

Departmental Energy & Environment Policy

The Department of Plant Sciences is a world-renowned institution that prides itself on the quality of its research output. This comes at the cost of a large environmental footprint. In particular, as is typical in biological research, energy usage is high and large quantities of waste are produced. As a responsible organisation, Plant Sciences has an obligation to minimise its negative impacts on the environment.

The Department endeavours to tackle this in line with the University's Environmental Sustainability Vision, Policy & Strategy which came into force in 2015. This can be found at <http://www.environment.admin.cam.ac.uk/environmental-sustainability-vision-policy-and-strategy>.

The Department of Plant Sciences seeks to:

- Comply fully with environmental legislation and officially approved codes of practice.
- Reduce the energy usage and carbon intensity of its research.
- Innovate and develop new energy efficient technologies that will have the potential to benefit the wider research community and beyond.
- Encourage environmentally responsible behaviour from its staff and students.
- Buy, use and dispose of consumable materials in as environmentally friendly a way as possible.
- When considering the need for new equipment, assess space and energy demands as part of the procurement process. Life-cycle costs including maintenance, energy, longevity and disposal are factored into the decision-making process.
- Publicise and encourage its staff and students to use commuting options that minimise travel emissions.
- Quantify travel emissions from work-related travel (conferences, fieldwork etc) and minimise or offset where possible.

