



Who's Who: those involved with sustainability and the environment at Oxford

Introduction

Beginning your time at Oxford can be overwhelming. On top of the academic work there are also countless societies, clubs, sports teams and local organisations to get involved with. The University has a vested interest in the environment and the current climate emergency, so there is always a wide array of events covering these issues. We have compiled a list below of societies and organisations to give you an introduction to the sustainability and environmental landscape at Oxford.

The Environmental Sustainability Team

The team sits within the Estates Services department and is responsible for progress on the University's Environmental Sustainability Strategy, such as reducing carbon emissions. We also lead on many other sustainable challenges and work closely with staff and students to increase awareness of environmental issues. There are several groups within the team working towards these goals, including the travel team who deliver sustainable travel initiatives for staff and students within the University. They are also tasked with leading the University's travel strategy.

Oxford Societies

Oxford University has over 400 clubs and societies, ranging from sports teams and hobby organisations to political groups. Below are a few to get involved with:

- **Oxford Climate Society:** An award-winning society dedicated to connecting and developing informed climate leaders. <https://www.oxfordclimatesociety.com>
- **Nature Conservation Society:** Offers talks, screenings and outdoor events on a wide range of conservation issues, given by distinguished speakers. <https://ouncs.org>

- **Oxford Waste Society:** Set up in response to the global pollution crisis, this aims to find solutions to everything from fast fashion to food waste. <https://www.facebook.com/OxfordWasteSoc/>
- **Oxford Sustainability Society:** A student group that encourages sustainable lifestyles and actions at all levels of live in and around Oxford. <https://www.oxfordsustainability.co.uk/>
- **Vegan Society:** An organisation dedicated to spreading awareness of veganism, animal welfare, and other related issues across the University. <https://universityofoxford.wixsite.com/oxfordvegsoc>

Citizen Science Projects

- **Oxford Swift City Project:** Run by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), this is a project aiming to improve the outlook for Common Swifts (*Apus apus*) in Oxford, working to raise local awareness of the many ways that we can help these vulnerable birds. <https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/conservation/conservation-and-sustainability/safeguarding-species/swiftmapper/case-studies/oxford-swift-city/>
- **Oxford Plan Bee:** An Oxford project to create a network of bee hotels across the city and Wytham Woods, improving habitats for cavity-nesting. <https://oxfordplanbee.web.ox.ac.uk/home>
- **Wytham Citizen Science Bee, Butterfly and Wildflower walks:** There are regular walks to monitor wildlife at Wytham Woods – keep an eye on the events page if you want to join one. <https://www.wythamwoods.ox.ac.uk>
- **Oxford Conservation Volunteers:** A voluntary organisation that has been carrying out practical work conserving the wildlife and traditional landscape of the Oxford area since 1977. The group organises work parties every weekend. <https://www.ocv.org.uk/>

Oxford based Organisations and Charities

- **Oxford Hub:** The Environmental Sustainability team works with the Hub to create volunteer projects with an environmental focus. This includes [OxUnboxed](#) which is a local refill shop. <https://www.oxfordhub.org>
- **Wild Oxfordshire:** A local charity taking a strategic approach to conservation in Oxford. They provide support and encouragement to organisations and volunteers, working together to help wildlife. <https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk>
- **OxClean:** An initiative dedicated to keeping Oxford clean all year round, ensuring the city remains a pleasant place to live, work and visit. <https://www.oxclean.org.uk>

- **Low Carbon Oxford:** A network of organisations with a shared vision of Oxford as a low carbon city, all working together to achieve the city's ambitious target of reducing carbon emissions. <http://lowcarbonoxford.org>
 - **Oxford Green Week:** A festival of creativity, community and culture that brings the people of Oxford together to tackle the climate emergency. <https://oxfordgreenweek.org>
 - **Local Energy Oxfordshire (LEO):** An ambitious and innovative project that is working to create a smart grid for the county. <https://project-leo.co.uk>
 - **Good Food Oxford:** Their aim is to identify and catalyse actions by individuals and organisations to create healthy, fair, ethical and environmentally sustainable food systems in and around Oxford. <https://goodfoodoxford.org>
 - **Energy Superhub Oxford (ESO):** A smart energy system aiming to show how businesses can develop local energy approaches that will create better outcomes for consumers and promote economic growth. <https://www.energy.ox.ac.uk/wordpress/events/event/energy-superhub-oxford-eso/>
 - **Broken Spoke:** A social enterprise which provides workshops, courses, cycle training and women's and transgender people only mechanics sessions for people who cycle. <http://bsbcoop.org>
- Oxford Green and Blue Space Network (OGBSN):** A network with the aim of enabling partners to collaborate to improve Oxford's green spaces and blue corridors. https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20003/parks_and_open_spaces/1255/green_and_blue_space_network