

Hi! I'm Talay, 1<sup>st</sup> year PhD in Engineering. I want to run for MCR Green Officer because there are a couple of particular things I'd like to make happen and I think I have some useful experience to help me out with it (details below). Plus I'd be excited about pitching in with the wider work of the committee, including for the big events of the calendar – which was the highlight of my time on the JCR committee some years ago (the MCR events are better though).

## The short(er) version

We've known for a long time that we need to decarbonise our energy use, but we've made relatively little progress over the last few decades – some battles are more or less won (renewable power generation), some technology has advanced (batteries for electric vehicles), and public awareness has skyrocketed. I'd like to:

- encourage the college to have a proper look at some of the harder, higher cost choices – like transitioning to renewable heating – and produce a publicised plan for scrutiny by members and fundraising for implementation;
- within this context, look at more of those small things that we can do – for the MCR members in particular, sorting out how we will deal with organic waste in on-site graduate housing is a good place to start.

I matriculated in Churchill in 2013. I was Domestic Officer on the JCR committee and did quite a bit on my department's staff-student joint committee. In general with these sorts of roles I find that you can achieve much more than you expect – and that people tell you is possible – if you spend enough time working with a positive attitude and talking to the right people.

## The long version

The basic recipe of decarbonisation is easy and longstanding: generate all our electricity with low carbon technologies, shift all energy use to electric, and suck out from the atmosphere any emissions leftover. We're getting very good at the first bit, not least because the low carbon stuff is now cheaper, but we are less keen on the second for a variety of reasons. Like, even if I could spend 50-100% extra on my new car to get an electric one, will I even be able to find charging points anywhere (Churchill has three)? Renewable heat sounds very nice, but not really much cheaper to run than good gas heating and ripping up the floor and digging up the courtyard for heat exchangers sounds expensive and disruptive...

Now seems like a very good time to be pushing for making those kinds of more difficult changes – there's an increasing amount of public momentum behind actually fighting the causes of climate change (see for example the recent protests...).

I think I'm a good person to work with college to make this happen because of my past experience and enthusiasm 😊