



Approaches to fair trade in educational institutions in 2015

Institution: City College Plymouth

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What is your institution currently doing about fair trade and working conditions in supply chains? (procurement and product sales, awareness-raising, research, teaching, other?)

City College Plymouth's Procurement Team ensure that Request for Quotes and Tenders include a sustainability weighting as part of the scoring criteria. Within sustainability we request information such as ethical trading accreditation which could include Fairtrade (we cannot specify that a company must have the label as per the EU regulations), ISO 14000 or any documentation regarding ethical trading. We place emphasis on our suppliers to consider alternative options for their product lines and we also educate our supplier base to look into their contacts for ethical, sustainable trading practices. Those suppliers that can demonstrate a keen interest in where their products come from, score higher and quotes are never based on lowest cost. We ensure that the supplier we award a contract to have sound ethical practices via their own Corporate Social Responsibility policies and back it up with certification. The Procurement Team actively contact suppliers to request details on their Fairtrade product lines and what they can offer the College as an alternative, which raises awareness not only for our suppliers but also engages the faculties.

What plans do you have, or what would you like to do in future regarding fair trade in your institution?

- Increase the number of Fairtrade food and drink items sold in College eateries
- Continue to engage with students to run Fairtrade events (i.e. festival/ celebration meal)
- Increase the number of departments who wear Fairtrade uniforms
- Look to purchase Fairtrade clothing for students
- Continue to work with Plymouth City Council to promote Fairtrade to Plymouth's residents businesses and visitors.