



Sustainable crockery and cutlery policy

This policy provides an overview on how RUSU operates, with the intention of contributing to sustainable goals as outlined in the Strategic Operating Plan. This policy will outline current steps RUSU follows to provide sustainably sourced bar and catering consumables.

Adaptations to the processes outlined in this document may be made for the purposes of enhancing sustainability.

All RUSU outlets adhere to these policies. This includes Mojors, Café Mondial, Monterey and 3sixty. We also work with our franchisee outlets to encourage them to adopt sustainable practices.

1) Bars

a) Straws

Our bars stock green-coloured biodegradable straws which can be provided to students. Unless the drink requires a straw for consumption (as with some cocktails), a straw must be asked for and will be charged at 5p.

Straws are provided free of charge for anyone who may need one for accessibility purposes. No one will be questioned about nor asked to prove their disability.

b) Cups

We aim to use glassware whenever possible. This is subject to safety concerns, and on busy nights (including Wednesday and Saturday Union), this will not be possible. RUSU operate a zero glass policy on club nights for safety concerns. In these instances, plastic recyclable cups are used.

If people want to bring their own cups, these can be used at RUSU events, so long as they are empty on arrival. Due to the weights and measures act, this may not be suitable for draught products. Glass or heavy cups would not be allowed.

2) Events

a) Plates

Paper plates are not used for catering purposes. Instead, we use ceramic plates when catering for events and functions.

b) Cups



Ceramic cups are used for functions. At some job fairs, paper cups are used. Plastic recyclable cups are used when juice is supplied.

c) Napkins

Paper napkins are provided.

d) Sauce/Dip pots

To best allow for portioning, sauce pots may be used in buffets. These are made from compostable material and are disposed of with food waste.

e) Wooden skewers

In buffets, occasional food items may require the use of skewers. We use wooden skewers in these instances.

3) Mojos catering

a) Cutlery

Stainless steel cutlery is provided with eat-in food. This is not wrapped in a napkin when provided. A wooden compostable chip fork is available on request when chips are purchased.

b) Plates

For food purchased to sit in, ceramic plates are used.

c) Napkins

A dispenser is available on the bar for people to take napkins from.

d) Takeaway food

Compostable boxes are used for takeaway food. These can be disposed of with paper and card recycling or with food waste.

e) Sauce caddys

Condiments are provided in sauce caddies. These are refilled from larger dispensers.

f) Food waste

Food waste is disposed of into a food waste bin and collected once a week.



4) Mondial ('Starbucks')

a) **Straws**

Certain drinks require provision of a straw. In these cases, a paper straw will be provided. Flexible green coloured biodegradable bendy straws will be provided if required for accessibility reasons.

b) **Cups**

Cups used in our Starbucks must have Starbucks branding. Working with the University, we have introduced specialised cup bins which can recycle these. These can be found in Starbucks. Once the liquid is emptied, the cup can be recycled in this bin. The sleeve can be recycled in dry recycling, and the lid cannot be recycled. We have explored the use of ceramic cups, but these would need to be Starbucks branded and this is not financially viable for us.

We have been assured that Starbucks are working towards compostable cups, and hope to implement these once they are available.

Customers may bring their own cups and receive a 25p discount on their drink. Reusable cups can also be purchased from the RUSU Starbucks.

c) **Cutlery**

Wooden compostable cutlery is available for customer use. This is only issued to customers who purchase either a salad or granola pot from Starbucks.

d) **Stirrers**

Wooden compostable stirrers are placed on the bar for customer use.

e) **Sachets**

Recyclable paper sachets are used for sugar and sweeteners. These are required for hygiene purposes.

f) **Leftover food**

There is no leftover packaged food that is wasted. Redistribution includes the use of apps designed to redistribute food nearing sell-by dates.

For leftover food that isn't packaged, it is disposed of into a food waste bin.



5. General items

a) Water fountains

Water fountains are situated in three locations around the venue for the purpose of refilling water bottles. These are intended for refilling bottles only, and should not have plastic cups in place.

There is also a water fountain located in RUSU reception. This has plastic cups which are recyclable.

b) Packaging

We are aware of the importance of sustainable packaging and work with all our suppliers to minimise the impact this may have wherever possible. All packaging is recycled where possible. This extends to items such as boxes the items are delivered in, packaged food and beverages purchased from all RUSU outlets.

Officer responsible: President (president@rusu.co.uk)

Policy last reviewed: 15th April 2021

Policy to be reviewed: April 2021

Policy Expires: March 2022

This policy aim was submitted by a student through RUSU's Change It platform.

If you wish to suggest an amendment, please do so using Change It (rusu.co.uk/changeit) or by coming to Student Voice.

You can also contact president@rusu.co.uk with any queries relating to this policy.