

**B13**

# **Motion**

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**Proposer:** Jack Slater (Green Party)

**Title:** Plant-Based Catering Policy

## Motion text

### 1 Young Greens note:

- 2 • The urgency of the climate and ecological crises, and the inequitable  
3 effects this will have for communities both across England and Wales, and  
4 globally.
  
- 5 • That the agricultural sector is responsible for approximately 12% of UK  
6 greenhouse gas emissions [1].
  
- 7 • That foods deriving from plants have substantially lower environmental  
8 impacts than those deriving from animal products. This is especially true  
9 as relates to greenhouse gas emissions, water use, land use,  
10 eutrophication and biodiversity loss [2].
  
- 11 • There is broad consensus across expert bodies (including the Climate  
12 Change Committee; the EAT-Lancet Commission; the Food Foundation [3]) that  
13 a societal transition towards a diet rich in plant foods is needed if we  
14 are to achieve our climate goals.
  
- 15 • More than 75% of agricultural land is used for livestock, but this  
16 provides a much smaller proportion of protein and calories. Shifting  
17 towards diets rich in plant-foods would reduce land-use pressure which  
18 would have positive implications for biodiversity [4].
  
- 19 • Research from the Oxford Martin School indicates that plant-based food is,  
20 on average, substantially cheaper than alternatives [5].
  
- 21 • The Office of Health Economics has found that a societal shift towards  
22 plant-based diets could save the NHS billions of pounds each year through  
23 reduced incidence of non-communicable disease [6].
  
- 24 • The World Health Organisation has proposed a shift away from animal

25 agriculture to lower the risk of zoonotic diseases and antimicrobial  
26 resistance [7].

27 **Young Greens believe that:**

- 28 • As a collective body, it is important that we lead by example in making  
29 sustainable choices where practicable.
  
- 30 • Climate and ecological breakdown will have substantial negative impacts on  
31 rural and agricultural communities. It is therefore important that these  
32 communities are supported through a just transition to a more sustainable  
33 food system.
  
- 34 • It is important that all Young Greens events are maximally accessible in  
35 all possible dimensions, including to people with dietary commitments,  
36 allergies, or restrictions.
  
- 37 • When planned appropriately, plant-based food is the most sustainable and  
38 appropriate default option for meetings of the Young Greens.

39 **Young Greens resolve to:**

- 40 • Provide fully plant-based food for national Young Green events where  
41 catering is provided, with appropriate exemptions on request.
  
- 42 • Signpost local Young Greens groups towards resources that support them in  
43 accessing sustainable, accessible plant-based food.
  
- 44 • Promote public understanding of the benefits of a societal shift towards a  
45 diet rich in plant foods.

46 **References**

- 47 1. **Department for Energy Security & Net Zero** - [2024 UK Greenhouse Gas](#)  
48 [Emissions, Provisional Figures](#)
- 49 2. **Nature Food** - [Vegans, vegetarians, fish-eaters and meat-eaters in the UK](#)  
50 [show discrepant environmental impacts](#)
- 51 3. **Climate Change Committee** - [The Seventh Carbon Budget](#); **EAT-Lancet** - [The](#)  
52 [Planetary Health Diet](#); **The Food Foundation** - [Increasing uptake of plant-](#)  
53 [rich diets](#)
- 54 4. **Our World in Data** - [Half of the world's habitable land is used for](#)  
55 [agriculture](#)
- 56 5. **The Lancet Planetary Health** - [The global and regional costs of healthy and](#)  
57 [sustainable dietary patterns: a modelling study](#)
- 58 6. **Office of Health Economics** - [The impact of higher uptake of plant-based](#)  
59 [diets in England: model-based estimates of health care resource use and](#)  
60 [health-related quality of life](#)
- 61 7. **Bulletin of the World Health Organisation** - [Pandemic prevention and](#)  
62 [unsustainable animal-based consumption](#)

## **Supporters**

Chloe Balhatchet (Cambridge & South Cambridgeshire Green Party), Nathaniel Joyce (Bristol Green Party), William Steele (Oxford City Green Party), Daniel Clark (Cambridge & South Cambridgeshire Green Party), Maia-Maria Payne (Salford and Bury Green Party), Andrew Fowler (Waltham Forest Green Party), Vlad Badicel (Leeds Green Party), Helena Wong (Nottingham Green Party), Ilana Parrwood (Broxtowe Green Party), James Chick (Leicester Green Party)