



URDANETA CITY UNIVERSITY'S POLICY ON ETHICAL SOURCING OF FOOD AND SUPPLIES IN SUPPORT OF SDG 12: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

In support of the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production)**, Urdaneta City University (UCU) upholds a strong commitment to sustainability, social responsibility, and ethical procurement through the implementation of its **Policy on Ethical Sourcing of Food and Supplies**.

Created in **2023** and **reviewed in 2024**, this policy ensures that all food products, materials, and supplies procured by the university meet ethical, environmental, and social standards. UCU recognizes that ethical sourcing not only promotes responsible consumption but also supports fair trade, sustainable production, and community well-being.

The policy requires that all suppliers, vendors, and service providers adhere to the following key principles:

- **Fair Labor Practices:** Suppliers must uphold fair wages, safe working conditions, and respect for human rights throughout their supply chain.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Preference is given to suppliers who use eco-friendly packaging, minimize waste, and adopt sustainable farming or production methods.
- **Local and Sustainable Sourcing:** UCU prioritizes local producers and suppliers to reduce transportation emissions and support community-based enterprises.
- **Food Safety and Quality:** All food suppliers must comply with national safety standards and maintain high-quality, responsibly sourced ingredients.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** Vendors must provide documentation verifying the ethical and sustainable origin of their products.

Implementation of this policy is overseen by the **Office of Environmental Management and the Procurement Office**, which evaluate suppliers based on ethical sourcing criteria. Regular assessments ensure that all contracts and purchases align with the university's sustainability goals.

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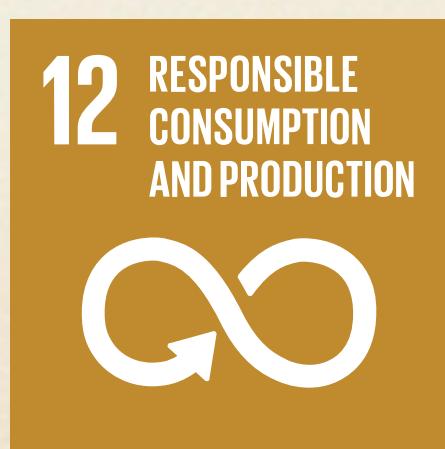
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Evidence of UCU's commitment can be seen in its partnerships with local food providers using biodegradable packaging, the procurement of sustainably produced goods, and the reduction of imported or high-carbon-footprint products. The university also incorporates sustainability standards into its **bidding and accreditation processes** for suppliers and contractors.

By institutionalizing ethical sourcing practices, **Urdaneta City University** ensures that its procurement processes not only meet operational needs but also promote fairness, environmental protection, and responsible consumption. This initiative directly supports **SDG 12** by encouraging sustainable production patterns and ethical economic participation.

Through this policy, UCU reaffirms its role as a model of sustainability and social responsibility in higher education building a community that values integrity, sustainability, and ethical stewardship in every aspect of its operations.

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1. Policy Statement

Urdaneta City University (UCU) is committed to ensuring that all food and supplies procured, sold, or distributed within the university are ethically sourced, environmentally sustainable, and socially responsible. This policy supports the principles of Sustainable Development Goal 12 (SDG 12): Responsible Consumption and Production, by promoting sustainable procurement and encouraging fair trade and local sourcing practices.

2. Objectives

- To ensure that all suppliers and vendors uphold ethical, environmental, and social responsibility standards.
- To promote sustainable food production and reduce the university's ecological footprint.
- To support local and fair-trade producers and suppliers.
- To increase awareness of ethical sourcing practices among students, faculty, and staff.

3. Scope

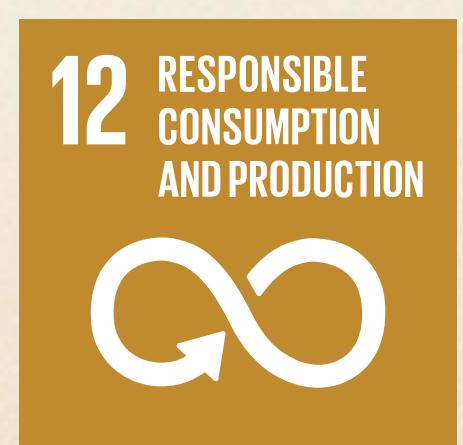
This policy applies to all university units, offices, canteens, food vendors, and third-party suppliers involved in the procurement, catering, and supply of food, beverages, and materials within Urdaneta City University.

4. Policy Guidelines

1. Sustainable and Ethical Procurement

- The university shall prioritize suppliers that demonstrate sustainable and ethical sourcing practices, including fair labor conditions and environmentally responsible production.
- Contracts with suppliers must include commitments to ethical sourcing standards.

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2. Local and Fair-Trade Products

- UCU encourages the procurement of locally produced goods to reduce transportation emissions and support the regional economy.
- Where feasible, the university will prefer suppliers certified under fair-trade or equivalent ethical standards.

3. Environmental Responsibility

- All food and supply purchases must minimize packaging waste, especially plastic, and promote biodegradable or recyclable materials.
- Suppliers are encouraged to use eco-friendly packaging and sustainable logistics.

4. Health and Safety Standards

- Food suppliers and vendors must comply with national food safety laws and university hygiene requirements.
- The university promotes nutritious and responsibly produced food options in all canteens and events.

5. Responsibilities

- The **Procurement Office** shall oversee supplier selection and ensure compliance with ethical sourcing standards.
- The **Environmental and Sustainability Office** shall monitor implementation and submit annual reports on compliance and progress.
- **Food vendors and suppliers** are required to provide documentation verifying their ethical sourcing practices.
- **Faculty, staff, and students** are encouraged to support and advocate for responsible consumption choices within the university.

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6. Monitoring and Evaluation

- Annual evaluations shall be conducted to assess supplier compliance with this policy.
- Progress reports will be integrated into UCU's annual **Sustainability Report**, highlighting achievements and areas for improvement in ethical sourcing.

7. Policy Review

This policy was **created in 2023** and **reviewed in 2024** to ensure continuous alignment with evolving national sustainability standards, ethical trade regulations, and university values.

8. Alignment with SDG 12

This policy directly supports **SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production**, promoting ethical procurement, sustainable food systems, and responsible use of resources to foster long-term environmental and social well-being.

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