

Northwest Food Processors Opposes HB 3470

Food processors have a voluntary GHG reduction program

Established in 1914, Northwest Food Processors Association (NWFP) supports the needs of the Pacific Northwest food processing industry in Idaho, Oregon and Washington. Membership includes some of the foremost brand names in the food industry in the United States, key producers of private label and institutional products, and locally run family businesses. NWFP is one of the nation's largest food processing trade associations, with more than 500 member companies including 154 food processors and 357 suppliers.

Food processors have been voluntarily taking actions to use energy as efficiently as possible and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In 2009, NWFP was the first industry group in the U.S. to set an industry-wide goal to reduce our energy intensity by 25% in 10 years and 50% in 20 years. The industry is on track to meet this goal. Food processors have also adopted greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets into their Sustainability Programs.

Food Processors need reliable and inexpensive energy because our activities (heating, cooling, baking, freezing, etc) require energy consumption. Arbitrary GHG limits can increase the cost of energy which impacts our ability to be competitive. Higher energy prices increases our cost to achieve food safety standards, limits the growth (jobs) of Oregon's food industry, and ignores the progress our voluntary GHG reduction program has made. The food industry is highly competitive and if Oregon increases the cost of energy, it hurts Oregon's food processing sector and makes other locations more attractive.

NWFP's voluntary energy reduction program is available to food processors in three publications that assist them in reaching our energy reduction goals. Below is a brief description of our material:

Energy Roadmap

The NWFP Energy Roadmap provides a pathway and guidance for companies to reduce their energy intensity (the amount of energy used per pound of product) through goal setting and implementation of a strategic energy management plan.

Sustainability Guide

The NWFP Sustainability Guide is a step-by-step guide to assist food processors to create or refine an individualized sustainability programs to meet the needs of their companies, their communities and their consumers. Includes exercises companies can use in plan development as well as a sustainability assessment and links to tools.

Sustainability Micro Case Studies for Food Processors

Sustainability Micro Case Studies for Food Processors, provides 51 brief (2 – 3 page), easy to read descriptions of real-life practices and actions that companies are taking to reduce dependency on natural resources, create new and innovative services, reduce costs, improve economics and improve the quality of life of their surrounding communities. This book is a vehicle for those in the food industry to share and inspire one another. The intent is that readers will modify these ideas for use at their own companies. NWFP is currently preparing an expanded second edition with more case studies.