



Fairtrade Policy

The University Strategic Plan 2019 includes a commitment to harness our people, research excellence, expert knowledge and infrastructure, to help find innovative solutions to the big challenges which face society, and specifically supports the objectives as set out in the University's Sustainability Policy. It is important that the University clearly demonstrates its commitment and support for social responsibility, environmental sustainability and carbon emissions reduction to its students, staff and to the wider community. The University has adopted a Fairtrade Action Plan, an Ethical Investment Policy and Sustainable Food Action Plan.

The University commits to supporting, using, and promoting Fairtrade products. Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. By requiring organisations to pay sustainable prices (which must never fall lower than the market price), Fairtrade tackles the injustices of conventional trade, which traditionally discriminates against the most vulnerable. It enables them to improve their position and have more control over their lives.

1. Leadership & Strategy

The Sustainability Strategy Group formally leads on efforts to retain Fairtrade Award Status. It will implement, monitor, and review this Policy, with the aim of improving the University's support for Fairtrade. It will oversee and manage the events and promotional campaigns and day to day implementation of the policy. See here for [membership of SSG](#).

2. Research & Curriculum

By educating students and conducting research in support of fairer conditions throughout the supply chain a University can have a significant impact. We will actively seek out opportunities to provide content and projects for students in both the formal and informal curriculum, as well as looking for collaborative research projects, if possible, internationally.

3. Sale of Fairtrade Products

Procurement, Retail and Catering - The University will require all catering vendors to sell as many Fairtrade products as is feasible in all its cafes, dining rooms, shops, vending and other outlets. Where it is not currently feasible to sell Fairtrade (for reasons of price, product availability or contractual obligations), the University is committed to selling Fairtrade as soon as it becomes feasible and will add at least one more item each year.

The University, via the Sustainability Strategy Group, will investigate and promote non food and beverage items and introduce these items wherever possible. An annual audit of all the products available in the University will be undertaken, and if required targets will be set annually to increase the product range.

4. Hospitality

The University will serve Fairtrade foods (e.g., tea and coffee and sugar) at all internal meetings and hospitality events, with a commitment to increase the range and use of Fairtrade products as it becomes possible to do so.

5. Promotion

Campaigning and influencing - The University and Students' Union will promote the sale of Fairtrade products via the following methods:

- Fairtrade promotional materials will be displayed in all places where Fairtrade products are sold.
- Articles and other appropriate material about Fairtrade will be published on the University and Students Union website and in appropriate publications.
- A series of promotional events will be run during Fairtrade Fortnight every February/March and at other times throughout the year with the impacts measured.
- The Sustainability Strategy Group is responsible for organising these events, which will be promoted in the appropriate University and Student Union publications
- A dedicated Fairtrade page on the University webpage and an annual report on Fairtrade.

6. Student and Staff support

All members of the University will be actively encouraged to support the Fairtrade Policy. Details of this Policy will be communicated throughout the University and Students' Union and efforts to support Fairtrade will be strongly encouraged. Worcester Students' Union supports the selling of fairtrade products on campus as well as the education of students and staff on the importance of Fairtrade products and what Fairtrade means. Fairtrade is a standing Discussion Item on the Students' Union internal Sustainability Committee agenda that meets a minimum of twice a semester. The Students' Union website will also dedicate a section to Fairtrade to educate students as well as staff about Fairtrade. The Students' Union endeavours to work with the University on celebrating and promoting campaigns and events throughout the year around the theme of fairtrade such as Fairtrade Fortnight.

7. Review

This policy statement will be reviewed every two years.

Dated: November 2008 *Last reviewed: Sustainability Strategy Group 2 March 2023*