



**Maryland
Green Registry
MEMBER**

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

Pete Pappas and Sons, Inc.



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www.petepappasinc.com/sustainability

Wholesale Fresh Produce Supplier

Member since October 2019

Management and Leadership

Environmental Policy Statement

At Pete Pappas & Sons, we've always seen sustainability as the opportunity for innovation within our building and operations, to lessen our environmental impacts. Sustainability is engrained in every aspect of our business, from the products we sell to the daily practices of our employees. This includes conservation, waste-diversion, composting, recycling, eco-friendly packaging and more. You can learn more at www.petepappasinc.com/sustainability.

Environmental Team

Our "Green Team" includes members from our management, QA, office, sales, production floor and warehouse teams. They are champions of our efforts and help train fellow employees on the 3 R's and our 6-Step Recycling and Composting Waste Diversion protocols. These members have helped engrain sustainability into our company culture and spearhead ongoing recycling and composting efforts. They are integral in facilitating our zero food-waste goal practiced on our production floor, warehouse and cafeterias.

Annual Environmental Goals

Our Environmental and Green Goals include:

1. *Being a Minimal-Waste Facility*
 - a. *As a minimal-waste facility, we strive to create no trash sent to landfills in our day-to-day operations. We have applied the 3 R's (reduce, reuse, recycle) and successfully divert over 90% of our facility*

- waste away from landfills, through extensive recycling and food-waste diversion plans*
- b. We have closed the loop on food-waste (our largest waste category) and utilize donations to local organizations, animal farm partnerships, and partnerships with composting facilities to reach our zero food-waste goal*
 - c. Through extensive waste diversion practices, we have reduced our landfill contributions by over 90% going from over 20 trash pickups per month to now 1 per month in 2022*
 - d. We use compostable paper products including plates, bowls, cups, napkins and paper towels throughout the facility so that these products can enter alternative waste streams and do not end up in a landfill*
- 2. Putting an Emphasis on Organics through*
 - a. Maintaining a USDA Organic certification at headquarters and our farm*
 - b. Selling organic products, which reduces the overall environmental impacts of the farming and growing stages of our products*
 - c. Trademarking our own in-house USDA Certified Organic brand, Pete's Garden*
 - d. Expanding our organic produce offerings, including our Pete's Garden Organic brand, across different commodities and packaging options*
- 3. Furthering our Green Business Efforts*
 - a. By applying innovative techniques to grow our green business, including increasing recognition through certifications and initiatives*
 - b. Joining the USDA/EPA Food Loss and Waste Champions initiative in April 2022*
 - c. Winning a 2022 Maryland Green Registry leadership award in May 2022*
- 4. Focusing on "Thinking Globally and Acting Locally" by*
 - a. Boosting the local economy by bringing jobs and business opportunities to the area*
 - b. Partnering with local growers and farms to promote our local agriculture*
 - c. Donating to local food banks as one step to aid our local community and combat food waste*
 - d. Supporting local composting initiatives through the Maryland Environmental Service with the use of our own organic food matter to create compost and animal feed for local farms*
 - e. Using local businesses within our day-to-day operations to help them grow with us*

Environmentally Preferable Products and Services

Our facility is certified Organic by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and by the Maryland Department of Agriculture. By selling organic certified products, the environmental impact of the farming stages of those commodities is greatly reduced. Environmentally harmful chemicals are not used, so ongoing chemical damage to the soil, water sources and surrounding areas is not created.

We also introduced a Sustainable Packaging Initiative in 2021. Our goal for 2022 is to remove and replace all Styrofoam packaging from our packaged products. We have currently replaced the majority of our Styrofoam packaging with compostable and sustainable packaging trays instead.

Waste

Recycling

Our protocol includes recycling all facility paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, plastic wrap, aluminum cans and wood pallets.

Composting

We have an extensive composting protocol through the Maryland Environmental Service that delivers all organic food matter and biodegradable paper products locally to create both compost and animal feed. We compost over 3 million pounds of waste each year, removing this from our facility landfill contributions.

Energy

Energy Efficiency

To conserve energy, our 120,000-sf building has been outfitted with LED lighting and sensors that turn the lights on and off automatically based on movement in all warehouse and office areas. This reduces our energy usage significantly!

Transportation

Efficient Fleet Vehicles

We expertly plan our transportation routes and logistics to reduce the number of trips we take, number of miles we drive and numbers of trucks we have on the road.

Water

Water Conservation

To conserve water, our building faucets are all automatic to improve our water conservation facility wide. Our hand-dryers and compostable paper towels also further the conservation activities on-site.

Environmental Certification Programs, Awards, and Other Activities

Pete Pappas & Sons has achieved the following certifications:

*USDA/EPA Food Waste and Loss Champions 2030
U.S. Department of Agriculture Certified Organic
Maryland Department of Agriculture Certified Organic
Howard County Work Green Business Recycling Certification*

Profile Updated May 2022



Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.

Learn more at green.maryland.gov

