

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT BEST PRACTICES FOR FOOD PROCESSING

USE LESS ENERGY

- Hire an expert to assess your energy consumption, and learn more about alternative energy solutions
- Use green energy (e.g., electricity, biomass) to replace petroleum products.
- Install electronic thermostats and set them to drop the temperature after hours.
- Learn how to use new technology to optimize your water heater on the Québec Energy Transition website.
- Choose energy-efficient appliances (e.g., *Energy Star*) that are easy to repair.
- Swap out your lightbulbs for more energy-efficient models, like LEDs.
- Look into installing a heat recovery system.

MANAGE YOUR WASTE EFFICIENTLY

- Hire an expert to produce a report on the waste generated by your organization and develop a waste action plan.
- Implement the 5 Rs (rethink your needs, reduce, reuse, recycle and reclaim).
- Set up sorting areas with clear posters to promote proper materials management.
- Get *ICI on recycle* + certification.
- Ensure maximum product use by using different processing methods like dehydration and freeze-drying.
- Find opportunities for unsold goods (e.g., charitable donations, pet food, juicing, soup-making, fertilizer production).
- Freeze products before they perish, and distribute to organizations and schools.

MAKE RESPONSIBLE PURCHASES

- Educate your suppliers about reducing packaging.
- Research the most environmentally friendly product packaging options based on available recycling infrastructure in the region where the product is sold.
- Adopt a responsible purchasing policy.
- Assess the possibility of using local business waste to produce products (e.g., substandard fruits, surplus production, food waste).
- Look into making group purchases with other companies in your sector.
- Shop local, sustainable products, like plant-based proteins and seasonal vegetables.

SAVE WATER

- Hire an expert to look into implementing a closed-loop water system, in particular for cleaning tanks.
- Install devices to reduce water flow during renovations (e.g., showers, toilets, faucets).
- Use environmentally friendly, phosphate-free cleaning products.
- Perform an initial dry cleaning of vegetables.
- Evaluate filtered water recycling.



REDUCE YOUR GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS (GHG)

- Hire an expert to assess your carbon footprint and draw up a plan to cut and offset emissions.
- Ask your suppliers to turn off their truck engines when delivering merchandise to cut their costs and reduce noise, GHG emissions and diesel exhaust at your facilities.
- Add carbon offsets to your delivery costs.
- Install charging stations for electric vehicles.
- Encourage collective and active transportation by installing bike racks and incentivizing carpooling.
- Consider working with other businesses in your sector on merchandising and distribution.

IMPROVE WORKPLACE WELLNESS, HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Make sure your facility is equipped with a high-quality airflow system and provide employees with personal protective equipment for their health.
- Keep a defibrillator and first aid kit accessible onsite.
- Have a first aider present at all times (as required by the CNESST).
- Review the ergonomics of different workstations and implement recommendations.
- Respect your employees' and coworkers' right to disconnect.
- Offer surplus food to employees.
- Optimize production processes, for example by using equipment that automates certain tasks.
- Involve your employees in your work towards becoming environmentally responsible.
- Share human resources with other businesses.
- Look into new HR practices.


INCREASE CUSTOMER SATISFACTION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Share your sustainable development successes.
- Ensure that physical access and services are tailored to customers with reduced mobility.
- Sponsor sports and cultural events.
- Get involved in causes.
- Lead youth cooking education activities, (e.g., in schools and daycares).
- Support local initiatives like community fridges.

NOTES

For more information, reach out to your local's SADC or CAE

[**sadc-cae.ca**](https://sadc-cae.ca)

 Canada Economic Development offer a financial support to the SADCs and CAEs.