SUSTAINABILITY REPORT
AUTUMN 2013 TO AUTUMN 2014

An update on the Sustainability programme at Oxford Brookes University

TOWARDS 2020 – MOVING TOWARDS A MORE INTEGRATED AND SUSTAINABLE ESTATE STRATEGY

In our 150th year, Oxford Brookes celebrates its past and looks to the future. The University has announced a £130 million Estates Investment Plan to create facilities that foster collaborative and dynamic working relationships for staff and students.

By moving towards a smaller but more efficient Estate, with older building refurbished to a high standard, we can make a sustainable learning environment.

HEADING

The Gyrodrive system is now fully added to the entire BROOKESbus fleet and has already decreased fuel usage by 17%.

Brookes’ recycling rate increased to 61.5%.

The university recorded decrease in water usage by 7%.

Over 9000 students received BROOKESkeys in 2014.

700 nominations for the Brookes People Award.

The John Henry Brookes Building received the Oxford Preservation Trust Award and the Education Estates Award in 2014.

Sustainability is incredibly important to Oxford Brookes. We will be investing, on average, £13 million a year over the next ten years to provide a world-class, sustainable campus environment.

Alistair Fitt, Vice-Chancellor

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CONSTRUCTION AND REFURBISHMENT

A 10 year £130 million Estate Investment Plan was released to accommodate further refurbishment and new development activities. Brookes’ continuing Estates rationalisation is providing an 18% space reduction per project.

JHBB was recognised externally with two new awards: The Education Estates Award for Student Experience and the Oxford Preservation Trust Award for providing a significant enhancement to the Headington area.

TRANSPORT

Interest free loan for public transport passes increased from £2000 to £5000

The Transport team has worked towards many initiatives to encourage staff and students into more sustainable and low carbon travel options.

- BROOKESbuses have been redesigned and are the first “Euro 6” buses in Oxford.
- The fleet was also entirely adapted with the Gyrodrive System which has already reduced fuel consumption by 17.9%.
- Transport Survey Results demonstrated that since 2009, Brookes experienced a model shift increase of 13.5% in the number of students travelling to campuses by bus (University-wide).

See more at the Transport in Depth report.

CARBON REDUCTION

Our carbon reduction targets were not met last year, this was due to an increase in the size of our Estate following the opening of the new John Henry Brookes building. This was to be expected and strategic reductions in the size of our estate will help mitigate this effect.

Figure 1: Total carbon emissions from gas and electricity consumption in Oxford Brookes University from 2008-09 to 2013-14 in tCO₂e

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Reducing waste and making sure sustainable disposal practices are implemented across the campuses are a core priority for the University. We have both increased recycling and the proportion of waste sent to incineration in the previous year.

Figure 2: Total Oxford Brookes University water usage in m³ from 2008/09 to 2013/14

You can find our water policy here.
EMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES
The University continues to monitor and control its emissions and discharges.

BIODIVERSITY

The Centre for Ecology, Environment and Conservation launched a new iPad toolkit that allows ecologists and environmental consultants to efficiently conduct ecological surveys in the field. Click here for the Biodiversity in depth report.

Brookes has agreed a Biodiversity Policy.

STAFF AND STUDENTS WELLBEING

The staff survey is one of the most important tools in bringing about change in the University promoting a more positive work environment. 55% of staff participated in the 2014 survey. 83% of staff considered Brookes a good place to work; 77% would recommend Brookes to a friend.

Feel Good Festival
To enhance staff and student wellbeing, and to promote efficient strategies for a more balanced and positive lifestyle, Brookes University held its first Feel Good Festival in February 2015. See more at www.brookes.ac.uk/feelgoodfestival.

Find out more in the in-depth Staff and Students Wellbeing report.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The extension of our outreach initiatives goes far beyond charitable action. Continuous research and development projects linked with the University curriculum stimulate students to get connected with the community and help to deliver solutions and technologies to improve overall needs.

Read more about our projects and other examples of Community involvement here: Community Involvement in depth.

SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT
Brookes’ Procurement Team is always striving to ensure the University is working towards a more sustainable way of purchasing both internally and externally. Follow up on the latest news at the Procurement in depth report.

EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Oxford Brookes University is well known for its outstanding level of student satisfaction and for integrating teaching modules and research initiatives on innovation, sustainability and community topics into its curriculum. The Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment (TDE) has been promoting these practices and has been widely recognised for its outstanding work nationally and internationally.

Click here for more details on Education for Sustainable Development.

Sustainability training
The Sustainability team works to support and assist with integrating sustainability into different areas and disciplines. In total, over 243 students and staff received sustainability training, and 150 students from the Environmentally Sustainable Business module carried out the 2014 Environmental Audit of the Wheatley site, which counted towards a course accreditation.

Sustainability team changes
Since 1 June, the Sustainability team has been split into three new distinct areas to enable a more focused approach to the wide range of issues and projects that Brookes has: Transport Services, Environmental Services and Corporate Social Responsibility. Find out more by contacting sustainability@brookes.ac.uk.

55% staff responded to the Brookes Staff Survey with 83% considering Brookes a good place to work

KEEN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY AT BROOKES?

www.facebook.com/SustainableOBU
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sustainability@brookes.ac.uk
www.brookes.ac.uk/about-brookes/sustainability

#BROOKES150

In 2015, Brookes celebrates its 150th anniversary with many events and activities to bring students, staff and alumni together in celebration of the University’s long and distinguished history.

See more at Community in Depth Report.