

UWE Bristol Palm Oil Statement

1. UWE Bristol's Environmental Sustainability Policy commits the university to minimise its impacts on the environment and to use its teaching, research, estates operations and supply chain to extend its influence through the lifecycle of our activities to derive both environmental sustainability benefits and business benefits.
2. UWE Bristol recognises that the destruction of biodiversity is one of the most critical environmental issues facing global society and UWE Bristol is committed to continually improving and updating its response to this challenge.
3. The production of palm oil from unsustainable, poorly managed oil palm plantations is one of the leading causes of biodiversity loss in Asia and other parts of the globe.
4. The university recognises the importance of palm oil production as an economic development opportunity but expects that plantations will be designed and managed in a sustainable manner minimising the destruction of biodiversity. Furthermore, we expect that the employment opportunities provided by oil palm plantations will meet globally accepted norms for employment terms and conditions.
5. Palm oil and palm oil derivatives are ubiquitous within food stuffs, cleaning products, cosmetics and the supply chain of these items.
6. The university will use its research and teaching activities to build awareness amongst students, employees, partners and the public of the issues associated with palm oil.
7. The university will seek to work in partnership with the Students' Union at UWE, sector partners and other agencies, and where possible will use its purchasing power to drive change and to promote and enhance the sustainability of palm oil production.
8. The university recognises that the Round Table on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) provides the most authoritative information on the sustainability of oil palm plantations. The university will regularly review the suitability of RSPO to provide the most authoritative guidance on the sustainability of palm oil production.
9. The university will encourage sector purchasing consortia to adopt RSPO certification, or equivalent standards, as the norm in future tenders and will engage with the National Union of Students and sector environmental bodies to promote awareness and sector engagement.
10. The university increasingly will expect that its purchases of catering products and cleaning products will be certified to RSPO and that, where possible, by 2020 all products that UWE Bristol purchases will meet this expectation.
11. This Statement will be reviewed annually by the University's Sustainability Board and monitored through the sustainability reporting processes of the university.

Professor James Longhurst
Assistant Vice Chancellor of Environment and Sustainability
May 2018