

## Hughes Hall Carbon Reduction Policy

Approved by College Council on 20th November 2019

### A. Introduction

This policy provides a framework for the management and reporting of environmental performance with regard to carbon consumption. It also helps reduce our impact on the environment by committing us to setting improvement targets and closely monitoring our environmental performance to ensure we achieve them. In publishing and promoting this policy, the College aims to improve the public participation and awareness of its wider community in environmental matters.

Global action is urgently needed to address ongoing environmental destruction, particularly with regards to minimising climate change. The 2015 Paris Agreement set out goals that aim to limit the rise in global temperatures to 1.5 degrees. Earlier this year, the University of Cambridge became the first university in the world to set targets in line with the Paris Agreement, for some aspects of their carbon footprint. In this Environmental Policy, Hughes Hall recognise our responsibility in addressing the College's carbon footprint and other environmental impacts, and set ambitious targets that we believe to be achievable. The nature of the Hughes Hall estate, with its relatively modern buildings used predominately for accommodation and administrative offices, means that we can be more ambitious than the University in our targets.

Here, we set targets to measure and address both direct and indirect emissions of the College which, following common practice, are classified as Scope 1,2 and 3 emissions. All direct emissions fall under Scope 1; these arise from fuel combustion on site, such as gas boilers. Scope 2 emissions are indirect emissions from electricity purchased and used by the College. Far harder to measure, but incredibly important, are all other indirect emissions: Scope 3. These include, but are not limited to, those arising from procurement, waste, water, travel and investments.

In this policy, Hughes Hall set targets for emissions reduction that reflect our current ability to quantify and address the different categories of emissions. We align with the University's strategy of focusing on Scope 1 and 2 emissions although our targets are more ambitious. The University's policy focuses on Science Based Targets. As the science around these becomes more advanced we will review our targets to ensure that they remain appropriate.

Scope 3 emissions are more difficult to quantify. The first step in addressing Scope 3 emissions is to know what they are, and this is therefore our primary focus, though specific actions are set for better-known aspects of Scope 3 emissions. This policy will be reviewed annually, with progress towards the set goals made publicly available and with more targets set over time – particularly for Scope 3 emissions.

#### 1.1 Overall aims

The following policy pertains to all property owned by Hughes Hall and covers all activities held under the College name (including all conferences and functions).

Hughes Hall recognise the urgent need to take steps to end dependence on fossil fuels, and ameliorate other harmful environmental impacts. To this end, the College aims to:

- a) Reduce Scope 1 and 2 emissions 10% by the 2021/22 year compared to 2018/19.
- b) Become zero carbon for Scope 1 and 2 emissions, and net zero for scope 3 emissions, by 2030.
- c) Quantify all Scope 3 emissions by the year 2021/22.
- d) Enact specific projects around Scope 3 emissions as detailed below.

These aims are explained in further detail below with current commitments and future targets identified.

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## **B. Scope 1 Aims**

The College will take the following steps to reduce Scope 1 (direct emissions produced by the burning of fuels within College).

### **1. Avoid all direct emissions from fuel combustion on site (including gas boilers and fleet vehicles) by 2030.**

Hughes Hall is:

- a) Already committed to reducing energy consumption for heating by:
  - i. Providing energy efficient heating and lighting systems with adjustable controls.
  - ii. Encouraging staff, students and conference guests to save energy through visible reminders and information to increase awareness.
- b) Aiming to reduce Scope 1 emissions 10% by 2021/22 compared to 2018/19.
- c) Aiming to replace all gas boilers with alternatives that use purely renewable energy generation by 2030.
- d) Aiming to replace all petrol/diesel based vehicles owned by the college with renewable energy based alternatives by 2030.

## **C. Scope 2 Aims**

The College will take the following steps to reduce Scope 2 (indirect emissions generated by the electricity consumed and purchased by the College).

## **2. End consumption of electricity derived from fossil-fuels by 2021.**

Hughes Hall is:

- a) Already obtaining some electricity from renewable energy providers.
- b) Already committed to generating a proportion of the College's energy from renewable sources on the College site.
- c) Aiming to increase electricity from renewable suppliers.
- d) Using planned regular building maintenance projects as an opportunity to improve overall energy efficiency of the Hughes Hall estate.

### **D. Scope 3 Targets**

The College will take the following steps to reduce Scope 3 emissions (indirect emissions produced by the College but owned and controlled by other organisations).

## **3. Quantify all Scope 3 emissions by 2021/22.**

Hughes Hall is already committed to:

- a) Quantifying emissions associated with waste.

There are 15 categories of Scope 3 emissions (of which waste (above) is one). By 2021/22, Hughes Hall aims to quantify emissions associated with:

- b) Purchased goods and services
- c) Capital goods
- d) Fuel and energy-related activities
- e) Upstream transportation and distribution
- f) Business travel
- g) Employee commuting
- h) Upstream leased assets
- i) Downstream transportation and distribution
- j) Processing of sold products
- k) Use of sold products
- l) End-of-life treatment of sold products
- m) Downstream leased assets
- n) Franchises
- o) Investment

## **4. Reduce emissions associated with food provided by the College including everyday dining, formal halls and conferences.**

Hughes Hall is already committed to:

- a) Procuring sustainably-sourced fish.

- b) Ensuring the availability of plant-based options at meal times with the provision of a vegetarian and vegan option at all meal times.

During 2019/20, Hughes Hall aims to:

- c) Reduce the frequency at which beef and lamb are available.
- d) Improve the quality, particularly the protein content, of vegetarian/vegan options during everyday dining, formal halls and conference events.
- e) Change the default meal choice for formal halls to vegetarian rather than meat.

#### **5. Ensure sustainability is a priority for all new developments (Scope 3).**

Hughes Hall aims to:

- a) See that all building projects obtain the Excellent level of the BREEAM standard (in line with the University's policy).
- b) Calculate the lifecycle carbon cost of new developments and only proceed when this aligns with the College's emission reduction targets.

#### **6. Reduce waste.**

Hughes Hall is already committed to:

- a) Making full use of the recycling facilities provided by Mick George and the Cambridge City Council, and their zero landfill commitment.
- b) Providing sufficient, accessible and well-publicised collection points for recyclable waste, with responsibility for recycling clearly allocated.
- c) Providing collection of organic and green waste from on-site College accommodation.
- d) Always providing reusable rather than disposable items when possible for catering events.
- e) Providing compostable items for catering events when reusable items are not suitable.
- f) Promoting the reuse of items and waste recycling among staff, students and conference guests through training, posters and incentives.
- g) Reducing wastage from printing by reducing the number of printers across College and introducing initiatives supporting a paper-free office environment.
- h) Reducing single use plastics.
- i) Running a collection at the end of the academic year to collect items from outgoing students to redistribute to incoming students and charities.

During 2019/20 Hughes Hall aims to:

- j) Review practices for composting of all organic and green waste from off-site College accommodation (where green bins are not always currently provided by the College).
- k) Encourage female students to use reusable menstrual products (e.g. moon cups) to reduce hazardous waste with the support of the nurse and Female Welfare MCR Officer, as well as making them available free of charge or at a discounted price.
- l) Set targets regarding the reduction of recyclable and non-recyclable waste for the following years.

## **7. Improve sustainability within procurement**

Hughes Hall is already committed to:

- a) Procuring food from sustainable sources.
- b) Where possible and appropriate, using local produce/suppliers and actively including and promoting use of local and seasonal products in menus.
- c) Always purchasing recycled resources where these are both suitable and available.
- d) Procuring sustainable products and services as far as possible.

During 2019/20 Hughes Hall aims to:

- e) Include environmental, economic and social aspects when when considering purchases of goods and services.
- f) Include sustainable criteria when evaluating offers from potential suppliers.
- g) Promote awareness of sustainability issues and considerations within the user community.

## **8. Implement a sustainable transport policy**

Hughes Hall is already committed to:

- a) Encouraging cycling to College by providing cycle storage facilities for students, senior members, staff, conference guests and other visitors.
- b) Encouraging staff members to cycle to work by participating in the Cycle to Work scheme.

During 2019/20 Hughes Hall aims to:

- c) Initiate a sustainable travel to work strategy.
- d) Agree a plan to introduce an electric charging point on site.

## **9. Enact a responsible investment policy.**

Hughes Hall is already committed to:

- a) Appointing investment managers who are actively involved in applying Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria across the investment process.
- b) Regularly reviewing investment managers' policies on ESG matters including monitoring their track record of positive engagement with individual sectors and companies.
- c) Producing an annual report detailing activities undertaken that year with respect to points (a) and (b) which is made available to the student body who are invited to comment.

## **E. Measuring success**

The College is committed to producing a public, annual report detailing the College's progress in meeting environmental targets.

Based on currently held information, and in line with the University's policy, Hughes Hall will report annually on:

- a) Total Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions (energy and fuel use)
- b) Total Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions per staff and student
- c) Carbon emissions from water use
- d) Carbon emissions from water use per staff and student
- e) Percentage of energy generated from onsite renewable or low carbon sources
- f) Total water consumption
- g) Total water consumption per staff and student
- h) Waste sent to landfill
- i) Waste sent to landfill per staff and student
- j) Percentage of waste generated that is recycled or composted (construction and non-construction waste)

**10. Ensure that this Environmental Policy is communicated, enacted, enforced and reviewed.**

Hughes Hall is already committed to:

- a) Ensuring that the College has an Environmental Policy that is enforced and reviewed on an annual basis at the appropriate committee which includes student representatives.
- b) Supporting Green Impact activities and hosting annual Green Week to promote environmental considerations.
- c) Explicit inclusion of environmental considerations into work of all college committees.

During 2019/20 and beyond, Hughes Hall aims to:

- d) Monitor progress and set measurable targets wherever possible.
- e) Foster a network amongst Colleges to share knowledge and expertise on creating, enacting and reviewing these targets.

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Version 1.0 agreed by Council on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Next review: Michaelmas Term 2020