

UEB

Sustainability Task Group

Sustainable Food Procurement Policy

The University of Birmingham's sustainable procurement policy recognises that its procurement activities have a significant impact on health, the environment, society and the economy and accepts that it has a responsibility to strive to effectively manage and minimise those impacts.

Reflecting the commitment made in its Strategic Framework – “Shaping Our Future – Birmingham 2015” to produce *an Environmental Strategy which sets out the University's core ambition to reduce our carbon footprint and evaluate the environmental impact of all our activities*, the University aims to embed sustainable food procurement within its culture by committing to:

Work with staff and students to:

- Promote good nutrition and encourage healthier food choices that should have a positive impact on their wellbeing
- Raise awareness of the benefits of a healthy diet
- Maintain and strive to improve on high standards of food safety and quality
- Increase use of seasonal produce
- Contribute to achieving the University's carbon reduction targets.
- Reduce the environmental impacts of purchased water
- Ensure value for money
- Avoid/reduce food waste
- Avoid/reduce use of disposables in the context of food packaging and cutlery
- Offer food choices that reflect the diversity of our customers

Work with contractors and suppliers to:

- Continue to reduce the environmental impact of the commodities they provide
- Encourage use of local suppliers and local produce (where feasible).
- Contribute to sustainable economic growth
- Encourage participation of SMEs in relevant tenders
- Reduce packaging when possible and/or encourage use of more eco-friendly alternatives
- Continue to improve animal welfare standards
- Ensure ethically sourced products are available where possible

Work with HE sector and food purchasing consortia in particular TUCO Purchasing Limited (TPL) to:

- Ensure that the Consortia's Sustainable Procurement Policy includes commitments that are substantially similar to those set out in the University's Sustainable Procurement Policy and support the University in the fulfilling its commitments in regards to sustainable procurement.
- Ensure that the Consortia commits to removing barriers to entry such that suppliers within the locality and region of the University, and SME and ethnic minority suppliers irrespective of locality or region are encouraged and enabled to compete for Consortia contracts.
- Where appropriate encourage Consortia to competitively tender contracts on a regional basis to avoid suppliers in the region being precluded from competing due to the geographical nature of the Consortia.

Work with the University academic community to:

- Seek advice, guidance and information on best practice of food procurement issues where appropriate.
- Provide material for research and teaching where it is appropriate and available.

The Sustainable Food Procurement Policy applies to everyone who specifies and purchases food products and services on behalf of the University. The commitments set out in the Policy will be delivered by means of the development of sustainable food procurement objectives and an action plan.

Specific roles are detailed in the "Guidance notes for sustainable food policy" document.

Draft June 2012