

9.6. R. 3 – MOTION TO IMPLEMENT A MEAT-FREE MONDAY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS

THIS SRC NOTES THAT:

1. Meatless Monday was a campaign established in 2003 by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (continuously ranked the no.1 public health school in the US for almost two decades) to raise awareness about the environmental and health benefits of lowering meat consumption.
 - 1.1 Meat-Free Monday was a campaign set up by Paul McCartney in 2009.
2. The United Nations has stated that the livestock sector is currently “one of the top two or three most significant contributors to the most serious environmental problems, at every scale from local to global”.
 - 2.1 Moreover the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN calculate that around one fifth of the world’s pollution comes from the Meat industry. Other organisations, however, have estimated that the real proportion could be significantly higher.
 - 2.2 It is estimated that the combined greenhouse gas emissions from the foods we eat in the UK are the equivalent of 167 million tons of carbon dioxide.
3. In 2010, a study carried out by Oxford University’s department of public health found that eating meat no more than three times a week could prevent 31,000 deaths from heart disease, 9,000 deaths from cancer and 5,000 deaths from stroke, as well as save the NHS £1.2 billion in costs each year. Former chief scientific officer Sir Liam Donaldson has said that reducing the UK’s consumption of animal products by 30 per cent [by 2030] would prevent 18,000 premature deaths every year.
4. Al Gore formally endorsed the Meatless Monday campaign before EU Parliament and has said that it was one of the Top 12 Things You Can Do Now for a better world on his Climate Crisis blog.
5. Major universities such as Harvard, Yale, Oxford and McGill have implemented such a policy, it has also been supported by world cities such as Los Angeles, San Francisco and Ghent. All those who supported the initiative at Harvard received a personal letter of thanks from Paul McCartney.
6. Research carried out by Transition within the University indicates support for more vegetarian and sustainable options.
7. In the People & Planet Green League 2012, which has been publicised by the Guardian and the Times, St Andrews ranked 75th with a score of 34.5 out of 70. This is below rival universities such as Durham, LSE and Edinburgh.
 - 7.1 St Andrews is noted as having a particularly poor record regarding food sustainability.
 - 7.2 Such a record could be improved by providing more ‘sustainable’ food and ‘less and better meat.’

THIS SRC BELIEVES THAT:

1. The Union and the University have a role to play in protecting the environment.
2. That such a policy would attract positive press and improve the Union and the University’s image and reputation vis-à-vis sustainability.
3. Such a policy would save money as in addition to being more sustainable, meat-free protein sources are generally cheaper.
4. To campaign to educate students on the benefit of a Meatless Monday.

THIS SRC RESOLVES THAT:

1. That a policy should be discussed with the commercial services of the Union, to provide only sustainable, meat free meals at least one day a week (not necessarily Monday).
2. The current student opinion, with particular emphasis or particular attention to senior students are residential students business service, in implementing such a policy across halls of residence and all university-owned property should be investigated.

PROPOSED: Callum Bryce