



NEWS RELEASE

SunOpta Releases 2024 Sustainability Report

2025-05-01

Achievements include rooftop solar panels generating nearly half of SunOpta’s corporate headquarters’ annual energy needs (359,170 kWh) with renewable solar energy; realizing 136 metric tons of carbon emission savings annually from load mode optimization; donating more than 80,000 pounds of Dream Life®, West Life™ and chicken stock to those impacted by the California wildfires; and saving 44.2 billion gallons of water by producing plant-based milk compared to dairy milk.*

MINNEAPOLIS--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- SunOpta (Nasdaq:STKL) (TSX:SOY) – a company that delivers customized supply chain solutions and innovation for top brands, retailers and foodservice providers across a broad portfolio of beverages, broths and better-for-you snacks – is proud to release its **2024 Sustainability Report**. This annual update outlines sustainability progress made in the 2024 fiscal year across four key areas: products, planet, people and governance.

“Building a more sustainable future has grounded SunOpta since its beginning, and this commitment yielded significant impact in 2024,” said Brian Kocher, CEO of SunOpta. “Every day our team of employees, compelled by a spirit of continuous improvement, is innovating and collaborating to provide more efficient, productive and sustainable solutions for our customers while supporting the well-being of the communities where we live and work.”

SunOpta is continuing its journey toward its sustainability goals, while communicating transparently about its progress and challenges. SunOpta strives to find solutions to reduce electricity, gas and water, and to implement environmentally preferred solutions to waste management at its manufacturing facilities. The company is also committed to – and making strides toward – using innovative packaging solutions and efficient modes of transportation.

Following are highlights from the 2024 report:

Products



- 50 own branded products and ingredients enrolled in The U.S. Non-GMO Project.
- Attained zero incidents of noncompliance with industry or regulatory labeling and/or marketing codes.
- Received an external food safety audit score of 95.7 (“excellent” range).
- Commissioned a product carbon footprint (PCF) for our West LifeSoy milk product to determine the product’s carbon footprint of 0.54 kgCO₂e per 32-ounce package.
- Expanded our plant-based beverage processing facility strategically in Modesto, Calif. supporting a 60% increase in oat milk production and potentially eliminating up to 800,000 freight miles annually.

Planet

- Donated 1.2 million pounds of food (equivalent to nearly 950,000 meals) to Feeding America.
- Saved 136+ metric tons of carbon emission annually from load mode optimization, and 51 metric tons due to the reduced diesel required to reach our new centrally located Alexandria, Minn. warehouse
- 99% (by weight) of all packaging sourced by SunOpta is recyclable.
- Maintained Zero Waste to landfill at five facilities.**
- Identified ways to pre-heat water more efficiently for steam production in plant-based milk operations, cutting our natural gas use by nearly 650,000 therms annually in Modesto, Calif.
- Saved 44.2 billion gallons of water by producing plant-based milk compared to dairy milk.*
- Reduced waste at SunOpta’s corporate headquarters by recycling lab materials, plastic film and batteries; diverting 150 pounds of plastic from landfill by replacing disposable with reusable options and donating leftover product to employees.
- Reduced annual electricity consumption by 185,952 kWh through the elimination of a 40-horsepower oat processing motor in Alexandria, Minn.
- Reduced water consumption by 5% through a streamlined washdown and cleanout process on production lines in Omak, Wash.
- Generated nearly half (47%) of SunOpta’s corporate headquarters’ annual energy needs (359,170kWh) with renewable solar energy.

People

- Supported people affected by the California wildfires by donating 26,000 pounds of Dream and West Life dairy alternatives and 56,331 pounds of chicken stock.
- Fostered the value of inclusion and belonging through five in-person events and programming.
- 41% of employees at the Director level and above are female.
- 25% of SunOpta’s Board of Director members are female.

Governance

- Updated our Materiality Assessment in 2024 as part of the program development and goal assessment progress.

“In 2024, based on SunOpta’s updated Materiality Assessment, we refreshed our sustainability strategy and refined our goals to better reflect where we are in our journey and where we can make the most impact,” said Stacy Seidel, Head of Sustainability at SunOpta. “One of our most meaningful achievements this year is the growing maturity of our program—improving GHG emissions data collection, embedding sustainability into our business and enterprise risk assessments, and sharpening our focus based on stakeholder needs. We also made significant progress in advancing human rights visibility by onboarding our tier one suppliers into a new platform. As we move forward, we’ll continue to evolve to support our customers’ growth with high-quality, sustainability-forward solutions.”

About SunOpta, Inc.

SunOpta (Nasdaq: STKL) (TSX: SOY) delivers customized supply chain solutions and innovation for top brands, retailers and foodservice providers across a broad portfolio of beverages, broths and better-for-you snacks. With over 50 years of expertise, SunOpta fuels customers’ growth with high-quality, sustainability-forward solutions distributed through retail, club, food service and e-commerce channels across North America. For more information, visit www.sunopta.com or follow us on [LinkedIn](#).

*Estimated global average water savings of plant-based milk when compared to the equivalent production of dairy milk based on SunOpta’s annual plant-based milk production volume consisting of almond, oat, soy, rice and coconut milks, which represent more than 99% of SunOpta plant-based milk production when using data from Poore and Nemecek (2018) with additional calculations by Poore as published by BBC and Roos et al. (2018). The water savings estimations are not directly associated with water use from SunOpta plant-based milk manufacturing but instead refer to global averages of water consumption from plant-based milk production in the Poore and Nemecek research.

**SunOpta has adopted a zero-waste definition as 90% diversion of waste from landfill.

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Source: SunOpta, Inc.