

Proposer: Aaron Caulfield
Seconder: Imogen Robertson
Date: 02/11/2022



Motion Title: Plant-Based Commitment Motion

Motion Resolves:

That a transition towards a plant-based food system begin within Stirling Students Union, with the intention of 50% plant-based being achieved by the beginning of the 2023/24 Academic Year - with 100% to be achieved in no later than 2025.

That an officer of the Student's Union, being appointed at the discretion of the Sabbatical Officers, be designated to report to a general meeting of the Student's Union the progress of such transition, on no less than once per academic semester, inclusive of this 2022/23 academic year.

That this motion be adopted.

Motion Notes:

That this Union acknowledged on the 3rd of October 2021 in the 'Climate Emergency Motion' the presence of a climate emergency of human origin - this emergency has also been noted by local and regional governments.

That globally the largest proportion of emissions from food production comes from animal agriculture (57%), with the emissions worldwide exceeding the entire emissions of the United States - and 1kg of beef requiring 70kg of emissions to produce¹² (Xu, Sharma et al., 2021).

That comparatively, the production of plant-based foods contributes to only 29% of emissions - with the worst emitter of plant-based food only contributing to 12% of overall food emissions - with beef sitting at 25%³ (Xu, Sharma et al., 2021)

That this climate emergency is exceptionally pressing with the United Nations saying that 'more ambitious action [is] needed now'⁴.

Motion Believes:

That a transition to plant-based food is a necessary step in the development of a more sustainable food system, and to reduce the climatic effect on the planet.

That this transition can be achieved without detriment to any particular person(s).

That this transition should aim to end in a entirely plant-based food system within Stirling Students Union.

¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/sep/13/meat-greenhouses-gases-food-production-study#:~:text=The%20use%20of%20cows%2C%20pigs,as%20for%20cotton%20or%20rubber.>

² Xiaoming Xu, Prateek Sharma et al. 'Global greenhouse gas emissions from animal-based foods are twice those of plant-based foods' (Nature Food, vol 2, 2021, pg 724-732)

³ *ibid*

⁴ <https://unfccc.int/news/climate-plans-remain-insufficient-more-ambitious-action-needed-now>