

Manifesto for MCR Green Officer – Talay Cheema

A bit about me:

- I started my undergrad (Engineering) in Churchill in 2013. I'm still here...
- I am now a 2nd year PhD student in machine learning
- I was in the green officer role last year

A bit about last year:

- I worked with college via the committee system and via informal discussions on a bunch of 'policy' type issues. You can read a bunch of stuff the college has been doing here: <https://www.chu.cam.ac.uk/news/2020/aug/11/our-newest-environmental-sustainability-plans/>
- Unfortunately, our more interesting ideas got sidelined by Covid-19 *

This year I would like to:

- **Get the college to make and publicise specific emissions targets, and give regular (e.g., annual) updates on progress.** Some work on publicising might have to wait until the college website gets its overhaul.
- **Improve ease of recycling in college.** Sorting waste into the right bins should be easy – even if you've just moved from somewhere with a very different system (like many people in the MCR have). More helpful labelling is a big part of the answer. There isn't a convenient place to throw organic waste for most of the graduate accommodation on site, and you have to have a lot of motivation just to get started on that (e.g. getting a bin).
- **Stimulate discussion on environmental issues in the MCR,** particularly via academic and careers talks. Turnout to virtual talks tends to be quite poor so this would be best done in collaboration with other colleges who are also doing this.

These are in addition to engaging with college-led work as last year

* Hopefully we will be in a slightly less restricted situation sometime this academic year...

Talay