

We are living in a time

of both great challenges and opportunities. Our world, and the food trade, face pressing environmental, social and economic issues including climate change, natural resource depletion, a widening income gap and food insecurity. At the same time, the market for socially responsible products and services is growing.

The Food Trade Sustainability Leadership Association (FTSLA) is dedicated to helping values-driven businesses in the organic food trade thrive in this evolving global economy. We help businesses take meaningful steps toward sustainable business practices by offering vital support for skill building and innovation, fostering significant measurable progress. Our network is a catalyst, providing a hub for members to partner with likeminded businesses, improve performance, share results and drive wider change via common metrics, best practices, consult, education and communications.

We are unique in uniting businesses across the organic supply chain to address sustainability through a broad lens, raise the bar and align progress and reporting with our "Declaration of Sustainability." We help members gain new skills and collaborate, to thrive and act upon the values that underlie the organic movement.

Building a community of practice and shared progress lies at our core. Please join us in growing a more sustainable food system! Contact us for more information today.

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FTSLA MEMBERS HAVE ALREADY MADE STRONG PROGRESS AS A RESULT OF FOCUSED SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT:

The following represent just a few examples of FTSLA member achievements. Please see our website for information on what more members are doing to advance sustainability with FTSLA's member resources and support.

- **Packaging:** Natures Path Foods' redesigned their cereal boxes to reduce materials use. Their "EnviroBoxes" use 10% less packaging, saving over 144 tons of paperboard and 400 tractor-trailers of freight.
- **Water:** SunOpta, Inc. saved over 85 million gallons of water through technological upgrades, process improvements and conservation.
- **Education:** Organic Valley launched an on-line calculator for consumers to calculate the chemical pesticides, fertilizers and synthetic nitrogen kept out of the environment through their organic milk purchases.
- **Governance:** UNFI formed "green teams" at all facilities, and established "Helping Hands Committees" and funding for community projects at their Albert's Organics locations.

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*Join us in growing
a more sustainable
food trade
from seed to store!*



Photo: Melissa Schwesiguth

Photo: Ray Neff

Join us...

FTSLA Membership provides you with support and resources to adopt leading-edge sustainability practices that make a difference for your business, communities and the environment, helping you differentiate your business and communicate about your practices with impact and integrity. We facilitate peer collaboration and information sharing to maximize efficiency and results.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES & ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Full Members

- Grower, processor, manufacturer, handler, distributor or retailer in organic food trade
- Have at least one certified organic product line and commit to expanding organic offerings
- Commit to eliminating genetically modified materials in all products and processes
- Sign the "Declaration of Sustainability in the Organic Food Trade"

Affiliates

- Business, organization or individual that is not eligible for Full Membership but supports FTSLA's mission
- Business that is eligible for Full Membership but chooses not to sign the "Declaration of Sustainability"

BENEFITS

Full Members & Affiliates

- **Networking:** Meetings, on-line forums and other venues to share questions and best practices
- **Education:** E-newsletter, workshops, webinars and other opportunities
- **Advocacy:** Updates on key issues and opportunities to advocate on critical topics

BENEFITS

Full Members Only

- **Executive Briefing:** Complimentary new member briefing. More extensive briefings and trainings available.
- **Sustainability Metrics:** Industry-specific metrics for annual reporting, facilitating learning, benchmarking and progress
- **Member Tool Kit:** Step-by-step for sustainability programming, from strategy

and implementation to reporting and communications

- **Resource Guides:** In-depth guides synthesizing current research, challenges and guidance
- **Consulting Program:** Staff guidance to help plan and implement programs
- **Marketing:** Gain visibility and learn how to measure and communicate your achievements

The Declaration: *Our Common Pledge & Challenge*

FTSLA's members sign on to the "Declaration of Sustainability in the Food Trade," committing to use it as a framework for annual reporting and performance improvement. The Declaration was developed over 3 years, and vetted by hundreds of organic industry members. It is a living document and pledge that may evolve with social, environmental and economic contexts.

Objectives —

- Provide a compass of what "sustainability" would look like in the food industry.
- Inspire timely action through a public commitment to work toward improvement.
- Develop a clear, uniting framework to measure and report on progress.
- Create a road map for companies at different stages to move forward.
- Recognize continued progress toward more sustainable practices.

Vision —

As growers, processors, handlers, distributors, manufacturers and retailers in the organic food trade, we are deeply concerned about the unprecedented scale and speed of environmental pollution and degradation, climate change, depletion of natural resources and inequitable labor and wage practices. Our vision is to conduct our businesses in a way that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Therefore we embrace the challenge to bring the goals of social, economic, and environmental sustainability into all practices in the organic food trade — including agriculture, operations, products, services purchasing, distribution, employment and investment, and stakeholder relations. We endeavor to establish a culture of sustainability in line with the four "system conditions" of The Natural Step Framework — a proven, scientifically robust model that guides action toward sustainability.

We, therefore, agree to strive for continuous progressive improvement and to practice transparency in annually auditing our organizations in the following 11 actionable areas:

- 1) Organic
- 2) Distribution & Transportation
- 3) Facility Energy
- 4) Climate Change
- 5) Water
- 6) Waste
- 7) Packaging
- 8) Labor
- 9) Animal Care
- 10) Education
- 11) Governance

FTSLA Values

Ecological and Social Sustainability | Continual Improvement | Partnerships | Transparency & Integrity