Measuring Sustainability

By Adriana Michael

The Sustainable Food Trade Association (SFTA) has partnered with B Lab to help companies “Measure What Matters.” Using the Quick Impact Assessment (QIA) tool allows companies to “identify and evaluate business’s strengths, where there is room to improve, and measure your business against others.” It also allows to involve the supply chain to complete the QIA to get the information needed to make the entire operations sustainable.

Since 2008 members of the SFTA have shared 161 detailed sustainability reports that address 11 action areas and metrics. In this reporting cycle, the SFTA’s September Member Sustainability Report found a 77 percent increase over the previous year with 39 SFTA members submitting reports.

Every year, the New Castle, VA-based SFTA generates a Member Sustainability Progress Report that contains aggregated data from the annual member reports 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.” See SUSTAINABILITY on page 8.
SUSTAINABILITY (Continued from page 1)

the SFTA said. “Measuring, analyzing, and reporting on these 11 action areas represent the dedication to sustainable business practices and the value the Community 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; Awe Sum Organics; Bay Baby Produce; Bridge’s Organic Produce; Chico Natural Food Co-op; Ciranda; Clif Bar; Coconut Bliss; Community Food Co-op; Awe Sum

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Swedish agency maps hazardous chemicals

By O.W.N. News Network

The Swedish Chemicals Agency will map hazardous substances in rubber, silicone, paper, and board; targeting chemicals of concern not yet regulated in the EU.

In an article published on September 19, 2017, regulator news provider Chemical Watch reported that the Swedish Chemicals Agency (KEMI) will start investigating the presence of hazardous chemicals in different materials commonly used in consumer products. Five ‘mapping’ projects will be carried out by consultancies in autumn 2017: 1) Chemicals in rubber and silicone, 2) chemicals in paper and board, 3) chemicals in intimate hygiene products, 4) microplastics in chemical products, and 5) chemical requirements for eco-labeling.

KEMI aims to increase knowledge about the chemical composition of different materials and find out if there are chemicals that are not currently regulated in the EU but should be addressed. The agency is to report its findings to the Swedish government in September 2018 and finalize the investigation in December 2020.

BAN (Continued from page 6)

PFAs and bisphenols include perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA, CAS 335-67-1), perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS, CAS 1763-23-1), bisphenol A (CAS 80-05-7), and bisphenol S (BPS, CAS 80-09-1), all of which occur in consumer products such as food contact materials (FCMs).

Coop Denmark prepared a draft regulation proposing to ban all PFASs and bisphenols in FCMs and certain other consumer products. The retailer is asking the Danish population to endorse the draft regulation by emailing it to the country’s politicians. On its YouTube channel, Coop Denmark published a campaign video.

Organic Tomatoes by Wholesum Harvest, a firm making significant progress in sustainable packaging.

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