

Fairtrade at The University of Oxford

Fairtrade is about social, economic and environmental justice.

The Fairtrade scheme gives special attention to the growing challenges climate change brings to farmers and workers in the communities that produce our day-to-day products. By being paid a fair rate, farmers, producers, and communities are more equipped to meet their everyday needs and deal with the challenges posed by climate change. Therefore, **Fairtrade is about climate justice.**

Oxford has been a proud Fairtrade University since June 2018, along with several of its constituent colleges. To date, the participating colleges are:

Christ Church, Corpus Christi College, Lady Margaret Hall, Green Templeton College, The Queen's College and Wadham College.

Fairtrade is part of the University's Environmental Sustainability Strategy as part of the sustainable food priority.

What we achieved so far

- The Oxford University Fairtrade working group has been continuously active since 2018. It has representation from across the collegiate University, including domestic bursars, GLAM, the Student Union, contract management, catering services, environmental sustainability and more.
- We promote Fairtrade across the University in an ongoing manner. In a 2022 survey, 99% of responders said that they had heard about Fairtrade, with over 80% reporting Fairtrade products purchased occasionally or frequently. 84% of staff and students would like to see a greater variety of Fairtrade food and drinks across the University and Colleges.
- Fairtrade Fortnight is marked annually across the University and colleges.
- Fairtrade and conscience consumption are part of the Environmental Sustainability induction during Fresher's Fair with additional publications over social media.
- Fairtrade products (tea, cocoa, sugar, confiserie, bananas and partially coffee) are served as default in most of the University outlets and in many of the college dining halls. Fairtrade products are also default in the University primary caterer for hospitality (events).
- Additional products such as Fairtrade wine and juice are served in colleges dining halls.
- Purchasing Fairtrade products is listed as the preferred practice in all relevant guiding documents, including [general induction](#), [How to live sustainably in Oxford](#), [Returning to work onsite](#), and [conscience consumption guide](#).

Fairtrade working group – action plan

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2023-24

- Maintain the work done by the working group and invite additional participants to join (Number of participants >7, number of meetings >3, annually).
- Relate to Fairtrade and conscience consumption in publications throughout the year. (Number of publications >4, numbers of impressions >3000 annually)
- Include purchasing Fairtrade products as preferred practice in any relevant guidance.
- Mark Fairtrade Fortnight annually in a date with suitable exposure of students and staff. (exposure of >1500 students and staff)
- Ongoing engagement with University caterers to ensure clear presence of Fairtrade products in outlets across the University.
- Extend cooperation with local schools and other Fairtrade groups in the area.
- Encourage students to pass a Fairtrade motion in their colleges. (Through E&Es and environmental sustainability network. Reminder at least once a year)
- Continue to evaluate the supply chain and address potential to increase the portfolio of Fairtrade products. (At least once a year for central University, Student Union and colleges)
- Reassess project goals and actions for continuous improvement. (Annually in a designated meeting with follow-up as required)

*The delivery of the actions above is the responsibility of the working group and are evaluated annually.

For more information or to get a link to your representative in the working group, please [email us](#).

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