



U.S. Dairy Sustainability Facts

- The dairy industry has committed to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 25 percent by 2020 — equivalent to taking more than 1.25 million passenger cars off the road every year.
- The dairy industry is currently launching 12 projects across the dairy supply chain – from production of feed for dairy cows to processing, packaging and distribution of milk – that are estimated to achieve a 12% reduction in GHG emissions—nearly halfway to our to our 2020 goal.
- When implemented fully, these 12 projects will reduce carbon dioxide by 3.2 million metric tons – equal to eliminating the emissions generated from using 363 million gallons of gasoline.
- A variety of businesses and organizations have contributed nearly \$10 million in funding to support the projects, which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the entire dairy value chain.
- The dairy industry has a history of environmental stewardship. Most dairy farmers live and work on their farms, and understand the importance of protecting the land, water and air for their families, their communities and future generations.
- According to research from Cornell University, the dairy industry has dramatically reduced the footprint of its products by 63 percent over the past 60 years through improved production efficiencies, nutrition management, and technological improvements. Use of modern water conservation and nutrient management programs play a substantial role in reducing this figure still further.
- The Innovation Center engaged the Applied Sustainability Center to conduct the first-ever comprehensive life cycle assessment (LCA) of GHG emissions across the U.S. fluid milk value chain. The LCA measures GHG emissions from crop production through disposal of the container by the consumer.
- The Applied Sustainability Center at the University of Arkansas estimates that the U.S. dairy industry accounts for less than 2 percent of total carbon emissions in the U.S. The results will be submitted for publication and peer review later this year. The LCA will help determine the validity of this estimate.
- The dairy industry is embracing best practices to become more energy efficient during every step of the process that brings nutritious milk to consumers' tables. This includes reducing energy use at farms, in processing operations, and in transport and distribution of milk.

- Conducting on-farm assessments of energy use could help save farmers on average between 10 and 15% in energy costs, due to energy use reduction, according to EnSave, a company specializing in farm energy audits.
- Some dairy farms are taking manure management best practices – using manure to fertilize crops – to the next level by adopting the use of methane digesters. These turn cow manure into energy that can be used to provide power for their farms and, in some cases, their neighbors and nearby communities.
 - o [Enter local farm] is one example of a local operation that is using this technology to recycle this waste stream into renewable energy.
- Many dairy farmers and processors are adopting sustainable practices in order to increase efficiency and reduce costs, all while reducing their impact on the environment. [Enter local farm], for example, is practicing [enter technology, innovation] which helps [enter result].

Equivalencies

	Historical: The dairy industry has reduced GHG emissions by 63% since 1944, equal to:	Goals: The dairy industry has committed to reduce GHG emissions by 25% by the year 2020, equal to:	Projects: The initial portfolio of 12 projects are estimated to increase business value by \$238 million and reduce GHG emissions by 3.2 million metric tons, equal to:
Cars off the road every year <i>(Note: this is the preferred conversion to use)</i>	32.1 million	More than 1.25 million	586,000
Gallons of gas used	19.9 billion	798 million	363 million
The carbon sequestered annually by X Acres of pine or fir forests	39.8 million	1.6 million	727,000
KwH of electricity	244 billion	9.7 billion	4.46 billion
Barrels of crude oil burned	407 million	16.3 million	7.44 million

Source: EPA reference data, February 17, 2009. +/- 10%.
