

Decarbonisation Programme

Scope 1 & 2

Outlining the University's approach to meeting the target of net-zero carbon emissions by 2035.



Energy efficiency

Support departments in pursuing energy efficiency through improvements to buildings and behaviour change



Decarbonisation of heat across the University estate

Reduce Scope 1 and 2 emissions by at least 90% by 2035



Zero Carbon electricity

Develop a zero-carbon electricity supply that prioritises renewable and locally generated energy.



Sustainable buildings

The University of Oxford has adopted the Passivhaus standard for new projects and major refurbishments.



Offsetting

Balance unavoidable residual emissions using robust, evidence-based carbon offsetting aligned with best practice.

The programme is part of the Energy workstream within the Environmental Sustainability Strategy and is managed by the Environmental Sustainability and Capital Projects teams within Estates Services. A Programme Board oversees the projects and reports to the Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee (ESSC).

Energy

2026

Dec 2026 -
Decarbonisation
programme for
non-heat network
sites commences

Jun 2027 -
Renewable energy
supply strategy
agreed

Sept 2029 - Castle
Mill heat network
transferred to heat
pumps

Oct 2032 - Old Road
Campus Heat
Network operational

Oct 2033 - City
Centre heat network
operational

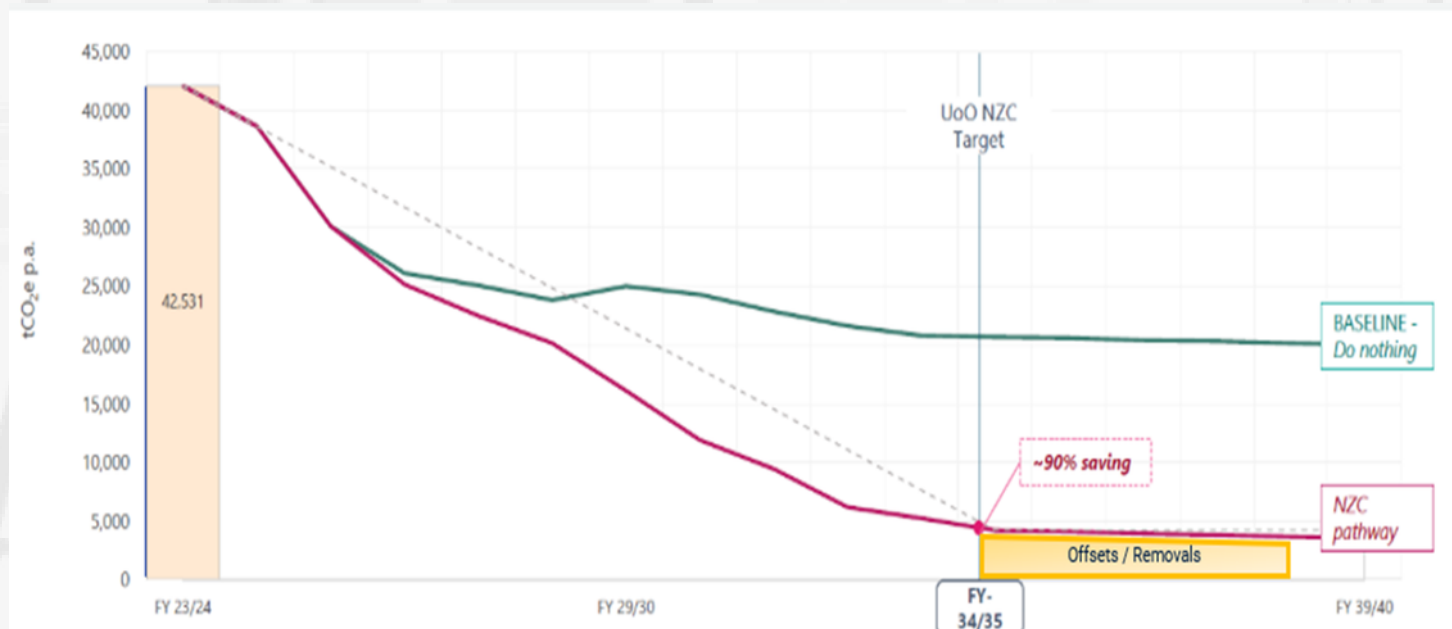
Oct 2035 - Science
Area heat network
operational

2035

Part of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy



Scope 1 & 2 pathway



Snapshot of Oxford University Estates decarbonisation

STRAND 1

Castle Mill

18 buildings
3% of emissions
Replace gas boilers with
air source heat pumps
Heat on expected 2028



STRAND 2

Old Road Campus

12 buildings
27% of emissions
Establish either a 4G
or 5G heat network
Heat on expected 2031



STRAND 3

Science Area

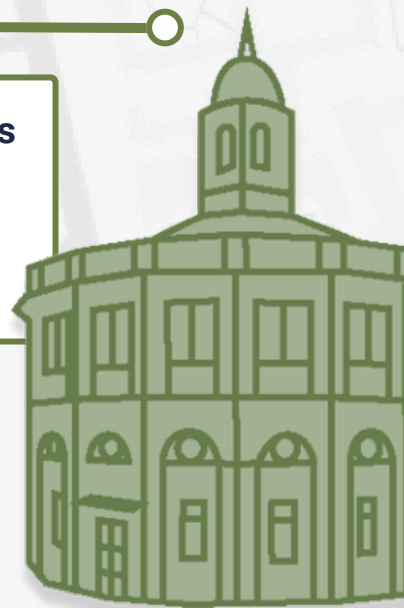
37 buildings
40% of emissions
Heat on expected 2033



STRAND 4

Individual Building Solutions

79 buildings
13% of emissions
Heat on expected 2035



STRAND 5

District Heat Network

49 buildings
16% of emissions
Heat on expected 2035

