



Fairtrade
Universities
Initiative

University / College Renewal Feedback Report

25 August 2009

Renewal Application for Fairtrade University / College Status

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University / College: University of Edinburgh

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Number of Students: over 26,424 (approximately 8,894 staff)

On behalf of: The SIFTG Steering Group

Date of submission: 25/06/09

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 at the beginning of 2007. We requested an update recently and this switch has been confirmed 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 unlikely to get the Fairtrade mark. 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 in-house catering operation buys all food products via two main consortia: The University of Edinburgh Caterers Organisation (TUCO) and Advanced Procurement for Universities and Colleges (APUC), the latter being centre of procurement expertise under the Public Procurement Reforms and TUCO representing the UK institutions. The University of Edinburgh Assistant Director of Catering is also Chair of the Scottish and Northern Ireland Region of TUCO and through proactive involvement in tenders, there is an ongoing aim to secure as many Fairtrade products as possible for catering use, whilst dealing with some ongoing and remaining issues of volume and ability to meet demand for certain fair trade products. TUCO membership

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continues to grow in the Scotland and N Ireland Region with 12 Colleges now full members of TUCO and benefiting fully from the national agreements and access to fair trade. Also on the TUCO National deal there is now a wider range of fair trade wines.

APUC is a member of the Environmental Advisors for Universities and Colleges – Scotland (EAUC-S) and on the steering group for the DfID Poverty Aware Procurement on Campus project. For example, we now source Fairtrade bananas through the APUC Fruit and Veg contracts, but there is still random supply as suppliers struggle to meet demand given the need for fully ripe bananas for catering on a daily basis.

Authority: The University Mission includes “*Make a significant, sustainable and socially responsible contribution to Scotland, the UK and the world, promoting health and economic and cultural wellbeing.*”

Vice-Principal Mary Bownes leads on one of Six Strategic themes of Promoting Equality, Diversity, Sustainability and Social Responsibility in the University Strategic Plan 2008-12, refers to maintaining our Fairtrade status.

http://www.planning.ed.ac.uk/strategic_planning/SP2008-12/SP0812.htm

The University Procurement Strategy has been redrafted and also includes relevant links and references to retain continuity in this area. We are influencing the public procurement reforms.

- We have started to review our group’s remit in the light of the Strategic Plan for next year.

Result: Goal Maintained

Comments and further appropriate actions:

Congratulations on your continued support and expansion of Fairtrade products. We recognise the value of your work with NUSSEL, encouraging them to stock only Fairtrade hot beverages. We hope that you will continue with your efforts here. We are also in contact with NUSSEL regarding their coffee brands but they inform us that their actions are led purely by the demands of their NUS members, so the more you push them to stick to Fairtrade contracts, the more we can increase the benefits to farmers through increased Fairtrade sales on campuses around the country!

With regards to Edinburgh University’s purchasing of Fairtrade products, we are very pleased to hear that you do push for the maximum amount of products bought by Catering to be Fairtrade certified. Please keep up the good work and continue to expand your Fairtrade Policy.

Well done!

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:

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- The University of Edinburgh operations now have three coffee machine suppliers and are going through a process of rationalisation currently, these are, Café Bar, Mathew Algie and Caber Coffee. Regardless of supplier, all actual coffee and tea product used is Fairtrade from beans to ground roast coffee to bulk brew tea. For all commercial catering activity this is also fair trade and for tea the full Clipper range of tea and speciality teas is used.
- The University of Edinburgh 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.
- In the Pollock Halls catered Halls of Residence, the University of Edinburgh has finally been able to find a bulk orange and pineapple juice solution with machines with scrolling LCD panel advertising fairtrade and bag in box 10 litre box concentrate of the product. The supplier is Krogab, and this juice is available to all 2,000 students on site and all commercial customers in the vacation periods when student accommodation and catering is sold commercially.
- 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 of Edinburgh clothing items on sale. For Fairtrade Fortnight 2009, the University of Edinburgh Gift Shop (run by University communications and media not EUSA) also permanently switched its T-shirt ranges to Fairtrade cotton, sourced from Epona.
- The students' union shops have introduced numerous new Fairtrade snacks and chocolates.
- EUSA have won a catering contract to supply a catered facility at the National Library of Scotland. Fairtrade goods will form an integral part of this agreement which will include tea, coffee, chocolate, sugar, confectionary, fruit, juices and wine etc.

Ongoing:

EUSA sales of tea and coffee in the students' union venues across the campus during 2008-2009 totalled 270,168 cups of tea and coffee. EUSA has also sold over 1,500 cans of Ubuntu/Fairtrade cola as well as juices, snacks, chocolate and 95 bottles of Fairtrade wine in the student union bars.

Total sales value within the student shops during 2008-2009 was £29,000 the total portfolio of products was as follows: Fruit Juice, Ubuntu Cola, Chocolate, Coffee, Tea, Snacks and Wine.

Fairtrade consumption figures for the University (out with EUSA) are 1,330,506 cups of coffee, 940,920 cups of tea, 50,000 sticks of Fairtrade brown and white sugar during 2008-09.

The challenge is still to get Fairtrade products in large volume, and one such success is now the fair trade orange and pineapple juice supplied by Krogab. With the new machines installed January 2009, projected consumption will be 15,000 litres per year. In addition all units still offer the 500ml bottles of Fairtrade orange juice. Any new tenders being issued by the University of Edinburgh Procurement Office asks for a fair trade option – part of a sustainability criterion in whole life costs.

Although not Fairtrade, the University of Edinburgh is regularly taking steps in respect to food miles and free range products. One such example is that all eggs now served in University in-house operations are free range. This was not easy task to find a supplier who could meet the volume challenge and we are now supplied with 160,000 eggs annually which are Freedom Food, Lion Accredited and date stamped, by Oxenrig Eggs based just over the Scottish Border in Northumberland. This now equates to 50% of all this companies sales of hen eggs.

Result: Goal Maintained

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Fantastic news that you have sourced all tea, coffee and fruit drinks in the University as Fairtrade and expanded on the range of Fairtrade cotton that you sell especially in your gift shop where we are pleased to see all cotton is Fairtrade certified. The sales figures prove that there is a demand for the Fairtrade mark among students and your work with local suppliers is really positive. Although you had difficulty sourcing free range products, your persistence has proved that consumer demands can make a difference and exemplifies the need for a great supply of sustainable goods. Great work keeping the pressure on your suppliers and sourcing new ones when your needs weren't met.

Are you aware of the latest products to be launched under the Fairtrade certification? You can now buy Fairtrade beauty products such as moisturisers and foot lotions and Fairtrade olive oil from Palestine, to find out more, check out our webpage

<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/products/default.aspx>

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:

An extended range of Fairtrade wines are now available through the TUCO National wines and spirits contract 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 of Edinburgh under its commercial brand Edinburgh First www.edinburghfirst.com, receive Fairtrade tea and coffee.

This also covers soluble Café Direct coffee and sugar 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:

Well done for expanding into Fairtrade wines, do customers know that they are using Fairtrade items? You can order table talkers posters from our internet site. It is great news that the tea and coffee is now the default item. We encourage you to provide as many Fairtrade items as possible for conferences – have you considered Fairtrade fresh fruit or juices? The more Fairtrade items that are offered as default the better – keep up the good work!

Goal 4: There is a commitment to campaign for increased Fairtrade consumption on campus.

What additional campaigns and promotional activities/events have been organised over the past year? What press/media coverage has been achieved?
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Actions taken:

Actions taken:

- The University of Edinburgh main website featured a Fairtrade news link before and during Fairtrade Fortnight 2009. We invited press to events – 5th Tea Party and Banana Flashmob.

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- The homepage of The University of Edinburgh Web site has the Fairtrade logo displayed on a permanent rotating basis with other logos www.ed.ac.uk/about/affiliations/. As the first page of the entire institution's web presence, this will give the Mark a great deal of exposure externally.
- The Fairtrade status is now featured in articles in the Prospectuses for both undergraduate and postgraduate students. Our Strategic Plan has wide publicity and refers to Fairtrade status.
- EUSA now includes the Fairtrade logo, with the line 'Proud to be a Fairtrade Union' at the bottom of all letter-headed paper.

Freshers' Week Sept 2009

People & Planet incorporated the Fairtrade message into a number of their Freshers' Week events.

- A Fairtrade picnic was held, there was a wide selection of Fairtrade food and drinks available to try, also information was available.
- A day-long event for new students included a session with the co-ordinator of the Scottish Fairtrade Forum, as well as Fairtrade snacks.

Student societies such as People&Planet and The Young Greens hosted a number of sessions throughout the year including;

- A question and answer session with Norman Chipakupaku, trade justice campaigner
- A screening of the film Black Gold.

Student campaigns

Students worked on a number of Fairtrade campaigns.

- Working with the Student Union to provide information boards 1 meter in size which were displayed giving information about Fairtrade at the University of Edinburgh.
- Asking for the Train companies to offer Fairtrade products
- Plans are underway to ask students at The University of Edinburgh to visit schools to discuss the benefits and ethos of the Fairtrade Foundation.
- Volunteer works with the Scottish Fair Trade Forum to help make Scotland a Fair Trade nation.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2009

All those involved with Fairtrade at the University of Edinburgh managed to pull together a packed programme of events for this year's FTFortnight, demonstrating that there is still a great deal of enthusiasm for the cause.

To mark the Fairtrade Fortnight, building on the success of 2008, this fortnight also marked The University of Edinburgh of Edinburgh's 5th birthday, with the Programme shown below:

Fairtrade Fortnight Events 23rd February- 6th March 2009

Monday 23rd February

5 years on, what now for The University of Edinburgh of Edinburgh and Fair Trade

Norman Chipakupaku – former Zambian politician and trade justice campaigner, gave a talk and discussion hosted by People and Planet.

Tuesday 24th February

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Tea Party to celebrate five years as a Fairtrade University

This party was hosted by The University of Edinburgh of Edinburgh and Students Association with special guests: Towera Jalakasi, - a Malawian Fairtrade businesswoman

[This included members the Scottish Fair Trade Nation campaign team. The Student President invited 5 local University Student Presidents to Tea and press were invited. A Fairtrade 5th birthday cake made with fair trade ingredients (where possible) was donated by University Accommodation Services catering team. Other university management also attended.]

Thursday 26th February

'Fair Trade: feel-good fashion or global blueprint?'

Dr Mark Hayes, University of Cambridge provided a review of the Fair Trade model from an academic-activist perspective. What would a just trading system look like?

Mark is Senior Research Fellow in Economics at The University of Edinburgh of Edinburgh of Cambridge and a Visiting Fellow in Durham Business School. He is also the principal founder and Managing Director of Shared Interest, a financial cooperative supporting the Fair Trade movement. Talk hosted by The University of Edinburgh of Edinburgh Just World Institute

'Producer talk: How can nuts help save the Amazon rainforest and provide livelihoods?'

Special guest: Alex Chamas, Bolivian nut farmer

Talk hosted by the Young Greens, with thanks to Equal Exchange, Scotland's pioneer Fair Trade company

'Palestine: Fairtrade olives growing a fairer future'

Special guests: Nasser Abufarha, Chair of the Palestine Fair Trade Association, and Mahmoud Issa, President of the Fair Trade Producers' Company

Promoted by the Palestine Solidarity Society

Wednesday 4th March

'Can your shopping basket change the world?'

Panel debate hosted by the **Fairtrade Foundation**

Friday 6th March

Students held a Banana Flashmob in the centre of the campus. Fairtrade bananas were being handed out, students dressed in yellow clothing, followed by a presentation by a Glasgow artist of two short films about banana workers in South America.

City and Nation - events supported

The University of Edinburgh was also involved in promoting a number of city-wide events such as a talk by the Chair of the Palestine Fair Trade Association on the Fairtrade olive farms in Palestine, and a panel debate hosted by the Fairtrade Foundation, attended by a number of University staff. Staff volunteers on the Edinburgh Fairtrade City initiative participated in a Lord Provost's Fairtrade reception including talks from Betsy Reed of the Scottish Fair Trade Forum, members of Imani who sponsored part of the event with Scotmid Co-op who arranged a Fairtrade wine tasting with Rose Murray Brown, well-known wine specialist.

Staff also participated in the excellent Fairtrade Schools Showcase at St Thomas of Acquin School, chatting to attendees on Fairtrade University activities. Pupils from Trinity Academy joined the Banana Flashmob and the films, and brought their teacher.

We distributed 200 Fairtrade stickers for the City group to outlets prior to World Fairtrade Day May. We built a link to staff in Napier University who recently gained their Fairtrade University status.

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- Our Assistant Director (Catering) was asked to speak to the Scottish Fairtrade Forum campaign Board at their AGM held in the University Fairtrade-catered premises at Pollock.
- Staff and students attended a Scotland Fair Trade Nation reception at the Scottish Parliament.
- A student, Ben Miller, has been volunteer Board Secretary for the Scottish Fair Trade Forum.

Result: Goal Maintained

Comments and further appropriate actions:

As the First Scottish University to gain status, Edinburgh University had a lot to live up to, so we applaud you for keeping the issues of Fairtrade foremost and engaging the students with such fantastic and empowering speeches and events. This no doubt reflects the future of Fairtrade and gives students campaigning experience in an engaging and challenging issue. Remember that trade justice is at the heart of the Fairtrade movement and exploration of these issues could be a way to move forward in the next term. Have you considered integrating Fairtrade into some of your courses? It is surprising how many courses Fairtrade has been incorporated into at other universities, from social enterprise, development and economics to fashion, journalism and Language degrees. By involving members of the faculty in the steering group, or encouraging students to use Fairtrade in their course projects you can encourage Fairtrade to be explored even further by students at your university.

Goal 5: Set up a Fairtrade Steering Group.

Amend the members of the steering group if anyone has been replaced? How often has the group met over the past year? How have they maintained the work?

Actions taken:

Actions taken:

- The joint staff-student Sustainability Issues and Fairtrade Group (SIFTG) met 5 times during the past 12 months under the convenership of the Director of Procurement (for the Vice Principal)*.
- People and Planet – student campaigning society – joined the group during 2005-2006 and continues to proactively assist the SIFTG group during 2008-2009.
- The EUSA President and Vice President sabbatical reps change each year (but are almost always elected with commitments to promoting the Fairtrade message).
- Students from any Fairtrade and related societies are encouraged to self-nominate.
- Staff who have an interest are encouraged to self-nominate or be corresponding members.
- Staff from the Press Office joined in place of a Communications and Marketing colleague.
- The Director of Procurement and the Procurement Manager worked tirelessly as volunteers with the City of Edinburgh Council Fairtrade Initiative, now also involved in two subgroups.
- The group reports progress 3 times a year to The University of Edinburgh Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Group (SEAG), a Committee of the University of Edinburgh Central Management, chaired by a Vice Principal.

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- * Vice-Principal Professor Mary Bownes leads on one of Six Strategic themes of Promoting Equality, Diversity, Sustainability and Social Responsibility in the University Strategic Plan 2008-12.
- We have started to review the group's remit in the light of the Strategic Plan for next year.

Result: Goal Maintained

Comments and further appropriate actions:

Your successful maintenance and development of all 5 goals is a clear reflection of the hard work of the steering group involved. It is great to see groups like people and planet integrating into the steering group and proves the dynamic nature the of Edinburgh University Fairtrade movement. Remember to keep us up to date with any new contact details of staff or students. Previous universities have improved the running of their steering group by setting up mini action group, who work on single issues and report back to the main group. This could be a possible structure for your future group. Well done for all your hard work.

Signed			
Name	Veronica Pasteur	Sarah Jewell	 Elma Jenkins
Position	Head of Campaigns	Campaigns Manager	University Volunteer
Date	11/08/09		

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