

Magdalen College is committed to reducing its impact on the environment and enabling its members to create a sustainable world through their actions and influence. By sustainable, we mean “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. Sustainability covers our impact on climate, biodiversity and ecosystems, resources, waste, human wellbeing, and sustainable economies<sup>1</sup>.

This statement applies to all areas of College activity including local operations within College, management of land holdings (including current estate management and new development), investments, and our global influence on sustainability through academic research and scholarship. We will strive to embed sustainable decisions, actions, and scholarship in all our activities.

Our **goals** are to meet the following criteria summed across all College activities<sup>2</sup>:

- 1) >50% decline in net carbon by 2030 and towards net zero by 2040
- 2) Net gain in biodiversity by 2030  
(compared to baseline data being assembled from 2020-2025)

The goals will be reviewed and updated as required to fit with policies adopted together with the Conference of Colleges, University, and local and UK government.

### Dimensions of sustainability

**Carbon and climate.** We will audit the College’s carbon budget across its full spectrum of activities and identify behavioural, technical, infrastructural, and financial changes that can be made to progress towards zero net carbon.

**Biodiversity.** We will assess the biodiversity held on College land and the impacts of College activities on biodiversity globally. We will then develop strategies to celebrate our biodiversity and enhance it both locally and through the global impacts of our activities.

**Resources and waste.** We will work towards reducing resource use and waste; for example, eliminating single-use non-biodegradable plastic and reducing paper and water use.

**Food.** We will compile and share information on the environmental and health consequences of our food choices, and work towards minimizing the impact of our food in terms of land-use, water, carbon (including production and transport costs) and food waste.

**Social.** We will work to enhance the sustainability both of the College community and of other people affected by our actions by promoting sustainable economies and education.

**Economics.** We will work towards economic sustainability of the College and the people we interact with. We will develop and incorporate Environmental Social Governance (ESG) principles and practices in the way we manage our endowments.

**Scholarship.** We will promote environmental sustainability through our academic activities, training our students to thrive and lead in a sustainable world, and building opportunities for College members to develop innovative ideas and solutions to environmental problems.

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<sup>1</sup> As embodied by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals  
<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

<sup>2</sup> Revised January 2023 following a Pathway to Net Zero for Magdalen report by external consultants.

## **Governance**

Governing Body launched a Sustainability Forum in September 2020 to meet once per term, and additionally as required, to provide advice and propose actions to College committees responsible for particular areas of activity. The forum will provide a point of contact with initiatives across the Colleges, University and beyond. It will monitor progress towards the sustainability goals and report to College once per year. The forum is made up of undergraduates, graduate students, Fellows, and staff to represent all members of College.