2019/20

Catering Services Environmental and Sustainable Policy

MANAGING OUR OPERATIONAL IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

WATERFIELD J.

This environmental policy sets out the Catering Department's intention to promote sustainable practices and minimise the impact of its business activities on the environment.

The content and associated aims forms part of wider University Environmental and Sustainable Policy. Actions generated from the policy will form part of environmental audit conducted by Estates and Facilities Environmental Officers.

Foreword

There are number of key environmental and sustainable factors to consider when producing a far-reaching policy that seeks to have a meaningful and measurable positive impact on a complex and busy catering operation that spans 5 campuses.

Our social and ethical intentions must align with our existing capabilities, infrastructure and resources; otherwise, the policy will simply become an aspiration, less meaningful, less productive and ultimately ineffective. It is therefore essential that we set clear and measurable policy and invest sufficient resource and commitment to realising our pro-environmental and sustainable aims.

As a catering business the day-to-day production, operation, service and disposal of food and drink is likely to consume moderately high levels of natural resources and waste, both of which will have a negative impact on the environment and our vital eco-systems to include marine life. The more we can do now through intervention, influence and education the more likely we can make a real difference in terms of reducing our environmental impact and changing attitudes, and social behaviors more widely through the interaction of our staff and customers.

Through education, intervention and process change, we can influence the way our customers purchase and dispose of food and drink purchased at the University in a number of functions. We must seek to influence cultural norms and shape the future behavior of our visitors and members by dissuading all existing unsustainable norms and substituting with sustainable ones.

Our messaging will reach out to our supply chain and who will play a vital role in ensuring our environmental and sustainable aims are supported.

On an individual basis through communication, initiatives and our staff management philosophy, we will foster positive engagement, recognise and reward all efforts from team members who contribute to our environmental and sustainable vision.

The compound effect of changing individual behaviours can be significant, as individuals we need to be vigilant and thoughtful of our own activities, our own carbon footprint and levels of food waste or fuel consumption. Accordingly, our message to all is NOT JUST AT WORK! In order to shape a better future for all, our environmental behaviour must be constant and far-reaching in all that we do both at work and at home.

There are a number of environmental considerations; however, this policy will mostly focus on deforestation, natural resource depletion, air pollution, environmental and land degradation and of inherent interest, ocean degradation.

What can we do?

The first step on the path to a greener planet is to understand the environmental impact of our business activities, then to educate our staff and employ intervention methods or policies to reduce or where feasible, reverse the negative environmental or sustainability impact our activities are having at a local or global level. At an aspirational level, if we can change behaviors and influence others to do so, collectively we can bring about meaningful change to help protect all vulnerable parts of the global eco-system and all its habitants.

Key environmental considerations

Deforestation – Destroying the natural habitat of some of the planets most indigenous and endangered animals as well as contributing to global warming and recognised to be the second largest human-caused source of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. The net effect is a detrimental impact on the balance of nature, communities and our existing way of life, and in some forms, life itself.

Resource depletion – Over population, overconsumption, industrial development, excessive waste, consumption and use of water, fossil fuels, phosphorus, livestock, agriculture and fishing are collectively attributing to a depletion in natural resources at an unsustainable rate.

Air pollution– Dirty air and harmful gases (vehicles/factories) when inhaled in volumes over prolonged periods can cause irreversible damage to plants, animals and humans.

Environmental and land degradation. A comprehensive report (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Eco-Systems Services (IPBES)), published in 2018 was commissioned by the United Nations to provide Governments, private sector and civil society policy-makers essential information about the status, human trends and threats to biodiversity and eco-systems. The report profoundly details the negative net impact that growth in population and consumption is having on the eco-system, that if not curtailed and a commitment to land and forest restoration is enacted, will have significant, irreversible detrimental effect on our economic, social and life systems. The detrimental effect on our biodiversity and eco-system is likely to exacerbate if natural habitats such as wetlands and forests continue to be re-purposed for industrial farming.

Growth in population and associated food consumption and waste is driving unsustainable levels of agricultural expansion, increased farming systems, natural resource and mineral extraction. The IPBES reports that over one third of the Earth's surface is used to farm agriculture and livestock, that if poorly managed will lead to higher levels of soil erosion and subsequent soil organic carbon released into the atmosphere.

The departments plan of action will therefore seek to reduce or re-purpose food waste and reduce consumption of intensified farming produce such as cattle and soy.

Ocean degradation – The pollution and acidification of our seawater and subsequent impact on the oceans' and coastal biodiversity and the world's natural eco-systems. The disposal of waste, particularly hard substances such as rubber, plastic and metals are not just toxic they are physically hazardous to marine life. If entered into our oceans, these materials have the propensity to entangle and disfigure some of our most precious and endangered ocean living creatures and sea birds, plastic substances can often end up in their digestive system too.

Plan of Action

Environmental factor	Insight	Consideration	What can be done	Commitments
Deforestation	The destruction of vast rain forest lands that are biodiversity rich and the subsequent displacement of indigenous people and endangered animals which is changing the landscape, eco-systems and livelihoods for future generations. It is vital that we protect and maintain our Rain Forest and its indigenous people, providing them vital resources, security and education. Rain forests contain and supress huge quantities of human-induced carbon emissions that are released back into the atmosphere if deforestation occurs.	Palm Oil and derivatives, and soy plantations are significant factors to the change in the rainforest landscape. Reduction in use of either commodity as a food source or bio-fuel and finding alternatives, will lessen the departments carbon footprint and societal cost.	Identify all food products that contain palm oil that is and is not Certified Sustainable (CPSO), and work with our supply chain to find alternatives. Work toward eradicating all palm oil products from our services. Set reduction targets. Undertake annual audits to determine success in reducing palm oil products.	Reduce palm oil containing products by 15% in year one with the aim of eradicating palm oil form our facilities by 2022. Create palm oil friendly retail/café areas (one per annum). Do not add any palm oil based products to our existing range. Provide customer information on our policies. Reduce soy-based foods.

	The harvesting of rainforest timber to produce paper based materials. Some of our most endangered species such as, orang-utans, gorillas and Bengal tiger live in tropical forest habitat. Palm oil farming and timber harvesting are key factors to their natural habitation and subsequent dwindling numbers.	Identify and action ways of reducing the use of paper within all catering administration. Where the use of paper-based products is unavoidable, ensure recycled paper products are purchased.	Introduce and sustain a recycled paper-purchasing scheme. Recycle all cardboard and paper that is not contaminated with food/liquid. Work toward a paper-free office. Work closer with the domestic department to improve the volume of cardboard packaging recycled. Improve statistical data.	Move to recycled paper for all photocopying and printing in the main office by the end of 2018. With the exception of printing hard copy menus, introduce 2 days in the working week to forbid any printing. Monitor and review, look to increase.
	Coffee plantation and production can, if not managed well contribute to deforestation and unethical commercial gains. It is vital that organisations and business do all they can to help protect vulnerable indigenous people and their way of life.	Explore all forms of commercial schemes that re-invest in the forest and indigenous people.	Consider purchasing more Rain-Forest Alliance (RFA) products such as coffee and chocolate for all food retail units. Retail non-profit merchandise associated with the Rain Forests.	Replicate the Arlott Bar ethical trading positioning in another outlet. Ensure, coffee is triple certified and chocolate is RFA accredited. Continue to create awareness of the RFA to our customers, inform people of the importance of protecting our most endangered habitat and species. Monitor and expand on any success.
Land degradation	"Land degradation contributes to the decline and eventual extinction of species and the loss of ecosystem services to humanity, making avoidance, reduction and reversal of land degradation essential for human well-being" (IPBES Assessment Report, 2018).	Cattle farming has a high carbon footprint and is a key contributor to land degradation and deforestation.	Consider substituting or removing beef entirely from outlets or specific sustainability menus.	The introduction of beef free zones in eating areas around campus aimed at reducing beef consumption and creating more awareness about the detrimental effect cattle farming is having on our eco-systems.

Resource depletion	The exploration, extraction and commercial delivery of natural resources is energy intense and subsequently depleting our planet's natural resource.	Food production, especially crops such as soy use high levels of water and power to fuel farming machinery.	Obtain existing usage of water, gas and electricity and set reduction targets Seek to reduce power/gas consumption. Promote the use of bio-fuel alternatives throughout the supply chain. Improved education and the introduction of a power save policy can be introduced to highlight the need to turn off when not in use. Power efficient equipment must replace older power hungry technology. When replacing any item of electrical equipment every opportunity to purchase power saving features will be explored. Highlight existing high energy consumption items of equipment and seek to replace by 2021. Where feasible replace lighting with movement sensor alternatives.	Reduce gas, electricity and water consumption by a further 5% in the 2019/20. Educate the team and introduce a campaign to 'turn off' power, water and gas across all outlets, offices and kitchens. Introduce a policy that prohibits the purchasing of any equipment that has an efficiency rating of less that A. All future contractor tender processes must have an environmental consideration and be part of the scoring matrix.
Food waste	The production of food through farming and processing has a high impact on the environment, accordingly less waste, less impact.	Farming, transportation, storage and production is resource heavy and has a high carbon footprint. Ethically, food waste is deplorable. There are people within our own society that are either incapable of looking after themselves or do not have the	All food waste (wet and packaged) must be measured and recorded. Food waste reduction targets will be set from September 2018. Reduce fuel heavy foods (long-distance transportation/intense production/frozen foods.	Food waste to be reduced by 10% during 2019/20 academic year. All waste oil to be sent for recycling. At the start of term 2019 introduce initiatives such as donating to

		resource to pay for adequate food nutrition.	Batch food cooking can help reduce waste.	charitable food shelters and a 'help yourself' leftover food campaign to hardship fund students for packaged and prepared leftover food.
Ocean degradation	Plastic is detrimental to marine life in all forms, and is far-reaching across a range of wildlife. Plastic is also blighting some of the most naturally beautiful places on our planet.	A number of plastics are made from petroleum or natural gas (non-renewable) resources extracted and processed using energy-intensive processes thus contributing to resource depletion and carbon emissions. The disposal of plastic either in whole or particle form are devastating and toxifying our oceans. It is therefore vital that every effort is made to reduce our purchase, use and subsequent disposal of all plastic items.	Where feasible replace all plastic service items or disposables with a sustainable alternative (starch/plant based materials). Introduce schemes to promote reusable liquid or food containers such as bring your own mug. Where feasible, and items that will not contribute to further food waste, remove condiments that are served in plastic sachets.	Delivered area – ensure all non-single use containers/service ware is returned and regenerated back into the business. Use wooden cutlery in Catered Halls and the Delivered Service. Sufficient levels of recycling bins must be provided for each event. Remove all non-essential plastic items from catering outlets. Unavoidable single use containers must be disposed of via the University's recycling policy. Remove and replace all plastic containing products such as tea bags from outlets by the close of 2020.

Air pollution & environmental degradation.	Foreign substances released into the air (household and farming chemical particles and gases being emitted).	Reduce the use of intensely farmed or industrialised products in our kitchens.	Undertake a chemicals audit to identify areas that eco-friendly alternatives can be introduced. Research into eco-friendly cleaning substances.	Commit to findings by introducing new products that have less or no chemicals that are deemed hazardous with higher intensive chemicals.
	Carbon monoxide through the burning of charcoal, wood and crop waste as well as incineration of organic waste.	Consider alternative disposal of waste to incineration.	Review volumes of waste being incinerated, increase organic disposal where possible.	Engage with waste contractor and collectively work toward understanding existing levels of catering waste and how this waste can be monitored and reduced, seek to reduce by 10%.
	According to a Carbon Trust study, 1/5 of the average personal carbon footprint produced comes from the food choices we make. Methane emissions – is reportedly responsible for a fifth of global warming The stomachs of cattle and other large farmed animals, landfill sites and rice paddies are 3 sizeable contributors for methane emissions. The farming process to include fodder, fertiliser and natural resources are also high contributors to air pollution.	Promote the reduction of red meat and dairy consumption. Growing food out of season has a higher carbon footprint, therefore seek to use seasonal products where possible. Understand our supply chain to help inform the decision-making process. Promote vegetarianism through education and food creativity. Increase the number of organic products purchased and sold.	Inform our customers about the environmental, welfare and health benefits of consuming less meat. Avoid purchasing processed foods especially if they have been imported or are a frozen product. Introduce measures to reduce deliveries onto campus. Ensure organic milk is available to our customers. Only introduce special offers on low carbon foods. Ensure all menu creation prioritises seasonal ingredients. Reduce the number of rice dishes served or find alternatives that are not so methane intensive.	Ensure every food outlet has vegetarian and vegan food options. Reduce the volume of frozen products purchased by 5% in year one and review each year. Reduce rice purchases by 10% in year one and review.

	Carbon emissions (transportation, the combustion of petrol and diesel) and sulphur dioxide produced by industrial plants.	Reduce the number of deliveries onto our campuses. Ensure our vehicles are green and consider alternatives to large motorised vehicles for campus deliveries.	Reduce the number of supplier deliveries onto site by up to 20%. Purchase a non-motorised campus delivery transportation.	Replace existing delivered fuel vans with electric powered vehicles by 2024
	Similar to carbon emissions, refrigerants absorb infrared radiation and hold in the atmosphere causing a greenhouse effect. Although now legislated and regulated there are a number of types of refrigerants made from Flourinated gases (Fgases) still in use and accessible that can cause a negative effect on the ozone layer.	Fgas is legislated and all movement to be recorded. Refrigerant r404a which is in situ in many of the departments walk-in chillers requires replacing to a lesser global warming potential gas such as r452.		Replace all refrigeration gas with r452 by 2022.

The University will make every effort to buy local:

Purchasing local and fresh is likely to reduce our environmental impact in a number of ways:

- Reduction of transport (carbon footprint)
- Help to fuel the local economy and positive cultural practices
- Reduction in power hungry storage such as refrigeration and freezing
- Fresher products will have higher nutritional value and a longer shelf life

Procurement statement concerning sustainability and animal welfare:

- Suppliers must have Farm-Assured and Red Tractor accreditation to supply to the University poultry and dairy.
- The University will only purchase British poultry and eggs.
- The University will only purchase free-range eggs
- The University will only source fish from sustainable sources and will avoid any species named on the Marine Stewardship Council endangered list.

Waste management

The most effective form of waste management is not to produce waste in the first instance. Every effort will be taken to reduce all types of waste, whether it is supply borne or produced from our own operations. The above action plan goes some way to help us achieve the reductions in waste but we must work harder and be more creative with service solutions. Solutions can be in the form of recycling more of our disposable style service equipment and containers. It can also be in the form of stricter policies forbidding the use of single-use containers and improved distribution of food and drink that has short shelf lives.