

Sustainability Strategy Motion

Proposed by Mary Woodward and seconded by Weronika Ślesak

The JCR notes that:

1. That according to the 2018 report from the International Panel on Climate Change global emissions must be cut by 45% globally by 2030 to avoid 1.5C of warming.
2. That such a rapid decrease in emissions will only be possible if institutions in developed nations completely decarbonise by 2030, enabling developing nations time to implement carbon-reducing measures.
3. That many of the top universities have now made ambitious carbon commitments with King's College London committing to be net zero by 2025, UCL, the University of Leeds and the University of Bristol committing to be net zero by 2030, the University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University committing to be absolute zero by 2038, and Cambridge University committing to be net zero by 2038.
4. That Oxford Sustainability Department is developing an Environmental Sustainability Strategy for the University with a target to achieve **net zero carbon and biodiversity net gain by 2035**. This strategy would replace the existing University target of reducing carbon emissions by 50% from their peak of 2009/10 by 2035.
5. That while this new target will bring the University closer into alignment with the Paris Agreement, **it does not formally apply to individual colleges which are independent**.
6. That Oxford University expects that colleges 'will implement similar measures and commitments to those' within the University wide Environmental Sustainability Plan.
7. That the Worcester Joint Sustainability Committee is currently working on updating Worcester's sustainability policy.
8. That at least 20 common rooms across Oxford have all passed motions in support of developing a net zero plan at their college and lobbying for carbon and biodiversity targets which are at least as ambitious as those of the University.

The JCR believes that:

9. Worcester has a responsibility to their students, the wider University, and the public to rapidly decarbonise and protect biodiversity.
10. That Worcester should set net zero and biodiversity targets that are at least as ambitious as those of the University, as well as implementing a strategy to make the targets achievable.
11. That Worcester should demonstrate leadership and ambition by establishing itself as a leading College and institution in the fight against climate change.

The JCR resolves to:

12. Support the JCR's proposed Sustainability Strategy and endorse all commitments as laid out.
13. Mandate the JCR Environment Representative, the president, and the proposers of this motion to lobby to ensure that the following measures are taken:
 - a. The college commits to carbon and biodiversity targets which are at least as ambitious as those in the new University strategy by the end of Trinity term 2021.
 - b. Development of a formal sustainability strategy which describes how the targets will be achieved, such as the Sustainability Plan endorsed in this motion by the JCR.
 - c. Development of a system of transparent annual reporting of target progress and carbon emissions by the end of Trinity term 2021.
 - d. Allocation of sufficient resources to achieve the targets, including a designated sustainability position reporting to the sustainability working group that takes responsibility for progress.