ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS REPORT  
SEPTEMBER 1998


1. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES:

A summary of current initiatives is contained in the accompanying booklet which was produced for Freshers Fair. A slightly revised version will also be produced soon for new staff.

In both cases, the text is very similar to the latest version of the “Brookes and the Environment” web site. It is hoped that staff and students will follow the ideas contained in this information and become actively involved in trying to reduce our environmental impact.

- This information should be disseminated to all staff through means appropriate to the School or Department, ideally through access to the web site (www.brookes.ac.uk/services/environment).

2. ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM and ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The Environmental Forum still works well, with interest shown across the entire university. Attendance at meetings is variable, depending on other commitments, but participation is lively.

Recognition should go to the various people, particularly in support departments, who have worked hard to implement the initiatives promoted by the Environmental Co-ordinator and Forum.

i. Good links are now in place with the Students Union. The incoming Executive have again adopted the University Environmental Policy. During the past year issues such as paper recycling in Halls and transport have been joint initiatives between students/SU and the co-ordinator.

ii. The Environmental Co-ordinator has attended two conferences during the year, HE21 (Forum for the Future) and the third EAUC conference (Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges). Both provided useful information and contacts with other institutions. The co-ordinator is now a member of the EAUC steering group. A Waste Minimasation Workshop run by Conservers at Work was also attended.

iii. Brookes is still involved with local environmental initiatives such as Local Agenda 21 (LA21) and Oxfordshire Business Environment Group (OBEG). We have recently agreed to act as a host server for the planned OBEG web site. This will be added to the Brookes and the Environment web site.

iii. Due to a long period of sick leave during 1997/98, the co-ordinator has not achieved as much as was hoped, but nevertheless good progress has been made on the issues highlighted in the 1997 report (see various sections below).

Achieved during 1997/98

Mary Webb  
Environmental Co-ordinator  
30 September 1998
• The Environmental Co-ordinator now has a three year contract which will allow more long term planning. This is also seen to be a signal of top level commitment to environmental improvement. Funding and hours are still as before (i.e. half time with funding from six Schools and Senior Management).
• The Environmental Policy was formally issued to all Schools and Departments as a laminated A3 document for permanent display. This was accompanied by a letter from the Vice Chancellor, suggesting practical ways of involvement with implementation of the policy.

Targets for 1998/99
• Encouragement is still needed for most Schools and Departments to take a more active role in promoting environmental considerations at Board or planning levels.
• Investigation into the feasibility of introducing an Environmental Management System so that environmental considerations are embedded into all decision making. Several universities are embarking on this process.
• An environment representative on the Board of Governors would help raise the profile of these initiatives.

3. WASTE AND RECYCLING

Although there have been great improvements in waste management and recycling, there is massive scope to reduce and reuse many materials within the university.

Achieved during 1997/98
• Waste management is now under the direct management of Site Services Manager, Mike McClusky. The City Council takes waste classified as domestic from Halls of Residence free of charge, and trade waste from the School of Hotel and Restaurant Management. All other waste is compacted and collected by Grundens for landfill. Recycling by Grundens is now problematic due to low market prices.
• Paper recycling is now extremely successful with an average of 1,00kg of office paper being collected monthly by CROP. The caretaking staff have problems at times to keep up with the demand for bins and collections.
• Recycling, of paper only initially, is going ahead in Morrell and Cheney Halls, following a successful pilot scheme in Crescent Hall, led by students. To be successful this will depend on student involvement and liaison with staff.

Target for 1998/99
• Reduction in consumption is still slow progress. To be successful this needs a more planned approach with firm directions from a senior level.
• There is plenty of room for improvement in recycling of all kinds. However problems arise in finding markets for materials.
• Improve signs beside recycling bins in pooled areas.

4. ENERGY AND WATER

The Energy Efficiency Officer continues the rolling programme of improvements.

Target for 1998/99
• To improve energy saving behaviour by staff and students by more awareness raising.
• Encourage possible changes in methods in Computer Services where practicable.
• The best possible environmental options in equipment and operation should be stipulated when refurbishment or rebuilding is planned. At present there seems to be no account taken of this individual projects, leading to variation throughout the University (carried forward from 1997/98).

5. PURCHASING

Developments in purchasing improvement have been very limited this year due to staff shortages.

Targets for 1998/99
• All “environmentally friendly” items to be marked in the purchasing catalogue on the Brookes intranet.
• Pursue the use of recycled paper, where practicable, and manila envelopes throughout the university, to include corporate notepaper.
• Exert more pressure on the Southern Universities Purchasing Consortium to provide a forum for bulk “green” purchasing. Link with other interested universities (eg Bristol) to promote this.

6. TRANSPORT

Transport continues to be our major environmental impact.

Achieved during 1997/98
• A Transport Working Group, headed by Brian Summers and John Glasson, has been set up to develop an integrated transport strategy for Brookes. This should be ready for implementation by the next academic year following a consultation process.
• Cost benefits arising from this have been promised for future environmental improvements linked to transport initiatives.
• Good contacts have been made with the Hospitals Trust, via David Edwards and with the City Council, via Peter Mann, thus linking Brookes into the Headington Integrated Transport Strategy (HITS).
• Stagecoach have been awarded the inter-site bus contact. They have provided a good package of other measures including 25% discount on bus passes throughout their other services and alteration of routes to encourage staff and student use. These measures will be publicised in detail elsewhere.
• Environment Week (11-15 May 1998) was linked with Oxford’s Green Transport Week. Brookes was the main participant in this event, with a disappointing response from the rest of the local area. Brookes Health Walks were launched, events such as fitness testing, bike security marking and car emission testing took place as well as talks and an exhibition area on both campuses. Free Park and Ride vouchers had a poor take-up despite being circulated to all staff and 250 students. The bad weather that week may have contributed to this! The week coincided with Rag Week which may have diluted the impact on students.
 Targets for 1998/99
• Continue to develop a strategy to encourage alternative responsible means of transport.
• Raise awareness of the possibilities on offer, through On Stream, TLE and a possible new “Transport Options” web site.
• A student survey will be necessary, as there is no data in existence on student travel behaviour.

7. AWARENESS

Publicity about Forum activities and environmental progress remains an important part of the work of the co-ordinator.

Achieved during 1997/98
• An updated web site gives more detail about progress as well as ideas for staff and students to help contribute to these improvements.
• A stall at Freshers Fair distributed Brookes and the Environment booklets as well as other information about local issues. 56 students joined the Environmental Forum.
• Space devoted to environmental reports in On Stream seems to have increased, so helping to raise the profile.

Targets 1998/99
• A fourth Environment Week is scheduled for the Summer Term. It is hoped that planning will start soon in the new academic year.
• The Freshers Booklet will be reprinted for new staff and for those without access to the web site.
• Investigation into the feasibility of staff environmental training.

8. TEACHING

No developments have taken place on greening curriculum issues during this year due to many other pressures.

Achieved 1997/98
• Students on the Msc Environmental Management and Technology degree conduct environmental audits each year on various Schools or Departments of the university as part of their course work. Some final projects undertake more detailed studies eg on waste management or purchasing. Both these activities form a useful resource for developing further improvements.
• Individual members of staff continue to develop ideas in their own teaching which could be used as a basis for encouraging others.

Targets 1998/99 and future
• The commitment is still strong to develop a way for students outside environmental courses to have the opportunity to learn about these issues. This is increasingly useful as a plus point on CV’s for graduates entering business or industry so should be pursued with vigour.
• Inter-School funding competition should be removed to encourage development of this process.
9. FINANCE

A budget of £1000 was allowed for 1997/98 which was spent as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conference fees (Four events including EAUC conference 1997)</td>
<td>£557 - 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awareness materials, subscriptions etc</td>
<td>£114 - 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotion, catering, etc</td>
<td>£167 - 00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>£838 - 73</strong></td>
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Thanks to the School of BMS who paid for travel costs.