

OXFORD
BROOKES
UNIVERSITY

Annual Sustainability Report

2019/20



Contents

03	Message from the Vice-Chancellor
04	Leadership and Governance
05	Energy and Carbon Reduction
06	Waste Management
08	Water
09	Biodiversity
11	Sustainable Food
13	Transport
14	Procurement
15	Community Engagement and Social Responsibility
16	Excellence in Education and Research
16	Oxford Brookes Business School
17	Faculty of Health and Life Sciences
17	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
18	Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment
19	Research: Future Thinkers



Message from the Vice-Chancellor



This Annual Sustainability Report outlines Oxford Brookes University's environmental sustainability performance and provides an overview of the work completed to mitigate our local and global impacts and address our sustainability aspirations across all our operations and academic programmes. We recognise the complexity of our organisation, the social, economic and environmental impact of our operations, as well as our role in research and as educators. We therefore strive to deliver and continually improve our performance, using an accredited environmental management system and relevant policies and strategies covering all aspects of sustainability.

It has been a challenging year in many respects, I would like to thank all our staff, students and Oxford Brookes' partners for your valued contributions to our sustainability aspirations this year, and in helping to build towards a sustainable future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'A. Fitt', written in a cursive style.

**PROFESSOR ALISTAIR FITT,
VICE-CHANCELLOR**

Leadership and Governance

Sustainability has been identified as a key enabler in the new 2035 University Strategy. This will help to underpin the strategy in line with student, staff and societal expectations regarding sustainability.

Environmental sustainability at Oxford Brookes is guided by the framework of our externally certified ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management System (EMS). The EMS enforces an environmental policy that sets out our principles and goals, and is supported by a series of strategies outlining our key vision, drivers and objectives for each key aspect of environmental sustainability. Aspect specific action plans measure, report and communicate our performance via assigned, time bound and SMART targets. These policies, strategies and action plans are reviewed at least annually by the Vice-Chancellor's Group (VCG).

In 2019-20 we achieved no non-conformances for the first time in our annual EMS surveillance audit, and five areas of best practise, demonstrating our commitment to continual improvement under this key agenda.

In recognition of our local and global sustainability aspects and the key role the HE sector has in addressing the wider global impacts, VCG signed off the establishment of a wider Sustainability Steering Group – a key objective of the group is to ensure University wide

stakeholder engagement. The main purpose of this group is to provide directional guidance on the University's sustainability aspirations and their implementation University wide. The group will be chaired by Professor Anne-Marie Kilday, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Student and Staff Experience.

The University will be launching an NUS Green Impact programme in 2020-21, to increase engagement with our sustainability objectives across all levels within Oxford Brookes. This programme will utilise passionate volunteers across our offices and academic support programmes, residences, green laboratories and the Student Union to plan, implement and evidence environmental initiatives with support from the Environmental Sustainability Team.

In recognition of our local and global impacts this report is aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The SDGs are a set of 17 global goals aimed at promoting prosperity while protecting the planet. They understand that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection. Oxford Brookes recognises the importance of engaging with the SDGs, to promote a greener and more equitable future for all.



The UN's Sustainable Development Goals

This report has been compiled by the Environmental Sustainability Team. We welcome your feedback on environmental sustainability at Brookes. If you have any thoughts or questions please get in touch with us at Sustainability@brookes.ac.uk. If you would like more information about our policies, strategies or action plans please visit our sustainability website www.brookes.ac.uk/sustainability

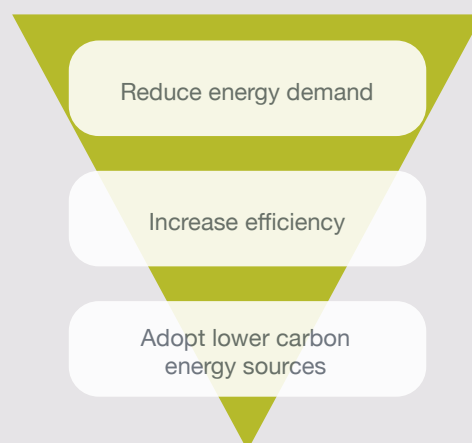
Energy and Carbon Reduction



Our Vision:

As a University we recognise the significant impacts energy use and carbon emissions have on the global environment. We follow three basic principles of reducing energy demand, increasing efficiency and utilising low carbon energy sources. At Oxford Brookes, we have cut carbon emissions by 35% since 2005, and are ahead of our current target of 34% reduction by 2025.

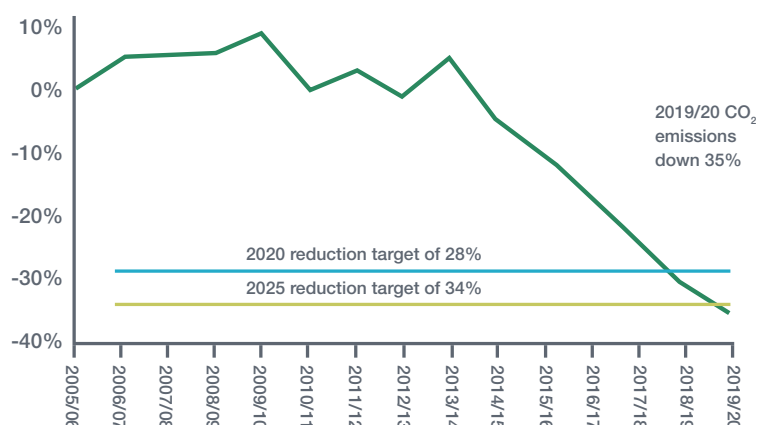
In recognition of the global climate crisis and the UK Government's target to achieve 'Net Zero' greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, we are currently reviewing our strategy and targets to ensure we deliver a forward thinking strategy compatible with local and national carbon reduction targets and the key role of influence we play in this arena.



Progress and initiatives:

Carbon emissions fell again in 2019/20 and the University has **now reduced its emissions by 35%** from our 2005/06 baseline, already hitting our 2025 target.

As the pandemic reached the UK and in response to the Covid-19 lockdown, we shut down many of our buildings. Carbon reduction initiatives and ongoing energy efficiency projects had already been rolled out under our programme of continual improvement, but we recognise the national lockdown would have contributed to the 5% decrease in CO₂ emissions in 2019/20 compared to the previous year.



The University has two main sources of funding for capital projects: an internal carbon reduction fund of some £250k per year and a Salix revolving green fund. Because the use of funding was brought forward to fund the delivery of LED lighting upgrades at Clive Booth Student Village last financial year the main capital investment committed this year was the installation of new photovoltaic panels at Gipsy Lane which commenced at the end of 2019/20. Internal funding was also used to make environmental improvements to oil use at the boathouse, we installed improved water temperature controls at Crescent and Warneford Halls of Residences and we have also improved our maintenance and records for refrigeration equipment at the University.

Waste Management



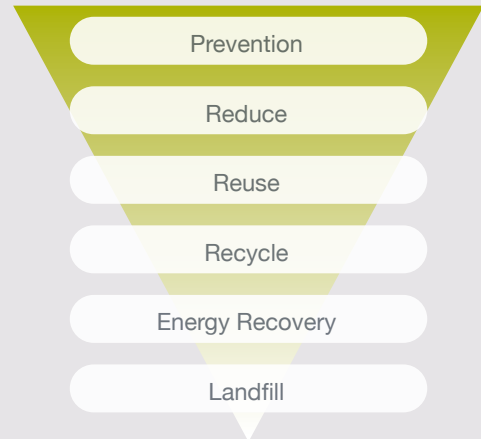
Our Vision:

To embed a culture of sustainable waste management throughout the organisation, by delivering the principles of the waste hierarchy and integrating these principles into every aspect of the University's processes and operations.

Most favoured option



Least favoured option



Progress against targets:

We achieved a **61% recycling rate** in 2019-20, against a new target of 75% by the end of 2025.

We achieved a **98% recycling rate of construction waste**, against our 90% target.

We achieved **0.8% of waste to landfill**, against our target of <2% to landfill.

Prevention & reduction initiatives

- Paperless assignment submissions are now standard across the University and double sided printing is the default method across our printers. The Covid-19 pandemic has seen a significant reduction in printing that we would like to capitalise on moving forward.
- We continuously work with our waste providers and suppliers to prevent waste through take back schemes and packaging reduction. Partnerships are key to delivering positive change.
- Our partnership with the Oxford Food Bank has prevented food and catering equipment waste and enabled support for many deserving social enterprises across Oxfordshire.

Reuse initiatives

- Despite difficult circumstances during the Covid-19 lockdown and the end-of-year 'Pack for Good' campaign not taking its usual format, Oxford Brookes raised over £22K for the British Heart Foundation (BHF). This money will help BHF continue their charitable work and medical research.
- We continued to deliver an online 'Environment Forum' for re-using physical assets within the University. This is an area that requires further exploration in the next academic year with various opportunities to ensure old furniture is re-used wherever possible.
- Old academic books were donated to Better World Books.
- Abandoned bikes are upcycled and re-used by Bicester Green and the Bike Doctor.
- All our recoverable old pallets are collected by RAW, a local social enterprise, where they are upcycled to make furniture or resold for re-use.

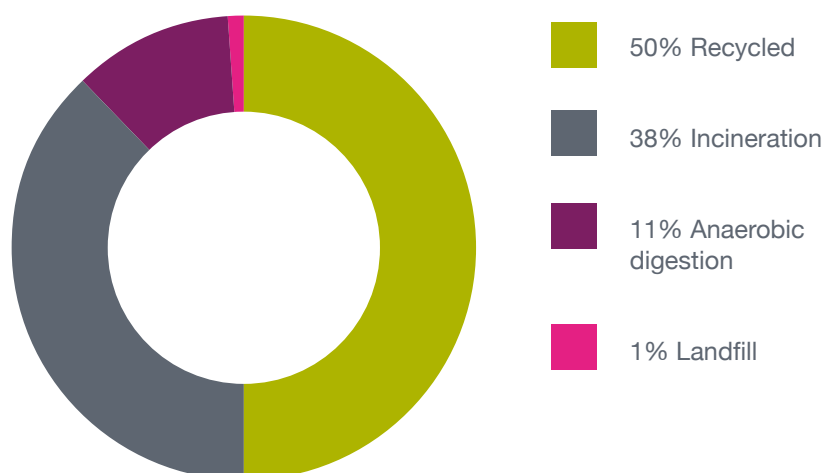
Recycling & energy recovery

With recycling figures of only 36% in 2018/19 across our Brookes managed halls of residence, we recognised we had a long way to go to hit our 75% target by 2025.

We delivered a targeted recycling programme within our halls during the autumn semester, increasing recycling to 47%. A great improvement, but still plenty of work to do.

To help us next year we have recruited sustainability champions within each of our halls of residence. Covid-19 restrictions will mean there will be less face-to-face engagement, but with targeted social media campaigns and education we are committed to improve our performance in partnership with our waste provider.

Final destination for University waste streams in 2019/20



Spotlight on Covid-19

In order to reduce our environmental impact during the pandemic, Oxford Brookes installed PPE-specific recycling bins from waste solutions company Terracycle.

These 'zero waste boxes' allow the University to responsibly dispose of all our PPE. This is vital due to the dramatic increase in the consumption of single-use plastics and disposable items that resulted from understandable concerns around contamination.

Catering waste has been a difficult area to deliver our continual improvement philosophy with the closure of our water refill points and the use of refillable coffee cups halted under Covid-19 restrictions. These are, however, under constant review and although larger volumes of plastic waste are being produced we are ensuring these are all segregated through our separate coffee cup recycling waste stream and plastic bottles through our dry mixed recycling waste stream where they are recycled through our waste provider.



Water

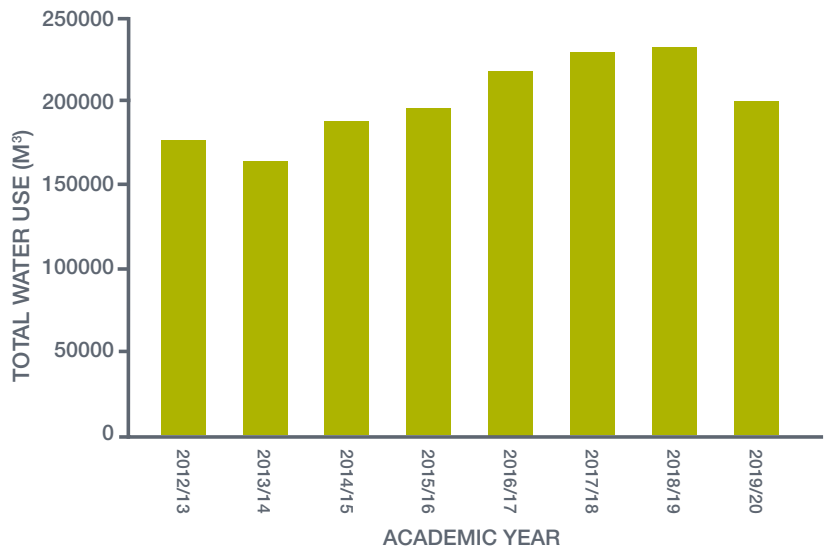


Our Vision:

To achieve a culture of efficient water use and management across our estate

Progress and initiatives:

- It is now compulsory to include water efficient technologies and sustainable urban drainage systems in all new buildings / refurbishments, as part of the University's Sustainable Design Guidelines.
- Rooftop rainwater harvesting systems collected more than 3000 m³ of water for use in toilet flushing and irrigation.
- 100% of water meters are logged and alarmed, which has helped identify several water leaks.



The University reduced its water consumption for the first time in six years in 2019/20. We are attributing the majority of this decrease to the Covid-19 lockdown, which resulted in many University buildings being unoccupied from April 2020. We are planning an overhaul of our water billing and metering processes, which should improve our ability to track water efficiency across the estate. This will help identify areas for potential improvement.



Biodiversity



Our Vision:

To preserve and enhance biodiversity across the University estate.



It has been an interesting year from a biodiversity perspective across our sites. The spring lockdown saw the usual transformation from winter and it was an exceptionally beautiful spring with one of the longest periods of daylight sunshine hours on record. But more exceptional was that as our pace of life slowed, we adopted different home and work practices, with many of us enjoying our gardens and local walks more than ever before and recognising the importance of nature and green spaces in our lives for health and wellbeing. With the current ecological crisis and our attitudes to nature changing, the recognition of a green recovery, the importance of nature and our contribution through the preservation and enhancement of biodiversity across our estates is ever important.

The 2019 rewilding project at Harcourt Hill with the natural grassland meadow has continued to show improvement this year with the lack of mowing allowing an increased diversity of local species. Rewilding projects are of great benefit to local wildlife and we have seen many new plant species emerge allowing an appreciation of the natural world doing what it does best when left to its own devices. We have expanded the

rewilding areas to include an increasing amount of verges by simply decreasing the mowing regimes across this site. Annual surveys were not completed this year due to the lockdown, but these will recommence in the spring of 2021. Monitoring fauna and flora enables us to better understand how best to increase biodiversity in these areas and identify new areas to reduce mowing. Our wildflower beds were also looking great this spring, with new areas seeded to improve urban biodiversity at our Headington site, delivered to the design specifications put forward by our students. The wildflower beds include a carefully selected mixture of wildflowers to provide colour, food and shelter for other species.

Our green roofs are doing well with continued management where required and they continue to enhance the local biodiversity across our sites. Species monitoring will recommence in 2021 on these roofs.

The Marston Road Quad which is a site of local importance for nature conservation continues to be managed to protect the many important species such as pyramidal orchids and many rare species of fungi.



Our Grounds Management Team manage habitats to preserve and enhance biodiversity where possible. This includes measures such as leaving a two metre 'wild boundary' along grassland areas, hedgerow management to avoid nesting periods, sunning spots and log and leaf piles left in the woodland areas. Check out our species specific Biodiversity Action Plan at www.brookes.ac.uk/sustainability/biodiversity for more details of all the methods the teams use to protect and enhance our wildlife.

Our partnership with the 'Oxford Swift City' project continues, with many of our staff volunteering as surveyors this spring. The newly installed swift boxes at our Headington Campus, and Clive Booth, Paul Kent and Crescent Halls were monitored throughout the spring.

No swifts were spotted this year, but it can take a few years for the boxes to be inhabited, so we're keeping our fingers crossed for next year. The good news is that from a city wide perspective there has been a big increase in the number of nests confirmed this year. It's such a privilege to be part of a wider initiative to halt the declining numbers of these graceful birds whose calls signify the beginning of spring to many Oxford residents.

Our Freedom bee hives are regularly inhabited. We lost a hive over winter last year, but it was soon occupied by a swarm in the early summer and it was very active throughout the summer. The rare 'ivy bees' identified at Headington Hill Hall were back this year and mowing regimes continue to be altered to maintain their habitat.

Moving forward we have a newly established staff and student 'Hedgehog Friendly campus team', which is part of the new NUS Green Impact programme we will be delivering from the autumn of 2020. This programme allows universities to support this important native species which is currently in severe decline. The grounds team have also completed training in hedgehog ecology and land management to aid with programme delivery and help us preserve this important native species.

Sustainable Food



Our Vision:

To deliver and promote, in partnership with our catering contractors, a 'sustainable food offering', whilst continually striving to enhance the consumer experience. The sustainable food agenda is diverse and impacts globally as well as locally. Our sustainable food strategy recognises these impacts and the role we and our consumers can play in reducing these impacts.



Progress and initiatives:

In the spring of 2020 Oxford Brookes re-certified its Fairtrade University status, following a student led audit. Being a Fairtrade University enables us to make a positive contribution to developing countries by offering better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers. The award continues our long-standing relationship with the Fairtrade Foundation. We celebrated Fairtrade Fortnight this year with a fair featuring Oxford's local Fairtrade shop. We also showcased our exclusive Fairtrade coffee bean Circulo, sourced from smallholders in Peru by the artisan master roasters Union Coffee. New Fairtrade supplier, Divine Chocolate were also able to help educate attendees on the fantastic work Fairtrade does globally.

Gather & Gather partner with Life Water and drop4drop and have funded the construction of 20 clear water projects, changing the lives of over 18,000 people. Having a clean provision of water now means that the communities no longer have to face the threat of water-borne illnesses and can focus on their livelihoods, education and family life. To find out more visit: www.life-water.co.uk/gatherandgather

Other initiatives this year include:

- 100% of food waste was diverted to anaerobic digestion to create energy for local homes.
- Local suppliers made up 9% of our catering spend, just missing our target of 10%. The Covid-19 lockdown had a significant impact on the UK's commercial catering supply chains.
- We continued to promote seasonal products throughout our menus.
- We increased the vegetarian offerings across all our catering outlets, with our dedicated vegan and vegetarian food outlet Avo Café continuing to showcase our vegan and sustainability initiatives.
- A 10% discount is offered at all catering outlets if a re-usable cup is used. We are reviewing how best to continue this initiative in light of the Covid-19 restrictions, but in the interim all disposable coffee cups can be segregated and recycled through a specialist waste operator.
- We provided water refill points across all our catering outlets to reduce plastic use – we are looking forward to reinstating their use after Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.



Our healthy eating initiative Live Well, is a healthy meals range of tasty, balanced recipes developed by Gather & Gather nutritionists and chefs based on scientific nutrition research. The range includes breakfast, lunch, snacking, beverages and bakery items. The aim is to help staff, students and visitors eat more fruit and vegetables, wholegrains and healthy fats by arming customers with the knowledge to make more informed food and drink decisions, encouraging better eating habits to enable them to live healthier lives.

We are also key signatories and continual supporters of the Oxford Good Food Charter. This is the city's statement of vision for a vibrant, healthy and sustainable food system. The Good Food Charter is a platform for future projects, a catalyst for engagement with businesses and the community, and a guide for linking policy to action. Oxford Brookes are actively engaged in knowledge sharing and supporting this platform for change, to enable us to all to take this journey in sustainable food together.

Accreditations:

Independent certification is a key component of any sustainable catering service, to truly understand changing needs and expectations and ensure we are delivering change. We are proud to align with or to be formally certified with the following accreditations in 2019/20.



Transport



Our Vision:

To embed a culture of sustainable travel throughout the University, where everyone is actively involved in reducing their transport emissions and will be advocates for the same level of provision for sustainable travel at their future places of study, work or home environment.

Progress and initiatives:

As of the summer of 2020, the BROOKESbus service has moved nearly 23 million passengers. This has saved an estimated 1.5 million car journeys each year from Oxford's roads and saved around 7 million tonnes of carbon emissions. During the coronavirus pandemic, it transported key workers, and over 5% of all BROOKESbus journeys were made by local residents, thus providing sustainable transport options for the wider community.

Partnering with Oxford Bus Company we encourage a holistic approach to social responsibility.

The BROOKESbus fleet currently operates 18 buses with a third being micro-hybrid technology buses reducing CO₂ emissions by 34%, compared to the other baseline low emission buses. This technology was the first in the country to be installed on a commercial bus service and was developed by an Oxford Brookes Alumnus, working with Williams Formula 1.



Brookes sustainable and active travel incentives delivered in 2019-20:

- Cycling offers including a free Bike Doctor service, access to discounted second-hand bikes and discounts in local bike shops.
- Free electric car charging for staff at the charge points located in our Headington Hill and Wheatley car parks.
- Discounted bus tickets with a BROOKESkey, now available contactless via an app.
- An on-site Car Club.
- Interest-free loans for bicycles and travel tickets (staff).
- The easitCARD and Totum (formerly the NUS Extra card), offering a variety of sustainable travel related discounts.
- A dedicated 'when2travel app' was launched, which gives you the information you need when planning your next bus journey (eg the latest timetables and up-to-date capacity).

For more information on our travel initiatives please visit our website
www.brookes.ac.uk/social-responsibility/sustainable-operations/sustainable-transport

Procurement



Our Vision:

To be a leading organisation in the higher education community for sustainable and ethical procurement, in line with our social responsibility framework, environmental and sustainability goals.

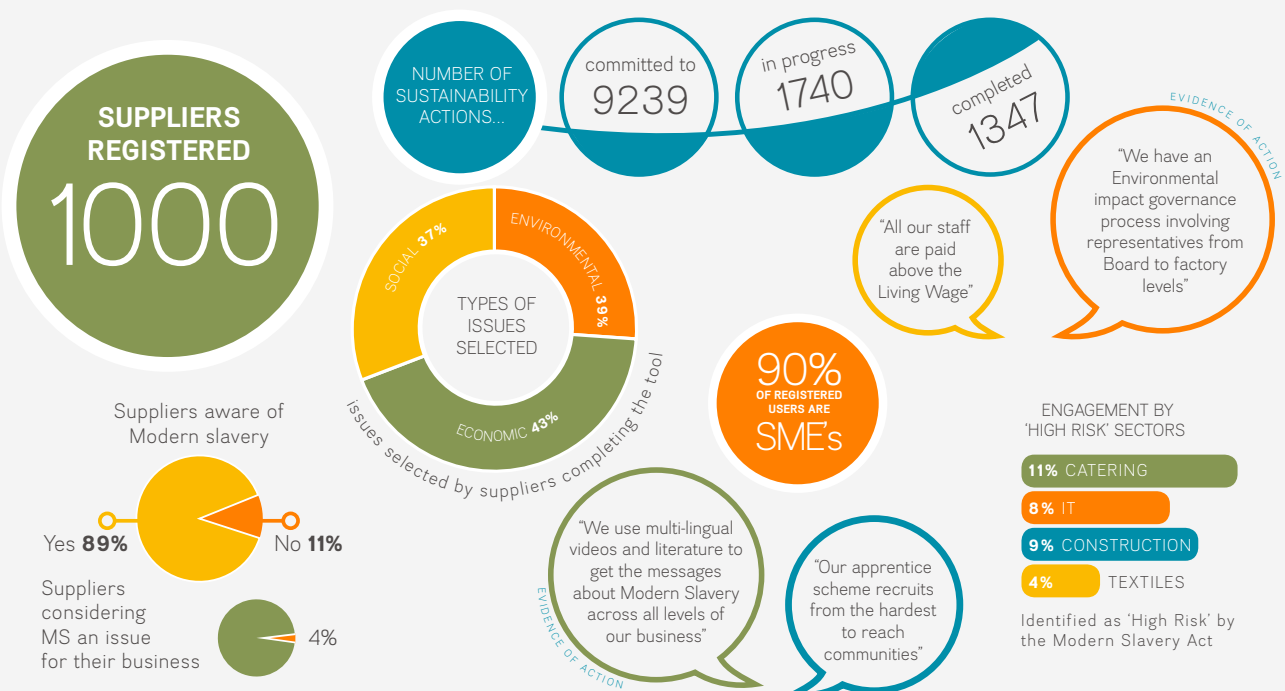
Progress and initiatives:

One of the key methods we use for promoting sustainable procurement is the NETpositive supplier engagement tool. This enables all of our suppliers to develop a NETpositive sustainability action plan in line with our environmental, sustainability and institutional objectives. The tool allows us to support all of our suppliers to go beyond a commitment to sustainability and provides them with a customised action plan, which can be monitored and measured. We are then able to interrogate the data this process generates to help plan

our supplier engagement activities on sustainability, gather evidence of good practice and use the action plan developed to provide a clear and measurable focus for contract management discussions. Currently 57% of all the University's suppliers are signed up to the Netpositive Supplier Engagement Tool. Unfortunately due to Covid-19, companies going into administration and changing priorities, active progression with new suppliers has been limited for this academic year.

NETpositive IMPACT OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPLY CHAIN

Since May 2016 a number of universities and purchasing consortia have provided their suppliers with access to free sustainability action planning tool; here are some of the very early findings from the first 1000 suppliers



Source: www.netpositivesupplier.co.uk/universities

Community Engagement & Social Responsibility



Our Vision:

To establish and strengthen positive relationships with local stakeholders, whilst promoting a range of initiatives which have a positive social or environmental impact.



Progress and initiatives:

Volunteering and giving:

- We run targeted campaigns throughout the academic year to actively encourage staff and students to volunteer, which benefits both the local community and enhances the staff and student experience.
- Oxford Brookes is a founding partner of Team Oxford, a non-profit partnership that connects employees with organisations in Oxford that depend on volunteers.
- The Oxford Brookes Volunteer Centre brings together and promotes volunteering opportunities to students.
- The University also works with Oxford Hub, a student-led organisation offering volunteering, skilled placements, projects and events.
- The University employs a team of Student Community Wardens who help students settle into their private rented accommodation and assist in resolving any tensions that may arise between residents.
- The University continues to support a number of Oxford City Council's Clean Green Campaigns as well as the yearly OxClean campaign; we promote these events as volunteer opportunities to staff and students to help keep Oxford clean and tidy.
- In December 2019 the University hosted the 22nd edition of No Mince Pies, a pre-Christmas event which attracts up to 200 local elderly residents each year and which has been enhanced in recent years by inviting local charities that can support the guests beyond the event.

Community Engagement:

- We continue to run the House Champion Scheme, a joint initiative between Oxford Brookes, Thames Valley Police and Oxford City Council to encourage students to be responsible neighbours and help them integrate with their community.
- At the University's Science Bazaar in February 2020, which attracted over 2000 visitors, we teamed up with Oxford Direct Services to provide interactive and educational games to children to encourage them to think about recycling.
- As a responsible neighbour we respond to any concerns raised by members of the local community.
- We also took part in the Cowley Road Carnival 2020, which took place virtually, to promote our community engagement activity through an online quiz.

Excellence in Education and Research



Oxford Brookes is a centre of academic excellence, ranking 1st in the UK for research and 2nd for teaching in The Times Higher Education Young University Rankings 2019. This includes vital work on a variety of sustainability-related topics.

The **Oxford Brookes Business School** is a signatory to PRME – the United Nations Principles for Responsible Management Education. PRME offers a framework to embed sustainability into education, research and operations for business schools across the globe. This year saw the ‘Centre for Business, Society and Global Challenges’ added to the School’s three existing research centres, enabling all researchers who are actively engaged with some of the core challenges in sustainable development to work under one umbrella.

Research Case Study: FTSE100 sustainability reporting could amount to ‘greenwashing’

A substantial number of FTSE100 companies are selectively choosing to report data that emphasise certain outcomes or ignore major impacts in their sustainability reporting. This was just one of the findings of a report *The Boundary of Sustainability Reporting: Evidence from the FTSE100*, published by the Centre for Business, Society and Global Challenges in 2019. The report examines reporting boundaries adopted by FTSE100 companies for 49 Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) disclosure topics. Its findings reveal that much of the current output is focused on responding to potential risks to companies’ reputations, rather than acknowledging responsibility for their actions. The Oxford Brookes research team of Drs Sam Miles and Kate Ringham found that 72% of FTSE100 sustainability reports adopted very narrow reporting boundaries, restricting the scope of responsibility or using illustrative examples to suggest wider compliance, while in reality providing information that could be described as ‘greenwashing’.

For more information on PRME and our 2020 report please visit www.unprme.org/oxford-brookes-business-school



Our **Faculty of Health and Life Sciences (HLS)** offers a passionate and vibrant community of staff and students, brought together by a fascination with the living world and a desire to understand and care for human beings. They provide foundation, undergraduate, post-qualifying, postgraduate and research study opportunities across four departments.

The Faculty provides a cutting edge BSc in Physical Activity and Health. This course covers key social aspects of the wider sustainability agenda via a focus on sustainable lifestyles and the promotion of health through physical activity.

The Department of Biological and Medical Sciences offers a research-led, dynamic and supportive environment in which to study, along with the unique benefits of being situated in Oxford, a centre for scientific research and learning.

Showcase: Former Oxford Brookes PhD student Dr Joe Middleton-Welling, is the leading author on latest butterfly research publication. Joe completed his PhD 'New approaches to understanding functional traits and butterfly responses to environmental change in Europe' at Oxford Brookes in 2019. Joe is the first author on a multi-author publication on 'A new comprehensive trait database of European and Maghreb butterflies, Papilionoidea' (Scientific Data (2020) 7:351).



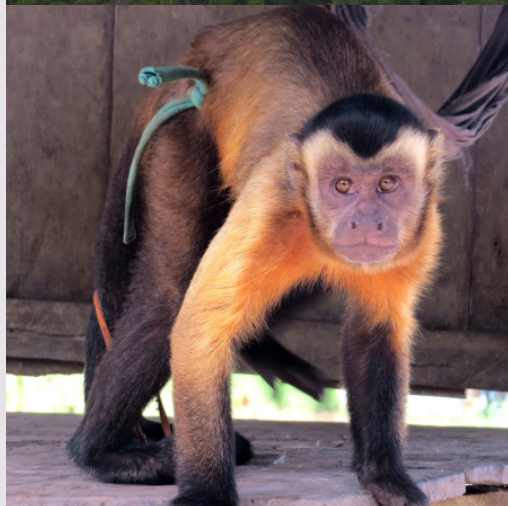
The **Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences** delivers a dynamic combination of full-time and part-time programmes, where research-led teaching is offered across undergraduate and postgraduate study.

The School of Social Sciences is an environment of critical enquiry and rigorous research. We offer postgraduate qualifications in the fields of primate conservation, primatology, and conservation – with the opportunity to focus on a number of specialisms.

Showcase: New research has found that the conservation of tropical peatlands could reduce the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and the likelihood of new diseases jumping from animals to humans. Dr Susan M. Cheyne, Senior Lecturer in Biological Anthropology at Oxford Brookes University and Co-Director of Borneo Nature Foundation International, co-authored the study led by the University of Exeter. The scientists concluded that the high biodiversity in tropical peat-swamp forests, combined with habitat destruction and wildlife harvesting, created conditions that could encourage infectious diseases to jump to humans – known as zoonotic diseases.

Showcase: Despite Covid-19 restrictions and the risk of animal to human disease transmission, illegal wildlife trade on social media networks has continued, with wild animals sometimes sold as 'lockdown pets'. Researchers from Oxford Brookes University and the University of Western Australia, having analysed around 20,000 Facebook posts about wild pet trade, are urging increased governance on social media sites in order to curb potential extinctions and reduce the risk of pandemics.

The Centre for Diversity Policy Research and Practice focuses on gender, diversity and inclusion in organisations, the economy and society. Its work spans gender issues in the workplace, work-life balance, age discrimination and extending working lives, LGBT, religion or belief, social mobility and human rights.



The Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment

The Faculty is home to four schools providing specialist and interdisciplinary teaching, research and knowledge transfer across a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in purpose-built facilities in Oxford.

Showcase: The Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development (OISD), founded in 2004, is one of the UK's largest research institutes dedicated to sustainable development research in the built and natural environments. OISD, which consists of eight distinct research groups, addresses the multiple dimensions of sustainable development and the synergies and processes that link them, through a multi- and inter-disciplinary approach. OISD is contributing to major Research Council programmes such as Living with Environmental Change, Energy research, Sustainable Urban Environments and Lifelong Health and Wellbeing, through various research grants. For the latest news from OISD please visit <http://oisd.brookes.ac.uk>

Two of our academics have won an award for research into household energy use during lockdown – revealing how energy consumption can be dramatically reduced through the introduction of smart energy systems. Professor Rajat Gupta and Senior Research Fellow Matt Gregg from the Low Carbon Building Research Group at Oxford Brookes University, have won the Best Paper award at the international Sustainable Ecological Engineering Design for Society (SEEDS) conference 2020. www.brookes.ac.uk/about-brookes/news/oxford-brookes-university-academics-win-a-top-award-for-sustainability-research-during-lockdown



Our team of 800+ experts are addressing the major global challenges facing society, the economy and technology. In our emerging University Strategy 2035 we characterise our research and knowledge exchange portfolio with globally recognised research centres and collaborative, interdisciplinary networks, which address societal needs, support sustainable economic development and promote health and wellbeing.



Oxford Brookes has developed a number of research, innovation and knowledge exchange networks which bring together researchers from across the university to take interdisciplinary approaches in addressing the major global challenges of our times. These networks are:

- Healthy Ageing and Care
- Children and Young People
- Migration and Refugees
- Inclusion, Diversity and Gender
- Artificial Intelligence and Data
- Creative Industries

The Sustainable and Resilient Futures Network is currently in development and will bring together our centres of research excellence and knowledge exchange, including:

- Low Carbon Building Group
- Low Carbon Vehicles
- Sustainable Engineering and Innovation
- EiE (the Environmental Information Exchange)
- Environmental Impact Assessment Unit
- Centre for Business, Society and Global Challenges
- Centre for Development and Emergency Practice

Recent examples of leading research include:

- Professor Rajat Gupta is working closely with Low Carbon Hub to take a leading role in one of the four national Local Energy System Demonstrator Projects
- Oxford Brookes is leading a UK Government Research and Innovation (UKRI) funded project with other universities and the national Energy Systems Catapult to develop a knowledge integration 'toolkit' to envisage buildings as components of interactive energy systems which will contribute towards net zero carbon in buildings
- The Energy Retrofit Learning Platform, is an approach across professional silos to integrate disciplinary knowledge and expertise, both technological and managerial, in an interdisciplinary context to find buildable solutions that improve energy performance.

The strategic priorities in the Five-Year Institutional Knowledge Exchange Strategy (2016-21) submitted to HEFCE, included, firstly, support for the development and implementation of initiatives to realise the potential of Oxfordshire for sustainable economic growth through participation in stakeholder forums, partnerships and collaborations and, secondly, to provide opportunities for engagement with businesses, regionally and more widely, in support of the transfer of skills through training and access to talent, taking account of the priorities of the national Industrial Strategy and the Local Industrial Strategy for Oxfordshire. Examples of this include:

- Oxford Brookes is a founding member of Living Oxford (living lab organisation in Oxfordshire) and is working with West Oxfordshire DC on the proposed Eynsham Garden Village Living Lab
- We have made a joint appointment with OxLEP of a Clean Growth convenor for the Local Enterprise Partnership
- Professor Rajat Gupta sits on the Oxford-Cambridge Arc Universities Group, Environment Partnerships Board

This report has been compiled by the Environmental Sustainability Team. We welcome your feedback on environmental sustainability at Oxford Brookes. If you have any thoughts or questions please get in touch with us at **sustainability@brookes.ac.uk**. If you would like more information about our policies, strategies or action plans please visit our sustainability website at **www.brookes.ac.uk/sustainability**

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