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Illinois Sustainable Technology Center

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Food & Beverage Manufacturing News: March 2021

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Unilever finds short-term sustainability costs lead to long-term savings

Supply Chain Dive, 2/22/21

Unilever has cut costs by \$1.5 billion through sustainable sourcing since 2008, according to the [company's February earnings call presentation](#). Unilever executives said they see a pattern — up front sustainability investments very often result in long-term discounts, CEO Alan Jope said.



General Mills, Danone pilots provide proof for regenerative ag success

GreenBiz, 2/23/21

A few years into [Danone's and General Mills'](#) regenerative agriculture pilots, one thing has become clear: It's about data collection. Holistically changing the

agriculture system to become more sustainable comes later.

Nestlé and Microsoft on financing circular innovations

GreenBiz, 2/22/21

Nestlé and Microsoft are among the noteworthy corporations putting



considerable investments behind circular programs involving products and services in order to meet their sustainability targets and spark broader change.



AB InBev signs record \$10.1 billion ESG-linked facility

Bloomberg Quint, 2/18/21

Anheuser-Busch InBev SA/NV, maker of beer brands Budweiser and Stella Artois, has signed a \$10.1 billion debt facility that costs more to service if the company falls short on a set of sustainability targets.



GEMI seeks solutions for recycling contaminated combo liners

Global Environmental Management Initiative (GEMI), 2/1/21

GEMI's Contaminated Plastics Work Group is seeking ideas, connections, and solutions to address challenges in

recycling post-industrial combo liner waste.

Frozen food packaging gets more sustainable as consumer demand changes

Food Dive, 3/9/21



Many consumers started buying more frozen foods during the pandemic, according to a new report from [The Freedonia Group](#). This has led consumers to demand more sustainable packaging materials.



A one-time poultry farmer invents the future of refrigeration

Wired, 4/1/20

Mechanical cooling revolutionized the global food supply—and accelerated global warming. Peter Dearman's liquid air engine could change all that.

Other stories

Agriculture

- [Campaigners call for river, lake and ocean clean-up to secure the future of fish and fisheries](#) *Food Navigator* 2/23/21
- [Carbon is a new cash crop for some farmers](#) *WVIK*, 2/19/21
- [Environmentalists make long-shot attempt to ban new factory farms](#) *Stateline*, 2/19/21
- ['Farms are going to need different kinds of robots'](#) *BBC News*, 3/1/21
- [Good Culture partners with Dairy Farmers of America with Path To Pasture program](#) *Dairy Reporter*, 2/22/21
- [Grape idea: Hokkaido University's sustainable robots offer respite for wine and pumpkin farmers in Japan](#) *Beverage Daily*, 2/23/21
- [Hemp research a win-win for new Midwestern crop](#) *University of Illinois Extension*, 2/17/21
- [McCain Foods upping the stakes in vertical farming with GoodLeaf](#) *And Now U Know*,

3/2/21

Breweries & distilleries

- [Bread to booze: Misadventure Distillery makes vodka from surplus baked goods](#) *The Spoon*, 3/3/21

Circular economy

- [A data visualization tool identifying opportunities to recapture plastic in the US & Canada](#) *Closed Loop Partners*, 3/1/21
- [Better Origin, which turns flies into food for chickens, raises \\$3M from...](#) *Fly Ventures Tech Crunch*, 2/23/21
- [Closing the loop in chocolate: Barry Callebaut collaborates on 'ground-breaking' process to turn hazelnut shells into vanillin](#) *Confectionery News*, 2/19/21
- [Fueling cars with food waste isn't science fiction](#) *Centered*, 3/2/21
- [Kraft Heinz pilots roof board made of recycled flexible packaging](#) *Waste Today*, 2/25/21
- ['The Cadillac of fibers...' Upcycled ingredients startup Comet Bio gears up for commercial launch of arabinoxylan prebiotic fiber](#) *Food Navigator*, 3/10/21

Climate

- [Carbon neutral vs. carbon negative: What's the difference?](#) *C-Net*, 3/1/21
- [Hershey unveils new goals to address climate change](#) *Food Dive*, 3/3/21

Corporate sustainability

- [Clif Bar adopts ambitious 'transformation' to expand portfolio, consumer-reach & sustainability](#) *Food Navigator*, 2/23/21
- [Tillamook County Creamery Association plays the long game to match its values](#) *Dairy Foods*, 1/27/21

Energy

- [Crave Brothers Farmstead Cheese's plant is a model of sustainability](#) *Dairy Foods*, 3/3/21

Packaging

- [Europe pledges to make beverage packaging fully circular by 2030](#) *Food Navigator*, 2/23/21
- [Molson Coors launches low-carbon beer bottle](#) *Beverage Daily*, 3/8/21
- [Mondelēz International commits to reduction in virgin plastic use to combat plastic pollution](#) Company press release, 3/10/21
- [Tetra Pak introduces certified recycled polymers](#) *Dairy Reporter*, 2/22/21

Regulation

- [FDA to set action levels for contaminants in 'key foods,' in wake of baby food heavy metals report](#) *Food Navigator*, 3/5/21
- [Lawsuits mount over heavy metals in baby food, but do they have legs?](#) *Food Navigator USA*, 2/23/21
- [Reducing the flood of changes: EPA issues a more tempered final 2021 Multi-Sector General Permit than originally proposed](#) *National Law Review*, 2/26/21

Supply chain

- [Baffled Canadians spread reports of 'hard' butter](#) NPR, 2/24/21
- [How new technology is helping to identify human rights abuses in the seafood industry](#) *The Counter*, 2/25/21
- [Is data the currency of success in cocoa supply chain transparency?](#) *Food Navigator*, 2/24/21

Waste prevention

- [Kroger funds ideas from startups to reduce food waste](#) *Progressive Grocer*, 3/1/21

Publications & resources

- [Circular Transition Indicators \(CTI\)](#) (World Business Council for Sustainable Development)
- [COVID-19: A Dashboard to Rebuild with Nature](#) (World Business Council for Sustainable Development)
- [Facility Decarbonization Playbook](#) (Beverage Industry Environmental Roundtable)
- [Food & Nature Digest: Accelerating the Green Recovery](#) (The Nature Conservancy)

- [Navigating Plastic Alternatives In a Circular Economy](#) (Closed Loop Partners)
- [Safer Alternatives to PFAS in Food Packaging: Report to the Legislature](#) (Washington State Department of Ecology)
- [Volumetric Water Benefit Accounting \(VWBA\): A Method for Implementing and Valuing Water Stewardship Activities](#) (World Resources Institute)
- [Volumetric Water Benefit Accounting \(VWBA\): A Practical Guide to Implementing Water Replenishment Targets](#) (Bluerisk, Valuing Nature, and CEO Water Mandate)
- [Water Circularity Metric: Tool Application and Guidance Note](#) (Beverage Industry Environmental Roundtable)
- [Water Risk Filter](#) (World Wildlife Fund)

Events

- **Mar 17, 2021, 1 pm CDT:** [Part II: Best Practices for Reducing Fugitive Emissions from Ammonia Refrigeration Systems Used in the Food and Beverage Sector](#) (U.S. EPA)
- **Mar 18, 2021, 10 am CDT:** [Improve Efficiencies: Reduce Food Processing Energy, Water, and Waste](#) (PennTAP)
- **May 17-20, 2021:** [Better Buildings, Better Plants Virtual Summit](#) (U.S. DOE)
- **On demand:** [Developing an Innovative Culture in Your Manufacturing Business](#) (PennTAP)
- **On demand:** [Pollution Prevention Opportunities for Ammonia Emissions in the Food and Beverage Sector](#) (U.S. EPA)
- **On demand:** [Tools for Safer Chemicals - From Chemicals to Products to Organizations](#) (ISTC)

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