



Fairtrade
Universities
Initiative

University / College Renewal Feedback Report

09 October 2008

Renewal Application for Fairtrade University / College Status:

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Number of Students: over 26,000 (approximately 8,300 staff)

Date of submission: 1 July 2008

Goal 1: The Student Union (SU) and the University/College authorities both create a Fairtrade policy incorporating these five goals.

How has the policy been maintained? Has anything been added to the policy? How is the Students' Union implementing the policy? How is the University/College Authority implementing the policy?

Actions taken:

Update on NUSSL-level action: As a result of policy pushed by the Students' Association (EUSA) NUSSL committed to a total switch to Fairtrade hot beverages by the beginning of 2007. We requested an update recently and this switch did indeed take place and is being maintained. We understand that NUSSL has a dilemma with an exclusive new coffee they are bringing in, in that it is very much a fairly-traded product but is unlikely to get the Fairtrade mark and they are concerned about the implications of this for universities with Fairtrade status. EUSA will not be affected as it doesn't actually buy hot drinks through NUSSL.

The University of Edinburgh's in-house catering operation, which is part of TUCO (The University Caterers' Organisation), has heavily influenced the roll out of certain products, initially through Scotland and now in the Northern England region. An example is Fairtrade sugar sticks which the supplier Brakes has now been able to provide at an attractive price – so other institutions are now moving from other suppliers or converting to Fairtrade for the first time.

Through TUCO membership has grown with Further Education Colleges now joining the Scotland and N Ireland Region of TUCO. This organisation represents all in-house catering in Universities and Colleges and 10 new members have joined the region in the past 6 months benefiting from TUCO national deals. The Assistant Director (catering) for Edinburgh University who oversees the operation of all University in-house catering is also Chair of the Scottish region of TUCO so has been directly promoting the use of Fairtrade beyond Edinburgh through procurement contracts

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Contact us if you need further clarification. 020 7405 5942

Result: Goal Maintained

Comments and further appropriate actions:

Since receiving Fairtrade status your University has shown a prominent level of growth in terms of its dedication to Fairtrade. The NUSSL –level action has been a great leap forward into implementing Fairtrade. I wish you the best of luck in making sure that the coffee introduced will meet Fairtrade standards. It's also great to see that the University of Edinburgh is making a great deal of effort in expanding the procurement of Fairtrade into contracts done through catering services. Great job!

Goal 2: Fairtrade products are made available for sale in all campus shops. Fairtrade products are used in all cafes/restaurants/bars on campus. Where this is not possible, there is a commitment to begin to use Fairtrade products in these establishments as soon as it becomes possible to do so.

Is there a wider variety of products now on offer? Has the university/college looked into Fairtrade cotton products?
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Actions taken:

- Working with a new supplier, Café Bar, it is planned to roll out Fairtrade hot chocolate to all in-house catering operations from 1st August 2007.
- The University operations now have only two coffee suppliers, Café Bar and Mathew Algie. All coffee continues to be Fairtrade as well as bulk tea being Fairtrade and using the full Clipper range of tea and speciality teas.
- The University is also now working with Green City Wholefoods as a local Glasgow supplier and bringing in some more Fairtrade products as they become available and budget levels allow them to be stocked. For example Fairtrade muffins are now available in all outlets, and Fairtrade rice is now being used. Most notable is the growth in use of products – see below
- EUSA continues to expand the range of Fairtrade products stocked in its shops. The cotton clothing range has been expanded to t-shirts as well as hoodies and now makes up more than half of the University clothing items on sale. For Fairtrade Fortnight 2008, the University Gift Shop (run by University not EUSA) also permanently switched its t-shirt ranges to Fairtrade cotton from Epona.
- Great attempts were made to stock a Fairtrade ale in our bars but at this stage the price is prohibitively expensive. EUSA are working on getting NUSSL to negotiate a bulk deal in this area. Fairtrade red and white wine continues to be an option in EUSA bars and on function wine lists.

Comparing financial year August 2005 to July 2006 and the past financial year 2006/2007, the growth in Fairtrade tea and coffee has been significant for the University in-house operations as all tea and coffee served across the whole University as default and there is no alternative. So regardless if a cup of coffee is for a student or coffee served at a commercial wedding, all is Fairtrade. In 2005/2006 over 1 million Fairtrade cups of coffee and nearly 200,000 cups of tea were served by the University in-house team. In 2006/2007 this has increased to 1,330,506 cups of coffee and tea increased to 940,920 cups. This was a result of a significant fine dining facility returning in-house in August 2006 and also a roll out of an online booking system to order catering for meeting rooms and offices. Also 50,000 sticks of Fairtrade brown and white sugar were used in 2006/07.

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For 2008 the EUSA Students' Union tea sales totalled 128,950 cups and coffee 363,800. New products have become available through working with The University Caterers Organisation, while EUSA continue to buy largely through NUSSL contracts. New products are rolled out to all University catering facilities.

A particularly successful product this year has been the introduction of Ubuntu/Fairtrade cola to EUSA shops; during the past year 833 cans have been sold.

The challenge is still to get Fairtrade products in large volume, and this is where pressure on suppliers always wins. As an example Mathew Algie – who from March 2004 has supplied the majority of our ground and filter coffee (Tikki Café) – did not have a Fairtrade tea option to make 10 pint quantities of tea at a time. The University had to source these from Holland. From early April Algies were able to supply a Fairtrade tea for all our bulk brew machines. However speciality teas are not yet available and University continues to use organic Clipper Teas for its in-house provision.

Any new tenders being issued by the University Procurement Office asks for a Fairtrade option – as part of a sustainability criterion against which suppliers will be assessed.

Result: **Goal Maintained**

What great progress in this goal! It's nice to see that Fairtrade cotton has been implemented into the sale of university merchandise. The sale of cola, rice and wines is a great step in cementing the Fairtrade mark at your University. The competitive prices of bars is a hard task however, the growth and expansion in the other areas you have made are significant. The financial calculation and usage of products is a great source for us to look at, thank you for the valuable information. I would suggest a directory providing students a list of where to obtain these products throughout the campus. Keep it up!

Goal 3: Fairtrade products (for example, coffee and tea) are served at all meetings hosted by the university/college and the Student Union, and are served in all university/college and Student Union management offices.

What further steps has the university/college taken to make Fairtrade products more widely available in meetings? Is Fairtrade served in conferences?

Actions taken:

A range of Fairtrade wines are now made available for all conferences should customers wish to choose them with no adverse difference in price. This has been taking place since March 2004.

All conferences that are catered for by EUSA, or the University of Edinburgh under its commercial brand Edinburgh First www.edinburghfirst.com, receive Fairtrade tea and coffee.

This also covers soluble Café Direct coffee sticks and Tea Direct bags used in all bedrooms during vacation periods when university accommodation is let commercially.

Result: **Goal Maintained**

Comments and further appropriate actions:

Excellent job! It is good to see that the use of Fairtrade products is being maintained for internal

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