The University introduced a new policy on Sustainable Construction and Refurbishment this year. BREEAM is the world’s leading environmental assessment method and rating system for buildings. New student accommodation is on target to achieve a BREEAM “Very Good” rating by using:

- a green roof
- communal areas with motion sensitive lights
- a combined heat and power facility which will heat the hall and swimming pool
- low water showers, WCs and hand wash basins
- LED internal and external lighting
- motion sensitive heating in bedrooms

The Abercrombie extension opened this summer on the Headington campus with solar panels installed on the roof. The new library and teaching building is expected to achieve a BREEAM rating of Excellent.

Another recent construction project, the John Payne Building, has been in use for 18 months and has received a Display Energy Certificate rating of ‘B’, demonstrating exceptionally low energy use.

Over 95% of the University’s construction waste was recycled last year (Figure 1). There have been two major projects at Oxford Brookes University this year the new library and teaching building (due for completion in 2013) and the Westminster College accommodation at Harcourt Hill campus (which was completed this year).

The total construction waste produced this year was 9123 tonnes, with the new teaching and learning building producing 4837 tonnes for waste and the Westminster College 4285 tonnes. A further 6 tonnes of wood was reused by the local social enterprise Oxford Wood Recycling.

The completion of 7 new green roofs means we have a grand total of 19. Green roofs are covered in vegetation planted in a growing medium, over a waterproof membrane: they increase biodiversity, provide feeding plants for bees and other wildlife, help with insulation and reduce flooding risk.

Figure 1: The percentage of construction waste that was recycled, landfilled or used to produce Refused Derived Fuel from the Westminster College student accommodation and the new library and teaching building projects in 2011-12.