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Organic Food Companies Demonstrate Commitment to Sustainability

SFTA Members Act, Measure Results, Attain Meaningful Impact!

(September 19, 2017) – Sustainable Food Trade Association (SFTA) members prove that measuring and metrics matter! Since 2008, SFTA members have shared 161 detailed sustainability reports that address 11 action areas and metrics. In this reporting cycle, 39 SFTA members submitted reports – a 77% increase over the previous year’s reporting.

Every year, SFTA generates a [Member Sustainability Progress Report](#) that contains aggregated data from the annual member reports. The 2017 report includes data from farmers, manufacturers, distributors, and retailers about their business accomplishments in years 2015-2016. The report highlights significant achievements which include organic acreage and land use, distribution and sourcing, energy use, climate change, water use and quality, waste reduction, packaging and marketing materials, labor, animal care, sustainability education, governance and community.

Measuring, analyzing, and reporting on these 11 action areas represent dedication to sustainable business practices and the value the SFTA member companies place on achieving results. Some of the most impressive numbers from members reporting this year include:

- Companies diverted 83% of waste from landfills — 42% via recycling; 24% by composting; and 17% from reusing/repurposing. This is the fourth year in a row SFTA members have increased the percentage of waste diverted from landfills.
- 77% of electricity members used came from renewable energy sources, with over half – 56% – of reporting members generating a portion of their renewable energy on-site (i.e. through use of solar panels).
- 31% of reporting members cite a decrease in overall greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as a result of setting GHG reduction targets, and 66% of members monitor and record GHG emissions – helping catalyze awareness around emissions generation.
- 78% of members screen their major suppliers for positive practices (i.e. organic, fair trade) beyond what is required by regulation (i.e. food safety); 58% have a formal Code of Conduct policy that specifically holds their suppliers, distributors, or retailers accountable for social and environmental performance.

An infographic summarizing key impacts is available [HERE!](#)

“This report from the SFTA community of companies shows what can be accomplished with sustainable practices to generate dramatic positive change. Measuring and reporting differentiates SFTA members from companies that make commitments but cannot demonstrate results,” stated Katherine DiMatteo, SFTA Executive Director.

To highlight the innovative approaches SFTA members take to achieve their sustainability goals and improve their social and environmental impacts, SFTA is releasing a Case Study series. The case studies will be released every 6 weeks and will be posted on the SFTA website and Facebook. To kick off the series, [the **Materials Recovery Program at Pacific Foods** illustrates best practices in waste reduction.](#)

Some of the truly remarkable triple-bottom line results that Pacific Foods has enjoyed since 2006 include:

- Recovery rate (materials composted, recycled, re-used) has increased from 40% in 2006 to 86% in 2016!
- Five full-time “green collar” jobs have been created to support the community!
- The company annually brought in over \$140,000 in profits from the sale of recovered materials, and avoided over \$600,000 of landfill tipping fees. This means nearly three-quarters of a million dollars back in the pocket of the company each year!
- Kept over 6,000 tons of waste from the landfill each year – avoiding 1,200 tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually!

This year’s report contains an aggregate of data provided by SFTA members, which include: Amy’s Kitchen; Annie’s, Inc.; Apex Mfg. Solutions; Ashland Food Co-op; Awe Sum Organics; Bay Baby Produce; Bridge’s Organic Produce; Chico Natural Food Co-op; Ciranda; Clif Bar; Coconut Bliss; Community Food Co-op; DanoneWave; Drink Eat Well – Hilary’s; Earl’s Organic Produce; Equal Exchange; Fruit d’Or, Inc.; GloryBee Foods; GoMacro, LLC; Hummingbird Wholesale; LifeSource Natural Foods; Lundberg Family Farms; MOM’s Organic Market; Mountain Rose Herbs; Nature’s Path Foods; North Coast Co-op; Nutiva; Organic Valley; Organically Grown Company; Outpost Natural Foods; Pacific Foods; Port Townsend Co-op; Purity Organic; So Delicious Dairy Free; Straus Family Creamery; Traditional Medicinals; UNFI; Viva Tierra; Wholesum Harvest.

About the Sustainable Food Trade Association

The [Sustainable Food Trade Association \(SFTA\)](#) mission is to build the capacity of the organic products trade to transition to sustainable business models. SFTA serves as a hub for businesses to learn, improve performance, communicate results, and share common metrics and best practices.

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