Sustainable Food Policy

Scope
This policy applies to all outlets operated by the Catering and Retail departments at the University of East Anglia and is reviewed on an annual basis.

Policy
1. Policy Statement The University of East Anglia (UEA) is committed to promoting sustainable, ethical, and responsible food procurement and catering practices. As part of our broader commitment to environmental sustainability, community engagement, and student and staff wellbeing, we aim to reduce the environmental and social impact of our food systems while enhancing the quality, transparency, and health value of the food we provide. This Sustainable Food Policy aligns with the UEA Sustainability Strategy 2030 and reflects our dedication to supporting the local economy, protecting animal welfare, reducing carbon emissions, and encouraging healthier food choices. **2. Our Commitments** We commit to the following principles and actions as part of our sustainable food workplan: **2.1. Local and Ethical Sourcing**   - Actively engage with local and smaller suppliers to increase the number of supply agreements with locally based companies.   - Prioritise the use of seasonal produce in our menus to reduce food miles and support British agriculture.   - Increase the use and sale of ethically traded products and ingredients (e.g. Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance).   - Work to reduce the number of products that contain palm oil or palm oil derivatives, particularly where sustainability certifications are not met.   **2.2. Animal Welfare and Responsible Procurement**   - Ensure that all milk, cheese, and meat supplied are, as a minimum, Red Tractor Assured, with a preference for RSPCA Assured products for meat.   - Use only free-range whole eggs in all on-site food production and work with suppliers during tender process to increase the use of free-range eggs within retailed products.   - Ensure parity of price with plant-based milk alternatives to encourage reduced consumption of dairy which has a higher carbon footprint.

- Source a diverse range of sustainable white fish species to reduce pressure on overfished or sensitive stocks.
- Offer a dedicated vegetarian food outlet on campus.

2.3. Healthy and Sustainable Eating
- Promote the availability and visibility of plant-based meals across all outlets, encouraging and incentivising a shift towards reduced meat and dairy consumption for both health and environmental benefits.
- Provide alternatives to bottled water in all food and beverage outlets and across the UEA campus, supporting a reduction in single-use plastics.
- Identify and implement changes in ingredients, preparation methods, and menu planning to improve the nutritional value of all in-house produced food.

2.4. Environmental Responsibility
- Collaborate with colleagues across the university to reduce energy, water use, and waste associated with our food outlets, in alignment with the UEA Sustainability Strategy 2030.
- Support food waste reduction initiatives and explore opportunities for composting, food redistribution, and reduced reliance on packaging.

2.5. Stakeholder Engagement
- Engage with customers, students, and stakeholders to inform, educate, and consult on our food policy and services.
- Encourage feedback through surveys and open forums, particularly in relation to significant service changes through the Campus Kitchen insight programme.

Approved by: **Date: 18 December 2025**

Gavin Yuill, Head of Catering and Hospitality

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Key Information	
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Prepared by	Gavin Yuill
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Contact	Queries on this policy should be addressed to: Head of Catering and Hospitality

Revision history		
Version	**Date**	**Summary of changes**
4.0	1 Jan 2026	Major revision and change of format
3.0	5 Apr 2023	Review and update
2.0	16 Jun 2021	Major revision, change of title and format
1.0	3 Apr 2017	First issue of 'Our Healthy and Sustainable Food Policy'

Linked documentation	
(Documents that are linked or referenced to in the text of this document)	
Document title:	**File path:**
UEA Sustainability Strategy 2030	https://assets.uea.ac.uk/f/185899/x/7090c92c77/environmental-sustainability-strategy-july-2025.pdf