

Response to OUSU Demands

Oxford University Student Union (OUSU) have published sustainability demands to be achieved by March 2023. This note sets out the response of St John's College to the demands.

1. *Adopt a target for net zero carbon and biodiversity net gain at least as ambitious as the central University's 2035 date.*

The College has not formally adopted a target for net zero carbon and biodiversity net gain as it is still in the process of collecting data, developing plans and understanding possibilities. It is our stated intention to try and at least match the central University's 2035 date but we do not believe we should set a target without having a clear plan as to how this will be achieved. Significant work has been undertaken assessing the carbon used by each of the College buildings, the fabric improvements that can be made and their potential carbon reductions and hence the requirements for a new renewable energy centre. A more detailed timeline for this major project will become available in the coming months.

2. *Publish a strategy as to how they will achieve this target, with annual reporting, covering scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions as well as biodiversity impacts, and including or alongside a policy commitment to divest from fossil fuels.*

The College has agreed an [environmental sustainability plan](#) that details our baseline survey for scope 1,2 and 3, sets out our plan to redo the assessment at the end of this academic year and has targets set against each strand of activity. It is published on our website [Environmental sustainability | St John's College, Oxford](#) and will be updated as we gather more data to inform our strategy. The College is currently undertaking a baseline biodiversity audit for the College site and is doing a pilot on an agricultural landholding to further inform our plans in this area. The College is not invested in fossil fuels, other than indirectly via global trackers. The College has a responsible investment policy which sets out its approach to investments ([MT 2022 Responsible Investment Policy.pdf \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)).

3. *Implement the appropriate governance and enablers to enact this strategy, including a sustainability committee with student representation, and dedicated staff time.*

The College has a sustainability working group, chaired by an alumna with expertise in this area. The working group has staff and students as members, as well as Fellows, the Domestic Bursar, the Works Bursar, the Principal Bursar and the President. The group is supported by the Bursary Manager. The group reports in to Governing Body via the Domestic and Establishment Committee.