



BENTO SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1

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Announcements

Introducing Bento first Sustainability Newsletter.

This newsletter will be a monthly feature and will consist of topics ranging from upcoming environmental and social initiatives to news updates regarding sustainability at Bento locations across North America.

It aims to educate and share information on the company's sustainability journey and progress in creating our own footprint as we take steps towards improving our planet.



We want to hear from you!!!

Do you have any questions, ideas or suggestions regarding sustainability at Bento?

Email us at:
sustainability@bentosushi.com



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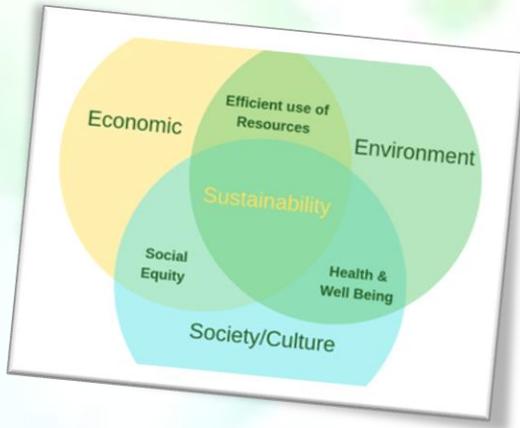
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What does Sustainability really mean?

Sustainability simply put is development that "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."



Sustainability is made up of three main pillars: Economic, Social and Environment (as shown in the diagram below). The holistic and successful integration of these three elements brings forth a sustainable environment. These principles are also known as profit, people and planet.

Sustainability is important for many reasons one such being: Environmental Quality. In order to have healthy communities, we need clean air, natural resources, and a nontoxic environment. Sustainability within Businesses is also extremely valuable and can lead to significant financial gain such as extended return on investment (ROI) and increased profitability.

Here's just a few reasons why managing sustainability is important:

1. Allows for deeper understanding of customer needs
2. Improves trust and engagement between staff, investors, customers and other stakeholders
3. Allows business practices to be more efficient
4. Attracts and retain employees
5. Improves customer sales and loyalty
6. Builds credibility, improves relationships and enhances brand awareness
7. Strengthens community relations
8. Enables innovation



At Bento, we have and continue to apply a sustainability lens to all aspects of our operations across North America. As we continue embark on this journey, we hope to contribute back to our communities, reduce our carbon footprint and make a positive impact on not only our customers but employees as well.

OUR PILLARS AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SGDs)

Three Pillars of Sustainability at Bento

Selling over 24 million packs of Sushi in 2019, Bento recognizes the impact on the environment with respect to raw materials. As such Bento has have developed three main pillars with supporting statements that will help to guide actions, reduce impact and focus our initiatives. They are:

Society -

Fostering a creative and supportive work environment for our employees and nurturing a strong, inclusive healthy community wherever we operate.

Waste Reduction-

Minimizing our demand on natural resources and focusing on Reduce, Reuse and Recycle in that order where feasible

Sourcing-

Protecting the environment in which our food is grown, from field or fishery to fork.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all". The SDGs, set in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and intended to be achieved by the year 2030, are part of UN Resolution 70/1, the 2030 Agenda. Bento, under its three pillars (Sourcing, Waste Reduction and Society) have aligned to specific SDGs to help further guide the company's actions and purpose with respect to sustainability.

This will assist in Environmental Social Governance (ESG) reporting to both internal and external stakeholders. The impact of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will continue to grow. More and more companies will use them to align their strategies, goals and reporting with the efforts of the United Nations. Last year, a 124% increase (since 2015) to the number of companies referencing and reporting the Sustainable Development Goals was observed. For more information on the SDGs and Bento alignment with specific goals, please visit www.bentosushi.com/sustainability or contact us at sustainability@bentosushi.com

Bento, under each pillar will work with employees, partners, vendors, customers and suppliers to ensure that we achieve our objectives, contribute to the SDGs, have a positive impact on society and reduce our overall footprint.

Sustainability at Bento



Composting at Bento Express Factories - Test Pilot

Compost is organic matter that has been broken down in a process called composting. This process recycles various organic materials otherwise regarded as waste products and produces a soil conditioner (the compost).

Compost is rich in nutrients. It is used, for example, in gardens, landscaping, horticulture, urban agriculture and organic farming. Rather than throwing it away in the garbage, we can turn it into something else and reuse it in another form such as fertilizers. At the simplest level, the process of composting requires making a heap of wet organic matter (also called green waste), such as leaves, grass, and food scraps, and waiting for the materials to break down into humus after a period of months.



Currently, our factory in Rhode Island, USA is disposing of their organics (cucumber cores, avocado stones/peels, rice and other waste) and it is collected by their vendor, Compost Plant. The organic waste is separated from other items such as plastics, garbage and cardboard. Teammates place all food waste into yellow bins that are provided by the vendor and the bins are placed outside for pick up when full. Bins are collected 2-4 times a week accounting for over 300 pounds are food waste diverted from the landfill each week! Amazing job RI!!

Plans are in place to partner with the vendor and nearby local schools, to donate fertilizer made from this compost towards creating small "Bento Farms in local schools and communities."

More to come on Bento Farms.....

In efforts to reduce waste across Bento's operations and promote community engagement, we will be expanding the composting program to include Toronto's Bento Express Factory. We will be partnering with Miller Waste to collect organics and transform it into a usable form such as fertilizers etc. By collaborating with nearby schools/organizations and promoting organic- do it yourself farming ("*Bento Farms*"), Bento hopes to offer a more positive contribution to society and our communities. This project will be modelled from RI's success.

Recycling and our Offices

As we make our way along this sustainability journey, Bento is making every effort to reduce our footprint and control our waste both at work and at home. It is important that we dispose of our waste correctly. So what exactly does go into the blue bins? Take a look at some examples below.

- food containers, e.g. peanut butter jars (rinsed and free of residue so it is not "contaminated")
- select types of bread bags (non-foil)
- sandwich bags (e.g. re-sealable type bags)
- bulk food bags
- produce bags
- newspaper / flyer bag
- frozen fruit bags (not stand-up pouch type)
- frozen vegetable bags (not stand-up pouch type)
- transparent recycling bags
- napkins, paper towels, water and soft drink packaging
- Plastic food jars, tubs & lids: such as margarine, yogurt, ice cream, cottage cheese & sour cream containers
- Plastic bottles & jugs: with lids securely fastened

If your blue bin is found to be “contaminated” with other items, Waste Management Services may discard all items and the items are taken to the landfill. Bento is also actively working at the consumer level to reduce waste such as removal of straws from retail stores, actively looking at more eco-friendly packaging options and the elimination of baran from sushi packaging.

Bento Sushi Foundation

The Bento Foundation, founded in 2015, whose fundamental mission is to give back to the various communities in which we serve. The Foundation allocates \$100,000 per year for initiatives such as: education grants for our employees and/or their children, charitable events & organizations, sustainable seafood causes, Japanese cultural activities, community involvement and disaster relief.

Have you applied yet? Applications are now open and are reviewed by the Foundation Committee once a month. We wish to empower our employees to create a more enjoyable and productive workplace and provide as many opportunities to you.

To find out more on eligibility, criteria and the application form email us at sustainability@bentosushi.com or contact our HR Department for more information. Information on the Foundation is also available at www.bentosushi.com



LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!

We all have a much bigger role to play than we think. Let's start reducing our carbon footprint both at home and in the office.

1. Start bringing and using reusable water bottles
2. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
3. Carpool with you family or friends – reduce your carbon emissions
4. Turns of all appliances including lights when not in use. Unplug chargers that are not in use.
5. Compose your organics, and avoid single use plastics
6. Bring your reusable shopping bags with you to the stores (grocery shopping, etc.)

Sustainability Committee

In order to be as transparent and accountable as possible to both you and our external stakeholders, we have established a Sustainability Committee. Once a month, we discuss and review environment, social and governance issues, initiatives in the pipeline and determine how best to reduce of carbon footprint across North America.

We want our committees to be as inclusive as possible and representative of all aspects of our operations. Let us know how you want to contribute and be involved.

More information to come....

DID YOU KNOW?

- ✓ Only 3% of our planet's water is drinkable. 97% of it is saltwater. More than half of the Earth's fresh water can be found frozen in the glaciers. The rest is underground.
- ✓ The Niagara Falls process 750,000 gallons of water every second!
- ✓ Agriculture uses up 70% of our global freshwater. It goes up to 90% in fast developing countries.
- ✓ In the last 170 years, we added 2.4 trillion tons of Carbon Dioxide into our atmosphere. Half of this was added in the last 35 to 50 years.
- ✓ Plastic is Forever. It doesn't bio-grade and go back to nature. It photo-degrades into smaller pieces of itself, continually polluting the environment throughout its life cycle. *Bento is looking at packaging alternatives to reduce our footprint and waste to the landfill.*
- ✓ The US throws away enough plastic bottles in a week to encircle the Earth 5 times! They're only 5% of our population
- ✓ Canada contains about 7% of the world's renewable fresh water.
- ✓ The average Canadian uses about twice the amount of water per day as does someone from France.
- ✓ 75% of marine fisheries are now overfished or fished to capacity.
- ✓ A glass bottle made in our time will take more than 4,000 years to decompose.
- ✓ We can save 75,000 trees if we recycled the paper used on the daily run of the New York Times alone.
- ✓ 27,000 trees are cut down each day so we can have Toilet Paper.

Remember....

Small actions DO HAVE large impacts!