

Next review: Jan 2025

Introduction

Oxford Fine Dining recognises the impact that catering operations can have on the environment. As a catering provider we undertake good sustainability practices throughout our business and ensure that we consider the environmental impact of all our business decisions. We aim to promote sustainable practices in all aspects of our food sourcing, production and service.

Our responsibility to provide sustainable food to our customers is clear.

We recognise that we have to balance economic need against our responsibility to the quality of our environment. We encourage customers, suppliers and other stakeholders to do the same.

We will make this policy available to our clients.

We ensure continual improvement by periodically reviewing sustainability targets and by measuring our performance against the Sustainable Wedding Alliance criteria and the Green Impact Scheme.

Responsibility

Our Managing Director, Sue Randall and Head Chef, Willis Smith are responsible for ensuring the environmental and sustainability policy is implemented, with Abbie Warmington, our Sustainability Officer driving the daily tasks. However, all employees and contractors have a responsibility to ensure that the aims and objectives of the policy are met.

Policy Aims

We endeavour to:

- Comply with all relevant regulatory requirements
- Continually improve and monitor environmental performance
- Continually improve and reduce environmental impacts
- Incorporate environmental factors into business decisions
- Increase employee awareness and training

Energy and carbon reduction: Minimise energy and water consumption through efficient administration, equipment selection, usage and disposal, food storage, preparation and cooking.

- We aim to reduce the amount of energy used as much as possible by switching off computer monitors when they are not in use and shutting down computers at the end of the day. Computers energy saving settings are turned on.
- Lights, and electrical equipment are switched off when not in use and low energy bulbs are used.
- Heating is adjusted with energy consumption in mind. Heating is only switched on in rooms that are in use and maintained by use of a Thermostat.
- The energy consumption and efficiency of new products will be taken into account when purchasing.
- Crockery and utensils are cleaned using a new energy efficient dishwasher.

Transportation

- We reduce the need to travel, restricting to necessary trips only and promote the use of travel alternatives such as e-mail or zoom meetings
- We encourage event staff to use bicycles, public transport, or car share
- Our vehicles are regularly evaluated to ensure ongoing efficiency
- All food is bought locally where possible to reduce 'food miles'
- Staff share vehicles where practicable
- Where we run events on our site we provide transport (for example a bus) to transport guests from park and ride car parks rather than encouraging them to use their own vehicles
- We use local suppliers whenever feasible to reduce our carbon footprint. Where non local suppliers are used we will keep deliveries as infrequent as practical and encourage suppliers to use modern fuel efficient vehicles.
- We recently reviewed our equipment hire process and now have a Luton style van that enables us to collect crockery etc. from a supplier in the same village to transport ourselves thus reducing 2 round trips to the venue by the hire specialists
- A review has been completed as to the purchase of Electric vans, however, thus far they are prohibitively expensive and do not have mileage capacity.

Sustainable procurement: Make procurement decisions that take into account social and environmental factors whilst achieving best value for money, by selecting and engaging with suppliers

- Use meat, poultry, dairy and eggs from sources that using practices that conform to high environmental, social and animal welfare standards
- local and seasonal fruit and vegetables wherever possible
- Our menus are seasonal and therefore use readily available local products

- We aim to promote Fairtrade products and increase the provision of Fairtrade goods where possible i.e. tea/coffee/chocolate
- We stocktake regularly and buy to order for each event to reduce food waste
- We source wines from within 50 miles
- We highlight the local wines from our list

Maintenance and Cleaning

- Cleaning materials used will be as environmentally friendly as possible
- We will only use licensed and appropriate organisations to dispose of waste
- We will not use cleaning products that are tested on animals
- We will not use bleach products

Waste reduction: Where possible we reuse waste. Where there is waste that we cannot reuse we use recycling facilities. We keep food waste separate from dry waste (e.g. cardboard, paper and metal) to enable those to be recycled.

- We buy food with the minimum of packaging whilst ensuring maintenance of food hygiene and prevention of cross contamination
- Food waste is kept to a minimum by ordering perishable foods specifically for each event, portion sizing and producing food to suit the number of guests. We monitor the food waste to see if any more reductions can be made.
- We completed the Guardians of Grub food calculator course to measure our kitchen preparation waste and event plate waste on a daily basis, which was logged into a national case study. With their guidance we continue to educate the team and support reducing food waste. We weigh our food waste intermittently for 8 week periods. We have reduced our food waste by 60% over the last 12 months.
- We encourage customers to use crockery instead of disposables, and provide reusable/recyclable/biodegradable products instead of polystyrene
- Food is transported to events in reusable containers

Paper

- We will minimise the use of paper in the office
- We will reduce packaging as much as possible
- We will seek to buy recycled and recyclable paper products
- We will reuse and recycle all paper where possible

Office Supplies

- We evaluate if the need can be met in another way

- We consider if renting/sharing is an option before purchasing equipment
- We evaluate the environmental impact of any new products we intend to purchase.
- We favour more environmentally friendly and efficient products wherever possible while considering that those used in the kitchen environment must meet minimum standards.
- We will reuse and recycle everything we are able to.
- We have set printers on duplex as standard

Water reduction: We encourage drinking of filtered or mains water rather than bottled water. Where requested we use glass bottles rather than purchasing plastic bottled water.

- We will monitor water consumption on site using a water meter. This enables us to identify leaks in the system.

Monitoring and Improvement

- We will comply with and aim to exceed all relevant regulatory requirements
- We will continually improve and monitor environmental performance
- We will continually improve and reduce environmental impacts.
- We will incorporate environmental factors into business decisions.
- We will increase employee awareness through training
- We will review this policy and any related business issues at our monthly management meetings

Culture

- We will review and update this policy at least once annually in consultation with staff and other stakeholders where necessary
- We will encourage suppliers, contractors and sub-contractors to improve their environmental performance
- We will use local labour and materials where available to reduce CO2 and help the community
- We will involve staff in the implementation of this policy, for greater commitment and improved performance
- We will provide staff with relevant information and training (where necessary) on practices which lower our carbon footprint

Environmental and Sustainability Policy



Signed: Sue Randall

Position: Managing Director

Date: 31.01.23

Action Plan for 2024 - 2025

Reduce our food waste by a further 15% with the support of Guardians of Grub

Continue to encourage staff to car share when working at events

Continue to encourage staff to use public/local transport/bicycle or walk to events within easy travelling distance of home

Continue to recycle used printer/toner cartridges (and record numbers)

Sustainable procurement – continue to source fish from sustainable stocks and promoting recommended fish from the Marine Conservation Society (MCS)

Continue to review suppliers of meat and poultry and milk for membership schemes such as Red Tractor scheme or equivalent and source accordingly

Order an increased volume of ambient goods to reduce packaging.

We are members of the Sustainable Wedding Alliance and with their support we are guided through our practices as a business to continually make amendments across all departments to ensure our business is operating as sustainably as possible.

Calculate our Business Carbon Emissions and Reduce by 10%

We were invited to join Green Union and have done so, this is a sustainability directory and lifestyle community. This platform helps our wedding clients in particular, make conscious connections when planning their wedding.

We will discuss environmental and sustainable impact with our clients when deciding on menu's and other arrangements associated with event catering.

We will look at the Environmental Policy of clients where they have one and will endeavour to meet their requirements when on site.