We report on an annual basis on the progress of the University sustainability work and this is our third report. This is in two halves; the first summarising our approach and priorities and the second giving key facts about our sustainability performance and achievements.

**Sustainability is a defining issue of our generation.** Responding to it means going beyond reducing negative environmental, social and economic impacts. It means creating and applying new knowledge. It means equipping people with real skills to create the important changes we need. This is the job of any educational institution. At Oxford Brookes, we take a holistic approach. We’re aiming to have a net positive impact across everything we do.

“The net positive impact initiative provides a visible focus for the efforts of Brookes on sustainability and helps students to get involved.”

Freya Alexandra, Students’ Union Environment Officer

Our students are taught by people at the forefront of their subjects who are adept at passing on knowledge and academic abilities. We push beyond this because we know that change isn’t driven by academia alone. We foster strong connections with industry and business to give students skills to create significant positive change.

We go beyond reducing the impact of our own environmental footprint. We educate people for lives of consequence.

**OBJECTIVE OF THE REPORT**

This report gives an update on the progress of the corporate responsibility programme which has a vision to prove the Oxford Brookes is a net positive institution.

**A Net Positive Institution** takes an explicit and verifiable overall positive contribution to society and the environment. An institution achieves this by recognising, managing and being accountable for its positive and negative impacts to ensure a net positive result. Through its research, knowledge transfer, teaching and learning Oxford Brookes has a beneficial impact on its community, environment, its staff, students and suppliers.

A recent HEA report stated that “sustainability concerns are significant in students’ university choices” (Bone and Agombar 2011)
Our first sustainability report describes the materiality assessment that prioritised the corporate responsibility issues for the University. Ten key issues were identified, the four most significant have action plans which will be available on our webpages soon and are described below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KEY ISSUE</th>
<th>WHAT WE SAID WE WOULD DO</th>
<th>PROGRESS TO DATE</th>
<th>AIM OF AN ACTION PLAN</th>
<th>POTENTIAL KPIs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oxford Brookes is proud to deliver a wide variety of community projects; these need to be well co-ordinated and have a clear strategy.</td>
<td>Oxford Brookes will establish a university wide community engagement plan.</td>
<td>A civic and community engagement strategy has been adopted and an action plan drawn up. See more details in key sustainability facts.</td>
<td>To strengthen the University’s strategic role in and contributions to decisions and actions affecting the social and economic life of the local community, region and beyond utilising all the resources available to us.</td>
<td>Number of students involved in community projects. Number of staff involved in community projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As a University we have a responsibility – to help our students understand their future place in the world. Helping our students think and act sustainably will pay immediate and long term dividends.</td>
<td>Maximising student involvement in the development of policies and practices for teaching and learning and in extra-curricular, student led initiatives. We will work with the Students’ union to design and introduce student-led extra-curricular initiatives.</td>
<td>An initial report on student engagement and sustainability has been completed, and an action plan drawn up. See our key sustainability facts for further details.</td>
<td>Graduates will have a measurably greater understanding of sustainability in its widest sense, after their Oxford Brookes student experience.</td>
<td>Student confidence in their understanding of sustainability issues – data from a sample of final year students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford Brookes should have a clear strategy for the use of ICT to enhance the efficiency of business processes, reduce travelling, reduce use of paper and make transactions more efficient.</td>
<td>A group will identify those business processes which are likely to produce the greatest level of carbon footprint and then to set up systems to help staff across the university improve those processes.</td>
<td>The workplace advisory group debated this issue and made suggestions of areas which should be looked at within the action plan.</td>
<td>To be able to quantify the carbon emissions linked to our main business processes and to embark on a programme to reduce them.</td>
<td>Definition and identification of main business processes and the methodology to be used to quantify carbon arisings from them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford Brookes should have a programme to deliver behaviour change toward resource use within the institution.</td>
<td>There will be a coordinated strategy of behaviour change focussing on awareness raising and switch off campaigns aimed at staff as well as students.</td>
<td>The environment advisory group looked at this issue and made suggestions of actions and metrics to be adopted.</td>
<td>Become a recognised leader on resource utilisation within the sector by achieving and embedding behaviour change in our staff.</td>
<td>Non residential electricity consumption Paper consumption.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OUR SUSTAINABILITY TEAM**

The Oxford Brookes sustainability team manages the corporate responsibility programme and ensures that we continue to drive toward being Net Positive. The team is made up of a range of environmental and sustainability professionals and works closely with experts across the university and beyond. For further information or to speak to any of the team please contact sustainability@brookes.ac.uk
KEY SUSTAINABILITY FACTS

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES
Together, we will create and use our services in a way that enables us to become a net positive institution. Here is a summary of our current environmental impacts that arise from our infrastructure.

The University adopted a **low carbon transition plan** in January 2011 which sets out how it will achieve its target to reduce the amount of carbon emissions from energy consumption by 50% by 2020.

The work we do with student switch off also helps to reduce our carbon emissions specifically from halls of residence and this year’s competition was won by students in Warneford Hall.

![Graph showing carbon emissions from energy consumption](image)

**Recycling rates**
We don’t yet have the full picture of our waste data but we know that this year for the first time we recycled more waste from our main sites than we sent to landfill. (Figures don’t include Marston Road, Ferndale or the Halls of Residence as data is not available for these sites yet. We are looking at getting a more comprehensive service in these areas as well.)

The Green Flag Award has now been awarded to all of our main campuses and formally acknowledges the work done on biodiversity around the University.

![Diagram showing recycling rates](image)

The University also moved to a different liftsharing software and now uses **liftshare** as is also used at other large employers in Oxford such as the County Council and Oxford University.

**52 bike bins** provided for cyclists

**384 bikes fixed** through **bike doctor sessions** at Headington, Harcourt Hill, Wheatley, Marston Road and Ferndale.

**Bike week** was celebrated this year with a record number of breakfast vouchers given to cyclists. They were also invited to identify on site cycle issues on a map.

The **BROOKESbus** service continued to be very successful and transferred to the use of smart cards with the support of the Oxford Bus company.
A **sustainable food policy** was adopted by the University in March 2011.

All this work on our environmental management resulted in the University being awarded a first within the People and Planet Green League

In August the environmental management system at the Wheatley Campus was certified to ISO14001.

**EXTERNAL**

We are a socially engaged institution, making a positive impact in Oxfordshire and the wider world. Below is a list of activities which contribute towards this (it is not comprehensive, but gives a flavour of the work done).

- A **sustainable purchasing policy** was adopted by the University in March 2011.

- Paul Inman has been appointed as Pro Vice Chancellor and Associate Dean with responsibility for Civic and Community Engagement and the University has a Civic and community engagement strategy. Short term resources have been enhanced by the appointment of an Associate Dean for Civic and Community Engagement.

- Sustainability Manager represents Oxford Brookes on the Board of Low Carbon Oxford.

- Staff and students take part in the annual Oxclean event every year.

**RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER**

Increasing the quality of our world leading research, increasing our positive impact on global communities. Sustainability literacy for staff is something that needs to be embedded at all levels.

The corporate responsibility programme benefits from academic involvement throughout its governance structure.

Professor Rajat Gupta: the theme of Rajat’s work is global responsibility and he is an expert in all things carbon and building related. Rajat is part of the Environmental Policy sub Group which looks at University capital projects and makes recommendations for reducing their environmental impact.

Gina Dalton: is the principal Lecturer for Quality and Validation in the Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment. Gina is part of COnCReTe – the corporate responsibility working group which meets monthly and has helped with our work on surveying student opinions on sustainability.

79 new members of staff have received training from the environmental impact sustainability team.

**STUDENT EXPERIENCE**

Always having a student centred approach, equipping them with the skills to have a positive impact in the wider world. The students’ union environment officer, Freya Alexandra says:

“The Net positive impact initiative provides a visible focus for the efforts of Brookes on sustainability and helps students to get involved.”

**Student opinion on sustainability**

Is a knowledge of sustainability important to your future job prospects? **YES** 72.4%

The sustainability team delivered awareness raising events for students:

- Freshers fair
- Fairtrade Fortnight
- Climate Week

The Oxford Brookes facebook site has over 13000 followers and 5000 twitter followers so we have put a lot of effort into making the sustainability team more evident on social media.

Twenty four plots have been created on a piece of land at Wheatley campus. Students are able to sign up for an allotment for just £5 a year

The BROOKESbus service continued to be very successful and transferred to the use of smart cards with the support of the Oxford Bus company.

The **Sustainable Travel Plan 2010-2015** was adopted and will help us provide an even better BROOKESbus service and more support for cyclists.