

# INTRODUCING OUR **NEW** CARBON TARGET

## WHAT HAVE WE **ALREADY** ACHIEVED?

Our emissions peaked  
in **2010** and have fallen  
ever since

We've slashed **carbon  
intensity** – emissions  
per m<sup>2</sup> dropped by 39% in  
the last decade

We installed **4,200m<sup>2</sup>** of  
**solar panels** and moved  
our electricity supply to  
**100% wind**

**5,422 Green Impact**  
**actions taken by 6,466**  
**people** to make workplaces  
more sustainable

# HALVE PEAK EMISSIONS BY 2030

## WHY A **NEW** TARGET?

Our old target ends in **2021**, but  
the climate crisis is a huge threat to our  
future unless we increase our ambition  
and make some radical changes.

So like everyone else, the University  
needs a new and challenging target.

## What about the old target?

Our previous goal was a 33% cut in emissions by 2021, compared to 2006 levels.

We haven't done too badly; we've invested £3.5m in carbon reduction, and our emissions have fallen steadily. But we're going to miss the target.

Why? There are many reasons, but the main one is that the target didn't account for the **continued growth of the University estate** (total floor area is more than a third greater than in 2006), so we've been trying to cut emissions while operating more and more buildings.

We've worked hard to make new projects more sustainable; emissions per m<sup>2</sup> dropped 39%, from 143kg in 2009 to 87kg in 2018, and our total emissions have also fallen – just not quickly enough.

## What can I do?

You can help make the University more sustainable by joining your building's Green Impact team – or if there isn't one, by setting one up.

Our joint efforts have global and local benefits, such as improving air quality, increasing biodiversity and reducing waste production. Saving energy also frees up resources for research, education and wellbeing.

Visit [www.greenimpact.org.uk/oxford](http://www.greenimpact.org.uk/oxford) to learn more.

Alternatively, contact Oxford Student Union to find out about their environmental campaigns: [www.oxfordsu.org](http://www.oxfordsu.org).



## Why will we meet this target when we missed the old one?

The old target was based on theoretical calculations. When we set it in 2011, we didn't have much **practical experience** of what is and isn't possible. Now we know a lot more, and we're sure we can achieve the new goal.

For instance, our target of seeking a BREEAM Excellent rating for new buildings hasn't delivered the energy efficiency we'd hoped for. We've now moved to the **Passivhaus** approach. So far this has led to very comfortable and energy-efficient new buildings.

We know more about how to **change people's behaviour** from programmes like Green Impact and Student Switch Off. Behaviour change is key in reducing environmental impacts, but it wasn't even included in our last target.

We're now targeting areas we know are big emission sources – for example, we recently hired a specialist project manager to lead on cutting the environmental impact of the University's labs.

## What next?

With your help we are confident that the University can halve its peak emissions.

But after 2030, what could we aim for next? How about **zero emissions**? We considered it, but we don't yet know how to achieve this. Maybe in a decade or less we will.

Around a third of staff have taken part in Green Impact, but many don't get involved at the moment. Think what we could achieve if everyone joined in!

