

**EAUC Palm Oil and Biodiversity Webinar: FAQ’s**

**How can I make a difference as a consumer? Which companies use sustainable palm oil?**

Do not boycott all palm oil, opt to use sustainable instead! As palm oil is so high yielding, using alternative oils will only serve to intensify and displace the problem.

There is a very useful tool on the RSPO website, whereby you can access any of their members annual progress reports. If you’d like to investigate whether a particular company uses certified palm oil, this may be the best option.

WWF also produced a free palm oil buyers scorecard in 2016, which can be found here: <https://c402277.ssl.cf1.rackcdn.com/publications/945/files/original/po_scorecard_2016_final.pdf?1474419226>

Larger companies may also have a palm oil statement on their website, for example:

Body Shop: <https://www.thebodyshop.com/en-gb/help/company-information/palm-oil>

Aldi: <https://www.aldi.co.uk/about-aldi/corporate-responsibility/resources-for-our-products/sustainable-palm-oil>

COOP: <https://blog.coop.co.uk/2018/07/03/your-top-palm-oil-questions-answered/>

You can also look for the RSPO logo on individual products (see right), however some companies may not advertise that they use sustainable palm oil – it is always best to check the website!

**Is sustainable palm oil more expensive for businesses?**

At present sustainable palm oil is charged at a premium, this is due in part to only 19% of all palm oil produced being RSPO certified. However, support from businesses across the globe would encourage producers in Indonesia and Malaysia to make the initial investment. This increased production would eventually drive prices down.

**Is it possible for an unsustainable palm oil plantation to become sustainable?**

Most definitely! Palm oil producers can phase out their use of harmful agrochemicals, provide training and pay their workers a fair wage, when expanding their plantation, they could ensure that the area is on degraded land (and not of high conservation value – including primary rainforest) to name but a few!

**Are there different types of sustainable palm oil?**

Yes, the RSPO has 4 grades of palm oil - identity preserved, segregated, mass balance, book and claim (Green Palm). You can find out more about them here: <https://www.rspo.org/certification/supply-chains>

**How can I get my institution more involved?**

Take the sustainable palm oil pledge! Join forces with UWE and commit to using only RSPO certified palm oil products at your HEI. By joining our working group, we will provide you with the support to draft and implement a sustainable palm oil policy and/or include sustainable palm oil in your future strategic plans: <https://amystaff.typeform.com/to/TbaLN8>