The Magdalene Green Guide
Why is environmental sustainability important to us?

In 2028 Magdalene will celebrate its 600th anniversary

But in what condition will the world be by then?

The scale and reality of the environmental challenges the world is facing cannot be ignored

We want to minimise our impact on the environment for the benefit of nature, human health, wellbeing and efficiency
What are we doing to be more sustainable?

All parts of the College are committed to being greener in a variety of different ways:

- We use biodegradable cartons for all takeaway food
- We are replacing lighting throughout College with low-energy bulbs
- We only purchase FSC certified wooden furniture and paper
- Our catering uses at least 75% MSC certified fish
- We reuse shredded paper from the offices in the gardens

Plus much more!
How can you be green at Magdalene?

First and foremost, the best contribution we can all make is to be environmentally conscious in our day to day behavior, and the next few pages will talk about how you can specifically do that at Magdalene.

But if you want to get involved beyond that, then think about:

- Joining the College Green Team
- Joining the University Green Impact Team
- Looking into working with Living Lab

Check out Cambridge hub for more opportunities.
**Waste and Recycling**

Recycling bins for various types of waste are available throughout College accommodation.

Larger bins for mixed recycling are located around College; please see the list on the General Waste and Recycling web page on MagNet.

Batteries and other electrical items can be handed in to the Maintenance Department or at the Porters’ Lodge.

The Gardens Department have a food waste bin located between Benson F and G and Benson J.

The College has KeepCups you can buy which will get you various discounts.

**Tips:**
Reuse then recycle – can it be used again before it goes in the green bin?
Don’t contaminate recycling bins with general waste – they can’t be recycled!
Waste and Recycling

Share food to reduce waste – why not get together with others in your kitchen and take turns to buy certain food to share? Bread, butter and milk are just some examples.

If you have any food that is unopened, non-perishable and in date, you can donate it in Sainsbury’s rather than throw it away.

Invest in a refillable water bottle. The College has KeepCups you can buy which will get you various discounts around town.

Donate your old clothes – H&M run a scheme to recycle old clothes; in return for a donation they will give you a £5 voucher. There are also plenty of charity shops close to College.

Use reusable bags and containers – put those Open Day tote bags to good use, and maybe invest in some food storage containers.
Energy Saving – Electricity

Random fact: if 18,000 students (the size of an average university) unplugged their phones when charged, enough energy would be saved to power 31 households for a whole year!

Toasters, kettles, microwaves, televisions, monitors, mobile phone and laptop chargers, and hair straighteners can all be switched off at the plug between use.

Remember to turn off the lights when you leave and if the daylight is enough, skip putting them on altogether.

Change your laptop settings to ensure it goes to sleep after periods of inactivity.

Unplug your laptop overnight or remove the battery; overcharging will reduce the battery life.

When using the kettle, only boil as much water as you need.

Try to wash your clothes at a lower temperature – 90% of a washing machine’s energy is used to heat the water.
Energy Saving – Heating

Nearly 50% of the CO2 emissions produced by the UK come from heating and cooling in buildings.

Please try to dress appropriately for the season to minimise the need for additional heat or cooling.

Remember to adjust the thermostat on your radiator rather than open a window if the heating is on and you are too warm; a typical window left open overnight in winter will waste enough energy to drive a small car over 35 miles. If your radiator does not have a thermostat, please talk to the Maintenance team.

If your room has an electric heater, remember to use the timer rather than leave it on continuously; especially if you are leaving your room.

Try not to block radiators and remember to close your curtains to help keep in the heat.
Reducing water use

On average we use 150 litres of water a day to wash, cook and clean.

You can save 6 litres of water a minute by turning off the tap when brushing your teeth.

Please report any leaking taps to the Maintenance Department to help save water; leaking taps can waste 15 litres a day.

Consider shorter showers to save up to 17 litres of water per minute.

Please use the washing up bowls provided and try not to leave the tap running when washing individual items.

Rather than running the tap to get cold water, consider filling a glass/bottle or jug and leaving it in the fridge.
Key green contacts at Magdalene

**JCR Green Officer** – jcr-green-charities@magd.cam.ac.uk

Talk to them about how you can get involved, or any concerns you have about environmental matters at College

**Housekeeping request form** – [www.magd.cam.ac.uk/housekeeping-request-form/](http://www.magd.cam.ac.uk/housekeeping-request-form/)

For questions/issues with recycling and curtain/blind repairs

**Maintenance request form** – [www.magd.cam.ac.uk/maintenance-and-housekeeping-requests](http://www.magd.cam.ac.uk/maintenance-and-housekeeping-requests)

For questions/issues with heating, light bulbs, plumbing and windows

**Staff Green Impact Ambassadors** – Helen Williams and Victoria Wallace

Helen and Vicky work alongside the JCR Green Officer to coordinate the College’s green activities across staff, students and Fellows