



Sustainability Policy

Robinson College recognises that its activities impact upon the environment both through its routine internal operations, development of its resources, and through its influence and effects on the wider community. The College acknowledges a responsibility for, and a commitment to, protection of the environment at all levels and to manage all aspects of its operation as sustainably as possible.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The College aims to achieve zero carbon emissions by 2030, though it is acknowledged that the meaning and understanding of this aim is still to be properly defined and set out.

College will comply fully with environmental legislation and is in addition committed to the following objectives:

1. To install and monitor robust mechanisms for measuring the energy/water consumption across College so that:
 - a. Impact of any actions can be ascertained and monitored and can be used to steer future decisions and investment
 - b. Direct action can be taken in areas where consumption is higher than what might be expected or considered reasonable so as to enable recovery action planning as required.
2. To “Go Paperless” – to organise and monitor a campaign to reduce and minimise paper use/printing and action across all departments and all areas of College.
3. To review the balance of gas vs electricity consumption and determine what actions can be facilitated/financed to move to more carbon neutral electricity usage in favour of gas, and on a planned basis over time, implement approved conversion plans.
4. To increase the capability for self-generation of energy on the College estate – to investigate and consider proposals for the adoption of more self-generating energy installations (e.g. additional solar panels, wind turbines, air-source heat pumps), prepare feasibility and capital plans and implement as approved.
5. To plan and implement water consumption reduction measures – to review all options to enable the reduction in water consumption across College, for example aerated showers, urinal flush sensors, push-timer showers, rain water storage and reuse.
6. To review with Science-based targets any offsetting capabilities within College and determine how we can implement such to reduce the carbon footprint, i.e. planting more trees.
7. To review all food processing/production/consumption across College outlets and develop a plan for reduction including for example, less ruminant meat served, carbon reduction menus featuring carbon footprint measurement codes, further waste reductions plans and plant food education programmes.
8. To ensure that sustainability features as a major factor in all future refurbishment planning and installation.
9. To develop a College Sustainability Charter - everyone has a part to play and this can be detailed in a charter for all students, staff and Fellows to encourage altered behaviour, habits, thus enabling planning, and action to reduce Scope 3 emissions.
10. To share our successes and projects with the local and wider communities and commercial partners to assist with further engagement and enable them to promote their footprint reduction planning alongside the College.



METHOD & SCOPE

MANAGEMENT

- Overall responsibility for the Policy is that of the Warden and Fellows of Robinson College through the College Council;
- Finance Committee will allocate funds based upon an agreed budget bid each year;
- Day-to-day responsibility for ensuring the Policy is put into practice is delegated to the Domestic Bursar, through Heads of Department and in cooperation and consultation with the Sustainability Committee which reports to Council;
- College Officers and Heads of Department will ensure that strategic goals of the College and the resultant objectives set are reflective of this policy;
- Heads of Department will monitor annually the College's compliance in respect of relevant environmental legislation;
- Responsible management together with the Sustainability Committee will determine the action plan for each year which will inform activity and financial commitment.

ACTION PLAN FOR 2022/23

Objective 1:

- Prepare a plan to measure energy usage across College areas, including footprint (usage/m²) analysis
- As possible, install individual meters for varying parts of the College (priority TBD) which will enable monitoring of usage.
- Replace Auditorium stage and house lighting with lower wattage LED lighting.
- Use in house thermal imager to identify areas of poor insulation and adopt a plan to remedy such.
- Continue programme of replacing present lighting around College with LEDs.
- Link present greenhouse heating to Thorney Creek heating system in place of the present stand alone.
- Archive store humidity monitoring to determine need/application of air conditioning.

Objective 2:

- Prepare and implement a paperless/print-less office project to reduce usage across College and move as much as possible on-line.
- Research an alternative to the plastic use to cover paperback books in Library

Objective 3:

- Replace gas rational oven in Main Kitchen with electric, which is more energy efficient and greener.
- Prepare a plan to replace all gas appliances in kitchen with electric by 2030.

Objective 4:

- Prepare a feasibility report as to the provision of solar panels to provide electricity for CWB, Hostels and MCB enabling all to be self-sufficient with regards energy.
- Review feasibility of provision of electric car charging points at CWB and in underground car park.

Objective 5:

- Introduce 3 x mains water dispenser units in College to replace the use of plastic bottled water.

Objective 6:



- To further engage with Green Impact at the University to assist with development of a provision to enable offsetting criteria.

Objective 7:

- Hold a Sustainability Awareness Fayre (similar to Plant Food Fayre but to include travel, waste, energy usage etc.) at least once a term to provide education to staff, fellows and students.
- Plan for a 75% reduction in use of ruminant meat in College.
- Prepare menus with a carbon footprint score mechanism to clearly show consumers the carbon value of their choices.
- Review provision of a BioHiTech food waste digester to recycle food waste into new water and reducing waste collection needs.
- Continue initiative of having at least one plant-based High Table menus each term.
- Expand our present in College herb garden to create greater provision.

Objective 8:

- Renewal of boiler flues through re-lining to prolong life and enable temperature integration between boilers and water source heat pump.

Objective 9:

- Charter to be drafted for discussion and adoption
- Review provision of battery powered lawn mowers to replace present oil fuelled.
- Review Gardens team numbers and employ additional member to handpick weeds in place of chemical spraying.

Objective 10:

- Discuss and develop an outreach programme with Communications Manager in due course.
- In Liaison with Mia develop an Event Carbon Footprint measurement tool so as to assist Event organisers measure the footprint they create with their Events held at Robinson.
- Develop a community engagement plan to assist local organisations develop their sustainability progress on the back of Robinson's success to date

This policy will be reviewed annually.