

Model JCR Motion

<The JCR> notes:

1. The most recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, providing the clearest evidence yet that manmade climate change is real and dangerous.
2. That the JCR and MCR Green Officers have been gradually improving recycling facilities in College over the last few years as well as increasing awareness about environmental groups, campaigns and activities across the University to encourage participation and support.
3. That the Go Greener campaign was launched (October 2007) to increase efforts for combating climate change within Cambridge University and all of the Colleges.
4. That the University and a number of Colleges have already made significant progress in terms of environmental management and promoting sustainability.

<The JCR> believes:

1. That the issue of climate change is deeply serious and, due to the nature and urgency of threat, is of concern to us all.
2. That as students of Cambridge University, we have a unique responsibility to encourage the University to take a public lead in voicing and addressing the need for more extensive and committed action to meet this challenge at the local, national and international level.
3. That, as <name of college> members, we have a responsibility to do what we can to help alleviate the problem, and contribute to the action taken by Cambridge University as a whole.
4. That <name of college> is well placed to consider the long-term advantages of investing in ameliorating the College's environmental impact.
5. That <name of college> should recognize its wider social responsibilities by taking concerted action to improve its environmental performance.
6. That in order to do this <name of college> must establish an effective environmental management system, including a designated committee, clear allocation of staff and student responsibility, clear plans of action (with measurable targets where possible), and annual reports.

7. That inter-collegiate cooperation on environmental issues will be of immense help to the efforts both of <name of college>'s and other College's efforts to improve their environmental performance,

<The JCR> resolves:

1. To promote environmental awareness amongst the student body.
2. To support the Go Greener campaign's efforts to generating action to combat climate change across Cambridge University and the Colleges.
3. To mandate the JCR Green Officer and President to work with the College authorities towards implementing the goals of the Go Greener campaign*.

*We call on all Colleges to commit to:

1. Signing the Cambridge Climate Change Charter

The Cambridge Climate Change Charter is a voluntary pledge to address climate change by developing plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It has already been signed by the Cambridge University and Anglia Ruskin University.

2. Establishing environmental committees, policies and officers

Currently only a small number of Colleges have environmental committees or policies. Yet they are essential to the development of effective environmental strategies, allowing coordination and a clear allocation of responsibility. Committees should work from an environmental policy, and should have student and staff representation. We urge the Colleges to consider employing environmental officers, perhaps shared between a number of Colleges.

3. An energy audit

All Colleges should have a free energy audit to establish a baseline of emissions.

4. Ambitious emissions reduction targets

We call on the Colleges to match the University's commitment to a 10% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions over five years, and to commit to a 30% reduction by 2020, and up to 80% by 2050. As with the University, the Colleges may not be able, in the long term, to deliver the necessary cuts alone, and we call on them to join the University in pushing for stronger national and international policies to enable these cuts.¹

5. Developing comprehensive plans to achieve these targets

Environmental committees should be tasked with developing annual plans for reducing their environmental impacts, and for achieving their energy reduction targets. These should be comprehensive and include energy efficiency, renewable energy, food procurement, waste management, new buildings etc.

¹ These emissions targets have been chosen for the following reasons: 10% is an initial target to which the University has already committed and the Colleges should follow. 30% by 2020 matches the government's sustainable procurement strategy for its own estates management. Up to 80% by 2050 recognises the need for these reductions to be within a long-term strategy. These targets are not equivalent to national emission reductions targets, which may need to be more radical.