

Motion to Implement Food Waste/Compost Bins and Compostable Cutlery

Proposed by – Joseph El-Kadi

Seconded by – Milia Hasbani

Union Notes

1. There exist no food waste/compost bins in place at canteens/cafes on campus or in general locations on campus; i.e. the library, entrance of buildings and hallways.
2. Imperial College Halls of Residence have food waste/compost bins in place.
3. Imperial has “The Compod” composting unit which processes 1.1 tonnes of food waste produced each week in catering outlets on the South Kensington Campus¹.
4. Food waste/compost can be divided into 2 categories²:
 - a. Compost “Green Waste”: vegetables, leaves, fruit peelings.
 - b. Food “Brown Waste”: teabags, coffee grinds (including paper filters), wooden stirrers/cutlery, paper towels, leftover sandwiches, pasta, snacks, cooked food including meat and fish, chocolate and of course, compostable cutlery.
5. Food Waste/Compost can be treated to produce fertiliser that can be used for gardening purposes on campus (as done by the University of Bradford³).
6. Food Waste/Compost can alternatively be treated to be bought by a contractor and used as a biogas fuel source for heating (as done by the University of Newcastle⁴).
 - a. Newcastle University: “We produce about 1000L of food waste every week. This is waste from the offices and kitchens and does not include canteen waste.”
7. Greening Imperial is a College-wide scoping study which exists to look into Imperial’s sustainability and climate change action.
 - a. Greening Imperial conducted a survey on compost bins in Autumn 2017 term but the results have not been made available yet as far as the proposer is aware.
 - b. Compostable cutlery was trialled over the summer but results have not been made available yet as far as the proposer is aware.

Union Believes

1. We have a moral and environmental duty to push for minimising landfill waste on campus.
2. As a leading university that prides itself for innovation and sustainability, we should be leading the movement towards compost bins and compostable cutlery to reduce waste sent to landfills.
3. Since food waste/compost waste bins already exist in halls, they should also be extended to campuses.

Union Resolves

1. To mandate the Ethics and Environment Officer to call upon Greening Imperial to provide the results from the compostable cutlery trial and the food waste/compost bin survey.
2. To mandate, based on the survey results, the Ethics and Environmental Officer and Deputy President (Finance and Services) (of this year and next year) to cooperate with Greening Imperial to lobby College and Taste Imperial to implement compost bins and compostable cutlery on all campuses, starting with the South Kensington Campus.

¹ <http://www.imperial.ac.uk/estates-facilities/buildings/services/waste-disposal/initiatives/food-waste-composting/>

² <https://www.diynetwork.com/how-to/outdoors/gardening/how-to-compost-and-the-different-types-of-compost-bins>

³ <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/estates/environment/be-greener/advice-waste/waste-a-z/#F>

⁴ <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/sustainable-campus/waste/recycle/food/>