



Churchill College

Environmental Policy

Development Date: February 2019

Review Date: February 2020

Churchill College acknowledges that its activities as an academic institution have the ability to cause damage to the environment, and are committed to taking steps to mitigate and reduce this risk wherever possible.

1. Catering

- i. Recycling points are located in all food service areas
- ii. Coffee and water cups are recycled using a specialist provider
- iii. The use of plastic is minimised in the catering department wherever possible.
- iv. Recyclable straws are promoted within all outlets
- v. Waste food is treated on site and returned to the drainage system.
- vi. Portion control is rigorously enforced and 'all you can eat' type arrangements avoided to prevent food waste.
- vii. The hot plate and salad bars are laid out to promote the consumption of vegan and vegetarian food.
- viii. Disposal products only used where absolutely necessary, and are then of a biodegradable type
- ix. Sustainable procurement measures include:
 - a. The use of local suppliers where possible
 - b. Local products procured over imported
 - c. Seasonal menu production
 - d. Single supply arrangements in place to minimise vehicle movements

2. Consumption of water and power

- i. Churchill College runs a CHP unit providing energy efficient electricity and heat.
- ii. Water used on site is monitored and reported on.
- iii. Leaks, dripping taps and other wasteful water use is reported and corrected as soon as possible.

- iv. The use of the College heating system is limited to the colder months, with residents advised to dress appropriately according to the weather conditions.
- v. The College heating is maintained by a central BMS (Building Management System) to aid effective management and consumption of power.
- vi. Water restrictors are installed in showers in all refurbishment and new build projects, as are dual flushing lavatories.
- vii. Solar PVs are installed where appropriate and new buildings exceed building regulations regarding head loss.
- viii. New energy saving technologies are employed and installed where possible.
- ix. Where possible weather compensating boilers have been installed to take advantage of warm weather.

3. Waste disposal and recycling

- i. Wherever possible Churchill College seeks to recycle rather than sending waste to landfill. Recycling initiatives in the College include, but are not limited to:
 - Clothes recycling (British Heart Foundation – located on the loading bay)
 - Mixed recycling from staircase rooms, offices and hostels.
 - Compostable food collection from staircase snack kitchens on request
 - Battery recycling (from the Post Room)
 - Printer cartridge recycling (from the Post Room)
 - Pens, mascara and lipstick tube recycling (from the main concourse)
- ii. Churchill College disposes of old electrical equipment responsibly and makes provision to ensure that students do not similarly abandon old white goods.
- iii. Churchill College undertakes to make specific arrangements for dealing with large scale college and commercial events, such as the Spring Ball, with regard to the responsible processing and recycling of waste products.
- iv. Arrangements for the recycling and responsible disposal of waste are well advertised within the College and accommodation. Induction training for staff and students covers this area.

4. Initiatives and Community Engagement

- i. Churchill College participates and actively promotes the CU Student Switch Off campaign.
- ii. Churchill College participates annually in the Cambridge University Green Impact Project.

- iii. The College has a Sustainability Committee, reporting to the Estates Committee.
- iv. There is an active Green Society run by students with participation from all Members and staff.
- v. A Lug a Mug scheme is operated in the Buttery to encourage users to use their own mug for a discounted price.
- vi. Tap water is provided in multiple locations around site, by way of chilled dispensing to encourage consumption.
- vii. A cycle to work, bike purchase scheme is in place to encourage members of staff cycle instead of driving.
- viii. Churchill College offers its staff the ability to work flexibly in order to make use of public transport.
- ix. Where possible travel for the purposes of work is conducted by public transport.
- x. Electric car charging points are provided on site and staff encouraged to make use of them.

5. Garden Environmental and Bio-diversity Statement

The College grounds cover 42 acres, 7 houses on Storey's Way, a boathouse and 5 houses around Cambridge. Where possible the fences between gardens have been removed to allow wildlife un-restricted access.

i. Wildlife on site

The College is home to a diverse collection of fauna, flora and fungi. The College has badgers, foxes, rabbits, hedgehogs, squirrels and deer etc. The bird species is very varied and includes green woodpeckers and jays to name two. There are many butterflies and insects on site including aquatic life in the ponds. Wildlife surveys are carried out before any new building project.

The aim is to encourage a balanced wildlife within the College and to avoid disturbing it as much as possible. The College takes note of:

- The wildlife and countryside act 1981
- Tree work and hedge cutting is avoided during the main nesting time which is between 1st March and 31st August except in emergencies.
- If bats are suspected in hollows in a tree a licenced bat inspector must be contracted to investigate and make recommendations.

ii. Trees

The College has a tree survey and inspection policy which considers the benefits of dead wood and rot in trees but safety for people has priority.

The main campus contains just over 800 trees these have been planted at regular intervals through the Colleges history which gives age diversity to the trees which is really important, some have woodpecker holes in and where safe dead wood and rot. Standing

dead wood is a better habitat than fallen wood as it is less common. The College trees are also hosts to an abundance of mistletoe.

The College has many native trees on site especially along Madingley Road which is classed as a wildlife corridor but it isn't the College policy to plant only or mainly native trees. If only native trees were planted the tree choice would be very limited and the question of what trees are truly native would be open for debate. The Turkish hazel has been growing in this country since the 16th century so is that native now? The monkey puzzle tree grew here millions of years ago but died out a similar amount of time ago and we started planting them again around Victorian times is this native? If you look up the monkey puzzle tree it would say native to Chile and Argentina. A native only policy would open the College up to pest and disease attacks native trees currently struggling are Ash and Oak. If you look back to the 1960's the Country lost most of the Elms trees. With climate change we will probably find that more of our native trees struggle and that we need to plant more exotic trees. It is now the case that trees that wouldn't survive here or were considered non hardy in the 1970's are now surviving well. A good tree planting strategy is to use a wide variety of trees which flower and fruit at different times of the year and to plant in different years to give age diversity. There are some insects and fungi that are specific to trees but most including birds can move onto other trees to live.

iii. Plants

When buying plants preference is given to:

- Bare root plants as this requires no compost or companies that use peat reduced or peat free compost
- Companies that collect their own water and recycle it.
- Must be reputable nurseries with good pest and disease procedures in place

Plants are chosen that:

- Will require no watering after the first year of planting 2 years for trees.
- Will flower at different times of the year to provide food for bees and insects
- Nectar rich where possible

All plants are thoroughly checked for any pest or disease before planting out in the College.

iv. Grass

Grass is left to grow long in several places around the College as this is good for wildlife:

- Along Madingley Road and the bank.
- The copse near the chapel (this is cut short in December for the bulbs but we don't cut it again until end June then we only top it occasionally).
- The lawn opposite the music room and 70 Storey's Way (both are cut short for the bulbs in December and then not cut again until July when they are cut weekly)
- Under the trees is also left long

v. Potting Compost

The College uses:

- Peat reduced compost or peat free.
- Garden compost made on site
- The orchids are potted in chipped bark.

- On occasions ericaceous compost might be used for specialist plants like Rhododendron 'Winston Churchill'

vi. Plastic pots

No new plastic pots will be bought but old ones will be kept and reused. Once they split or get damaged they are recycled

vii. Composting/ chipping

The College currently has 2 composting areas one in 72 Storey's Way and a very large area in the far corner of the playing field along Madingley Road. All garden material created is either composted or chipped ready for use on the College borders. No food waste is composted. Pernicious weeds like ground elder and bindweed are stored separately and then disposed of in a skip.

viii. Machines

Machine technology is constantly moving forward and when new equipment is bought the following things are taken into account:

- Cost
- Noise/ vibration
- Environmental

College vehicles:

1x electric gator

2x diesel vans

1x petrol car

3x diesel tractors

1x diesel ride on mower

1x diesel cricket roller

The 2x diesel vans are due to be replaced Spring 2019 with one electric van.

The garden machinery:

- Walk behind lawnmowers are all petrol. A battery powered machine has been tried and it is anticipated we will buy one soon to fully trial it.
- Handheld equipment e.g. strimmers, hedge cutters etc. are mainly battery powered. 2 stroke petrol machines are used on large areas that require more power.

ix. Chemicals

At present areas where chemicals are used:

- Chemicals are used first thing in the morning before the insects and bees are active.
- Sports pitches, selective weed killer annually
- Lawns selective weed killer on important show lawns every 5-10 years, the rest only if really needed
- Insect infestation if really needed and then organic insecticide is used
- Moss killer which is iron annually on cricket square, tennis courts, 2 front lawns and Masters lawn.

Fertilisers:

- Sports pitches twice a year with organic fertiliser
- Lawns on selected show lawns twice a year with organic fertiliser
- Garden borders once a year
- Potted plants, orchids every 2-3 weeks.

In the greenhouse biological control is used on the orchids.

Non selective weed killing around the site along paths and granite chips etc. are now done using a hot water weed killing machine that uses purely hot water heated to 98 degrees.

Glyphosate will no longer be used on site.

x. Bird boxes, bee hives, bug hotels, log piles, feeders

- There are bird boxes in the trees near the chapel and one on the groundsmans compound building and 76 Storey's Way.
- There is a small bug hotel on the groundsmans compound building
- There is a log pile near the groundsmans compound building in different stages of decay.
- There are bird feeders in all the courtyards with trees
- The College allows a member of the university to have two the bee hives in the back garden of 68 Storey's Way.
- Two willow trees have been taken down along Madingley Road and left in situ to finish rotting for wildlife

xi. Ponds

The College has 3 ponds one at the front of College and two in the Master's garden. All three are concrete and have steep sides which are not ideal for wildlife. Wooden planks are placed into the water to help the ducklings get in and out. The ponds have waterlilies, the front pond has numerous different species of fish in it. The pond near the buttery is very challenging we have tried growing things in it but they never survive very well. It is very shallow so heats up and it gets all the run off, off the roofs and we think it contains a certain amount of copper coming in from the dinning hall roof. There are common newts in the Master's garden.

xii. Greenhouse heating

Greenhouse heating is kept to a minimum and bubble wrap and thermal screens are used to keep the heat in. Shading in the summer is used to keep the heat down in the summer.

xiii. Watering

There are 6x water barrels on the 3 greenhouses providing water

Minimal watering is carried out in the gardens and on the grass

Mulch is applied to help to help keep the moisture in the soil. The mulch is either garden compost or chipped bark.

New trees have water hydration bags fitted so they get the correct amount of water and it eliminates water run off and waste.

xiv. Skips

The skip company the College uses recycles the waste

xv. Hedges

The hedge along Madingley road is a British native hedge (field Maple). We also have Yew, beech, Laurel, privet, pyracantha and box all of which give good nesting space. These are only cut outside the nesting period.

xvi. MCR Veg and Greenhouse

The College has provided a greenhouse for the students to grow plants and vegetables in and they have 6 raised vegetable beds. The fruit trees provide free fruit to all College members and the garden's team pick it and deliver it to the dining hall for people to take free of charge.

xvii. Herb gardens

There is a small herb garden for the College kitchens and a small potage for the Moller Centre kitchens growing step over apple and pears, herbs, edible flowers and some vegetables.

xviii. Hedgehog rehoming

The College attended a hedgehog re-homing scheme for the area and hopes to get involved.