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Illinois Sustainable
Technology Center

NEWS

DECEMBER 2019 FOOD & BEVERAGE MANUFACTURING NEWS

The Illinois Sustainable Technology Center contributes **solutions for a sustainable future** through basic and applied research, extensive expertise, and a wealth of objective data to benefit the people, economy, and environment of Illinois. ISTC is a division of the [Prairie Research Institute](#) at the University of Illinois.



Sustainability Excellence in Manufacturing Award

In June 2020 at ProFood Live!, ProFood World will recognize outstanding food and beverage processing and packaging innovation projects via the sixth annual Sustainability Excellence in Manufacturing Awards competition.

These annual peer-reviewed awards will recognize manufacturing plants for their efforts in driving improved performance through sustainability, honoring those companies and individuals that seek to go beyond environmental compliance. Specifically, the awards focus on pollution prevention, enhanced environmental protection and stewardship, as well as compliance assurance.

The submission deadline is Friday, January 24, 2020. [Visit the ProFood World web site](#) for additional information.

Safer sanitation alternatives in food and beverage manufacturing

With funding from U.S. EPA, ISTC's Technical Assistance Program is working with the food and beverage manufacturing and processing sector to help them reduce their energy consumption, water use, hazardous materials use, and operating costs. Cleaning and sanitation is a critical process for this industry sector and is one that is ripe for improvement.

[Aqueous ozone](#) and [electrolyzed water](#) are two sanitizing processes that are

approved for use by food manufacturers and processors.

ISTC has a mobile aqueous ozone generator available to demonstrate the effectiveness of this technology. If your company is interested in learning more or scheduling a demonstration, contact [Troy Walker](#) or [Dan Marsch](#).



Brown bananas and squishy avocados no more? Food tech keeps produce fresh.

Chicago Tribune, 11/29/2019

Imagine bananas that never go bad. To Aidan Mouat, CEO of Chicago-based Hazel Technologies, it's not so far-fetched. His company makes a product that extends the shelf life of all sorts of produce — avocados, cherries, pears, broccoli — by slowing the chemical process that causes decay.

Some of the world's largest growers are using it to send their produce longer distances or reduce how much retailers throw away, and Mouat says a consumer version could be next.

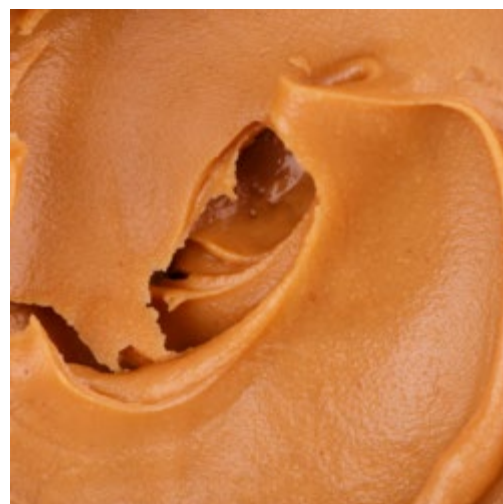


Behind Pip & Nut's journey to B-Corp certification

Food Navigator, 12/4/2019

Over the past 12 months, the London-based nut butter brand has increased the amount of recycled plastic in its packaging, reduced its transport miles, and surveyed its suppliers' waste management policies to achieved B-Corp certification, founder Pippa Murray tells FoodNavigator.

[B Corporations](#) are purpose-driven companies designed to create benefit for all stakeholders, not just shareholders. According to not-for-profit B Lab, which oversees the B Corp. certification process, certified businesses use profits and growth as a means to a greater end: positive impact for their employees, communities, and the environment.



Energy efficiency strategies for food processors

Food Engineering Magazine, 11/1/2019

While food processors have to commit to using a certain amount of energy to meet production and food safety requirements, there are ways to be more efficient about how that energy is used. Whether it's on the production line or converting waste into power, here's a look at how some processors are finding new ways to be more efficient with energy.

Report outlines top 5 food sustainability trends for 2020

Refrigerated & Frozen Foods, 11/26/2019

While there is still a sizable gap in the availability of sustainable products, a number of trends for 2020 indicate that brands and consumers are moving in a positive environmental direction.

OTHER STORIES

Agriculture

- [7 ways business leaders can transform the food system](#) (Food Navigator, 10/16/2019)
- [Conservation pays on US dairy farms, even in a weak economy](#) (Dairy Reporter, 11/21/2019)
- [From coffee to cosmetics, companies are looking for waste to protect the plants their products are made from](#) (Ensia, 11/8/2019)
- ['Insect apocalypse' poses risk to food production](#) (Food Navigator, 11/13/2019)
- [Kroger to launch in-store produce farms](#) (Grocery Dive, 11/19/2019)
- [Lufa Farms breaks ground on world's largest rooftop farm](#) (Refrigerated & Frozen Foods, 11/22/2019)
- [Norway taps sustainable marine resources in response to fish farming boom](#) (Food Navigator, 11/27/2019)
- [Shift towards sustainable food production needed](#) (Food Manufacture, 11/22/2019)

Breweries & distilleries

- [Optimizing boilers at Spoetzl Brewery](#) (Compressed Air Best Practices Magazine, 11/1/2019)
- [This U.S. start up is making vodka from CO₂](#) (The Drinks Business, 11/11/2019)

Climate

- [Arla to create climate database to tackle emissions](#) (Food Manufacture, 11/13/2019)
- [Corbion's 'bold pledge' on carbon emissions: 'Climate change will get more and more attention'](#) Food Navigator, 11/5/2019)
- [Editor's plate: Food and beverage companies absent from climate action pact](#) (Food Processing, 11/15/2019)
- [Kiwis show methane emissions research is more than hot air](#) (Dairy Reporter, 11/20/2019)

Consumer behavior

- [The Hartman Group: How are consumers talking about social responsibility and sustainability?](#) (Food Navigator, 11/18/2019)

- [Nielsen: Which sustainability attributes matter most to consumers?](#) (Food Navigator, 12/3/2019)

Energy, water, and waste

- [Fleury Michon cuts food waste with forecasting technology: 'The supply chain is getting shorter and shorter'](#) (Food Navigator, 11/19/2019)
- [Organic Valley runs 10% of farms on solar power and advocates for GREEN Act](#) (Dairy Reporter, 11/26/2019)

Packaging

- [Buxton bottles to contain 100% recycled plastic](#) (Beverage Daily, 12/5/2019)
- [Coca-Cola replaces plastic wrap with new paperboard technology](#) (Beverage Daily, 11/20/2019)
- [Constantia Flexibles opens first plant dedicated to producing sustainable packaging](#) (Bakery & Snacks, 11/28/2019)
- [Fargo scientists search for next generation of plant-based plastics](#) (Minnesota Public Radio, 11/5/2019)
- [From clean label reformulation to plastic-free packaging: Algaia says seaweed 'ticks all the boxes'](#) (Food Navigator, 11/18/2019)
- [How a PET shrink sleeve label passed recyclability testing](#) (Plastics Recycling Update, 11/1/2019)
- [How Kashi worked with Dow's Pack Studios to design recyclable granola pouches](#) (GreenBiz, 11/27/2019)
- [Loop could be the major packaging shift we've been waiting for](#) (Mother Nature Network, 11/6/2019)
- [Marine-friendly materials gaining traction as plastic ocean pollution controversy washes ashore](#) (JD Supra, 12/3/2019)
- [No green bottles for Sprite anymore: Coca-Cola seeks to increase PET recyclability in SEA](#) (Beverage Daily, 12/3/2019)
- [Packaging industry pumps up R&D to keep pace with green goals](#) (Food Engineering, 11/11/2019)
- [Stora Enso Launches 4evergreen Alliance to Promote Fiber-Based Packaging](#) (Bioplastics News, 11/20/2019)
- [Tetra Pak secures third-party certification and product labelling of its sugarcane-derived packaging](#) (Dairy Reporter, 11/19/2019)

REPORTS AND USEFUL LINKS

- [Aqueous Ozone Sanitation Technology](#)
- [Feeding Ourselves Thirsty: 2019 Update](#)
- [Glass Recovery Hierarchy](#)
- [U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance Sustainability Metrics Report](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

2020 Emerging Contaminants in the Environment Conference

ISTC's 2020 Emerging Contaminants Conference includes sessions on fluorinated replacement chemicals (a.k.a., PFAS) in food packaging and



pharmaceuticals and other emerging contaminants in raw water. Drinking water and wastewater regulations for certain classes of emerging contaminants are also on the horizon. [Register today](#) to stay up to date on these developments.

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