



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

**CAMPUS
FOOD AND
DRINK**

Campus Food and Drink Sustainable Food Policy

Why is sustainable food important?

Sustainable development can be defined as 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs', Sustainable Development Commission (SDC).

The economy, the environment and society are inextricably linked: activity in one area will cause an impact in another, either positively or negatively. The impact of greenhouse gases on the climate shows that there are environmental limits to economic growth, and economic activity that exceeds these limits is clearly unsustainable.

By paying attention to sustainable development, we can begin to balance the impacts of economic activity with its effect upon society and the environment. The provision of food has a complex relationship with health and the environment, universities have a significant opportunity to create benefits for their students, staff and visitors.

There is no single agreed definition of sustainable food, the following details the key areas of concern Campus Food and Drink wants to address as part of a sustainable food policy. Sustain the alliance for better food and farming defines sustainable food as food that should be produced, processed and traded in ways that:

- Contributes to thriving local economies and sustainable livelihoods – both in the UK, Ireland and producer countries
- Protect the diversity of both plants and animals (and the welfare of farmed and wild species)
- Avoid damaging natural resources and avoid contributing to climate change
- Provide social benefits, such as good quality food, safe and healthy products and educational opportunities