

DEFENCE FOOD SERVICES TEAM SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT POLICY 09

Statement of intent

The Defence Food Services (DFS) Team is fully committed to the principles of Sustainable Procurement and the need to procure food in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. We take our ethical responsibilities extremely seriously and use our purchasing power to promote good Sustainable Procurement practice, striving to incorporate environmental and social considerations when selecting products. We also recognise that it is our responsibility to encourage our suppliers and contractors to examine all areas of their respective supply chains and minimise the negative environmental and social effects associated with the products and services they provide. We will also work to ensure that local and smaller suppliers are not discriminated against in the procurement process and specifications.



Specifically we aim to:

- Give preference to products and services that can be manufactured, used, and disposed of in an environmentally and socially responsible way.
- Where possible, adopt the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) 'Buy sustainable – Quick Wins' to ensure that the mandatory minimum environmental standards are met.
- Ensure that sustainability criteria are included in specifications to suppliers and used in the award of contracts.
- Consider whole life costs and ensure value for money when assessing product suitability and awarding contracts.
- Recognise the environmental, social and economic needs of the communities we work and operate in and look for solutions or initiatives that encourage growth of those areas.
- Provide guidance and product information to staff so they are aware of the environmental and social effects of purchases and allow them to select sustainable products and services.
- Build on the work undertaken by the MoD global food supply contractor Purple Foodservice Solutions (PFS) and their partners.



To allow us to meet our aims we will:

- Maintain a Sustainable Procurement Action Plan specifying how we will meet the higher level targets included in the Commodities Cluster Sustainable Procurement Action Plan as well as the DE&S and MoD equivalents.
- Establish a Sustainable Procurement Working Group (Food) to promote sustainability in the food environment.
- Develop clear sustainability objectives with all our stakeholders, backed up by Key Performance Indicators to measure progress.
- Encourage our key Suppliers to agree to the MoD's Sustainable Procurement Charter.
- Clearly specify the role that purchasing officers will play in the identification and selection of sustainable products and services.
- Adopt the Project Orientated Environmental Management System (POEMS) to manage the environmental performance and liabilities of services throughout the acquisition process.
- Identify and record all Sustainability Risks, ensuring that mitigation strategies are in place and monitored.





In order to implement the Sustainable Food Policy we will:

- Comply with all related legislation.
- Achieve or exceed all statutory requirements relating to aspects of sustainability and environmental protection.
- Review our objectives at least annually and continually monitor our targets.
- Strive to continually improve our targets and increase the scope of issues covered.
- Use all resources, including water and energy, as efficiently as possible.
- Embrace new sustainable technologies.
- Dispose of waste in ways which minimise the impacts upon the environment.
- Actively co-operate and engage with food suppliers and other sectors on sustainable food issues.
- Communicate this policy to all employees, stakeholders, customers and suppliers.
- Share best practice across the MoD and the throughout the Public Sector.



We will aim to procure food that:

- Satisfies MoD Quality Standards and meet or exceed the OGC Quality Standards.
- Is fresh, nutritious and tastes good.
- Is from locally or regionally grown or processed sources to the maximum extent possible.
- Is grown, produced and packaged in a manner that is less detrimental to the environment.
- Is free from genetic modification.
- Is not produced or distributed by the exploitation of workers.
- Is labelled in accordance with current EU regulations.
- Complies with appropriate animal welfare standards.



We will also:

- Give due consideration to buying British products wherever they are competitive within the confines of EU legislation.
- Procure fish from managed sources and avoid all fish species identified as 'at risk' by the Marine Conservation Society.
- Provide a range of ethically traded goods including tea, coffee and other products and look to increase our percentage each year.
- Avoid bottled water and instead serve plain or filtered tap water in reusable jugs or bottles; although, bottled water will still be made available to operational theatres where no potable water is available.
- Ask our suppliers to keep packaging to a minimum, but sufficient to ensure that goods supplied are protected in transit and arrive in good condition.

