

Sustainable Food Policy

De Montfort University (DMU) is committed to embedding sustainability into all of its activities and actions. This includes our teaching, our research, and the management of our campus and also in the provision of sustainably sourced food to our staff, our students and visitors to our university.

What is sustainable food?

Sustainable food is generally agreed to be food that:

- Contributes to thriving local economies and sustainable livelihoods – both in the UK and, in the case of imported products, in producer countries;
- Protects the diversity of both plants and animals (and the welfare of farmed and wild species), and avoid damaging natural resources and contributing to climate change;
- Provides social benefits, such as good quality food, safe and healthy products, and educational opportunities.

The catering provision at DMU is currently provided through a partnership arrangement with Chartwells, which is part of the Compass group. Chartwells have already developed sustainability criteria within their supply chain including using fish from sustainable sources; providing Fairtrade tea and coffee as standard; using seasonal produce from UK suppliers where possible; promoting the use of food assurance schemes such as 'Red Tractor' in their supply chain and encouraging healthy lifestyle choices.

The University recognises that it has a responsibility to work with its suppliers, contractors and partners to reduce the negative environmental and social impacts of their products, services and activities.

The University has adopted a [Sustainable Food Policy](#) which sets out its commitments and ambitions in relation to the sustainable sourcing of food. We will work with our contractors, suppliers and partners to ensure that catering and vending provisions meets the requirements of this policy and continues to offer staff, students and visitors food which is fresh, healthy and sustainably sourced.

Considerable progress has been made in this area through our work with our partners and we will continue to ensure that sustainability issues are included within the catering and vending provision at DMU. We will also ensure that we raise awareness amongst staff and students about these important issues by clearly communicating our activities in this area through information on the intranet, menus, special promotions and campaigns.

Water Coolers and Water Fountains across Campus

There are a wide range of water coolers and water fountains across the campus which provides mains fed water for consumption by staff and students. The majority of these coolers and fountains are in common areas but a small number are in staff only areas.

The coolers and fountains provide an opportunity to consume mains water if desired rather than bottled water. Re-useable containers such as water bottles can be purchased from outlets across the campus and refilled at these points.

The list of coolers and fountains which can be downloaded [here](#) will be reviewed and checked on a regular basis.

Any comments or suggestions regarding the Sustainable Food Policy or the water coolers and fountains can be made to sustainability@dmu.ac.uk