



Sustainability in Kellogg College 2018/19

Introduction

The Academic Office has had a Green Impact team since 2017 and it is increasing its activities all around the College with the support of students and many staff members.

At the Showcase organised by the University's Environmental Sustainability Department in May 2018, we received a Bronze Award.

In order to improve our status and reputation, much effort and planning was put into the design of our green strategy for the Academic Year 2018/19. The reward was a Gold Award achieved in May 2019, and Rodrigo Hernandez and Gabrielle Kiliman were granted the Staff and Student Award respectively. The awards were made at a ceremony in the Sheldonian theatre attended by the Vice Chancellor.

Here is a summary of sustainability related activities undertaken by the College during the Academic Year 2018/19.

Michaelmas Term

Our Head Chef, Jonathan Wilmot, introduced Meat Free Mondays in our Dining Hall menus as part of our ongoing commitment to reducing our environmental impact, helping members of our community reduce their meat consumption by offering them a varied and delicious vegetarian menu every Monday. Few students were not supportive, but this remains approved practice.

As our Hub is the first Passivhaus at the University of Oxford, it is starting to attract interest. For example, in 2018 we hosted a visit from students in Architecture from Brookes University.

During September, nine members of staff logged their rides in the Unicycle challenge, an initiative encouraging staff members to ride to/from work in universities around the UK. Kellogg staff managed to accumulate 1676 miles and finished first at a national level in our category (20-49 staff).

As part of our Welcome Weeks effort, we distributed Kellogg tote bags and Kellogg water bottles to help students reduce their use of disposable plastic bags and bottles.

We also hosted our annual charity event to support Macmillan Coffee Morning where staff members brought homemade cakes. Both our Finance and Domestic Bursars used apples from our garden to bake cakes.

In November, we broke our record in the official Veggie Pledge organised by the Student Union with 20 students and 4 members of the staff pledging to support this initiative compared to four overall in 2017. We were the leaders amongst Graduate Colleges and beat Keble, Magdalen, Pembroke and Christ Church on the final qualification board.

As we are keen to lead by example, we met and provided support to a new Green Impact team in the Department of Psychiatry, which ended up achieving a Gold Award in their first year.

Hilary term

Fairtrade February was a success as we introduced new Fairtrade products in our Hub café. These proved popular, remaining on offer daily. Alexander Wankel, one of our students who held a Skoll Scholarship for social entrepreneurship, owns a Fairtrade company and he delivered a lecture based on his own experience developing a company focused on quinoa, paying fair salaries to farmers and keeping environmental sustainability as a top priority.

We also updated the job description for the Administrative Assistant Rodrigo Hernandez in the Academic Office to include new responsibilities focused on environmental sustainability at the College: engaging with students to raise awareness, coordinating Green Impact and keeping in regular contact with the University's Environmental and Sustainability communities. This step is an important transition from a volunteer position to a clear set of tasks to accomplish.

In March, we hosted the OxUnboxed shop, which is a pop up event specializing in zero-waste where members of the University can refill their containers with a selection of products and reduce their use of plastic.

In mid March we completed our walking challenge, where a team of 14 staff members combined their miles walked during five and a half months to reach our target 3,533 miles, roughly the same distance between Oxford and Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

Trinity term

When spring finally arrived, our "bee box" part of the University's Plan Bee project, was back in our garden. As part of the "Citizen Science" project, we have been taking photos and recording any activity in our "bee hotel" each month.

Two igloos for hedgehogs have been deployed in the gardens of 8 Bradmore Road and 38 Norham Road and the former MCR Green Officer, Gabrielle Kiliman, has been leaving food and water in order to attract new residents. We are using two track cameras to find out if any new animals are living close by.

We completed an ambitious project to audit our water consumption during the last three years in order to monitor usage and find alternatives to reduce our consumption. Fifty shower timers have been bought and will be utilised in our College accommodation to encourage our students to take shorter showers and be aware of water as a scarce resource not to be wasted.

Throughout the year, informational posters have been displayed during lunch and dinner in our Dining Hall in order to raise awareness about the world's water footprint and how this affects many countries and products.

Conclusion

We have met plenty of objectives and exceeded our original goal, as we were originally aiming for a Green Impact Silver Award. We should, therefore, celebrate our achievements and consolidate our position.

Kellogg College's environmental reputation within the University of Oxford shows a solid improvement because of enquiries and we are amongst the top colleges in this area, Lady Margaret Hall being the current benchmark.

For instance, a team of experts from Environmental Sustainability in the University of Oxford and three guests from the Environmental Sustainability Department in the University of Cambridge carried out our Green Impact audit and were impressed by our work and innovative ideas. Kellogg will also be featured on the University's website.

Rodrigo Hernandez was invited to give a short presentation at the Sustainability Showcase at the Sheldonian Theatre in May in the presence of the Vice Chancellor, where we shared our progress and initiatives during the Academic Year 2018/19.

We should keep investing our time, efforts and money to create a platform for all members in our community where new projects and initiatives can be developed in order to become a model for environmental sustainability.

We are one of the few Colleges with staff in charge of organising the sustainability strategy. Students are welcome to join our initiatives and build on previous years' efforts in order to continue our green legacy.

See below our position in the Green Impact's final league table (we competed as Academic Office Kellogg College, finishing in third position overall).



League table

Kennedy Institute	2010 points
Lady Margaret Hall	1355 points
Academic Office Kellogg...	1330 points
Osney One	1240 points
Bodleian Book Storage F...	840 points
OUP Environment	820 points
Old Road Campus Resea...	785 points
Psychiatry	770 points
Brasenose College	745 points
Primary Care Health Sci...	655 points

Recommendations

We strongly recommend that we keep participating in the Green Impact Project managed by the Environmental Sustainability team at the University of Oxford. We should be aiming to achieve Gold Awards every single year.

Every department can develop new initiatives (i.e.: Green Travel Grants, refill station) and organise meetings with students to find common interests, raise awareness and work together to reach our goals. The College enjoyed sharing objectives such as the walking and unicycle challenges.

Green Impact recommends publishing an annual report on the College's website.

Monitor our two new students-held positions as Environmental Ambassadors to support our sustainable projects. We may decide to enlarge or reduce this provision depending on their efficiency and needs of the College.

12 December 2019

Rodrigo Hernandez

Academic Administrative Assistant