



**Pembroke College**

## **Environmental Awareness Annual Report 2007**

### **Introduction**

In the context of urgent global challenges such as climate change, sustainability is an increasingly important concern. Pembroke is increasingly operating in a sustainable way, encouraging its members to be environmentally and socially responsible citizens.

The Environmental Awareness Committee was formed with the intention of improving the College's performance in environmental matters. The first meeting was held on 15 May, 2006.

It was evident that there was considerable student and staff interest in the College's environmental impact and, moreover, that in order to improve performance in this area it would be necessary to engage all members of the College community. Hence the Committee was formed in partnership with the Graduate Parlour President and the Junior Parlour Green Officer.

In order to give attention to a range of environmental concerns, six sub-committees were formed, each with a distinct remit: Energy Efficiency; Water; Catering; Recycling; Paper and Promoting Environmental Awareness. A number of targets were set against which progress could be measured. These were as follows:

Electricity	10% reduction
Gas	5% reduction
Water	10% reduction
Paper	20% reduction

To use at least 80% recycled paper by May 07

To be in the top ten Colleges in this year's Colleges' Environmental Survey and in the top five next year.

## Results

- Electricity            5% reduction in electricity used  
                              22 tonnes of carbon saved
- Gas                     12% reduction in gas used  
                              78 tonnes of carbon saved
- Paper                   27% reduction in usage overall.  
                              Over 80% paper used is recycled
- Water                   Unreliable data meant that it has not been possible to assess usage accurately. The College has insufficient water meters to allow close monitoring everywhere and a program of installing meters in all possible locations is underway. This will allow accurate figures for comparison purposes to be used in the future.  
                              However, close monitoring of water meters in College resulted in the early discovery and resolution of a potentially large leak. Water hippos were also fitted where appropriate.
- The College came eleventh this year in the College Environmental Survey. This is a disappointing result considering the above achievements, however, Pembroke was singled out for making particular progress, and for having a good structure for environmental management.
- Each staircase now has a Green Warden to promote environmental awareness and carry out environmental initiatives. Posters with recycling information and “top tips” for environmentally friendly behaviour have been put into hostel and College rooms.
- A Carbon Trust survey has been carried out.
- Local foods are sourced whenever possible.
- Recycling has become the norm for all staff departments and is part of student culture. Collections have been expanded to include cardboard.
- Switch off stickers have been placed on lights around College.
- A report on Pembroke’s energy consumption, identifying current use and areas for improvement, has been produced by Ben Russell, a PhD student at Pembroke.

## **The Future**

The first year of the Environmental Awareness Committee has successfully engaged both students and staff with issues of sustainability, leading to significant improvements from energy efficiency through to recycling. An environmental management system has been established, understanding of the College's environmental performance has been enhanced, and areas in which improvements can be made have been identified.

There is, however, a strong moral, financial and reputational case for doing much more, and the challenge for the coming years is to build on this initial experience, looking to embed sustainability into the operations of the College. Pembroke should embrace the opportunity to lead the way amongst the Cambridge Colleges in promoting sustainability, and is well placed to consider the long-term benefits of such an approach.

In particular, the Committee has agreed the following as priorities:

- Improve environmental awareness amongst students and staff
- Review, with aspirations of signing up to the Cambridge Climate Change Charter to demonstrate Pembroke's commitment to sustainability and tackling climate change and its desire to play an active role in the community
- Adopt a College Environmental Policy, recognising the College's commitment to sustainability and the work of the Environmental Awareness Committee
- Develop a comprehensive plan, with measurable targets, spanning a number of years for improving the College's environmental impact, including a strategy for reducing the College's carbon footprint