



Chartered
Institute of
Environmental
Health



CIEH Food Policy

Introduction

The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) believes that access to a secure supply of safe, properly described and nutritious food is an essential requirement for a healthy society and that a sustainable food chain is a requirement for a healthy environment. Consumer protection must be a key focus in the achievement of the food policy objectives.

Food policy objectives

The CIEH will work with its members, national, regional and local government, non governmental organisations, academia, partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors and other stakeholders to secure:

- Continuous improvements in food safety and standards
- A transition to healthier diets
- Improvements in the sustainability of the food chain and
- Equitable access to a secure supply of safe, properly described, nutritious, fairly traded and affordable food

The CIEH will seek to implement these objectives through its work as:

- A campaigning organisation that acts to ensure environmental health is a key priority on the public agenda and promotes improvements in environmental and public health policy

- A knowledge centre that provides information, evidence and policy advice to local, regional and national government, environmental and public health practitioners, industry and other stakeholders
- A professional body that sets standards and accredits courses and qualifications for the education of its members and other environmental health practitioners
- An awarding body that provides qualifications, events, and trainer and candidate support materials on topics relevant to health, wellbeing, safety and environmental management

Continuous improvements in food safety and standards

The CIEH will support improvements in food safety and standards by working with our members, national, regional and local government, professional bodies, public health bodies, the food industry, non governmental organisations, academia and other key partners to:

- Champion innovation and new approaches to food safety.
- Develop new policies and strategies, utilising member expertise to identify potential barriers to effective implementation
- Identify effective, proportionate, risk based interventions designed to improve food safety and standards

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- Support the establishment of an evidence base to share knowledge about “what works” in improving food safety and standards, nationally and internationally and promote good practice
- Support members by identifying core training and guidance needs and the development of solutions to meet the range of requirements
- Support and promote the provision of effective, high quality education and training for all those working in the food industry, in matters of food hygiene and standards, allergen management and as appropriate food safety management systems
- Improve the understanding, knowledge and practice of food hygiene in the home through education, starting within schools

A transition to healthier diets

The CIEH will encourage a transition to healthier diets by working with our members, national, regional and local government, public health bodies, professional bodies, the food industry, academia, non-governmental organisations and other key partners to:

- Promote the benefits of a healthier diet, emphasising the key skills and influential position of environmental health practitioners in supporting and delivering change
- Identify opportunities for engagement with the business community, public sector organisations, not for profit organisations, voluntary groups and consumers through use of good practice and partnership working
- Support an increased environmental health practitioner involvement in promoting dietary improvement by identifying requirements for new tools, new skills and new guidance and assist in the development of solutions
- Support and promote the provision of effective, high quality education and training for all those working in the food industry, in matters of healthy diet and good nutrition
- Improve the knowledge and understanding of a balanced diet and promote the need for the acquisition of skills to increase consumption of healthier food in the home

Improvements in the sustainability of the food chain

The CIEH will promote improvements in the sustainability of the food chain by working in partnership with our members, national, regional and local government, the food industry,

non governmental organisations, academia, other key partners and communities to:

- Raise awareness of the environmental impacts of food production and the varying carbon footprints of different food choices
- Promote the need to reduce the green house gas emissions associated with food and drink production and live within environmental limits by seeking more ecologically sound solutions
- Promote the need to eliminate unnecessary food waste and encourage effective waste management to reduce both environmental impacts and costs
- Promote the need for appropriate packaging to limit environmental impact, whilst ensuring food safety and quality, alongside promoting improvements in recycling and waste disposal
- Identify and promote good practice
- Support members through the identification of core training and guidance needs and assist in the development of solutions
- Promote access to effective, high quality education and training for all those working in the food industry, in matters of sustainable food production and environmental management

Equitable access to a secure supply of safe, nutritious, fairly traded and affordable food

The CIEH will promote equitable access for all to a safe, properly described, nutritious, secure, fairly traded and affordable food supply by working in partnership with our members, national, regional and local government, public health bodies, professional bodies, the food industry, non governmental organisations, academia, other key partners and communities to:

- Support the security and resilience of the food chain
- Support and promote the need for cross-sectoral initiatives designed to tackle issues of food poverty and associated health inequalities
- Identify, highlight and seek solutions to barriers to consumption of nutritious, fairly traded and affordable food
- Identify and promote good practice
- Support members through the identification of core training and guidance needs and assist in the development of solutions