

# OUR ENVIRONMENT

Acting responsibly to protect our environment for future generations

At Sofina Foods, we take great pride in our commitment to sustainability and continuously improving the environmental impact of our operations and products. The principles of environmental sustainability are embedded in our Blueprint through the following guiding principles:



## ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

Foster a mindset of continuous improvement in every process, person, product...believing that there is an infinite capacity to improve everything we do



## DISCIPLINED APPROACH TO BUSINESS

Ensure that assets and resources are utilized to achieve maximum return...believing that we can always do more with what we have



## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Strive to preserve the environments in which we operate by constantly adopting best-in-practice policies

Sofina's Health, Safety & Environmental Policy reinforces the company's commitment to taking a proactive approach in minimizing the environmental impact of our operations and adapting our operations to global environmental change.

## ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Sofina Foods currently tracks environmental metrics related to energy and water usage and reports on these metrics on a frequent basis to drive continuous improvement across the organization and to meet the reporting requirements of our customers.

Recently, we created our first Environmental & Sustainability role to focus not only on improving our process of collecting and reporting environmental metrics, but also developing programs and standards to improve environmental sustainability performance.

We are developing a roadmap to reduce emissions and improve efficiency across our business. This roadmap will include both short and long-term goals, balancing achieving immediate action and fostering a culture of continuous sustainable improvement, while also providing a greater strategic vision to prepare the company for a low-carbon economy.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PILLARS

Sofina Foods is committed to improving its environmental performance through the following environmental pillars:

### EMISSIONS AND ENERGY

We track energy usage (natural gas, diesel, electricity) on a monthly basis. Energy usage is reported to Sofina senior management and compared against production throughputs. GHG emissions from energy usage are calculated on an annual basis.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Sofina Foods recently joined the Canadian Industry Partnership for Energy Conservation (CIPEC). As a CIPEC leader, Sofina Foods will participate in CIPEC networking activities, share energy management best practices, and work to improve our energy intensity as well as that of the food processing sector.



## WHAT'S NEXT

We will develop a robust program to reduce emissions and energy usage at our operations through the following measures:

- Hiring our first Energy Manager;
- Completing energy audits at our large facilities; and evaluating the deployment of Energy Management Systems at large facilities, conforming to the ISO 50001 Energy Management Systems Standard;
- Undertaking a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions and Energy Efficiency Site Assessment and a GHG Emission Reduction Plan Training Program at our Mississauga plant through a partnership with the City of Mississauga and Partners in Project Green.

## WATER

- Recognizing that freshwater is a finite resource, Sofina Foods is committed to reducing our water footprint while maintaining our high food safety standards.
- We work directly with municipalities such as the City of Toronto and Region of Peel to identify and implement water conservation measures at our facilities.
- In our Brampton plant, we are piloting new low flow meters to be able to monitor our water consumption in real time, which will allow us to quickly identify and address any excess water use. Following this pilot, the intent is to install these meters at all of our plants where we do not currently have real-time monitoring capabilities.



## WHAT'S NEXT

We will develop equipment standards and procedures to reduce our water footprint through the following measures:

- Equipment efficiency (high pressure, low flow washing systems);
- Water conservation plans for all facilities;
- Evaluation and development of water treatment and reuse systems; and
- Overall system efficiency upgrades.

We are investing in our plants to improve wastewater treatment, including significant investment in our Mississauga plant to improve the quality of wastewater prior to returning it to the municipal system.

## DID YOU KNOW?

As many parts of the hogs are used as possible. Sofina's pork processing facility in Burlington, Ontario utilizes an enzymatic process to extract mucosa proteins from the intestines of hogs. The extracted mucosa is sent to a third party for further processing where it is converted into heparin, which is a pharmaceutical used to prevent or treat certain heart and lung conditions and prevent blood clots. Other organs that are not consumed (i.e., heart, lungs, liver, bladder) go to local secondary and post-secondary schools and medical companies to be used in teaching, training and research.



## WASTE

- Sofina Foods takes pride in diverting meat byproducts from landfill by utilizing licensed third-party providers to upcycle these materials into higher value products such as animal feed, pet food ingredients, and biofuels such as renewable diesel.
- Many organic waste streams such as wastewater sludge are diverted from landfill by being transported to anaerobic digesters to generate electricity and/or renewable natural gas (RNG).
- Sofina Foods is currently in the process of implementing a multi-year strategy to expand existing and construct new wastewater treatment systems to reduce the amount of pollution loading discharged to municipal treatment systems.



## TRANSPORTATION

To reduce vehicle emissions and prevent unnecessary fuel usage and equipment wear and tear, Sofina has:

- An anti-idling policy that must be followed for all company vehicles, with regular tracking.
- A load optimization program to reduce the number of trucks on the road with monthly tracking.



## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

- Establishing Environmental Management Systems (EMS) within our operations exemplifies our dedication to proactive environmental stewardship and solidifies our commitment to a greener future.
- We participate in all provincial recycling programs to ensure our recyclable packaging is properly managed and stays out of landfill.



## WHAT'S NEXT

Sofina Foods is committed to implementing an Environmental Management System to conform to the ISO 14001:2015 standard across all production facilities (excluding distribution centres).

## WHAT'S NEXT

2024 stands as a pivotal juncture for Sofina Foods and our environmental efforts. This year, we are embarking on an ambitious journey of comprehensive trials, all geared towards authenticating the feasibility of recyclable packaging across a spectrum of our packaging formats. This crucial initiative sets the stage for an important transition. While we recognize that not all our customers have set a 2025 mandate for recyclable packaging, our commitment is to actively align with those who have. Thus, we are dedicated to ensuring that products tailored for these specific customers will be encapsulated in recyclable packaging by January 1, 2025. This targeted endeavour is emblematic of our dedication to both honouring our customer partnerships and driving sustainable advancements in the food industry.



## PACKAGING

Innovation is a driving force at Sofina Foods and we continually seek opportunities to minimize the impact of our packaging on the natural environment. From adopting new eco-friendly materials and improving packaging designs to pioneering recycling technologies, we are unceasing in our efforts to innovate and improve.



As a leader in the food industry, we pledge to make recyclable packaging an available option for all of our products by 2025. For example, our fresh poultry is available in recyclable PET trays for our customers who are looking for a sustainable alternative to polystyrene. Furthermore, we are innovating in polyethylene-based packaging that is aligned with the Golden Design Rules of Plastic Packaging as set out by the Consumer Goods Forum Plastic Waste Coalition of Action. This ambitious yet achievable goal underscores our dedication to significantly reduce plastic waste, demonstrating our proactive approach to sustainable business practices and protecting the planet for future generations.

Our dedication to sustainability reflects our mission to deliver high quality products while actively caring for our communities and the environment. We understand the crucial role of food safety in our industry. With that in mind, our innovation and development teams are deeply involved in ensuring our transition to recycle-ready packaging maintains the highest standards of food quality and safety. We are actively exploring and investing in advanced technologies and materials that promise to protect the integrity of our products while promoting recyclability. We allocate significant resources to thoroughly qualify new packaging materials on our equipment and conduct rigorous shelf-life studies. By managing inventories with precision, we ensure the seamless production of high-quality products through these transitions.

Consumers are at the heart of everything we do. We want them to feel good about choosing our products, confident in the knowledge that they are making a difference with every purchase. The recyclable nature of our packaging will be clearly communicated, supporting consumers to make informed and environmentally responsible decisions.

Sofina Foods is committed to responsible packaging management in accordance with regulatory guidelines set by provincial bodies across Canada. By prioritizing recyclable materials and eco-conscious practices and supporting provincial collection and recycling programs where applicable to our business, we contribute to the circular economy and minimize our environmental impact.

We wholeheartedly embrace this journey towards sustainability. We believe these measures will not only create value for our business and customers but also contribute positively to our communities and the environment. With our unwavering commitment to sustainability, we are leading the way in the food industry towards a more sustainable future.