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Illinois Sustainable
Technology Center

NEWS

NOVEMBER 2020 FOOD & BEVERAGE MANUFACTURING NEWS

This monthly newsletter is a service of ISTC's [Technical Assistance Program \(TAP\)](#) and is funded through a grant from U.S. EPA. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.



FREE ASSESSMENTS

for Illinois companies in

- food and beverage
- chemical
- automotive
- aerospace
- metal manufacturing & fabrication

ISTC awarded over \$400,000 to assist Illinois manufacturers

ISTC's Technical Assistance Program (TAP) has been awarded over \$400,000 in EPA grants to assist manufacturers with improving their bottom line by greening their operations.

Assistance under these grants is provided at no cost to participating companies. The funds cover work with manufacturers and their supporting industries across many sectors including [food & beverage](#).

TAP scientists work collaboratively to identify and promote sustainable manufacturing at the product, process, and system level, resulting in less waste, more efficient use of energy and other resources, fewer environmental impacts, and increased profitability.

For additional information, please contact Irene Zlevor (email izlevor@illinois.edu or call 217.300.8617).

Partner with utilities to cut costs, improve your corporate sustainability

Food Engineering, 10/19/20

Companies can fight the battle to save energy on many fronts. Today, resources are available that not only can help companies save energy and money but also help them be good stewards of environmental resources.

Large companies have dedicated sustainability departments. Small and medium manufacturers often don't, but would still like to do their part. Local utilities can be a good place for small companies to start on the path to improved energy savings and corporate image.

In this article, Cargill's sustainability director discusses the company's efforts to reduce energy costs by increasing their use of renewable energy and energy management systems and looking for ways to improve operational efficiency.



The food industry isn't recognized for sustainability. How can we fix that?

Food Dive, 11/9/20

The Wall Street Journal recently published a ranking of the [100 most sustainably managed companies in the world](#). The topic of

sustainability has great impact in the food space, with many brands building entire business models around it, and yet the industry is wildly underrepresented on the list. The reasoning behind this is more complex than you may think.

Being recognized for sustainability takes a combination of things: good policies, programs and progress on environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors and transparency. If a company does not provide visibility to the corporate activities and metrics around ESG and sustainability, no matter the good they're doing, they can't score high on a list like this — or in public perception.



Kraft Heinz sustainability chief reflects on 'interdependence'

GreenBiz, 10/28/20

Rashida La Lande, general counsel at Kraft Heinz, assumed responsibility for the company's environmental, social and governance (ESG) strategy at the end of 2018. Heather Clancy from GreenBiz caught up with her recently for a brief conversation as the company disclosed its new sustainability targets.



They discuss how best practices from the previously independent companies have been shared, how the pandemic has affected progress, and what's to come for sustainable agricultural practices.

Greencovery: Meet the start-up upcycling food side-streams into ingredients

Food Navigator, 10/21/20

Dutch start-up Greencovery has developed technology that helps food manufacturers recover valuable compounds from their side-streams. The resulting 'high quality' ingredients help the business offer an 'attractive economical proposition' that reduces CO₂ and water consumption, co-founder and commercial director Juan Cajiao tells FoodNavigator.



Five misperceptions about the environmental impact of single-use plastics

University of Michigan, 10/26/20

Stand in the soda pop aisle at the supermarket, surrounded by rows of brightly colored plastic bottles and metal cans, and it's easy to conclude that the main environmental problem here is an overabundance of single-use containers: If we simply recycled more of them, we'd go a long way toward minimizing impacts.



In reality, most of the environmental impacts of many consumer products, including soft drinks, are tied to the products inside, not the packaging, according to an environmental engineer.

OTHER STORIES

Agriculture

- [BrightFarms raises \\$100M to fund greenhouse expansion](#) *Food Dive*, 10/20/20
- [Climate change will offset CO2 crop yield gains: 'We need to breed and engineer future-proof crops'](#) *Food Navigator USA*, 11/4/20
- [Europe faces greenwashing allegations as CAP proposals slammed](#) *Food Navigator*, 10/21/20
- [Today's dairy industry is creating tomorrow's environmental solutions](#) *GreenBiz*, 10/30/20

Breweries, wineries, & distilleries

- [Firestone beer now brewed with Paso Robles sunshine](#) *Paso Robles Daily News*, 10/23/20
- [Next round: Bulleit Frontier Whiskey is replanting white oak forests, and it's not a marketing gimmick](#) *VinePair*, 11/9/20
- [This beer company has saved nearly 2 million slices of bread \[video\]](#) *Bloomberg Quicktake: Now*, 10/23/20

Consumer behavior

- [Fueled by pandemic, organic gains consumer traction along with transparency, responsible sourcing](#) *Food Navigator*, 11/3/20
- [Home soda machines reveal circular economy potential — and limitations — during pandemic](#) *Waste Dive*, 10/29/20
- [Pandemic 'sparks rise in demand for green products'](#) *Fresh Produce Journal*, 10/28/20

Energy, water, and waste

- [Apeel raises \\$30m, 'invisible' skin helps growers in emerging markets gain access to US, Europe](#) *Food Navigator USA*, 10/27/20
- [Scientists use fruit peel to turn old lithium-ion batteries into new](#) *SciTech Daily*, 8/29/20
- [Smithfield Foods' Wilson, N.C. facility recognized with manufacturing leadership award for water reduction efforts](#) Press release, 10/9/20
- [Sunkist puts focus on sustainability](#) *The Packer*, 10/23/20
- [Tips on cutting waste, a high-stakes priority for food manufacturers](#) *Food Engineering*, 10/26/20

Packaging

- [Bacardi to use 100% biodegradable plastic bottles by 2023](#) *Food Dive*, 10/23/20
- [Coca-Cola reveals paper bottle prototype: 'This opens up a whole new world of packaging possibilities'](#) *Beverage Daily*, 10/29/20
- [Fabri-Kal debuts sustainable containers brand](#) *Grand Rapids Business Journal*, 10/22/20
- [Use automation to help achieve green packaging goals](#) *Food Engineering*, 10/28/20

Supply chain

- [Chipotle lets diners track environmental impact of burritos as restaurants prioritize sustainability](#) *Restaurant Dive*, 10/26/20
- [How to incentivize producers and retailers to adopt sustainable farming practices](#) *Forbes*, 10/6/20
- [How two companies are building systems to scale reuse, which is vital for a circular economy](#) *GreenBiz*, 11/6/20
- [How two industry leaders invest to save the water supply as scarcity grows](#) *Food Engineering*, 10/28/20
- [Sustainable food supply chain begins with startups on the farm](#) *Crunchbase News*, 10/28/20
- [The Pet Sustainability Coalition recognizes MFiber](#) *Pet Business*, 10/27/20

REPORTS AND USEFUL LINKS

- [Localizing Your Supply Chain](#)
- [Pollution Prevention 101 LibGuide: Food Manufacturing](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Nov 18, 1 pm CST --** [Pollution Prevention Opportunities for Ammonia Emissions in the Food and Beverage Sector](#)

- **Nov 19, noon CST** -- [P2U Celebrating Success: Fostering a P2 Culture](#)
- **On demand** -- [Circularity 20](#)
- **On demand** -- [Food Automation and Manufacturing: A Virtual Event](#)
- **On demand** -- [How the Produce Industry Built Resilience During Changing Times](#)



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