

University of Oxford Environmental Sustainability Policy 2008

ENERGY – the University of Oxford Energy Policy is to reduce its buildings and process carbon dioxide emissions in line with UK government carbon dioxide emissions reduction targets.

GREENHOUSE GASES – The University of Oxford Greenhouse Gases Policy is to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs) deriving from energy consumption and other activities that contribute to global warming. The GHG targets include carbon dioxide, methane and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which have a significantly higher global warming potential (GWP) than carbon dioxide.

WATER – The University of Oxford Water Policy is to review opportunities and implement measures for reducing the use of mains water, and to reduce pollution entering its watercourses via stormwater (surface water) drains and sewers.

SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS – The University of Oxford Sustainable Buildings Policy is to build environmentally sustainable buildings, and embed sustainable building best practice into the management of the Estate. The University will ensure that any new building or refurbishment is planned, built and occupied to ensure the greatest energy and water efficiency and lowest carbon emissions that are reasonable in the circumstances. The University is committed to making full use of its existing buildings and, wherever possible when expansion is necessary, to the development of sites within walking or cycling distance of the remainder of the University.

TRAVEL – The University is committed to sustainable travel, to encourage the use of efficient public and communal transport, bicycles and walking, and to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from work-related travel and University-owned vehicles. The University discourages unnecessary travel, and use of private motor transport for both travel to the University and travel for other work purposes during the day, with the aim of reducing traffic and parking in the city centre. The University will work with Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council on their transport strategies.

WASTE – The University of Oxford Waste Policy is to review opportunities and implement measures to minimise general and hazardous waste generated by the University that is sent to landfill, and increase the proportion of waste that is recycled.

SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING – The University Sustainable Purchasing Policy is to purchase products and services that reduce the University's environmental impacts locally, and globally, and minimise direct or indirect pollution to land, air and water. The University will work to ensure that the Sustainable Purchasing Policy is applied on a University-wide basis, to increase the use of sustainable products, and products that can be recycled after use.

BIODIVERSITY – The University Biodiversity Policy is to preserve, and where possible, to enhance the wildlife habitats in non-urban and urban environments owned by, or related to, the University, and reduce the University's environmental impacts on biodiversity both locally, and globally. The University will achieve this through a detailed strategy that takes into account the diversity of activities within the University's Departments.

The University's Environmental Sustainability Policy was approved by the University Council in 2008.