Our carbon emissions fell for the fourth straight year in a row to a record low of 24% below our 2005/06 baseline due to a combination of energy efficiency improvements and a reduction in carbon intensity of the National Grid. This puts us on track to meet our 2020 target of 28%. Currently we rank above average for UK universities when it comes to low carbon and energy efficiency.

**Sustainable buildings**

New rooftop solar PV arrays on Clerici and Sir Kenneth Wheare Hall have resulted in an 80% increase in on-site solar energy production. Additional PV installations are planned for next year. New building-level energy meters were installed across the estate to better track energy use. We have also implemented Sustainable Design Criteria guidelines for all new and refurbished building projects. These guidelines will ensure that sustainability is embedded into the planning and design process for all future projects.

**Recycling and waste**

Oxford Brookes ranks in the top third of all UK universities when it comes to recycling. Our recycling rate increased last year from 67% to 71%, in-line with 2020 our target of 75%. This was supported by improvements in how we manage waste at our halls of residence as well as our paper cup recycling programme that resulted in over 180,000 hot beverage cups being diverted from waste bins. Our construction waste recycling rate also remains well above our target of 90%. Only 2% of our waste goes to the landfill whereas 98% percent is incinerated at the Ardley Energy Recovery Facility where enough electricity is generated each year to supply around 38,000 homes. In addition, all our food waste in taken to an anaerobic digestion facility near Cassington where it is converted into methane (for making low-carbon electricity) and into fertilizer used by local farmers.

In line with our waste strategy, we strive to ‘design out’ waste in the first instance. This includes: our re-usable mug.
offering, our ‘Too Good to Throw’ fridge offer, our ‘Donate it, don’t waste it’ campaign across our halls of residence – a partnership with British Heart Foundation and Oxford Food bank, and the Brookes Environmental Forum where staff post items for reuse. Since 2015 we have also donated over 4.5 tonnes of books to Better World Books. Proceeds support organisations such as the Riley Orton Foundation, which works to empower girls in Kenya through quality education and economic empowerment of marginalized women and youth. Last but not least, in July 2018 the Academic Board passed a new policy requiring student assignments and dissertations to be submitted on-line. In addition to saving students time and money, this policy helps reduce the negative environmental impacts from paper consumption, toner use, printer energy, and air pollution caused by students needing to make additional journeys to campus.

As part of our commitment to sustainable travel, Oxford Brookes promotes local public transport and sustainable travel options. This includes a pay-as-you go parking policy, car sharing initiatives, a cycle loan scheme, and discounts on daily and seasonal bus and train tickets. Our BROOKESkey card offers students and staff discounted bus travel, with a majority of students enjoying free travel.

We invest over £2.4 million annually in BROOKESbus service that connects all our campuses and halls of residence. Since 2009, this service has moved nearly 16 million passengers – saving an estimated 1.4 million car journeys each year. Nearly 60% of all BROOKESbus journeys in 2017 were made by community members, thus providing sustainable transport to the community as well. A new campus park and ride scheme was trialled in September 2017 and already has 30 members. This scheme allows individuals to park at campuses outside of the ring road and catch the BROOKESbus service into our Headington campus.

In 2018 the University purchased six new micro-hybrid buses that reduced fuel use and CO₂ emissions by 34% (compared to a baseline low-emission bus). We also offer free electric vehicle charge points outside the drama studio at Headington Hill Hall car park and outside ‘A Block’ at the Wheatley Campus. We also have Co-wheels cars located at our Headington and Clive Booth sites as well as a “Bike Doctor” service that provides students and staff with free bike maintenance.

As part of Oxford Green Week, we hosted two wild food foraging courses with our Saturday course selling out. Hedgehog surveys were completed in autumn and spring and our evening bat walks and annual bird survey are popular with students, staff, and local community members as well. The Common pipistrelle (see photo above) and the Soprano pipistrelle are two bat species that are well documented in and around Oxford Brookes campuses.

**Transport**

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![New micro-hybrid buses rolled out in 2018](image)

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![The “Bike Doctor” makes weekly visits to each campus](image)
Food

Becoming the first Fairtrade University in 2003, Oxford Brookes has renewed its commitment to sustainable food by becoming one of the first universities to be certified under the new, more robust Fairtrade University Award. We are also proud to announce that EFM Catering achieved the high rated 3-Star Sustainable Restaurant Association Award this year. Both awards help support our new Sustainable Food Strategy and Action Plan that provide a framework for supporting healthier and greener food consumption.

We continue to deliver local and seasonal foods across our provision and have launched ‘Avo’ – the first vegetarian and vegan food outlet – in the Abercrombie building to support healthy meat-free offerings that also reduce our impact on the environment. We are also making strides to eliminate single-use plastics straws, sachets, stirrers and cutlery and have introduced a campus-wide 25p discount on hot beverage when you bring a re-usable mug.

Procurement

The Procurement team published a new Sustainable and Ethical Procurement Strategy that commits the University to minimise the environmental impacts of our purchases whilst maximising economic and social benefits. The team is also happy to announce the roll out of the NETpositive Supplier Engagement Tool. This will ensure that our suppliers have actions and targets to embed more environmental, ethical, and social aspects throughout their supply chain.

Environmental management

We completed a two-year process of updating and streamlining all our key environmental management documents as part of the ISO 14001 standard for continuous improvement. Oxford Brookes is one of only 36% of UK universities certified to this ‘gold’ standard in environmental management. This includes a series of strategies outlining our key vision, drivers, objectives, and aspect-specific action plans with high level targets. Action plans allow us to measure and evaluate our performance and specify detailed actions, ownership and timeframes in order to deliver our targets. All documents, including our annual Sustainability Report, are available for download at our Sustainability website.

Learn more about sustainability at Brookes

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