

Towards Zero Carbon Catering Procurement Compact

"We, the signatories of this Procurement Compact, share a common commitment to a step change reduction in the carbon emissions resulting from our catering activities over the next five years. While it is clear that catering companies and their customers have taken major strides to reduce the environmental impact of their catering operations, the focus has predominately been on sustainability and waste as opposed to low or zero carbon. While welcome, these are not sufficient to meet our 'towards zero carbon' aspirations.

To achieve this we will need to buy progressively lower-carbon catering goods and services; including the procurement of food goods, their transportation and distribution, the methods and equipment involved in food preparation, through to the management of food waste.

This drive 'towards zero carbon' will be reflected in the way we evaluate all future catering tenders. For example we will incorporate progressively tighter standards in our Requests for Quotes and tenders, and we will be selecting suppliers on the basis of their ability to deliver solutions that offer the lowest carbon impact while meeting all of our normal standards and costs.

The publication of this Procurement Compact launches a period of consultation with the supply chain; we are calling on the catering supply chain to propose ways in which they can deliver ever lower-carbon solutions to meet our requirements, and propose standards that will generate a move towards zero carbon catering over the next five years.

It is our intention to engage the supply chain in a dialogue regarding this requirement and to work with the catering supply chain to help them differentiate their product offerings with innovative, low-carbon solutions.

We are committed to actively pursuing a move to progressively lower-carbon catering goods and services that meet operational needs and whole life cost criteria and will make any necessary adjustments to procurement process such as including progressively tighter carbon standards in future catering procurements, Requests for Quotes and tenders, and include within the evaluation of supply chain offerings the extent to which they meet the 'towards zero carbon' requirement."

Invitation to suppliers - call for expressions of interest

Suppliers and stakeholders are encouraged to participate here www.cpsl.cam.ac.uk/procurement or further information can be provided at UKprocurement@cpsl.cam.ac.uk.