

Targets from Our Sustainable Future: Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2023-2028

Construction and Refurbishment

- Embed sustainability into all construction, refurbishment, and maintenance activity, working towards zero carbon and the removal of other environmental impacts.
- Embed sustainability and carbon commitments within our new Estates Strategy.
- Re-fit and refurbish buildings before considering new ones.
- Appoint an Environmental Sustainability Advisor to all major projects.
- Follow Passivhaus principles – or the most appropriate and environmentally beneficial standard - in refurbishments and new buildings (if/when they are required).
- No gas boilers will be fitted other than in exceptional circumstances and must be approved through the zero carbon governance process.
- Adopt standard metrics for monitoring and reporting embodied carbon for major construction, refurbishment, and long-term maintenance projects.
- Explore the potential for renewable energy generation on and/or around our buildings and campus.
- Reduce to a minimum construction and redevelopment waste, establishing clear expectations with contractors and measuring impact throughout.
- Achieve 20% biodiversity net gain on all major construction and refurbishment projects by 2028 from a 2023 baseline.
- Carry out Post Occupancy Evaluation to assess performance of new buildings and drive continued efficiencies and improvements.
- Apply “social value” principles across major projects to realise environmental, social and economic gains.
- Further construction and refurbishment targets can be found from page 60 in the [Code of Practice for Design Teams](#)

Emissions and Discharges

- Zero reportable pollution incidents to air, land and water across the University estate.

Community involvement and engagement

- Provide opportunities for our staff, students and external partners to engage with sustainability and take meaningful action, personally and professionally
- Develop and agree strategic partnerships to engage our communities to support proven natural solutions to capture carbon, restore the natural world and enhance environmental sustainability.
- Provide staff with the skills and techniques to embed environmental sustainability into plans, policies, processes and everyday activities that are recognised and valued within the institution.
- Support the embedding of sustainability within teaching and learning by taking a partnership approach with our students and communities.
- Advancing the inclusion and involvement of all sections of society in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) through activities that reach at least 100,000 people

globally, for example, through our Great Science Share for Schools and locally through our flagship ScienceX climate change activity (2021-2025).¹

Biodiversity

- Work with our academics, staff and students to develop biodiversity priorities to enhance wildlife and public spaces on campus.
- Identify opportunities to increase green, cooling and absorbent spaces as an adaptation response to climate change.
- Integrate biodiversity themes into current and future Estates strategy, with nature and green spaces an integral part of planning.
- Eliminate the use of peat-based compost by 2023.
- Continually seek to reduce the use of synthetic chemical herbicides on campus.
- Increase the quality and quantity of existing green space, achieving a 10% increase in urban green space by 2028, from 2018 levels.
- Calculate a baseline and set a target to provide a measurable improvement in biodiversity by 2030.
- Continue our work with academics to measure wellbeing outcomes and improve the staff and student wellbeing scores associated with campus green space by 25% by 2028 from a 2018/19 baseline.
- Maximise opportunities to integrate learning and teaching with our estate's biodiversity.

Waste management

- To drive efficiencies and embed whole life cycle considerations into decision making and operations.
- Increase awareness of the impacts caused by choice of materials, considering carbon and end of life implications.
- Work with suppliers, staff and students to increase positive action to reduce waste at all stages of procurement, use and disposal.
- Establish mechanisms to encourage and support a low consumption model alongside reuse and sharing across the University.
- Recycle 45% of the waste we produce through campus operations by 2025.
- Divert 100% of waste (general, clinical and offensive) from landfill via new waste contracts from 2023 onwards.
- Roll out food waste collection facilities to 100% of buildings by 2024, or when legislation demands it, whichever is sooner.
- Seek opportunities to reduce food waste both at point of ordering/purchase and consumption, working with external partners to find ways to minimise food waste.

¹ Detailed in our [Social Responsibility and Civic Engagement Plan](#)

Travel and Transport

- Reduce the impact of our travel and transport decisions on people and the environment.
- Aim to limit annual emissions from air travel to 50% of our 2018/19 level (pre the Covid-19 pandemic) with immediate effect.
- Estimate our staff and students' travel emissions as part of their university lives and commit to setting a target to reduce it.
- De carbonise fleet vehicles by 2030 and provide adequate electric vehicle charging points for staff, students and visitors.
- Update sustainable travel and car parking plans and policies to ensure they complement each other and support a transition to sustainable modes of travel.
- Promote active travel (walking, cycling, wheeling) as the preferred and most beneficial form of travel alongside a commitment to encouraging virtual meetings and avoiding travel wherever possible.
- Collaborate with other organisations and stakeholders along the Oxford Road Corridor and beyond to maximise the benefits of sustainable travel schemes and infrastructure.

Sustainable procurement

- Ensure that our purchasing activity and practices support our environmental, social, and economic priorities.
- Continue our commitment to responsible procurement using appropriate benchmarks, including ISO20400, to demonstrate best practice in action.
- Develop appropriate Scope 3 emissions targets in relation to the procurement supply chain and measure estimated emissions against these targets.
- Develop and deliver a category demand management engagement programme in line with our carbon commitments.
- Net zero carbon emissions from our procurement by 2050.
- Revise capital equipment business processes to include carbon emissions and whole life costing in all equipment purchases over £100,000.
- Measure the carbon footprint of our catering in residences, hospitality on campus and retail outlets, inform customers of the impact of their choices through clear carbon footprint labelling and commit to setting a target to reduce the negative impact of catering.
- Achieve Fairtrade University and College Award accreditation for all catering.

Water

- To reduce our water consumption by 15% by 2028 using 2022 as a baseline.
- Net zero carbon emissions from our water usage by 2050.
- Improve water metering to provide greater clarity on consumption and opportunities for increased efficiency.