

Appendix 1

What will the climate and ecological emergencies mean for Oxford and the UK?

Climate breakdown is already affecting the UK and other countries around the world. In the UK, sea levels are rising, and average temperatures (in England) are now 1°C higher than pre-industrial times (1850-1900). Extremely wet days are increasing in number. Evidence shows that climate breakdown increases the likelihood of some of the floods that have occurred in the UK. Summers are getting hotter, impacting upon people (lower productivity, illness, and increased mortality), crop yields, and transport and energy production due to overheating.¹ Figure 1 illustrates historic temperature risk and projections on different warming scenarios.

The climate crisis means different things in different parts of the world. Elsewhere it may mean drought and famine. In Oxford, it means a higher risk of more frequent and more intense extreme weather events. If emissions continue at current rates, Oxfordshire will likely see hotter, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters. There will be more days with heavy rainfall of 25mm (1 inch) or more, particularly in winter.² Events such as the 2014 floods, when the Thames broke its banks and 40 roads were closed, will become more common. Flooding affects homes and businesses and can cause widespread travel disruption. Average daily winter temperatures are likely to increase by between 2.0 and 5.6°C by the 2080s, with more wet days (days with 10 mm or more of rain), increasing from 3.5 days to 6 days each winter by 2080.³ Severe heat will worsen, with more record setting hot days, putting huge pressure on the local health service as people suffer the impacts of heat exposure. Heat waves pose an increased risk of deaths to vulnerable people, especially the elderly. The impact of extreme weather will also have implications for food, as crops suffer from prolonged frost and hotter, longer summers.

The climate crisis poses multiple risks to Oxford and our citizens. There are, therefore, significant risks arising from inaction. There are also risks associated with the development of actions which are insufficient to significantly reduce carbon emissions and meet our targets. These risks can be mitigated by reducing emissions, adapting to the already inevitable impacts of a changing climate, and develop an action plan which is sufficient to meet our climate crisis.

¹ <https://www.theccc.org.uk/the-science-of-climate-change/how-a-changing-climate-affects-us/>

²

https://www2.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/sites/default/files/folders/documents/environmentandplanning/climatechange/OCC_UKCP09_summary_web_vslDJan14.pdf

³ Ibid

Appendix 2

The UK legal framework for Climate Action

The Climate Change Act 2008 provides the legal framework for emissions reduction in the UK. It was the first law in the world to lay down a legally binding emissions reduction target. The responsibility for meeting this target sits with national rather than local government—meaning, in effect, that all climate and ecological emergency declarations made by local authorities are voluntary, since they have no legal requirements under the Climate Change Act 2008.

In 2019 the Climate Change Act 2008 was amended to strengthen the target to net zero by 2050 (rather than 80% emissions reduction by 2050 on 1990 baseline). The Act established the Committee on Climate Change (CCC), an independent advisory group which advises the Government on climate change policy and strategy.

The Climate Change Act 2008 requires the Government to meet five yearly carbon budgets, progress against which is monitored by the Committee on Climate Change. The first two carbon budgets have been met – and the UK is on track to meet the third carbon budget (2018 – 2022). The CCC has warned the Government that unless action is taken promptly, the UK will miss carbon budgets from 2022 onwards (the fourth and fifth carbon budgets). This requires reductions of 51% by 2025 and 57% by 2030, and shortfalls of 7% and 14% are projected at this stage.

Appendix 3

Developing the new Climate Action Plan

This Action Plan does not start from scratch. Many building blocks exist. Indeed, in the time since the declaration of a climate emergency by Oxford City Council in January 2019, there has been a number of workstreams dedicated to enhancing our climate action.

Climate Emergency Declarations

The climate and ecological emergency declarations that have been made vary across the UK, although some are identical in wording because of the circulation of precedents. It is important to analyse the motions, declarations, resolutions, and agreements which have been made, both by this Council and our local authority partners, to understand the context for this Climate Action Plan.

1. Oxford City Council's Climate Emergency Declaration

When the City Council passes any motion, it reflects the importance that elected members place on the issue, and it signals their intent to address it. When this Council passed a climate emergency declaration in January 2019 by unanimous agreement (see figure 5), it understood that the use of the term 'emergency' was significant and, by definition, the motion was not a normal motion. That being the case, the actions that the Council sought to develop were expected to constitute an appropriate response for an emergency.

This motion builds on a strong track record of commitment and action from the City Council. It commits the Council to lobby central Government for additional powers and resources to make local action easier and to work with partners across the local area to reduce emissions.

Following the climate emergency declaration, and during 2019 – 2020, the City Council undertook member, public and partner engagement on climate breakdown, including the Citizens' Assembly provided for by the declaration. This engagement led to a series of commitments being made in a December 2019 Cabinet Response to the Citizens' Assembly's Final Report, thereby ensuring that the democratic discussion was able to shape the Council's work at an early stage. This engagement also led to the launch of new work areas that would accelerate the decarbonisation of the City Council's own estate and to galvanize action across the city by building on and expanding the work of Low Carbon Oxford—relaunched as the Zero Carbon Oxford Partnership.⁴

Figure 5: Oxford City Council – Climate Emergency Declaration

The Council agrees to:

1. Join other Councils in declaring a Climate Emergency.
2. Continue to call on Westminster to provide the necessary powers and resources to make local action on climate change easier.
3. Encourage this Council to establish a Citizens Assembly made up of a representative range of Oxford citizens to establish the facts and make recommendations for our city.
4. Continue to work with partners across the city and region to deliver widespread carbon reductions.
5. Note that this Council is a forward-looking council at tackling climate change with a very strong record. The Council has installed enough solar PV across its estate to generate the equivalent of 10% of our annual electricity from onsite generation, reducing CO2 emissions by 380tonnes/year and reduces bills by over £100,000/year). We currently

purchase accredited green electricity for practically all sites and have a policy to buy green if the price is not more than 2% above the price of standard electricity. This Council uses a £1m revolving loan fund to reduced energy costs by over £400k/year.

6. Note that this Council works heavily in partnership, including coordinating the Low Carbon Oxford network – a local collaborative of over 40 organisations that are responsible for the majority of Oxford’s CO2 emissions and which have committed to reduce their emissions by 3% each year. The Council is participating in OxFutures II Growing Oxfordshire’s Low Carbon Economy, a multi-stakeholder partnership to grow Oxfordshire’s low carbon economy through assisting SMEs to reduce energy consumption and implement energy efficiency projects.

2. Oxfordshire County Council’s Climate Emergency Acknowledgement

Oxfordshire County Council acknowledged, rather than declared, a climate emergency in April 2019 (see figure 6). The motion states that “Oxfordshire is doing its bit” by reducing the emissions from its own estate and activities by 3% a year but recognises that this is insufficient.

The motion pledges to make ‘Oxfordshire County Council carbon neutral by 2030’ and seeks powers and resources from Government and further work with partners across the county and region to deliver this new goal and to report to Council within six months on necessary actions.

On a strict interpretation, the Council is only committing to make its own activities carbon neutral by 2030, not those of the wider area – although the motion states that it will work with partners to achieve this (which it would not strictly need to do if it was only addressing its own activities). The County Council aims to achieve net zero across Oxfordshire by the legal deadline of 2050.

Oxfordshire County Council’s Climate Action Framework was published in August 2020. It sets out the Council’s plans to reduce emissions from its own activities to carbon neutral by 2030, support schools to decarbonise their estate, work with suppliers to green their supply chain and reach a net-zero carbon Oxfordshire by 2050.

The plan can be found here:

https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/about-council/OCC_Climate_Action_Framework-August2020.pdf

Figure 6: Oxfordshire County Council – motion declaring a climate emergency

Oxfordshire County Council calls on the Leader to:

1. Acknowledge a ‘Climate Emergency’ and call for action
2. Pledge to make Oxfordshire County Council carbon neutral by 2030, considering both production and consumption emissions.
3. Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible.
4. Continue to work with partners across the county and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies.
5. Report to Council within six months with the actions the Council will take to address this emergency."

3. Oxfordshire Growth Board Statement of Principles on the Climate Emergency

In 2020 the Leaders and Chief Executives of all local authorities across Oxfordshire committed to work together and take coordinated action to deal with the climate emergency.

The statement commits to use Friends of the Earth's 33 actions as an audit of current progress. The statement aims to ensure the county continues to be an exemplar of best practice for climate action, by sharing best practice and taking a science based approach to collaboration and planning.

It is vital that there is collaboration across the county in order to achieve net zero. This statement is significant because collaborative action will be vital to achieve net zero in Oxford. It will help build local supply chains, improve efficiency and ensure we are sharing best practice across the county.

Figure 7: Statement from the Leaders and CEOs of Oxfordshire's local authorities in response to the climate emergency

The Leaders and Chief Executives of local authorities across Oxfordshire have committed to come together to consider the challenges, and opportunities, for coordinated action on Climate Change.

Each local authority across the County has either declared or recognised that there is a Climate Emergency. The response from each authority will be different and reflect local circumstances. This comes at a time when people across all sectors of society look to local authorities and democratically elected representatives to take a lead on tackling climate change. Councils can do this by adopting policies that reduce society's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions, through building communities' resilience to the impacts of a changing climate, and by providing individuals and businesses the information to make climate-aware choices and decisions. Local Authorities can also lead by example and be ready and able to bid, individually or collectively, for funding to take forward projects in our areas.

The UK has a target of being 'carbon neutral' by 2050 and there is ambition in Oxfordshire to be an exemplar area with best practice local authorities in what will be, the challenge of our times.

Individually, each local authority - whether it be a District Council, City Council or County Council - has different responsibilities, legal powers, policies and expertise and each is at a different point on the 'road to zero'. Collectively, we will be able to bring together our resources, ideas, and will to accelerate, coordinate and deliver change.

We recognise that with its long-standing programme of work and environmental sustainability resource/expertise in place, the City Council is currently best placed to facilitate and organise this collaboration. However, different authorities have different skills, experience and resources and as appropriate we will agree the lead authority for an area of work.

As a starting point for our collaboration we will utilise an audit of our positions against the 33 recommended actions that local authorities can take in addressing climate change produced by Friends of the Earth.

We should also seek to identify and exploit areas where we already excel or have significant projects in the pipeline.

We, the Local Authorities of Oxfordshire therefore commit to working together to prepare and bring forward a shared and joint programme of work to address the challenge of the Climate Emergency. This is encapsulated in the following statement which will each adopt

as part of our communication strategies when talking about inter-authority issues and collaboration about how we are addressing the Climate Emergency.

“While we the local authorities of Oxfordshire have each recognised a Climate Emergency in our area, we know there is in effect, just one hugely challenging Climate Emergency.

“We recognise that greenhouse gas emissions know no boundaries and we will be more effective and efficient where we collaborate on programmes, projects and communication.

“We commit to taking an evidence- and science-based approach to prioritising areas for action and collaboration.

“We also recognise that we serve distinct areas and face different issues and therefore priorities. Therefore, each area of collaboration will be for each authority to consider on a voluntary basis.”

Appendix 4

Oxford's Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change

While the Council can provide leadership by reducing our own carbon emissions, and use the planning, regulatory and other powers local government has to provide influence, we currently do not have the powers to significantly reduce carbon emissions across Oxford as a whole alone. We know that many people, organisations, groups, and businesses of all size are already exploring smarter, greener ways of working and living in Oxford.

We need to go further and faster. For this Council, going further and faster involved holding more consensus-building conversations in Oxford to agree collective action.

In 2017-18 we developed a vision for the city in 2050. This was the result of very extensive engagement and consultation, bringing together the many hundreds of responses to the questions on how citizens, community groups, institutions and businesses would like to see the city in three decades time. The public response amounted to thousands of pages of thoughts and ideas from residents, schools, businesses and the universities, much of which focused around an environmentally sustainable future. We summarised them on a website: <https://oxford2050.com/> creating a readable and thought- provoking Vision for Oxford 2050.

The visioning work was then taken forward by launching Oxford's first Citizens' Assembly. Oxford was also the first city in the country to hold a Citizens' Assembly to address the issue of the climate emergency, and the insights gained informed an immediate response in December 2019 by this Council and this action plan.

Oxford2050 vision and Oxford Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change vision for the city

Transport: Oxford will be a clean and accessible city. Petrol and diesel vehicles will be superseded by clean energy vehicles; air and noise pollution will be substantially reduced; and the move away from privately-owned cars will allow streets to be reclaimed for cycling, pedestrians and the community. Rail travel through the city will be fully electrified.

Buildings: New and existing homes will be carbon neutral or net positive, with solar panels, green roofs, high-quality insulation and battery power storage required for new-builds and retrofitted on existing homes. Houses will not just be built to last, but will be built as flexible lifetime homes, with, for example, corridors wide enough for prams or wheelchairs. The range of available housing will also mean people can easily move home and there is little underuse.

Waste and recycling: resource use will be circular, and waste will be reduced or recycled.

Natural environment: Oxford's many high-quality green spaces and waterways will remain easily accessible to all residents, and they will provide opportunities for recreation, relaxation and joy for residents and visitors. Their use will be carefully managed to protect and enhance the city's rich biodiversity and habitats, and nurture Oxford's ecology and the rare plant and animal species which are found here.

What is a Citizens' Assembly?

A Citizens' Assembly is a group of people, who are brought together to discuss an issue, or issues and reach a conclusion about what they think should happen. They are useful tools to provide evidence based decision making locally, by providing a process through which a

representative sample of citizens can engage in open, respectful and informed discussion and debate. Citizens' Assemblies have proven to be effective at securing consensus in relation to complex topics – such as climate breakdown.

Oxford's approach

Co-production is essential in developing our plan to tackle the climate crisis. The Citizens' Assembly brought together a fully representative group of residents to help grow our shared understanding of the impact of climate breakdown in Oxford, and develop a collective response. This emphasis on representation and inclusion was critical, we wanted to ensure that all Oxford's communities were able to have their voices heard in the development of the plan and our response. This Council also created opportunities for people to contribute to the design of the Citizens' Assembly through the formation of an Advisory Group to which representatives were appointed.

We followed guidelines set by Involve and the Government's Innovation in Democracy Programme, with Ipsos Mori recruiting 50 residents from a representative sample of Oxford. Participants attended two full weekends of deliberation and were asked to respond to the following question: "The UK has legislation to reach 'net zero' by 2050. Should Oxford be more proactive and seek to achieve 'net zero' sooner than 2050?"

There was no option to directly apply to be a member of the Assembly, although many wanted to apply. The Assembly was designed to provide unique insights into all groups in our city values, not just those most concerned by climate breakdown, and, as the city's leading representative, democratic institution, the Council reserved the final say over whether to act on the Citizens' Assembly's recommendations.

We presumed that 2050 was everyone's new "business as usual" position. But precisely because we recognised the risks involved in waiting for Government to act, including 2050 turning out to be late and national decision-makers taking terrible decisions in the rush for the deadline, we sought to find out how much more proactive the council should be than this new business as usual position.

The Assembly focused on five areas relating to carbon emissions in Oxford: buildings, transport, biodiversity and offsetting, renewable energy, and waste reduction.

In the first weekend, we put on presentations for Assembly members to question experts and raise their understanding of the five themes that make up the character of Oxford's particular contribution to the global climate crisis, in line with the results of a report commissioned by the council to get a grip on Oxford's baseline emissions. The themes were buildings (which the report said were responsible for 81% of the city's emissions), transportation (17%), waste management, biodiversity and offsetting, and renewable energy. Breaking the climate crisis down theme by theme, then going that bit further by breaking each theme down into bite-size chunks, helped focus the Assembly to feel less daunted by climate breakdown.

In the second weekend, members engaged in more deliberation and discussion, and voted on a set of ambition levels devised for each theme. Members were given three ambition levels (low, medium, and high) for each theme, with each ambition level including a mix of co-benefits and trade-offs that were unique to that theme. Although many members found it hard to choose, they were facilitated to express a preference for an ambition level for each theme. Assembly members were also asked to vote on certain statements and the overall topic question to help guide the Council's ambition.

Assembly members also considered the key findings from the Climate Emergency Strategy Support report by Anthesis (see table 1).

What did the Citizens' Assembly say?

When it came to voting on the main exam question and ambition levels for each theme, the results were clear. 90% wanted Oxford to reach net zero sooner than 2050 and be a leader in tackling the climate crisis. Members wanted (and had considered the barriers to) enhanced flora and fauna in the centre; more cycling, walking, and public transport, and far fewer cars; and improved building standards, widespread retrofitting, with more domestic and non-domestic energy needs being met by sustainable sources. When it came to voting for the scenarios of a future Oxford across the five themes, a majority voted for all the most ambitious scenarios.

However, a consistent group of one in three rejected the most ambitious and most challenging to achieve visions. The Assembly showed that the airing of differences gets you somewhere new and better by shaping and swaying opinion. Its whole point was to give people access to views they disagreed with and support members to disagree compassionately and sympathetically, and in that, the Assembly succeeded.

Oxford's Assembly showed that people are central to the recognition of the reality of the climate's plight. By encouraging a community of common feeling, the Assembly also forced Members to face a question that confronts everyone once they learn about the crisis of climate breakdown: what must I do to protect my loved ones now that I know what lies ahead?

Since confronting that question, members have continued their role in tackling our climate breakdown by taking up leadership roles within their neighbourhoods and the city. To create a net zero city, this Council recognises that each neighbourhood needs net zero citizens, and our Assembly has helped to encourage that development.

The Oxford Citizens Assembly on Climate Change provided a strong mandate for action and recommended that the Council aims for Oxford to reach net zero as soon as possible and before 2050, with the focus being on the need for rapid action with interim targets to measure progress.

Find out more about Oxford's Citizens' Assembly here:

https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20011/environment/1343/oxford_citizens_assembly_on_climate_change/3

Appendix 5

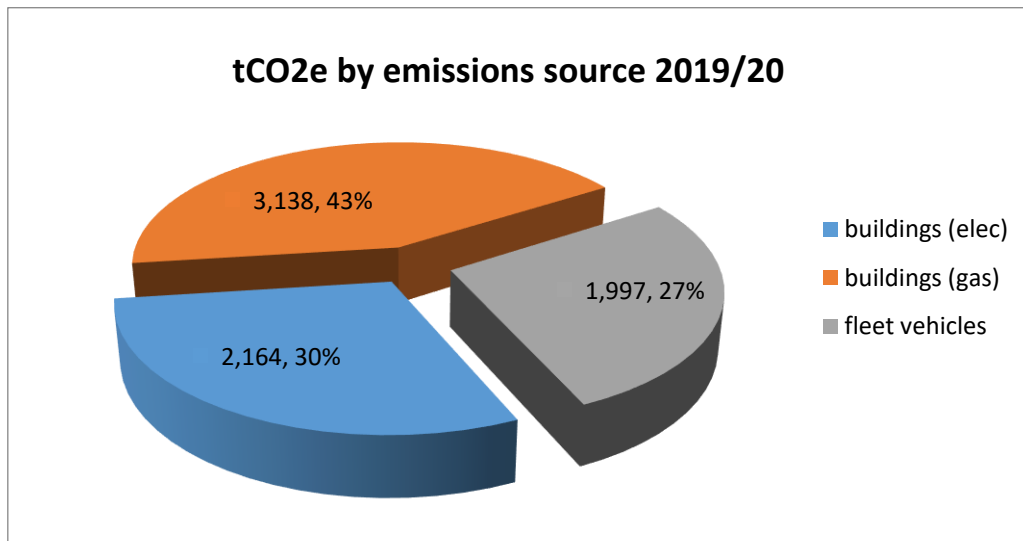
Oxford City Council's emissions

The City Council is responsible for less than 1% of Oxford's emissions. In 2019/20 the council emitted 7,425 tonnes of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂e) from heating and powering buildings, fuelling fleet vehicles and plant, business travel and water consumption.

Most of Oxford City Council's emissions originate from buildings (73%) and fleet vehicles (27%). See Figure 3.

While the City Council accounts for a small proportion of the city's overall emissions, action to reduce these emissions to zero is vital in order to show leadership by example and to help build the supply chains and expertise within the city to support the wider efforts to decarbonise. Achieving net zero will require use of the City Councils powers and influence to ensure the transition happens in a fair and just way for all residents.

Figure 3: Oxford City Council's emissions 2019/ 2020



Appendix 6

Oxford's track record in Environmental Sustainability

Buildings
<p>In 2008 Oxford City Council launched its first Carbon Management Plan. Underlying emissions across the estate have reduced by 23.5% since 2015 (or 45.8% with the inclusion of the purchase of renewable electricity). £440k/year has been saved in energy bills.</p> <p>The City Council has undertaken loft insulation work in 1413 of its houses (collectively saving tenants' £39,690/year and 179t of carbon), 1493 boiler replacements (saving £5,700 for tenants) and 2500 Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) surveys carried out to prioritise housing stock. 5 tower blocks (384 flats) have been refurbished (collectively saving tenants £41,760/year), including external wall and roof insulation, and 64 high efficiency storage heaters installed (collectively saving tenants £7680/year and 20t carbon)⁵.</p> <p>Of the Council's 7579 properties, 1785 have received an Energy Advice visit by the Council's Energy Advice Officers, helping tenants to access £93,380 of the Warm Homes Discount, and making an estimated £150,000 savings through switching energy suppliers.</p> <p>The City Council was a partner in Project ERIC (Energy Resources for Integrated Communities). This worked with 82 households, 74 of which were social housing, for the installation of Solar PV and storage. Every house has at least eight solar PV panels and a 2kWh Moixa smart battery storage unit. The project also facilitated the installation of 108 solar panels on a local school in Rose Hill, which met 20% of its electricity needs and saved £11,000/year.</p> <p>The University of Oxford uses Passivhaus methodology to inform building projects which commenced after mid-2017. Prior to this they were using BREEAM "Excellent" rating.</p> <p>The Better Housing Better Health scheme aims to reduce and prevent fuel poverty, and improve health and wellbeing at the same time. In Oxfordshire, 419 households have been supported by energy efficiency measures, saving £152k in lifetime energy savings⁶.</p> <p>Between 2006 – 2014 the City Council awarded the David Steele Sustainable Building Award to 6 sustainable buildings in Oxford.⁷</p>

⁵ https://www.oxford.gov.uk/downloads/file/6490/home_energy_conservation_act_report_-_march_2019

⁶ <http://www.bhbh.org.uk/what-we-do/social-impact/>

⁷ https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20000/planning/257/david_steel_sustainable_buildings_award

Transport

The Oxford Bus Company has installed LED lighting at its Cowley depot reducing annual emissions by 107 tonnes.

Working with Rose Hill and Iffley Low Carbon group and the Low Carbon Hub, OCC helped install a public bike repair stand at Rose Hill Community Centre in June 2018⁸.

10% of the Council's 330 fleet vehicles are in the process of being transitioned to EV. In 2019 ODS trialled Oxford's first ever fully electric dustcart.

As a partner in the Energy Superhub Oxford (ESO) project, work has started which will see the installation of 50 public charge points at the Redbridge Park and Ride.

In 2016, the Go Ultra Low Onstreet Project started, which will see the installation of up to 100 chargers across the City in 2021.

The City Council received the Environmental Award at the 2020 Carmen Transport Awards, recognising its partnership with Energy Superhub Oxford and its commitment to emissions reduction⁹.

Biodiversity and offsetting

In May 2017, Oxford became England's first "Swift City", securing two years of heritage lottery funding¹⁰.

Five of Oxford's the largest parks and one cemetery has Green Flag status.

Between 2015 - 2020, 5000 hours of conservation volunteering was facilitated in OCC's green spaces¹¹.

Oxford's urban forest contains approximately 248,200 trees which benefits 154,600 people (two trees per person). These trees intercept 255,000m³ rainwater, equivalent to £81k in avoided stormwater treatment costs. They filter c.65t of airborne pollutants, worth more than £1.12m in "social damage costs". Removes c.2500t carbon from the atmosphere each year, estimated to be worth £619,000. Stores 76t carbon worth £18.8m.¹²

ODS marked National Tree Week in 2019 by planting 2000 trees with local community groups and volunteers¹³.

The City Council is a partner in the Wild Oxford Project, with BBOWT¹⁴.

University of Oxford launched new principles for credible carbon offsetting aligned with Net Zero in September 2020, known as "The Oxford Offsetting Principles".

Renewable energy

⁸ https://www.oxford.gov.uk/news/article/780/repair_your_bike_at_rose_hill

⁹ <https://energysuperhuboxford.org/oxford-win-carmen-transport-awards/>

¹⁰ <https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/news/oxford-swift-city-project-takes-flight>

¹¹ https://www.oxford.gov.uk/downloads/file/7273/biodiversity_review_for_oxford_city_council_parks_and_nature_areas_2020

¹² <https://urbantreecover.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Oxford-Canopy-Report.pdf>

¹³ <https://www.odsgroup.co.uk/News/2019/11/2000-new-trees-to-join-Oxfords-urban-forest>

¹⁴ <https://www.bbowl.org.uk/wildlife/living-landscapes/wild-oxford>

Oxford City Council was instrumental in facilitating the Low Carbon Hub, which has since enabled numerous community low carbon energy projects. This includes:

- 2% of all homes in Oxford have solar PV installed.
- 2 hydro sites in Oxford, generating 296 MWh per year
- Producing 4.4GWh per annum local renewable energy

In December 2019 the City Council opened one of the largest and the first public solar carports in the country.

The equivalent of 10% of the City Council's electricity demand is met by rooftop solar installed across the estate.

In 2019, work started on the world's largest commercial hybrid energy storage system, Energy Superhub Oxford, which will install heat pumps and expand opportunities for additional renewables capacity locally.

The City Council is a partner on the Oxfutures programme, which has delivered energy audits to 130 businesses and a further 14 innovation companies have received funding to boost Oxfordshire's development as a UK leader in low carbon economy¹⁵.

The Council's Home Improvement Agency administers a small Council-funded fuel poverty grant (£20k/year) to help vulnerable Oxford residents¹⁶.

Waste reduction

The Oxford Food Café was launched in 2014, preventing nearly 1.5 tonnes of food waste.

Oxford has higher than average recycling rates. In 2019-2020 58% of household waste was recycled compared to the national average of 44.8%.

The Blue Bin recycling league is a joint initiative between ODS and OCC and concluded in September 2020. It provided local education and incentives to encourage recycling and waste reduction – visiting almost 20,000 households and receiving 8,000 pledges to recycle better.

The ODS recycling team works with the community to raise awareness of recycling, and this year adapted to Covid19 challenges by attending Oxford University's first ever virtual fresher's fair (over 400 students visited ODS's stall and over 100 downloaded information directly), given presentations to community groups, planned "virtual assemblies" for Oxford schools and used social media effectively. The ODS quarterly recycling newsletter is read by 2000 people every month and recycling-focussed social media has proven popular, with posts reaching thousands of people this year.

On-street recycling bins for coffee cups are now back in the city centre again, with their brightly coloured designs, created by Oxford residents.

The RAW workshop, located in Blackbird Leys has recycled 1500t of wood and helped towards 200,000kgs of carbon reduction.¹⁷

Democratic discussion and engagement, and scientifically informed action

¹⁵ <http://oxfutures.org/>

¹⁶ https://www.oxford.gov.uk/downloads/file/6490/home_energy_conservation_act_report_-_march_2019

¹⁷ <https://www.raw-workshop.co.uk/impact>

In 2010 the Low Carbon Oxford Partnership was established, providing a forum for engagement and collaboration between organisations across the city. The partnership set and achieved a goal to cut emissions by 40% between 2010 and 2020.

In January 2019 the City Council declared a climate emergency and became the first city to organise a Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change. This engaged a representative sample of Oxford's citizens and resulted in a clear set of recommendations and feedback that have directly informed the City Council's response and this plan.

In October 2020, the City Council appointed its first scientific advisor, Professor Nick Eyre, who will provide expert and independent advice on the science of the climate emergency and help coordinate the Council's city-wide net zero strategy. Nick Eyre is a Professor of Energy and Climate Policy, University of Oxford, a Senior Research Fellow in Energy at the Environmental Change Institute (ECI), and a Supernumerary Fellow of Oriel College. He leads the Centre for Research into Energy Demand Solutions, which is the main UK university research programme on energy use. He is also a Co-Director of the Oxford Martin Programme on Integrating Renewable Energy.

Oxford has an established history of a scientifically informed approach to climate action, with the establishment of the Oxford University Environmental Change Institute in 1991.

Appendix 7

Mobilising young people to get involved

The voting age has been 18 since 1969, although there have been campaigns to reduce it to 16. Children and young people are often unable to influence key decisions that affect their lives right now and will define their future at the ballot.

Oxford has a relatively young population. At the 2011 Census it was estimated that 32% of Oxford's population was aged between 18-29 years (compared to 17% for Oxfordshire and 16% for England and Wales) and the city has the youngest median age – 28.9 years – of any place in England and Wales.¹⁸

We only have one planet, and it belongs to everyone. But our planet is warming, our climate is changing around us faster than predicted, and our whole way of life is at stake if we do not act now and change course. There is no greater, growing threat to Oxford's children and young people than climate breakdown, yet their concerns are not given top priority by today's national politicians. We need to hear from children and young people about the action they want local government to take to cut our emissions in order to slow, and ultimately stop, the advance of climate breakdown because while they routinely go unheard, they will, by definition, be around for longer to suffer the consequences of inaction today.

We want to encourage young people and children to understand their role in a representative and participatory democratic society. With the summit, we seek to encourage children and young people to feel free to speak their minds and hold their leaders accountable, responsive, and more effective. We want to encourage people to know that their free society enables them to create and develop new ideas and make the most of their talents and ambitions. We want to remind everyone of the obligations they owe to each other and a shared community to strengthen our civic society and civic patriotism.

¹⁸ https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20131/population/460/age_and_gender