



EEA Food Policy

Food and drink, housing, and mobility are the three main consumption areas causing largest environmental impacts, as shown in a number of recent studies. Reducing environmental impacts of the EEA Canteen is a way to demonstrate the continuous improvement of environmental performance that the EEA is committed to as part of the EMAS certification.



The various functions of the EEA Canteen

The main responsibility of the EEA canteen is to provide balanced, healthy and tasty food for all who eat there. When used daily by EEA staff, the food provided by the Canteen accounts for a significant portion of total food intake and has a significant impact on health and nutrition. The Canteen is also an integral part of the working environment and moreover accounts for a significant part of the Agency's environmental footprint. In this role, the Canteen staff have already made an important contribution to reducing EEA's environmental impacts and forming this food policy.

The Agency recognises that its canteen plays an important role in:

- Staff well-being and health
- Creating a positive atmosphere and providing an informal networking place
- Improving environmental performance of the EEA
- Information and education, building on our cultural diversity
- Welcoming visiting partners and other guests.

The aims of the EEA Food Policy

Through its Food Policy, the EEA strives to:

- Provide an enjoyable, nutritious and attractively presented selection of food and drinks
- Promote and encourage healthy food choices
- Offer more sustainable menus based on foodstuffs with lower environmental impacts (e.g. in-season, locally grown fruit and vegetables, less meat, avoiding fish from unsustainable fisheries)
- Promote more societally sustainable choices through the use of fair trade products
- Reduce environmental impacts of EEA operations, by optimising the use of water and energy, and minimising waste generation
- Provide staff and canteen operators with a forum to share experience and exchange information concerning food, health and the environment.



Commitment to continuous improvement

Being committed to continuous environmental improvement, the EEA will periodically review its Food Policy to improve its effectiveness reflecting the experiences and lessons learned in its implementation.