

*Setting Climate and Environmental Goals and Improving
Corporate Sustainability Performance with The Tofurky Company*

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Executive Summary

This study explores the process for corporations to set and achieve long-term goals of improving sustainability performance and preventing pollution in their manufacturing. Multiple existing sustainability frameworks were used to analyze and assess the environmental impact of The Tofurky Company, a plant-based food manufacturer in Hood River, Oregon. Two main projects focused on increasing the sustainability performance of Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions for the company and supporting global climate adaptation and greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals. By reviewing and assessing emissions data from 2020 and 2021, various impact areas were identified and both long- and short-term targets were set for the future implementation of an Environmental Management System at Tofurky. Results are discussed in terms of specific goals and targets created and the process by which they were developed. Four general recommendation areas for action were chosen to reflect the four main impact areas of the company: (1) Energy, (2) Water, (3) Waste, (4) Supply Chain.

Introduction

As current climate science illustrates, the global climate is changing rapidly, and is deeply linked to human-based activities. This has pushed many companies to take bold climate action and evaluate their environmental performance for the purpose of contributing to global decarbonization efforts and make a positive impact in the world. Due to the often-unpredictable nature of the business market, global climate change, and process innovation technology, there will always be some level of uncertainty in addressing sustainability goals. This report exists as a case study for corporations to set and achieve the long-term goals of improving sustainability performance and preventing pollution in their manufacturing. The purpose of this report is to provide some insight into how corporate sustainability targets can be established and to expand awareness on the urgency of setting goals to drive action.

This study originated from a mutual desire between the host business, The Tofurky Company, and the Oregon Applied Sustainability Experience Program to reduce the environmental impact of Oregon based business and improve efficiency in regard to greenhouse gas emissions and pollution measures that ultimately contribute to global climate mitigation goals that current climate science requires. The following projects are focused on the requirements of existing environmental frameworks that ultimately support the climate adaptation and global greenhouse gas emissions goals. The projects were designed by the host business as a way to increase the sustainability performance of their supply chain and improve the pollution prevention measures for plant-based food manufacturing processes, all with the intention of providing a foundation for a long-term Environmental Management System for the company. The primary desire to contribute positively to society, the environment, and international communities is tied directly to Tofurky's business model as a certified B-Corporation and their mission to use "business as a force for good".

The main purposes of this study was to benchmark current environmental performance, establish a realistic timeline for goal setting, and create SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-Bound) goals that contribute to the company mission while satisfying the sustainability reporting requirements of Walmart's Project Gigaton, The Sustainability Consortium's THESIS (The Sustainability Insight System) Index, and contributing to the United Nation's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and B-Corporation specifications.

Project Summary

To satisfy the project needs, four main company impact areas were identified as (1) energy, (2) water, (3) waste, and (4) supply chain. Due to the urgency of the current state of the global climate, 2030 has been set as an ambition date to drive the highest possible positive impact towards climate action. With this in mind, three corresponding ambitions were set for 2030 and are as follows:

1. Net Zero by 2030
2. Water Positive by 2030
3. Zero Waste by 2030
4. Supply Chain Management

In order to achieve these ambitions, realistic checkpoints and targets have been set for 2022 and 2025 in each main impact area. An emphasis has been placed on resource intensity reduction, i.e., efficiency improvements, and total resource reduction. For the supply chain management ambition, the emphasis will be on completing a full scope 3 analysis and setting reduction targets. While Tofurky works towards the checkpoints and targets outlined in this report, there will be a necessary emphasis on selecting appropriate investment in outside projects that can contribute to the achievement of the 2030 ambitions. These include but are not limited to projects that sequester and/or store carbon, replenish and support freshwater

resources, support renewable energy projects and green infrastructure, and influence the overall impact of the supply chain.

Project Results and Recommendations

The final results and recommendations provide a foundation for a longer-term implementation of an environmental management system. What is the logical path for a corporation to take when looking to contribute to the global effort to mitigate climate change and adapt to the changing world? There exist a number of committees, organizations, and conferences worldwide that are undertaking the fight against climate change and their approaches and results differ widely. What does this tell us about the complexity of the problem for humanity to tackle? It exemplifies the varied approaches and paths that a group can take to try and contribute to a positive change where the negative effects of climate change are fewer than if business continues “as usual”. Without one specific pathway for corporate climate action, the decision is left to a company itself and which way it chooses to make commitments and take action on them.

In an exploration of decarbonisation scenarios, four main strategies were outlined: (1) scaling up new innovative production methods, (2) optimising existing systems with best available technologies and establishing efficiency improvements via economies of scale, (3) managing consumption and waste, and (4) closing material and carbon loops through improved recycling and utilization of waste streams⁴². Approaching the company ambitions and targets from a combination of these four strategies is the objective of the recommendations. These types of improvements would

be evaluated by department heads and the environmental management system team, that would compare cost-benefits in a way that considers emissions and resources use as well. This would require a continuous monitoring system for their manufacturing plant to explore high-impact machinery and processes that could lead to potential emissions reductions solutions. Ultimately, the recommendations made here (Table 1) are a starting point for the company to know where best to look and make the most impact in a short amount of time.

Main Impact Area	Recommendations
Energy	Increase investment in renewable energy and global green infrastructure.
Water	Invest in water catchment and recyclability options.
Waste	Increase the recyclability and compostability of waste streams.
Supply Chain	Complete a Scope 3 Analysis and identify hotspots for improvements.

Table 1. *Main recommendation areas for energy, water, waste, and supply chain.*

Commented [1]: good work!

Conclusion & Considerations

For the private sector, commitments need to take into account the practical realities of implementation while managing uncertainty and limited data availability. The effectiveness of a solution may fall short due to a lack of practicality. Practical methods for implementation must

be discussed at every step in the process to ensure time, resources, and energy are used efficiently. This is reflected in the creation of an environmental management system and sustainability program for the Tofurky Company and forms the backdrop for setting realistic recommendations.

Without realistic science-based mitigation strategies, the future is uncertain, and this project was designed to drive positive action to lessen the negative effects of the current and future state of the climate. This project sets a starting point and will contribute to the long-term implementation of an environmental management system and sustainability program. By setting realistic and ambitious targets, and measuring progress towards them, it will become more apparent where greater areas of impact are and what the potential solutions could be. This will set the company on a path that ensures their positive contribution to protecting natural resources and continuing to produce health plant-based protein products that support their environmental and social commitments.

