

February 2011

TheVoice

FDF: Speaking for the food and drink manufacturing industry

FDF launches campaign to make food sector a career of first choice

In 2011 the Food and Drink Federation is launching a campaign to illustrate that the UK food and drink manufacturing sector is a viable 'career of first choice'. By highlighting the wide range of exciting and diverse careers within the industry the campaign will show there is a wealth of long-term career opportunities available to new entrants.

The food and drink manufacturing industry plays a vital role in underpinning the UK economy and contributing to the nation's food security. As the country's largest manufacturing sector, it provides world class capabilities in areas of production, logistics, sales, marketing and innovation.

Current figures show that by 2017 the sector will require 137,000 new recruits and there is a particular shortage of food scientists and technologists. It is essential that this gap is filled to ensure the industry can continue to compete on a national and global scale.

For more information please contact Selga Speakman-Brown on 020 7420 7127.

FDF host joint workshop on priorities for food

FDF recently joined forces with Defra and consumer organisation Which? to hold a joint stakeholder workshop to discuss the Government's priorities for food and in particular how best to achieve growth across the food chain, while helping consumers choose a healthy and sustainable diet.

The well attended workshop set out what further actions are needed to meet these priorities, whilst building on initiatives already underway and addressing barriers to be overcome.

Outcomes from the workshop will be used to focus Government and industry activity in what remains a complex area. The challenges must be addressed in collaboration and leadership from Government will be critical in delivering industry action.

Food and drink All-Party Group plans a busy 2011

The All-Party Parliamentary Food and Drink Manufacturing Group is gearing up for a busy first half of 2011. The group will meet on 08 February to discuss the image of manufacturing and how we can recruit more young people to the sector, then again in May to discuss innovation before the group's Annual General Meeting in July.

In June the group plan to visit Coca-Cola's factory in Edmunton, which will allow members to tour the factory and gain a better understanding of the industry.

The group's broad remit is to consider issues of concern to the food and drink sector and to raise awareness of these matters in Parliament. The meetings provide a useful dialogue between parliamentarians and food and drink companies from constituencies across the UK.

Please get in touch if you would like to know more about the group or attend a meeting.

www.fdf.org.uk

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Food and Drink
Federation



Making a real difference

Food and drink firms continue to perform well

Continued uncertainty over the performance of the UK economy means that FDF members remain cautious, but have not cut their investment in physical and human resources or delayed taking products to market.

A new business confidence survey of FDF members shows a strong performance in the third quarter of 2010 – with almost 60% recording increased sales and only 15% reporting a fall.

This is reassuring considering the Government's focus on advanced manufacturing in its Growth Review Framework. The FDF has welcomed this consultation which rightly highlights food and drink as an example of a successful advanced manufacturing sector.

We look forward to working with Government to ensure the future growth of the UK's biggest manufacturing sector.

How FDF works for its members

The Food and Drink Federation speaks on behalf of the biggest manufacturing sector in the country, which directly employs almost 440,000 people.

In promoting and protecting the interests of our members, FDF is focusing on the issues that matter most to members and to the consumers the industry serves:

- Food Safety and Science
- Health and Wellbeing
- Sustainability
- Competitiveness

Our front cover picture was taken at Premier Foods, who have implemented a 'Five Star Environmental Award' scheme across their sites

Food and drink firms set new environmental targets

Jim Paice, Minister for Agriculture and Food helped UK food and drink manufacturers celebrate the publication of a new report showing the considerable progress members of the FDF have made under the auspices of its Five-fold Environmental Ambition.

The Minister praised industry efforts to reduce its environmental impact at a reception attended by over 140 parliamentarians, policy makers, industry leaders, NGOs and media.



Food Minister Jim Paice addresses guests at the reception

Highlights from the report include the reduction of carbon emissions by 21% since 1990; a saving of more than two million cubic metres of water in 2009; and the reduction of food and packaging waste sent to landfill to just 9%.

The original targets within the Five-fold Environmental Ambition have been updated and more challenging commitments have been introduced to ensure that the UK's largest manufacturing sector continues to make a real difference across key areas of carbon reduction, waste to landfill, packaging reduction, water efficiency and transport miles.

At the same time, FDF launched a new set of five principles that reflect the broader sustainability challenges and will guide its future work to reduce the sector's impacts across the supply chain.

Andrew Kuyk, FDF's Director of Sustainability, said:

"This report marks an important step-change for our Five-fold Environmental Ambition. We believe that a combination of new targets and our new sustainability principles will help us to take our Five-fold Environmental Ambition to the next level."

Show your support for FDF members in reducing their environmental impact by signing EDM 1297 'Food and drink manufacturers and new environmental targets', tabled by Tim Farron MP.

FDF joins group on manufacturing policy

FDF is teaming up with communication specialists Dods to help shape the future of manufacturing policy in the UK.

The Dods Manufacturing Dialogue project aims to provide an evidence-based and conclusive discussion on the future of UK manufacturing and the role of Government to promote its success and sustainability. The first year of the project will bring together views from a range of organisations to help develop a greater understanding between business and political communities.

Qualitative and quantitative research including MP polling, in-depth interviews and regional focus groups will underpin the project. The results will be released through Dods' communication channels such as ePolitix, programme media partner The Manufacturer, as well as events at the Autumn Political Party Conferences. A report of the findings will be released at the end of the year.

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