle resources.

The College is committed to participating in the University's Environmental Accreditation Scheme. In 2018, and again in 2022, the College achieved a Green Impact Gold award for its commitments and actions on sustainability. We intend pursuing a Platinum award in future years.

## What we have done so far

The College kitchens ensure that MCS certified suppliers supply our fish and that all chicken and eggs are sourced from non-caged systems. Our Chefs look to source items locally and from within the UK wherever possible. Regular kitchen maintenance ensures the filters are cleaned regularly to prevent the build-up of grease and results in lower running costs.

Front of house, we offer jugged water to events rather than single use bottled water, and the College uses reusable containers for takeaway food.

The College provides recycling bins in all rooms and communal areas and recycles paper, cards, cans, batteries, and plastics through the City Council. Small food waste bins are provided in all gyp rooms which is deposited into the kitchen specific bins for food waste collection.

The College participates in the Government's "Cycle to Work" Scheme and has recently increased bicycle storage facilities in the College to encourage usage.

## What are our next steps?

The College will undertake a more in-depth procurement review to ensure that all suppliers are committed to using sustainable and ethical products. The College will look for other ways to help support and encourage sustainable habits by all its members.

The College will continue to highlight the Waste Hierarchy to its members and look for ways to prevent waste from materialising in the first place.

Within Catering, we will look to improve the promotion of local products being served and promote greener, seasonal, healthy, vegan, and vegetarian items. Further work will be undertaken with the

purchasing consortium to ensure that most of the meat used by the College is Red Tractor certified. More significant promotion of reusable mugs within the College Catering outlets will be made. The Catering team will look to reduce food waste further and investigate ways of limiting over production in the first place.

The College will look to become a Fairtrade College, committed to supporting and using Fairtrade in as many places as possible.

The College will continue to encourage members to switch off electrical equipment when not in use, and will be further increasing bicycle storage

The College will continue to encourage the use of bicycles over motorised vehicles and will set up a small self-service repair station for cyclists to use.

Strand 4:

## What we have done so far

ESG considerations have been incorporated into decision-making on various investment/divestment opportunities during 2021/22, including:

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