Environmental Policy

Balliol College is deeply committed to preserving the environment in which we operate both for present and future generations. The College is committed to the principles and practices of environmental protection and environmental sustainability across all areas of activity, with College-wide involvement and responsibility. Therefore, the College will promote the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, minimize pollution and emissions in all its activities and, where possible, influence and encourage others to do so.

To fulfil its responsibilities, the College is specifically committed:

- To improve energy efficiency and reduce energy consumption associated with domestic and other college activities, including, but not limited to, lighting, air and water heating and refrigeration. It will also take account of the concept of embodied energy where it is pertinent to purchasing policy and waste management.
- To minimize consumption of water, energy and materials; to consider the cradle-to-grave impact of all products and services purchased, giving preference to those which, not incurring excessive cost, attempt to minimize their environmental impact. To encourage suppliers to provide the College with environmentally friendly goods and services.
- To embrace the Precautionary Principle in the use of chemical products, such as domestic chemicals, detergents and pesticides.
- To reduce material and organic waste and to facilitate the reuse and recycling of recyclable materials and organic refuse, using the most environmentally effective means.
- To promote an awareness of environmental issues within the College and University, and to encourage participation of College members in environmental matters.
- To encourage modes of transport by staff and student which minimize environmental impact.
- To consider and act to minimize the environmental impact of all new developments, taking into account energy usage and efficiency, materials used, noise and light pollution, visual impact and habitat degradation.
- To set specific objectives and time-bound targets based on certain identified aspects in line with these overall goals and review progress on an annual basis.
Environmental Action Plan (Addendum to Environmental Policy)

Measures to be implemented as soon as possible
− The scouts’ training regarding recycling is refreshed annually.
− All lightbulbs bought have to be LEDs, except under special circumstances.
− The paper used in everyday office use should be recycled paper wherever possible.
− Up-to-date posters advising on how to save energy and in general conduct a sustainable lifestyle will be put up in all student rooms. (The posters will be designed by the Student Environmental Reps.)
− All recycling bins in rooms will be clearly marked as such, and measures will be undertaken to ensure that it is clear what can and must be put into them.
− Movement detectors will be installed on all floors and bathrooms (and activated if they are already installed). This can be done as part of the rolling process of renovation.
− Recycling streams to separate compostable food waste, cans and general waste will be set up and clearly signposted in the College Hall.

Measures to further investigate
− Replacing paper towel dispensers in bathrooms with an adequate alternative.
− The instalment of manual radiator valves in all College rooms.
− The insulation of the lofts of all College buildings to the recommended depth, or the best feasible depth.
− The measures proposed by the Carbon Census audit that was conducted in 2012 and suggested concrete steps to reduce the College’s emissions by 50%.
− Making sure that the food offered in Hall is local, and ideally organic, wherever possible. Also, investigate offering more vegetarian and vegan options as part of the regular Hall meal schedule.
− Ensuring that the College’s endowment is not invested into fossil fuel companies, wherever possible.

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