

Helena Kruder for Green and Services

About me

I'm Helena (she/her), a first-year Education student, and I am both very concerned about the climate crisis and passionate to contribute to mitigate the consequences. To achieve green change within College I believe it is crucial to create a hub where individual students could communicate their concerns and ideas as well as to foster the relationship to College staff, for bringing into effect sustainable changes on an everyday basis is greatly reliant on their work. Over the course of the year, I made my face known amongst members of staff, as I enjoyed taking time to speak to them in general and about specific requests I had. I am also very grateful for the wonderful work done by the gardeners to help make us feel comfortable living on campus.

Over Lent and Easter term I completed the 12 week Engage for Change programme launched by the *Cambridge Zero* initiative. I took part in a weekly skills training to conceptualise and implement an environmental action-taking project. With the help of Homerton Environmental Society, of which I became a member through the process, I organised a Green Week for Homerton that took place at the beginning of Lent term. After having brought together a brilliant Green Week committee, we organised online talks, in-person workshops, trips to the society's allotment and more events revolving around sustainability and social justice issues in climate change. In order to have been able to make the week a reality, I often reached out to and worked with College staff, too.

My aims as Green and Services Officer

I would be committed to facilitate communication between students, staff, and the Environmental Society.

I am keen to organise more action-taking and awareness-raising events next year, including another Green Week (hopefully, with many in-person activities so that the focus is not just on sustainability, but on spending time and getting to know one another).

With the Environmental society we will advocate divestment from HSBC.

It is my aim to make the allotment (where we are currently growing some fruit and vegetables) more popular.

With the Environmental society we sent out a survey concerning student's opinions about implementing compost bins and a meat-free day in Hall. I set out to collect more data on similar questions to push for sustainable changes and green policies whilst making sure that students' needs and preferences are being taken into account.

Clear communication in terms of storage spaces will be a priority of mine, as I am an international student myself and know how worrisome it can be when there is uncertainty.

I would like to trial a scheme to reduce waste at the end of the academic year, ensuring that kitchen ware is not thrown away and could be used by freshers next year.

