

Lidl GB

Policy on the Sustainable Sourcing of Coffee

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CONTENTS

Our Position	3
Our Scope	3
Our Actions	3
Our recognised certification schemes	3
Origin, transparency and traceability	4
Collaboration	4
Sustainable production	4



Our Position

Coffee is one of the world's most popular beverages. For many people, having a freshly brewed cup of coffee in the morning is an essential part of their daily routine. Coffee is also one of the most important trading goods of many developing countries, and production conditions have significant impact on the life of small farmers and plantation workers and their families. Today, there is a great number of independent organisations whose goal is to develop and promote sustainable approaches to preventing child labour, improving wages, climate protection and eradicating deforestation. As a major retailer, we are aware of our responsibility and therefore work closely with leading labelling organisations in this product category as well.

Coffee is an important product for us and our customers so it is important to us and those that work across the supply chain that they are sourced in a way that promotes sustainable production, improves working conditions and tackles wider social challenges.

Our Scope

This policy is applicable to all coffee sold by Lidl GB, including roast and ground coffee, coffee pods and instant coffee.

Our Actions

- We are committed to ensuring that 100% of our roast and ground coffee* and over 50% of the total coffee raw material sold by Lidl (roast and ground coffee, coffee pods and instant coffee) is sourced from third party certified sustainable sources.
- By 2020 we will source 100% of our coffee pods from certified sustainable sources.

*where technically possible

Our recognised certification schemes

In order to realise our commitments, and to help drive a sustainable coffee industry for thousands of growers worldwide, we recognise coffee certified as either UTZ, Fairtrade or Rainforest Alliance as sustainable in our policy.

More information of these schemes can be found online at

<https://www.lidl.co.uk/en/Our-partners-11120.htm>

Across our entire product range we aim to continually increase the number of own brand items produced with ingredients sourced from certified farms.



Origin, transparency and traceability

The raw coffee in our products are primarily sourced from plantations in Central and South America. However, blends and their origin may vary from time to time based on seasonal and harvest quality fluctuations. All of our coffee roasters meet the Higher Level International Food Standard and must be subjected to frequent unannounced inspections.

We know our customers expect greater transparency and traceability of products to their origin. To support the buying decisions our customers make we aim to provide clear information of the origin of our products on the packaging.

The accreditations we have committed to employ traceability mechanisms making transparency in the supply chain possible. We wish to make the transparency of the origin and production of our products more accessible to consumers by widely promoting information about certified coffee cultivation in our stores, leaflets and external channels whilst supporting our initiatives led by our partners such as, Fairtrade Fortnight.

Collaboration

An important cornerstone of our policy is collaboration. At a national level we have been working closely with internationally recognised standard holders, such as Fairtrade, UTZ and Rainforest Alliance. By focusing on certified cultivation of coffee, we are sending a clear message of support for more sustainable and future-oriented coffee cultivation.

At a group level, Lidl is a member of the Global Coffee Platform and supported the work of the Common Code of Coffee Community (4C) Association. This non-profit organisation has been working since 2006 to establish basic social, economic and environmental standards for the coffee industry. The 4C Standard is the first step for many coffee growers wishing to pursue a comprehensive certification standard like Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance or UTZ Certified.

We have also proactively strengthened producer structures and cooperatives. Since 2009, we have been involved in fundraising and sponsorship projects, provided specialist training to small Fairtrade coffee growers on effective strategies for adapting to climate change and supported Fairtrade cooperatives in Central and South America to plant around 197,000 coffee plants in the past and 40,000 indigenous trees.

Sustainable production

As a proportion of our coffee derives from certified sources it means that the farmers and workers exceed the social and ecological criteria of the standard. To become certified, the farms must prove to independent auditors their successful implementation of targeted measures. For example, Rainforest Alliance measures include reforestation, water protection, protection of indigenous and wild flora & fauna, integrated pest control and responsible use of natural resources as well as labour law compliance and health care and continuing education for farmers.

As part of certification, producers receive training on minimising environmental impact and avoiding unnecessary pesticides on the basis of good agricultural practices and conservation of the existing biodiversity.