



This month, *The Shelby Report of the Southwest* 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.

Briannas Fine Salad Dressing

Brenham, Texas



Briannas Fine Salad Dressing is committed to doing its part to protect the planet. The company increased sustainability efforts by sourcing eco-friendly packaging that can be fully recycled, so shoppers can feel good about what happens to their bottles after the final drop of dressing is gone. All of Briannas' packaging is recyclable.

In addition to the environmental factors, feedback from customers also informed the company's shift in packaging. These include improved tamper evidence and bottle security, energy efficiency and easy-to-clean labels that

won't stain. These ensure that the packaging on every bottle of Briannas salad dressing maintains the quality that customers have come to expect.

The packaging is made of polyethylene terephthalate, commonly known as PET, a fully recyclable plastic material. Each component of Briannas' packaging can be recycled, from the glass bottle and label to the cap and cap liner. Once emptied, a bottle of dressing can be rinsed and separated by components.

In addition, the company adopted a new method of shipping finished product to retailers and distributors that reduced cardboard use by 400 tons per year. That's equivalent to the weight of more than 266,000 bottles of Briannas salad dressing.

Briannas has accomplished much in its history, from winning more than 35 industry taste awards to launching a new line of premium organic and avocado oil-based dressings. But the efforts to reduce its environmental footprint and increase sustainability may be its most exciting mission yet.



Natural Grocers

Lakewood, Colorado

Natural Grocers believes access to science-based nutrition education is essential to building a healthier, more sustainable world. As the only national grocery retailer with a full-time, in-store nutritional health coach (NHC) in nearly every location, it has created a replicable model for delivering personalized, actionable education – right where food choices happen.

Nutrition education is one of Natural Grocers' five founding principles and central to its mission to empower lasting change. By investing in education as a core offering, not a peripheral service, Natural Grocers advances community well-being, environmental responsibility and accessible health support.

Scalable model for in-store and community wellness

- NHCs are trained professionals who receive 164-plus hours of continuing education annually, staying at the forefront of nutrition science and wellness trends.
- They offer free one-on-one coaching and personalized shopping support to customers and employees, giving practical guidance to improve health and lessen their environmental footprint.

- Complimentary nutrition education presentations engage customers and support the communities we serve.
- Education is delivered at the point of purchase, turning knowledge into daily action.
- Booking time with an NHC is simple – online, over the phone or in-store. Services are available to anyone pursuing wellness goals.



Strengthening communities through shared knowledge

NHCs lead free classes, workshops and community outreach programs, including the annual class series, "Three Essential Hacks to a Healthier You," designed to inspire lasting lifestyle changes and support overall well-being. By making education approachable and accessible, it helps customers shift behaviors in meaningful, sustainable ways.

Blueprint for industry-wide impact

In a retail landscape focused on convenience and speed, Natural Grocers champions human connection and trusted expertise. Its nutrition education program offers a working model for embedding wellness, collaboration and sustainability into retail operations at scale.

This unique program creates a ripple effect – supporting healthier people, stronger communities and a food system aligned with long-term well-being. It's a model built to share, adapt and inspire across the industry.



Tetra Pak U.S. and Canada Denton, Texas

Tetra Pak U.S. and Canada believes access to safe and nutritious food should be a right – not a privilege – afforded to all. In 2024, the company focused its efforts on five key areas that are essential to its mission – food systems, circularity, climate, nature and social sustainability. In each of these, Tetra Pak witnessed meaningful growth that continues to inspire hope and fuels momentum.



Food systems are at the heart of Tetra Pak’s sustainability agenda. In 2024, Tetra Pak broke ground on an expansion at its converting factory the Denton, Texas, which will expand capacity to 4.8 billion standard packs annually. Tetra Pak was also Expo West’s official waste diversion sponsor, which gave it the opportunity to educate attendees on carton recyclability. Forty-two tons of waste, including cartons, were recycled at the event. Circularity involves collaboration. As a member of the

Carton Council, Tetra Pak is supporting a new carton recycling manufacturing facility that will open by the end of 2025 in Lodi, California. Upfactory California will transform post-consumer food and beverage cartons into durable, sustainable building materials and support regional recycling efforts. Once complete, the facility will recycle about 1.5 million pounds of carton packages per month.

Tetra Pak is committed to mitigating climate change by decarbonizing operations, products and its value chain. Tetra Pak continues to operate on 100 percent renewable energy. In 2024, this offset the equivalent of 14,430 tons of CO2 emissions, which is equal to driving a gasoline car for more than 71 million miles. During Sustainability Week, Tetra Pak invited employees to bring out-of-use electronic items from home. In total, Tetra Pak collected 6,908 pounds of waste through two e-waste events, preventing valuable materials from going to landfills.

Tetra Pak strives to respect human rights across its operations and value chain, creating positive social impact. For example, the company is committed to increasing the share of women in leadership roles, both locally and globally. It supports the professional development of female employees locally through a variety of opportunities including its ElevateHER employee resource group, the Society of Women Engineers and Females in Food. With the anniversary of its Denton campus, Tetra Pak also celebrated 40 years as a strong employer in the North Texas area.



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



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.





The United Family/United Supermarkets Lubbock, Texas

The United Family/United Supermarkets has consistently demonstrated that a successful grocery retailer can also be a powerful force for environmental stewardship, social responsibility and community well-being. Sustainability is woven into the fabric of The United Family's operations. In 2024 alone, the company:

- Diverted more than 1.5 million pounds of food waste from landfills through the Organix Recycling Program.
- Recycled more than 1 million pounds of plastic and 16,552 tons of cardboard.
- Collected and sold 266,817 pounds of yellow grease for conversion into biofuel.
- Upcycled nearly 617,000 wood pallets, ensuring valuable resources were reused.
- Retrofitted to LED lighting in 19 stores.
- Recycled more than 4,400 ink and toner cartridges and prevented nearly 800 electronic devices from reaching landfills.
- Encouraged customers to adopt more sustainable habits by selling 210,526 reusable bags to reduce plastic pollution.

These initiatives reflect a holistic approach to waste reduction, energy efficiency and long-term environmental care.

The United Family recognizes that sustainability is also about empowering people:

- With more than 18,000 employees, the company invests heavily in training and support, including its store leadership development program, where 57 percent of graduates are people of color, strengthening diversity in leadership.
 - Through the United We Care program, more than \$273,000 has been invested since 2007 to provide emergency support for employees in crisis.
 - Contributions of more than \$90,000 to college savings plans demonstrate a commitment to helping employees and their families secure brighter futures.
- The United Family's impact extends deeply into the communities it serves:



- 977,827 pounds of food donated to local food banks, with 100 percent of stores participating in food donation programs.
 - 10,128 pounds of pet food donated to the Humane Society, supporting animal welfare.
 - More than 7,500 hours of community service by employees.
 - Partnerships with law enforcement and nonprofits to combat human trafficking through the Truckers Against Trafficking and the Texas Blue Sand Project.
- These efforts embody a deep understanding that a sustainable business must also nurture resilient, thriving communities.

The United Family's sustainability strategy is not a single initiative – it's a comprehensive recipe for change. From diverting waste and cutting emissions to investing in people, the company demonstrates that grocers can lead the way in corporate responsibility.

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The United Family remains devoted to nurturing the communities we serve through sustainable practices.

A circular gold seal with a black center. Inside the center is a map of the United States with different regions colored in green, yellow, red, and blue. The text "Sustainability Award" is written in a white script font, and "in the food industry" is written in a smaller white sans-serif font below it. The seal is surrounded by a ring of small white stars. Below the seal is a green ribbon with the year "2025" written in white.

The United Family

United supermarkets

Albertsons Market

Market STREET

Amigos

LIANO

United EXPRESS

Albertsons Market EXPRESS

Market STREET EXPRESS

USM MANUFACTURING

RC Taylor

NATURAL GROCERS

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A white sign with the text "THANK YOU!" written in black capital letters. The sign is held by a cartoon rabbit character.

A cartoon illustration of a fox and a rabbit. The fox is orange and white, standing on its hind legs with its arms raised. The rabbit is brown and white, sitting on the ground. They are both smiling and looking towards the camera.

We are proud to receive this year's Sustainability Award!



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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