



This month, *The Griffin Report of the Northeast* salutes our first Sustainability in the Food Industry honorees. These companies have demonstrated a commitment to reducing food waste, supporting hunger-relief efforts and improving operational efficiency. From eco-designed packaging to sustainable refrigeration solutions, they are doing all they can to build a smarter, greener and more resilient food ecosystem.

C&S Wholesale Grocers

Keene, New Hampshire

In 2020, C&S formalized its sustainability mission and established a Sustainability Committee focused on creating meaningful actions and tracking progress.

C&S reviewed every aspect of its operations, from warehouses and grocery stores to offices and created a strategic plan, The Green Path Forward, which focuses on preserving the environment, working to eliminate waste and lessening the company's carbon footprint.

Preserving the environment: For 17-plus years, C&S has partnered with The Conservation Fund, which operates in all 50 states to protect land and advance economic opportunities. C&S's support of TCF protected more than 9 million acres across the U.S.

In 2024, C&S helped build a 100-acre shaded fuel break along Fish Rock Road to reduce fire severity and protect surrounding communities. C&S's support of TCF's Working Farms Fund program helps secure at-risk farmland and provides opportunities for next-generation farmers to build a healthier food system.

C&S's partnership with TCF's Freshwater Institute addresses seafood sustainability challenges and donated salmon for 10,000 meals.

Eliminating waste: C&S has supported Feeding America since 1994 and together they eliminated food waste while providing millions of meals. In 2024, C&S donated more than 4,340 tons of food to community resources and 25 Feeding America food banks.

C&S has worked to keep waste out of landfills as follows – 55 tons of warehouse paper; 35,210 tons of cardboard; 1,095 tons of plastic shrink wrap; 10,853 tons of wooden pallets; and about 9 tons of eWaste.

Lessening carbon footprint: C&S continues its perpetual asset replacement strategy



and maintains the optimal average equipment age. The company's tractor fleet, 100 percent replaced with new models, continues a partnership with Volvo and finished the year with an average age of 3.2 years.

Smart profiles are installed in 100 percent of C&S's refrigerated trailer fleet, reaching the goal of 100 percent by 2025.

C&S continues to integrate Advanced Charging Technologies, a leader in forklift battery and charging technologies, at several warehouses. In 2024, it added 111 Quantum chargers in the network.

In sustainable refrigeration, C&S has nearly 100 percent of warehouses using hydrous ammonia as a natural refrigerant. C&S participates in demand response programs with Enel X, the largest provider of demand response solutions.

Divert Inc.

Concord, Massachusetts

Each year, a significant amount of wasted food ends up in landfills where it produces dangerous methane emissions as it degrades. The EPA estimates that in 2019, 66 million tons of wasted food came from food retail, food service and residential sectors, with about 60 percent of that wasted food ending up in landfills.

Divert, a company on a mission to prevent food from being wasted, is working to address this through a three-pronged solution: Prevent, provide, power – preventing waste at the retail-store level, donating what is still edible to feed people in need and transforming the rest into beneficial products, such as renewable energy and soil amendment.

The first part of Divert's solution leverages its proprietary IoT platform to give customers, like retail stores, actionable insights into the food that's most frequently wasted and why. This information allows them to better manage inventory and make more informed ordering decisions.

Next, Divert works with retail partners to facilitate increased food donations of unsold food. Food that is still safe to consume is donated to local food banks, while the food that is no longer edible is taken to Divert's Integrated Diversion & Energy Facilities to process it into renewable energy and soil amendment through anaerobic digestion.

The process starts by depackaging, gently separating the unsold food from its packaging – a proprietary process that ensures no microplastics are created.



Then the food is turned into a liquid slurry and fed to a digester where nutrients are extracted and energy is captured.

Finally, the energy that is created from the process is transformed into carbon-negative renewable natural gas to power local communities and businesses, while the nutrients that are extracted from the process are turned into soil amendment.

The value of this solution can be seen through Divert's partnership with Fred Meyer, a subsidiary of The Kroger Co. Fred Meyer recently expanded its organics recycling program with Divert to support the company's entire footprint, which includes 105 stores in Oregon and Washington. In 2024, Divert and Fred Meyer prevented more than 5.4 million pounds of unsold food products from reaching landfills.

Looking forward, Divert plans to scale its impact through the expansion of its Integrated Diversion & Energy Facilities' footprint to be within 100 miles of 80 percent of the U.S. population. New facilities in Washington, North Carolina and Ohio are under development.





Dutch Cheese Makers – Artikaas

Garden City, New York

Artikaas, a six-generation Dutch artisanal cheese brand, lives up to its name, “The Art of Cheese,” by embedding sustainability into every part of its operations.

Animal welfare and farm-level stewardship

Artikaas partners with more than 800 local dairy farms in the Netherlands that are committed to eco-friendly agriculture. These farms:

- Provide cows with abundant pasture time (more than six hours daily in summer) and nutritious diets of grass and corn silage.
- Maintain modern, well-ventilated barns with natural light, fresh air and massage-brush stations to enhance cow comfort.



- Use advanced animal-health tracking tools like “KoeKompas” (CowCompass). Many cows choose their own milking times via robotic systems. More than 70 percent of farms use this technology, with adoption steadily growing.

These practices promote animal well-being, improve milk quality and support long-term farm resilience through veterinary guidance and biodiversity-linked farmer incentives.

Renewable energy and carbon reduction

Artikaas is committed to clean energy. Key efforts include:

- Nearly 6,000 solar panels at the Heerenveen factory, which power production and send excess energy back to the grid. This supports the electricity needs of around 300 households per year.
- Use of heat pumps to eliminate natural gas consumption. The factory also captures and reuses 92 percent of its process heat, significantly lowering emissions.

Water conservations and zero-waste

Water use is carefully managed:

- Up to 75 percent of the water used in cheesemaking is recycled and reused within the facility.
- Whey, which is produced in large quantities, is sanitized and repurposed into animal feed, protein products or cleaning agents. This keeps it out of the waste stream.

These strategies reflect Artikaas’s zero-waste philosophy, ensuring that every part of the milk is used efficiently.

Global impact with local roots

Through responsible sourcing, renewable energy and waste-conscious practices, Artikaas lowers its environmental footprint while strengthening rural economies.

The brand’s cheeses, such as Vintage Lot 18 (18-month Gouda) and Holy Sheep (sheep-milk Gouda), received multiple honors at the 2024 World Cheese Awards and World Championship Cheese Contest.

By combining ethical farming, clean production and resource efficiency, Artikaas shows how traditional cheesemaking can thrive sustainably and lead the way forward.

Equifruit

Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Bananas are the cheapest fruit in shopping baskets, but few realize the human and environmental costs hiding behind these low prices. For decades, banana farmers have been subjected to low wages, unpaid overtime and poor working conditions, leading to a vicious cycle of generational poverty.

Equifruit, a certified B Corp and North America’s leading Fairtrade banana importer, is on a mission to transform the banana industry through its 100 percent Fairtrade commitment, advocating for a better deal for banana farmers and sustainability across the banana supply chain.

Since 2006, Equifruit has rejected the traditional banana market business model and secured long-term banana contracts with Fairtrade pricing, which reflects the cost of sustainable production and pays farmers fairly for their fruit.

For every case of bananas sold, Equifruit pays \$1 to banana grower communities in Fairtrade Premium. This money goes into a communal fund for workers and farmers to use as they see fit, for social, environmental and economic projects, such as essential dental care and medical supplies, improved school facilities and upgrades to community



housing. To date, Equifruit has contributed more than \$4.7 million to growers in Fairtrade Premium.

This premium also has financed environmental sustainability initiatives in banana-growing communities. In Ecuador, farmers have used the funds to set up a recycling facility, repurposing discarded plastic growing bags into pallet corner boards, reducing waste and generating additional farmer income. Other partners have used the funds to run a bio-fermentation industry that produces natural fertilizer to help replenish soil micronutrients.

Equifruit continues to invest in sustainability initiatives, including developing compostable packaging for bananas, which it is rolling out later this year. Equifruit also participates in industry advocacy including with BananaLink, a UK-based NGO and the World Banana Forum.

It is driven by the knowledge that every Fairtrade banana sold has a direct positive impact for banana farming communities through the minimum product price and Fairtrade Premium. As Equifruit scales its impact across North America, it will continue fostering industrywide change – one Fairtrade banana at a time.





Congratulations to Food City!

Food City has been honored with the Shelby Report Sustainability Award for their commitment to greener practices—from investing over \$5 million annually in locally grown produce to sourcing sustainable seafood and grass-fed beef. With a hybrid fleet, EV chargers, energy-efficient systems, and community initiatives like Earth Day events, they are reducing their environmental impact while supporting local farmers and families.





Imperial Distributors Worchester, Massachusetts

The SEEDS Committee (Sustainable, Environmental and Energy Development Squad) at Imperial Distributors is a passionate, action-driven team dedicated to advancing sustainability, reducing environmental impact and inspiring its community to embrace eco-friendly practices. Its initiatives combine measurable results with creativity, education and employee engagement.

The committee launched a thriving community garden built entirely from repurposed pallets and totes, turning reclaimed materials into productive raised beds. This season, the team started its seeds indoors before transplanting them outside, allowing it to extend the growing season and ensure healthy, strong plants.

The SEEDS Committee cultivated organic cucumbers, tomatoes, kale and peppers, all watered using a collected rain bucket system to reduce reliance on municipal water

and further lower its environmental footprint.

Freshly harvested produce is raffled in baskets to team members, promoting healthy eating while reducing the environmental impact of food production.

On March 18, the committee hosted Global Recycling Day, holding an educational session in the cafeteria to teach team members what can be recycled in an office environment and the warehouse.

This hands-on learning opportunity helped improve its recycling accuracy and reduce contamination, ensuring more materials are truly diverted from landfills.

In April, the SEEDS Committee celebrated Earth Day with a high-energy fair featuring a compost vendor, a carbon blueprint station to help people measure their environmental impact and other local vendors.

It also held a company store showcasing eco-friendly products such as reusable containers, bamboo utensils, plant-based nutrition bars, natural shampoos, toothpaste and bamboo toothbrushes – offering team members tangible tools to reduce waste and embrace sustainable living in their daily routines.

The SEEDS Committee also hosted Bee Day on May 20, where a beekeeper discussed pollinator importance, biodiversity and conservation, while sharing locally sourced honey samples.

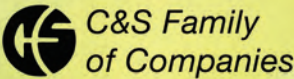
The committee’s first Farmers Market in July brought together local and sustainable businesses, including a local farmer, honey producers and goat soap and soy candle makers. The SEEDS Committee’s impact is not only cultural but quantifiable. In 2024, it achieved:

- 225 trees saved;
- 253 barrels of soil preserved;
- 21,937 kilowatts of energy saved;
- 843 gallons of water conserved;
- 140 cubic meters of landfill avoided; and
- 28,125,000 metric tons of carbon equivalent.



Proud to be
awarded

the **Sustainability in the
Food Industry Award** from
The Shelby-Griffin Report.



*Doing business in a way that
makes our communities better.*



Sustainability Starts with Smarter Water Use

Dole has 52 water recirculation systems, operating in 83% of banana packing plants.

Leading banana production with innovative water management.

That's The Dole Way.



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Inline Plastics
Sheldon, Connecticut

Inline Plastics is setting a new standard in sustainable packaging by backing bold environmental commitments with transparent, measurable actions. Sustainability is embedded across the company’s operations – from product innovation and manufacturing to consumer education and industry collaboration.

A key milestone is the integration of 10 percent post-consumer recycled content across Inline’s entire polyethylene terephthalate packaging line. This initiative has helped divert more than 5 billion water bottles from landfills and oceans, while reducing reliance on virgin plastic. The company’s long-term strategy is to increase PCR content further, while navigating the current limitations of the global recycling infrastructure

Inline Plastics also pioneered rDPET, a proprietary material introduced through its “Reborn” initiative. rDPET leverages chemically recycled PET with 10 percent PCR content and is manufactured using a process that cuts energy use by more than 50 percent compared to conventional methods – making it the lowest carbon footprint PET material in the market today.

To ensure accountability, Inline underwent third-party certification by SCS Global Services, validating its use of 10 percent post-consumer recycled (PCR) content throughout its PET portfolio. This third-party verification reinforces the company’s commitment to transparency and builds trust across the supply chain.

Inline’s commitment extends to empowering and educating consumers by simplifying



the recycling process through participation in the How2Recycle (H2R) labeling program.

This standardized labeling system provides clear, consistent instructions on how to properly dispose of packaging, helping to reduce contamination and improve recycling rates. All products are pre-qualified with H2R, providing clear disposal guidance and helping improve recycling outcomes nationwide.

Despite challenges such as limited high-quality PCR supply and a fragmented recycling infrastructure, Inline embraces collaboration as a catalyst for change. Through partnerships with suppliers, recyclers’ industry groups, the company is helping to strengthen and promote a circular economy.

As Inline Plastics looks ahead, its vision is to expand recycled content, innovate with materials that have a low carbon footprint, reduce food waste through smarter packaging – all while remaining a credible, data-driven leader in environmental stewardship.

Krasdale Foods
West Harrison, New York

In 2023, Krasdale Foods, a 117-year-old family-owned grocery distribution company, partnered with PowerFlex to launch the largest solar energy installation in the Bronx, New York – a 2.7mw community solar system atop its Hunts Point warehouse.

This landmark project not only powers Krasdale’s operations but also shares environmental and financial benefits with the local community. The initiative allows about 300 Bronx residents to subscribe and receive credits on their electricity bills, making clean energy accessible to homeowners, renters and business owners who cannot install solar panels themselves.



The system has generated about 3.4 million kWh annually, offsetting carbon emissions equivalent to powering more than 300 homes or preserving 2,850 acres of forest.

Praised by Mayor Eric Adams for addressing pollution in Hunts Point, the project exemplifies private-public collaboration in advancing climate goals.

Gus Lebiak, Krasdale’s president and COO, emphasized the company’s commitment to community and sustainability, while Raphael Declercq, CEO of PowerFlex, highlighted the project’s role in creating a cleaner future. Doreen M. Harris of NYSERDA recognized the effort as a model for national community solar leadership.

Krasdale’s solar initiative reflects its enduring mission to uplift communities and support independent grocers across the Northeast and Florida, including banners such as CTown, Bravo and Market Fresh. This project stands as a beacon of environmental stewardship and community empowerment.





Ahold Delhaize USA is proud to be recognized for environmental collaboration, regenerative agriculture and supply chain innovation. Together with partners like Campbell's, General Mills and Kellanova, we are helping advance real change from farm to shelf.



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Sustainable Farming, Premium Potato Products.

- Gold Level in the Sustainability Standard by Primus Auditing Ops
- Low-flow irrigation systems for soil & water conservation
- 1-megawatt solar farm
- Treating acid mine drainage water
- Using methane gas from a neighboring landfill



Sacramento, PA | masserspuds.com





Luker Chocolate

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Luker Chocolate’s sustainability impact is anchored in The Chocolate Dream, a sustainability plan designed to transform the entire cocoa value chain through collaboration.

Rather than a single initiative, the Chocolate Dream is a long-term, co-created strategy that unites farmers,



NGOs, academic institutions, governments, private companies and global clients to address the economic, social and environmental challenges of cocoa production.

Luker works with more than 15,000 cocoa farmers across Colombia. Within this broader network, the Chocolate Dream directly supported 4,320 cocoa-farming families in 2024 through 27 active projects across six regions.

The plan advances measurable progress across three pillars:

- **Economic resilience** – Luker supports farmers with training, post-harvest improvements and entrepreneurship programs that increase profitability and income diversification. By 2024, 1,397 families saw incomes rise by 12 percent compared to the 2021 baseline (excluding price variables), advancing toward the 2027 goal of 1,500 families with a 20 percent increase.
- **Social well-being** – Education, entrepreneurship and human rights initiatives strengthened the quality of life for 4,320 families in 2024. These efforts are helping children and youth develop skills for brighter futures and empowering women and

young people to lead in their communities – on track toward a 2027 goal of 5,000 families with improved well-being.

- **Environmental stewardship** – Projects promote regenerative agriculture, biodiversity, water conservation and forest protection. By 2024, 12,408 hectares were under environmentally positive practices, marking progress toward the 2027 goal of 15,000 hectares.

Investment is a key marker of the plan’s impact. In 2024, Luker dedicated 6 percent of earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization to the Chocolate Dream.



By embedding sustainability at origin and co-creating solutions with local communities, Luker Chocolate demonstrates how the cocoa industry can evolve.

The Chocolate Dream is more than a commitment to farmers – it is a collaborative roadmap for transforming cocoa into a driver of prosperity, resilience and shared value across the global chocolate supply chain.

Masser Family of Companies

Sacramento, Pennsylvania

Sterman Masser Potato Farms has been growing and delivering quality potatoes to America’s finest retailers and foodservice operators for more than eight generations. It combines generations of farming expertise with advanced technology, sustainable agriculture and innovative supply chain practices to drive profitable category growth while protecting its environment.

Sustainability is at the heart of everything the company does. It is deeply committed to respecting, protecting and enhancing natural resources. Its robust environmental stewardship programs actively reduce its carbon footprint while improving product quality and efficiency.

Key initiatives include:

- **Zero waste potato utilization:** Through Keystone Potato Products, 100 percent of all potatoes are used. Non-retail potatoes are processed into flits, flakes, dices and fries. Remaining byproducts become animal feed, ensuring nothing is wasted.
- **Water reclamation:** Keystone uses non-potable water from underground mines, treated on-site for food production, reducing reliance on fresh water.



- **Renewable energy:** Keystone captures methane from a nearby landfill to power steam generation, offsetting non-renewable fuel use. Many of its buildings are powered by a 1mw solar farm.
- **Advanced farming practices:** Keystone uses precision agriculture, modern irrigation, soil fertility management, integrated pest management and conservation agronomics across 5,000-plus acres of potatoes, wheat, corn and soybeans.
- **Energy-efficient facilities:** All plants, warehouses and storage facilities have been upgraded with energy-efficient lighting, HVAC and automation to minimize energy use and waste.
- **Sustainable packaging:** Keystone uses BioFlex sustainable packaging that accelerates biodegradation in landfills and contributes significantly more energy recovery than conventional plastics.
- **Transportation innovation:** Its Masser Logistic Services fleet features aerodynamic fuel-efficient cabs, solar-powered APU units and emissions control equipment to reduce its carbon footprint. It maintains the highest standards of food safety and quality assurance, backed by SQF, USDA Organic and Kosher certifications.

Through continuous improvement and innovation – across equipment, robotics, packaging, transportation and partnerships like Fresh Solutions Network – Keystone ensures its sustainability efforts are measurable, scalable and designed to benefit future generations.





We are proud to be the
recipient of the inaugural
Sustainability Award
in the Food Industry!

*This recognition highlights our commitment to reducing
environmental impact, supporting our communities,
and driving positive change across the food industry.*



**Congrats to the Directors of the New Jersey Food Council for
their commitment in removing 24 billion single-use plastic bags
and 480 million paper bags... Circling 10 trips around the moon!**



An Astronomical Success of NJ's Single-Use Bag Ban!



New Jersey Food Council Board of Directors Trenton, New Jersey

Three years ago, the New Jersey Food Council Board of Directors endorsed landmark legislation that prohibited the use of single-use plastic and paper bags in grocery stores. It is considered the strongest and most effective single-use bag ban in the nation.

Since the law took effect, the results have been nothing short of amazing as residents no longer see flimsy plastic bags blowing around in parking lots, sitting in neighborhood creeks or stuck in trees.

To date, the New Jersey bag ban has removed more than 24 billion single-use plastic bags, as well as 480 million paper bags. If the amount of avoided single-use plastic and paper bags were placed side by side, they would cover 10 round trips to the moon. Meanwhile, the amount of paper bags saved would wrap the Earth two times.

Environment America, a research and policy group based in Denver, has provided a great tool to help educate New Jerseyans about the intangible benefits of this law. It created a free, open-source calculator, via which local officials and residents can plug in a town's name to learn how many bags have been saved from the waste stream each year.

As an example, the calculator showed the town of Mahwah has 7.5 million fewer single-use plastic bags each year that are not polluting its

environment. In addition, eliminating those bags saved about 38,000 gallons of oil needed to produce them each year. These are incredible environmental benefits, amplified through every New Jersey town marking the same achievement.

A green graphic with a white paper bag on the left. The bag has a circular logo with the words "REUSABLE DONATE BAGS" and arrows. To the right of the bag, the text reads: "Donate your new or gently used bags. Please remove any tags and stickers. Bags will be sanitized and distributed to local organizations." Below this is a QR code and a button that says "Scan code to find drop-off locations". At the bottom, there are three logos: "LITTER FREE NJ NJClean.org", "NEW JERSEY FOOD COUNCIL", and "NEW JERSEY CLEAN COMMUNITIES". A green heart icon is also present.

NJFC participated with the New Jersey Clean Communities Council to create a state-wide Reusable Bag Resource Center through the LitterFreeNJ campaign. The easy online tool helps New Jerseyans donate their gently used reusable bags to those in need. This closed-loop system keeps single-use bags out of its waste stream, while creating a reusable bag donation system for food banks.

New Jersey shoppers routinely bring reusable bags into the store to shop as a habit. It has become increasingly rare for shoppers to forget bags, underscoring the impact of its statewide education program through LitterFreeNJ.

The council is proud of this landmark environmental law, a national example of government, business and shoppers working together to improve the lives of nearly 10 million New Jersey residents. The NJFC Board of Directors recognized the environmental benefit of this innovative law that now serves as a national roadmap for sustainable success on shopping bag policy.

Tive Boston, Massachusetts

The story of the supply chain and logistics visibility market is just beginning to be written. Some of the world's largest companies, across a variety of industries, continue to use passive loggers or legacy solutions such as EDL for cargo monitoring.

Many of these businesses have no idea where their cargo is at any given moment, cannot detect its condition and have no clue if their cargo is safe from thieves.

In 2015, Tive was created to combat these issues by offering modern IoT technology and cloud platform software to provide unlimited, real-time visibility for the location and condition of every type of shipment – whether sent by truck, rail, air or ocean.

Tive takes a leadership role in promoting sustainability and green practices across the supply chain. How it ships matters – and how its customers ship matters, too. Environmental, social and governance principles are core to the business strategies of Tive and its customers.



The Tive Green Program is built on a simple yet powerful idea – to incentivize customers and receivers to return used Tive trackers to the company instead of discarding them.

This initiative serves several purposes. First, it reduces electronic waste by renewing and recirculating trackers and reducing the demand for new device production.

Second, this program gives customers an opportunity to be part of a sustainable cycle, which helps them contribute to their own ESG initiatives and priorities.

As part of Tive's ongoing commitment to sustainability via the Green Program, 137,453 trackers were returned for recycling and reuse in the first half of 2025. That was a 59 percent year-over-year increase.

Sustainability starts with visibility. Tive helps its customers reduce their Scope 3 emissions by:

- **Providing traceability** – Tive trackers report the exact location and condition of shipments at all times, which helps minimize transit time and carbon emissions.
- **Saving shipments** – Real-time alerts enable shippers to mitigate disruptions, or avoid them altogether, thereby reducing transit time and preventing waste.
- **Reducing truck "dwell" times** – When a container is detained or delayed, Tive helps shippers quickly detect it and leverage strategic appointment scheduling, decreasing idling time.
- **Eliminating empty miles** – It identifies round-trip opportunities across all lanes, creating more efficient routes.

Too Good To Go New York, New York

Too Good To Go is a global social impact company on a mission to inspire and empower everyone to fight food waste together. It operates the world's largest marketplace for surplus food, connecting more than 120 million registered users with 180,000-plus partners – including leading grocery chains, local retailers, bakeries and restaurants – across the United States and 18 other countries.



Since launching in 2016, Too Good To Go has helped save more than 480 million meals from going to waste globally (equal to about 1,058,303,423 pounds of food).

This collective effort has prevented more than 1.3 million tons of CO₂e emissions, 405 billion liters of unnecessary water use and 1.4 billion m² of land use annually – demonstrating that fighting food waste is one of the most powerful levers for climate action.

Its signature solution, the Surprise Bag, makes impact simple, scalable and

measurable, giving consumers a tool they can integrate into their daily lives for positive climate action. That sense of empowerment not only drives adoption but also builds lasting habits that make sustainability part of everyday culture.

How it works: Through the Too Good To Go app, consumers can buy surplus food via Surprise Bags directly from restaurants and food retailers at about one-third of the original value.

This provides businesses with an easy, zero-cost way to recover value from food that would otherwise be discarded, while giving consumers access to affordable, high-quality meals without sacrificing sustainability.

In the U.S. specifically, Too Good To Go's network of 17,000 partners and 15 million users has saved more than 26 million meals from going to waste. This means that through Surprise Bag pickups it has avoided more than 71,185 tons of CO₂e in the U.S.

Too Good To Go is now active in more than 30 major metro areas nationwide, from New York to Los Angeles, and saving an average of at least one million meals every month.

Too Good To Go believes the real competition is the bin. By giving people and businesses a way to act today, it's proving that climate action doesn't have to be abstract or inaccessible; it can start with what's on the plate.

Tops Friendly Markets

Buffalo, New York

Social responsibility and sustainability have always been at the core of Tops Friendly Markets' mission, upholding standards that ensure it reduces environmental waste and energy consumption while providing customers with sustainably sourced, high-quality products.

Last year, its efforts in recycling and waste reduction resulted in:

- 232 tons of used cooking/fryer oil recycled;
- 394 tons of plastic bags and stretch film recycled;
- 12,500-plus tons of cardboard, newspapers and office paper recycled;



- 372 tons of organic scraps recycled. Donations are made to local wildlife conservation organizations, which also help foster educational opportunities for customers and associates. Composting efforts continue to expand at numerous store locations; and
- 1.2 million-plus gallons of diesel fuel conserved each year.

Tops has reduced its energy consumption throughout its footprint by upgrading its store's interior lighting to LED lights/fixtures through a program with Lime Energy Services.

Today, 60 stores throughout the chain, as well as its corporate offices and mailroom, have been converted from traditional fluorescent lighting to LED lighting. This saves about 12.9 million kWh of electricity. In addition, new vapor-tight LED fixtures have reduced energy consumption in its freezers by 69 percent.



United Natural Foods Inc.

Providence, Rhode Island

As North America's premier grocery wholesaler, UNFI is committed to delivering value to its partners and communities while fostering long-term sustainability across its business. The company believes that by improving access to quality food, empowering associates to give back and protecting the planet, it is building a better future for all.

By connecting thousands of suppliers and retailers, UNFI works to provide continuity from farm to shelf, drive product quality and innovation and protect natural resources. It promotes collective action and facilitates industrywide collaborations to reduce environmental footprints at scale.

Through the UNFI Climate Action Partnership, UNFI provides resources and support to help suppliers measure, manage and minimize their climate impact, in addition to helping them differentiate based on their climate strategies and leadership.

To date, more than 90 suppliers have enrolled in the program. In 2025, UNFI convened its first annual Climate Summit at Natural Products Expo West, where attendees representing 49 companies explored ways organizations can navigate sustainability initiatives and climate goals to drive business growth.



UNFI is committed to more efficiently serving its customers and suppliers. It believes sustainability plays an important role in the ability to do so.

UNFI recently completed the installation of its largest solar array to date at its distribution center in Riverside, California. The capacity of this system is double that of its next largest

solar array and is projected to meet 80 percent of Riverside's energy needs.

It also is delivering improvements in fuel efficiency through the implementation of new technology – from dispatch to routing. Fiscal year 2024 efforts led to a 5 percent reduction in miles traveled and a 24 percent reduction in idle time when compared to fiscal year 2023.

UNFI also is positively impacting its communities and building more sustainable food systems through the UNFI Foundation. In 2025, the foundation issued \$1.8 million in impact investments and grants, the largest investment in its history, benefiting 80 nonprofits across North America that are supporting climate-smart agriculture, food access innovations, food equity and local food economies.

In 2024, UNFI Foundation grantees recovered more than 20 million pounds of food, supported over 152,000 acres of regenerative or organic farmland and drove more than \$4 million in direct purchases to local farmers.



Yerecic Label

New Kensington, Pennsylvania

Yerecic Label is a recognized leader in sustainability within the food industry, committed to innovation and continuous improvement. The company's involvement with the Association of Plastic Recyclers contributes to developing better recycling protocols and label compatibility with PET recycling streams, helping labels align with industry standards and support the circular economy.

A key innovation is the LabelLab! at its Pittsburgh headquarters, enabling Yerecic Label to test label materials' impact on the PET recycling process, advancing more sustainable labeling solutions.

Yerecic Label's SustainLabel! Preferred Design Recognition label construction meets APR's stringent testing standards, allowing for increased recycled PET yield and promoting packaging solutions that do not negatively impact recycling efforts.

This construction provides customers with environmentally responsible packaging options that meet high recycling standards.

Yerecic Label's commitment is further reflected in its Sustainable Green Printing Partnership certification at its Pittsburgh facility, which tracks key environmental metrics such as energy use, carbon emissions, water use

and waste diversion.

The company is working toward achieving SGP certification at its Arizona facility. Through the certification, Yerecic Label has initiated three Continuous Improvement Projects to date:

- 2023 – Focused on increasing recycled PET yield by utilizing the SustainLabel! label construction, supporting a circular economy;
- 2024 – Transitioned to wash-away adhesives for film labels applied to PET packaging, an innovation recognized by APR for improving recyclability; and
- 2025 – Pre-qualifying APR-recognized label constructions with How2Recycle, assisting customers with recycling-friendly labeling.

Internally, Yerecic Label has implemented several sustainability initiatives, including water bottle refill stations to track plastic savings, a kitchen composter to divert food waste and updated recycling signage to improve sorting.

The company has maintained a 99 percent landfill diversion rate at its Pittsburgh facility and is working to achieve

the same at its Arizona location.

These ongoing efforts showcase Yerecic Label's dedication to reducing its environmental footprint and advancing sustainable practices across the food industry. Through leadership, collaboration and measurable progress, Yerecic Label continues to shape a greener, more resilient food industry.

SUSTAINLABEL!®

VALUE OF PREFERRED DESIGN RECOGNITION (PDR)

Detrimental to Recycling

TO NOTE:

- Non-Recycling Friendly Inks
- Chance of ejection from line due to sorting difficulties

Versus

Preferred for Recycling

KEY BENEFITS:

- Surface Coverage Evaluation
- PET-B-02 Tested
- Ink Density Analysis
- Non-Bleeding Ink System
- APR Critical Guidance recognized BOPP with wash away adhesive