



Sustainable Food Trade Association

*organic leaders for sustainability
since 2008*

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Annual Member Progress Report 2018

Our Mission:

***Build the capacity of the organic food trade to
transition to sustainable business models.***

www.SustainableFoodTrade.org

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About SFTA

The Sustainable Food Trade Association (SFTA) was officially formed in 2008 to help organic food and agriculture businesses become truly sustainable. A primary way of guiding companies to this goal is through the SFTA 11 Sustainability Action Areas. These areas make sustainability more than a buzz word — they break sustainability down into defined, actionable components. Through this lens, a company can better assess where its sustainability strengths and opportunities exist — and factor in the entire value chain, from field to retail.

SFTA Reporting Requirements

To create transparency and gauge progress in this sustainability journey, SFTA members commit to annual sustainability reporting. They report via complementary methods: The SFTA template based on SFTA 11 Action Areas, the SFTA/B Lab Quick Impact Assessment (QIA), and/or a company's own reporting template.

The 11 SFTA Action Areas include metrics that address: animal care, climate change, distribution/ sourcing, education, energy, governance, labor, organic and land use, packaging, waste, and water. The SFTA/B Lab Quick Impact Assessment (QIA) has been in use for three years, and asks custom questions relevant to the organic food industry and SFTA mission. Its categories of focus include practices around company governance, community, workers, and environment.

Read on to discover the results of these reports, and the progress it highlights — from SFTA members. Stay tuned to the SFTA newsletter, website, and social media throughout the upcoming year to catch case studies published about our members' activities in these areas!



MEMBER REPORTS 2018

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SFTA MEMBERS

Take Action, Measure Results
and Attain Meaningful Impact!

In 2017, 32 member companies reported.

LABOR

>80%

of employees insurance premiums
are covered by their employers

95%

provide retirement investment plans

50% of those offer socially
responsible investing options

ORGANIC

76%

of members' products
sold are **organic**

22% generate **100%**
of their sales from organic

WASTE REDUCTION

84%

of total waste was diverted

44% of total waste
was recycled

21% was composted

SUPPLY CHAIN/ SOURCING

87%

offer fair trade certified
products in their offerings

77% screen suppliers
for positive practices beyond
required regulations

GOVERNANCE & COMMUNITY

92% of companies have a
paid sustainability position

72% offer employee
volunteerism programs

44% offer matching for
employees' charitable donations

ENERGY

58%

of members have
on-site renewable
energy generation

82%

of members total
electricity usage is from
renewable sources

CLIMATE

168

Climate Collaborative
Commitments!



MEMBER PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Since 2008, SFTA members have shared 185 detailed annual sustainability reports following the SFTA reporting framework. In 2017, a total of 32 SFTA members reported.

Waste Diversion

Our members continue a slow and steady increase of their waste diversion. In 2017 we reported, an average waste diversion rate of 83%. 2018 sees a modest increase, at 84%. Members reported an average of 44% of their total waste was recycled, and 21% was composted. SFTA recognizes the significant efforts that all its members make to reduce waste. SFTA salutes Mountain Rose Herbs, Nature's Path, Nutiva, and Lundberg Family Farms for achieving and maintaining their Zero-Waste Certification!

Organic

Sales of organic continue to be a top priority for SFTA members, and it shows. Member reported an average increase of 3% in organic sales. Impressively, an average of 76% of members' sales are from certified organic products; of companies that reported on this statistic, nearly 2/3 (61%) of them make at least 90% of their sales from organic-certified products, and nearly one-quarter (22%) generate 100% of their sales from organic!

Energy

The use of renewable energy (i.e., water, solar, wind, geothermal) has long been a strength of SFTA members and it continues to increase. 82% of the total electricity used by members is from renewable sources, and incredibly, 58% of them generate at least some portion of their renewable energy on-site via the use of solar arrays or other means.

Climate and Air Emissions

Beyond the extensive use of renewable energy sources, members further bolster their efforts around climate in a variety of ways. One way in which SFTA members



MEMBER REPORTS 2018

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distinguish themselves in climate and employee practices both is through offering an alternative transportation program. These programs financially or otherwise reward staff for using methods of commuting to work that reduce fossil-fuel emissions (i.e., car-pooling, biking, walking, electric cars, etc.). 58% of members offer this alternative transportation program as an employee benefit.

Labor Practices

In addition to benefits that keep the environment in mind, such as alternative transportation programs, SFTA members also offer an impressive array of social benefits. More than 80% of employees' insurance premiums are covered by SFTA member companies! Additionally, 95% provide retirement investment plans — and 50% of those offer socially responsible investing options. Another great benefit: 96% offer formal sustainability training to their employees!

Community Impacts

SFTA members go beyond their own walls to effect sustainable change. 72% offer employee volunteerism programs (paying an employee up to a maximum annual number of hours for time spent volunteering with an aligned organization(s)). Beyond this, 67% of reporting members have provided active staff time or financial support to develop or advocate for increased adoption of better social, environmental, and industry standards. Finally, \$15.8 million were donated to charitable causes!

Supply Chain

Beyond local communities, members seek to positively impact its global community of supply chain partners. 87% of reporting members offer certified fairly-traded products in their product portfolio, which helps ensure smallholder farmers are being paid a fair price for their product — and are working in safe working conditions. To that point, 77% of SFTA members screen their suppliers for positive practices beyond what is required by regulations. This can include the use of tools such as the SFTA Code of Conduct or Supply Chain Questionnaire to help identify and build relationships with a commitment to building their social and environmental impacts. These efforts garner results, stability, and profitability — SFTA members maintain supplier relationships, on average, more than five years.

The Climate Collaborative

This year is the first year that SFTA can highlight its members' action around the Climate Collaborative — a project of SFTA and OSC². The Climate Collaborative engages the organic/natural products sector in reversing climate change. To become a part of the Collaborative, a company must make a commitment in at least 1 of 9 climate-change mitigation areas. These commitments cover a variety of areas including energy efficiency, the use of renewable energy, reducing waste, and more.

As of this report writing, 168 commitments have been made by SFTA members! This constitutes an average of 3 commitments per member. Interestingly, members place a relatively equal emphasis on nearly all areas, with Energy Efficiency and Food Waste having the most support, and Short Lived Climate Pollutants and Forests having the lowest.

SFTA MEMBER CLIMATE COMMITMENTS

