Oxford Brookes Water Action Plan

Annual report 2022/23

Background:

The Oxford Brookes Water Strategy and Action Plan have been developed to meet the objectives of our Social Responsibility Framework, Environmental Policy and integrate into the University-wide 2035 Strategy. Improving the water efficiency of our organisation will save us money, reduce our impact on the environment and enhance our reputation.

National Framework:

A core pledge of the UK Government's 25 Year Environment Plan - 25YEP (2018) is to protect our natural world and leave it in a healthier state for the next generation. The Environment Plan sets out the government's goals for clean and plentiful water and to reduce the risks of harm from environmental hazards. The Environment Act (2021) sets out how the Government will maintain environmental standards and build on the 25 year strategic plan. Part 5 of the Environment Act brings together measures to strengthen and update the existing regulatory and long-term planning framework for water, helping to reduce environmental risks the measures in the Bill address eight stewardship elements for water:

- Water resources management plans: The current statutory water resources planning process is being amended to ensure there is more effective collaboration between water companies and other sectors to manage supply and demand, deliver resilience against droughts, and facilitate environmental improvement through a better understanding of environmental need.
- Drainage and sewerage management: for the first time the bill makes drainage and sewerage management planning a statutory duty.
- Storm Overflows: reducing the harm from discharges of storm overflows in England is a UK government priority.
- Water industry regulation: the bill sets out to modernise the process for modifying water and sewerage company licence conditions enabling Ofwat to improve its regulation.
- Water abstraction: Steps are being taken to further minimise the environmental risks from water abstraction.
- Water quality: the bill provides powers to enable the Secretary of State to maintain the list of priority substances used to assess the chemical status of water bodies

The first Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) review was completed in February 2023. The EIP for England is the Governments first revision of the 25YEP. They also published the Outcome Indicator Framework which describes environmental change that relates to the 10 goals in the 25 Year Environment Plan, including water.

Water Strategy

VISION

A culture of efficient water use and management across our estate, in line with our Social Responsibility Framework, the Environmental Policy and the 2035 University Strategy.

KEY DRIVERS

1. Maintain our reputation as a sustainable and socially responsible organisation
2. Maintain legislative, regulatory and stakeholder compliance
3. Conserve our limited water resources through efficient use

OBJECTIVES

- Ensure compliance with legislation, regulation and stakeholder requirements
- Quantify, monitor and report water use
- Analyse, assess and benchmark water use
- Develop SMART targets and KPIs to measure progress
- Design in water efficiency measures
- Avoid surface water contamination and comply with all trade effluent consents
- Promote water conservation best practice

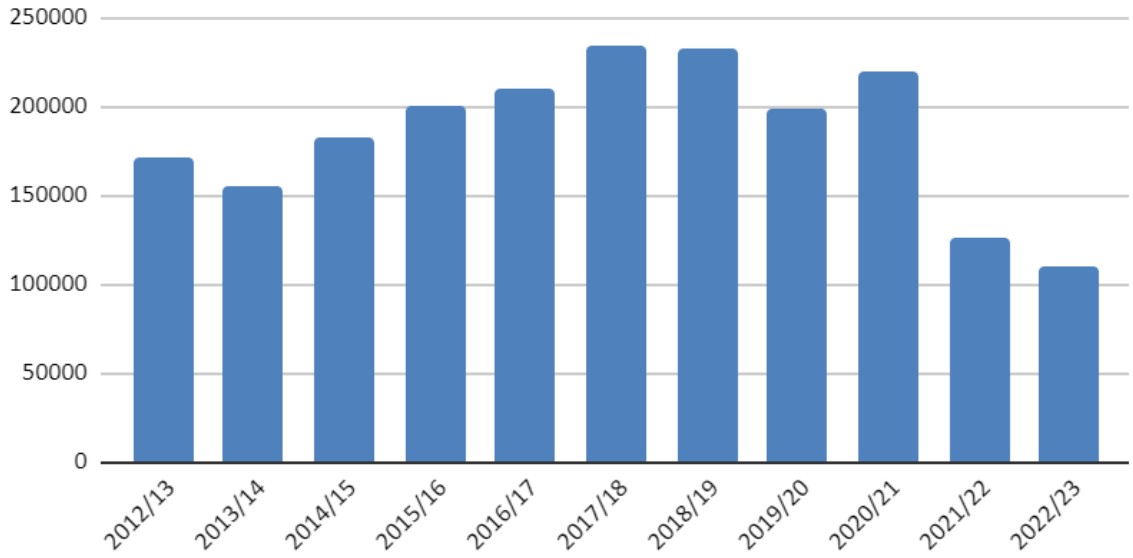
Aims of the Water Action Plan

To deliver the requirements of the University Water Strategy. The Water Action Plan details actions to be taken by faculties and directorates enabling us to meet our objectives and high level targets for effective water management. High and lower-level targets/actions have been set as detailed below in ANNEX 1.

Annual Reporting

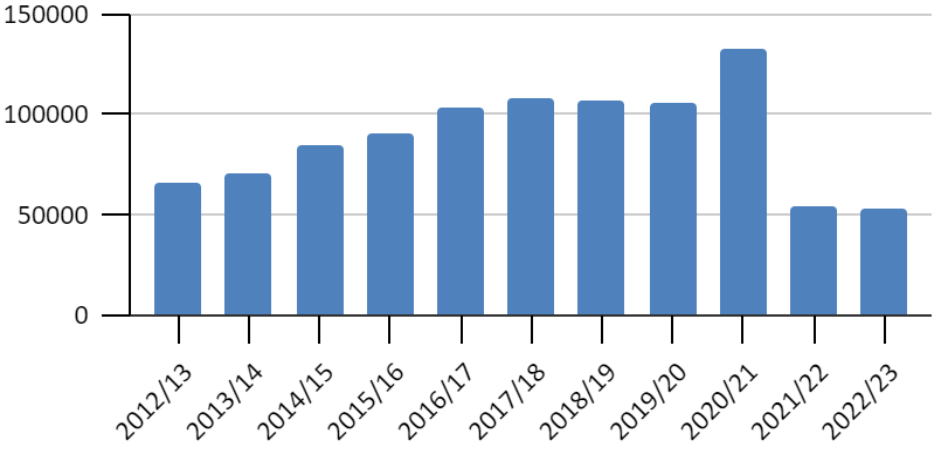
Year 2022/23 shows a continued decrease in annual water and remains significantly below any previous year's water use (baseline data 2012/13). The nine years average (2012-2021) equates to water use levels at approximately 200,000 m3 per annum, with a drop to ~125,000 m3/pa in 21/22 and then a further reduction to ~111,00 m3 in 22/23.

Graph 1 - Annual water use reporting (m^3)



The main contribution to the decrease from previous years can be attributed to water conservation measures during 2021/22 with Thames Smart Water, but more significantly due to the building closures at the CBSV, where water leakages have been resolved through building closures. Previously retired building blocks C,L,M are being renovated and returned to service. The reopening of these blocks in July 23 has resulted in an increase in water usage and uncovered potential leaks (currently estimated at 17,000 m3/pa) work is underway to resolve this situation and ensure we do not return to previous high levels of consumption at Clive Booth.

Clive Booth Student Village - Annual water use reporting (m^3)



Our Gipsy Lane site has demonstrated a significant reduction in water use of some 15,000 m^3/pa (reduction of ~60%). We did deliver some conservation initiatives in late 2022 with the replacement of faulty valves in the toilet systems, but this should only have equated to ~2000 m^3/pa. Reduction coincides with a new meter install with Thames Water, we are querying with the wholesaler to ensure this is correct. As such there is a distinct possibility that water use stayed consistent for this year in line with occupancy rates.

WAVE remains our water retail provider with the appointment of ‘The Energy Consortium’ (TEC) to act as a third-party broker for the supply of water, wastewater and ancillary water services. This is being delivered and managed through a framework agreement between TEC and WAVE a trading name for Anglian Water.

Following the successful commissioning of Thames Smart Water last year to implement water saving measures and leak fixes a new programme of work is being planned for the coming academic year. With regards to new target setting, due to a change in staffing in the mechanical services team new targets have not been agreed at this stage, however, extensive benchmarking research has been completed. After a peer review of other institutions new targets for residential and non-residential properties will be proposed, based around occupancy rates and FTE.

High Level Targets 2022&23

1. Quantify, analyse and report baseline water use - Achieved
2. Develop new SMART targets & KPIs - Achieved
3. Maintain Emergency Response Plan. - Partially Achieved

This action plan will be reviewed annually by the Environmental Sustainability Team and signed off by the Estates and Campus Services senior leadership team.

ECS SLT sign off date: 12/10/2023

ANNEX 1 : Water Action Plan

Key – Target Achieved Partially Achieved / in progress Not Achieved

Objective	2022/23 Actions / Targets	Reporting on 2022/23 targets / actions	Timeframe
Quantify & monitor water use	Track baseline water use	**Achieved:** Baseline water use	On-going
	Evaluate data and report annually	**Achieved:** Annual report to SLT/VCG and EMR data.	On-going
Develop SMART targets & KPI's	Develop new SMART targets & KPIs	**Achieved** Reduce Non-Residential water use per FTE by 25% Against a baseline of 2018/19. - Non-Residential - 42.2% reduction Reduce Residential water use per FTE by 25% Against a baseline of 2018/19. - Residential - 44.6% reduction	Dec 2023
Design in water efficiency measures	**New buildings:** Work with Projects team to ensure incorporation of water efficient technology. using the BREEAM Wat 01 calculator. A minimum of a 50% reduction in water use shall be achieved compared to the BREEAM baseline. Alternatively	**Achieved:** As stated in Sustainable Design Checklist for new and refurbished buildings, Section 3a	Ongoing

Objective	2022/23 Actions / Targets	Reporting on 2022/23 targets / actions	Timeframe
	fixtures and fixtures can be specified to performance level 4 in Table - 34: Water efficient consumption levels by component type (BREEAM Technical Guide 2014 page 200-201)		
Prevent surface water contamination	Emergency Response Plan completed	**Partially Achieved:** Spill response procedures and training in place. Major Incident and Business Continuity Lead to update the Business Continuity Plans in 2023 (currently vacant position). A new 'Major Incident Response' toolkit is under development within Estates and Campus Services. Drainage plans are being actively progressed as part of our redevelopment programme	Ongoing
Promote water conservation	Develop campaigns and messaging to educate staff and students in water conservation behaviour	**Partially Achieved:** This was included in the NUS Green Impact programme, with supporting posters and stickers to report leaks. This will be developed further with the new engagement officer role currently under recruitment.	Ongoing