



# CSR Report

UNITED NATURAL FOODS INC.

FISCAL YEAR

# 2009-2010



# Table of Contents

- 4 Letter from the CEO
- 6 2009 CSR Highlights
- 8 Our Sustainable Journey
- 10 Renewable Energy
- 12 Energy Conservation
- 13 Emissions Reductions
- 14 Water Conservation
- 15 Waste Reduction



## Sustainable Design

UNFI completed construction of a new 53,000 square foot corporate headquarters space in Providence, RI in September 2009. The building is part of an urban brownfield revitalization project in Rhode Island's "Green Corridor." The space is pursuing LEED® Silver Certification for Commercial Interiors.



20

Leading by Example



21

Giving Back



22

What We Give



23

Industry Causes & Corporate Partners



24

Humanitarian Causes



26

Environmental Giving and Green Teams



28

Leading by Example



30

Closing Statement



UNFI, doing good

# From the CEO

When I first joined UNFI, I did so because I saw a company with an incredibly successful history, the capacity for a powerful future and, most importantly, the passions and values of our associates in sustainability and philanthropy.

UNFI is a living example of a company committed to a “triple” bottom line—a passionate social and environmental conscience with shareholder value.

UNFI is the company it is today because we have always done business with the belief that supporting the environment, access to wholesome sources of food and our people is the right way to do things. To this end, our associates are the ones who drive us forward by volunteering to help our communities through Helping Hands, reducing our carbon footprint, and always holding us accountable to improve every year.

There are many examples of UNFI associates giving of themselves to support our core beliefs, some of which will be highlighted here. We have never sought to call attention to ourselves and our efforts for the sake of publicity, or because our support for causes was the right thing to do, but rather because sustainability and philanthropy are an integral part of our origin as a company and our commitment as we move forward. This is the first UNFI Corporate Social Responsibility Report and, in keeping with our responsibility to the Earth, will be distributed electronically, rather than printed.

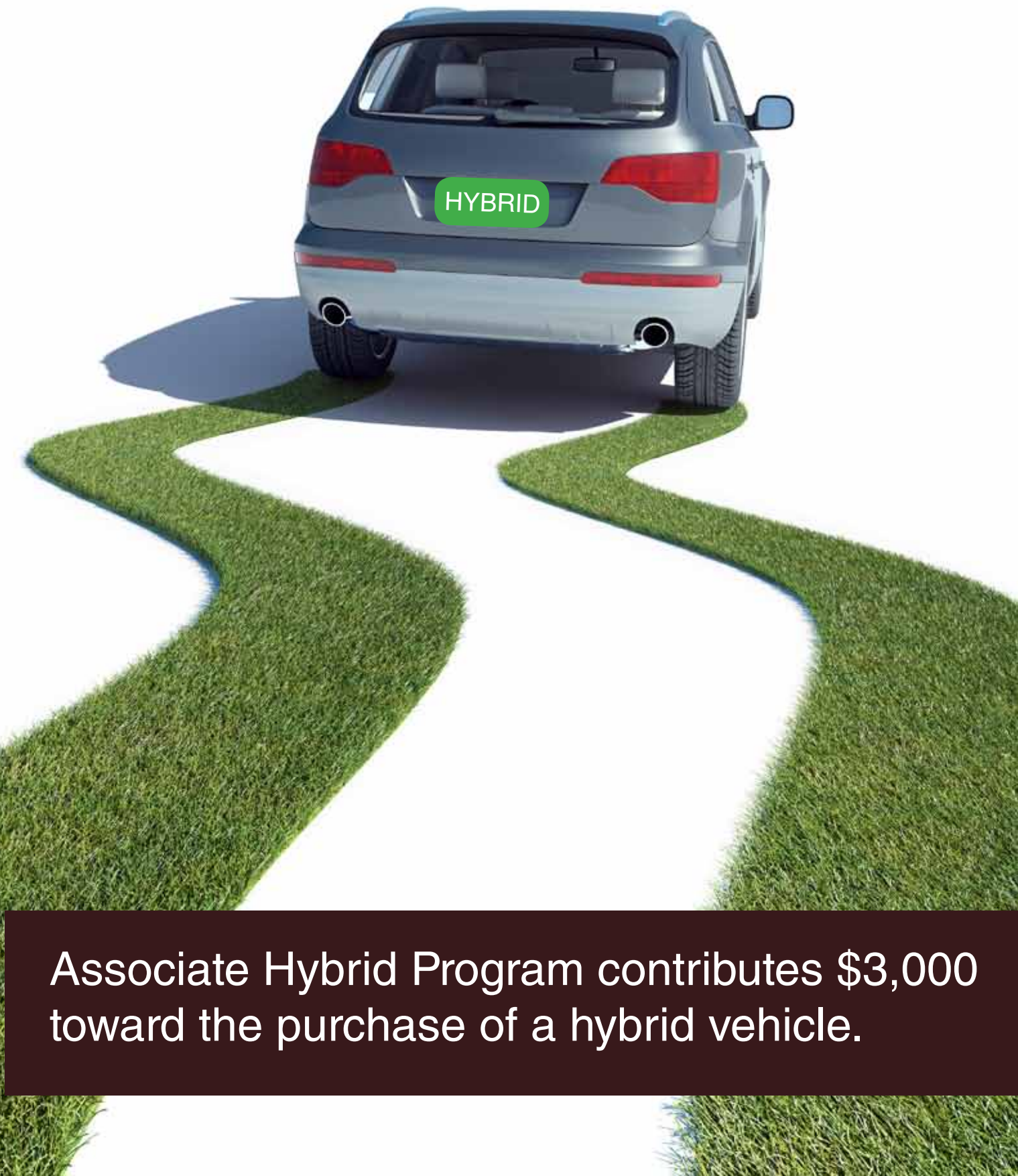
Congratulations to everyone for all the efforts that have made UNFI what it is today, an example of responsibility, sustainability and awareness.

—Steven Spinner



# 2009-2010 Highlights

1. UNFI announced a national Hybrid Program for all associates, contributing \$3,000 toward their purchase of a hybrid vehicle.
2. Our Chesterfield distribution center was awarded the Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star Rating, marking it as one of the most energy efficient facilities in the country.
3. Helping Hands Committees, formed to assist in the communities where UNFI conducts business, were created in all facilities.
4. UNFI annually participates in the Northeastern CT Relay for Life with our Natural Born Heroes team. In 2009, Natural Born Heroes surpassed our fund raising goal by \$22,000, raising a total of \$37,000 for the American Cancer Society.
5. UNFI Corporate Headquarters relocates from Dayville, CT to our new home in Providence, RI. The building is a redeveloped mill building located on a remediated brownfield site, designed to achieve LEED® Silver certification.
6. Participating with Vitamin Angels, UNFI executives traveled to the Dominican Republic to distribute Vitamin A supplements to children of the Batey communities.
7. The village of Anes-a-Pitre, Haiti, had a high childhood mortality rate due to unclean drinking water. UNFI funded a well, bringing potable water to the village and saving lives.
8. The 142.56 kWh DC solar panels in Providence, RI, the largest solar installation in the state, began generating power and saving 32,421 lbs of CO<sub>2</sub> from release into the atmosphere each year.
9. The Sustainable Development Department in Providence, RI, completed a Consumption Baseline Inventory to use as a water-mark for future resource utilization.
10. Partnering with the EPA Climate Leaders program, UNFI agreed to take inventory of greenhouse gas emissions, set a long term reduction goal, and annually report progress to the EPA.



Associate Hybrid Program contributes \$3,000 toward the purchase of a hybrid vehicle.

# Our Sustainable Journey

Michael Funk started Mountain People's Warehouse and, eventually, UNFI.

In a recent interview, Michael shared legend, history, mission and future.

## Is the apple orchard story fact or legend?

It wasn't an apple orchard, it was apricots. I didn't have a job and, in California, anyone could pick fruit for quick money. I went to an apricot orchard wearing gloves, as I didn't want to touch pesticides. I told the owner I was allergic, which I thought was a nice way of putting it. The owner told me the orchard was organic and I was pretty surprised, but worked a deal with him that I could come back and pick for myself.

I sold the fruit and that was the beginning.

So there was a demand for organic produce then?

Not exactly. Organics back then were undefined, and the public's perception of organic produce was mushy tomatoes and wormy apples. When I started Mountain People's Warehouse, I figured if there was no supply there would be no demand. In 1976, when MPW started, there was so little knowledge about quality control that our first grower of organic black beans shipped them to us rocks and all. Banks didn't take us seriously, so we just worked harder and smarter. But between 1984 and 1994, MPW grew

50% a year and banks started to see us as a real business.

## Where did UNFI's focus on sustainability come from?

Around 2004-2005, UNFI was the leader in naturals and organics and I realized we needed to have a commitment to sustainable business practices. I wanted us to be using renewable energy, to effect climate change, work in LEED® certified buildings, and I felt customers would appreciate these practices. I asked Tom Dziki to be Vice President of Sustainability, gave him a budget, and he and his team have made tremendous inroads in these areas. We have the first refrigerated warehouse in the country to receive Gold LEED® certification, in Ridgefield, WA. Our solar installations in Rocklin (CA), Dayville (CT), and Providence (RI) have increased our use of clean energy. We participate in SmartWay™, LEED® certification for our facilities, recycling and report on our sustainability practices. UNFI associates have completely gotten behind the initiatives and are constantly coming up with ways for us to be good for the planet.

## What do you see for the future of sustainability and UNFI?

UNFI needs to monitor the integrity of what we sell and address consumers' concerns about products and their effects on personal health and the environment. Consumer confidence is an intangible asset that we cannot lose and the higher we raise the bar the more confident we can be their confidence will be there. Walking the talk is crucial now and in the future, as we will be constantly scrutinized both as a company and an industry. As an example, right now there's a gap in the organic standards law concerning Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs). UNFI was one of the founding members of the Non-GMO Project, which is providing third party certification for GMO-free products. The Project is also working to create one standard that consumers can understand and support to confidently buy non-GMO products. Sustainable practices are what's going to grow the industry as a whole, and UNFI is, and will be, at the forefront.

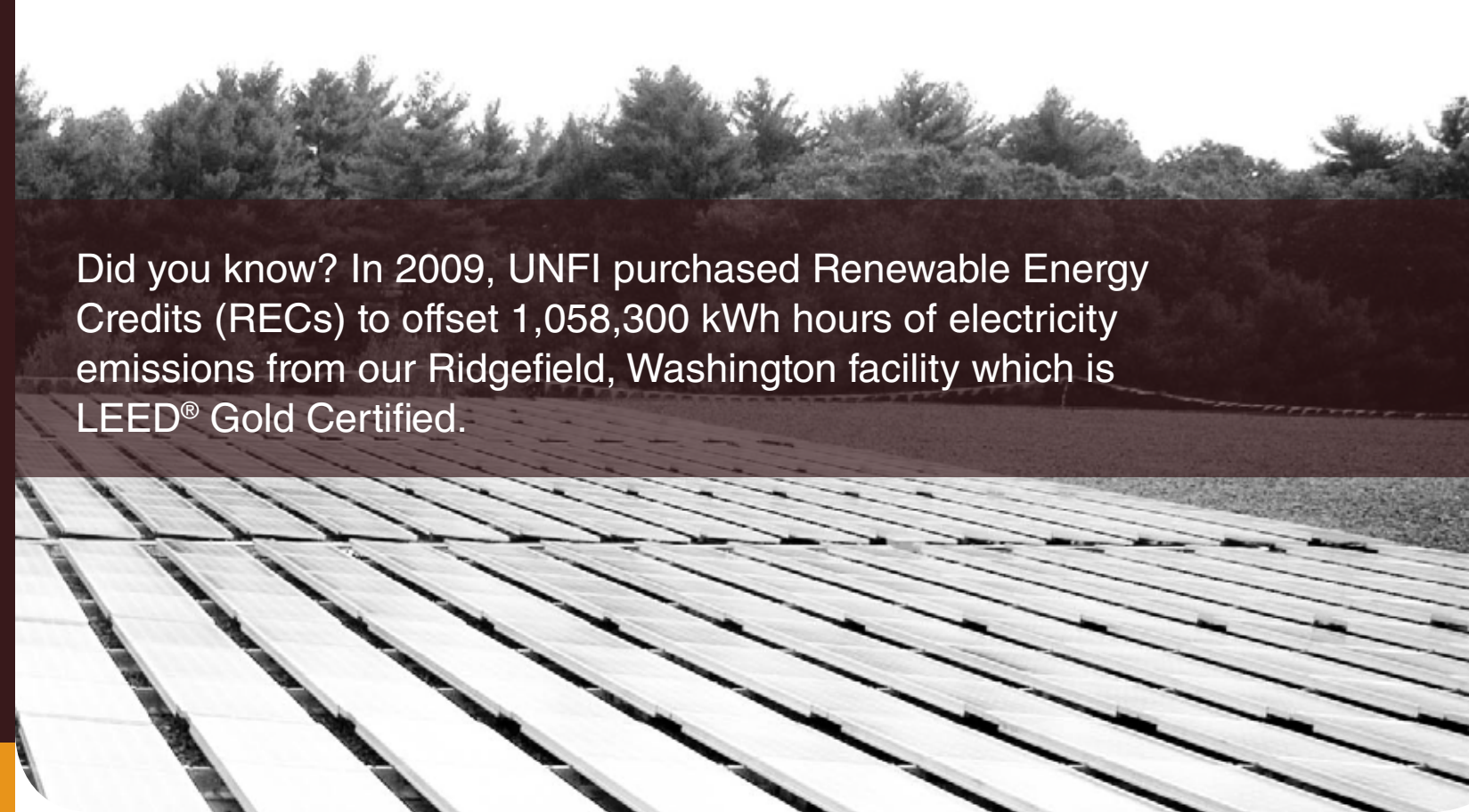


# Renewable Energy

UNFI has committed to producing and purchasing clean, renewable energy to assist in powering our distribution centers and ancillary office buildings. We currently produce renewable energy through three on site solar photovoltaic arrays. UNFI continues to investigate new technologies to help increase our use and support of renewable energy. We believe that investing in renewable energy is the right thing to do, and experiencing both the economic and environmental return from investing in clean electricity has strengthened support throughout the organization for more projects that help protect both the environment and our bottom line.

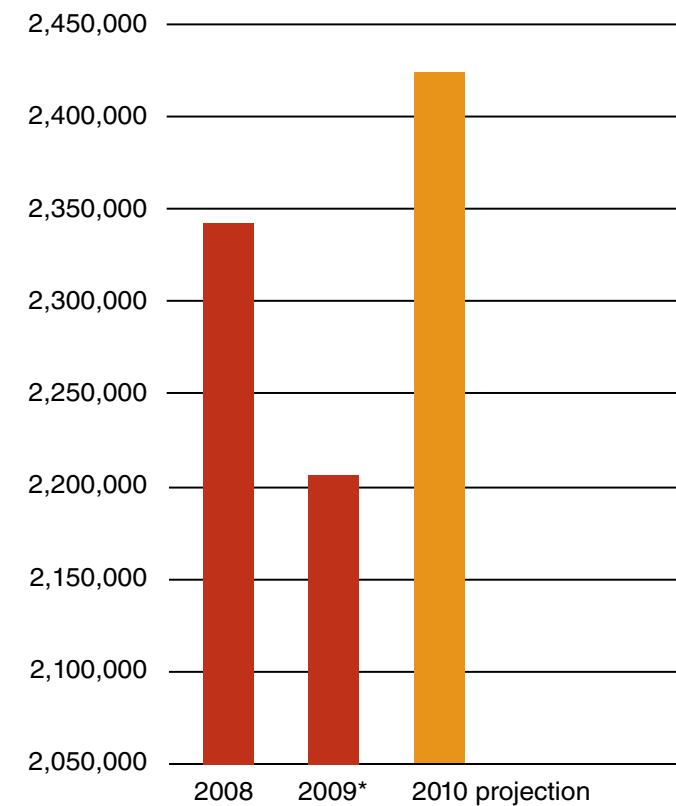
This chart reflects consumption rates in the Rocklin, CA warehouse before and after the installation of the solar panel array. The solar panels are tied directly into the refrigeration meter unit. This graph clearly illustrates the consumption offset that can be experienced by renewable energy technologies.

## Monthly Consumption in kWh After Solar Installation



Did you know? In 2009, UNFI purchased Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) to offset 1,058,300 kWh hours of electricity emissions from our Ridgefield, Washington facility which is LEED® Gold Certified.

## kWh Solar Energy



\*Note: In 2009, we experienced an unusually rainy summer and also had difficulty with our solar panel technology over the month of July in Rocklin, CA. This is why the 2009 production numbers are lower than what we experienced in 2008. However, in 2010 we project production should increase from 2008 levels since the installation of the Providence array, predictions for much sunnier weather, and new monitoring systems in place for solar panel technology failures.

### Rocklin, CA 1.19 Megawatt Array

- System consists of more than 7,000 panels covering 175,000 square feet
- Energy output 2009 = 1,747,244 kWh
- Metric Tons of CO<sub>2</sub> Avoided 2009 = 616
- Estimated Return on Investment is 4.2 years
- Avoided Electrical Cost 2009 = \$ 158,108

### Dayville, CT 550 Kilowatt Solar Photovoltaic System

- System consists of 3,146 panels covering 44,000 square feet
- Energy output 2009 = 504,796 kWh
- Metric Tons of CO<sub>2</sub> Avoided 2009 = 363
- Estimated Return on Investment is 6.5 years
- Avoided Electrical Cost = \$ 64,386

### Providence, RI 142.6 Kilowatt Solar Photovoltaic System

- System consists of 792 panels covering 11,000 square feet
- Predicted annual energy output = 175,000 kWh
- Metric Tons of CO<sub>2</sub> Avoided = 86 predicted
- Estimated Return on Investment is 5.1 years
- Avoided Electrical Cost 2009 = \$ 21,000

# Energy Conservation

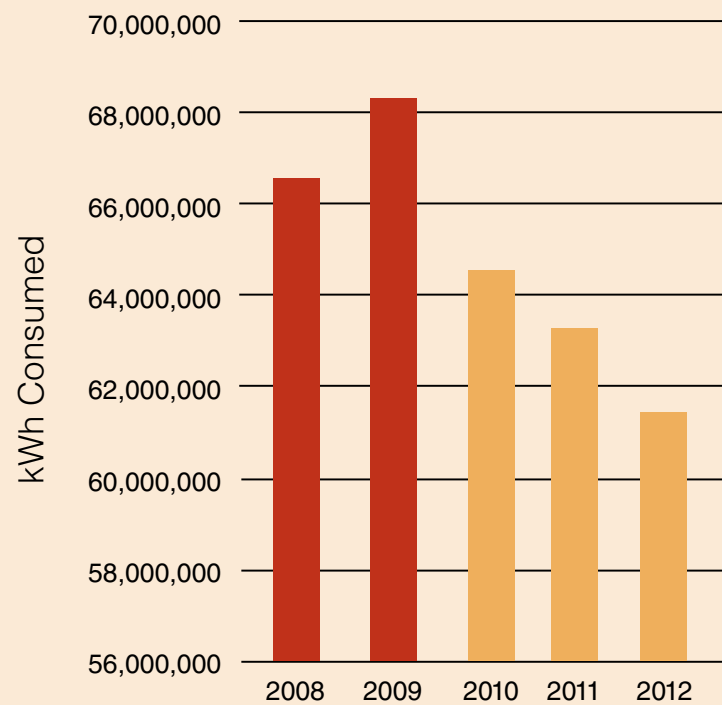
In 2009, UNFI's Environmental Coordinator collected a baseline data set and created Key Performance Indicator Reports. Key Performance Indicator Reports chart electricity use each month, current versus prior year, and are distributed to our Teams. Goals for energy conservation will be set across the country based on these KPIs.

## UNFI has implemented many energy conservation initiatives, including:

- In 2009, UNFI opened our LEED® Gold certified facility in York, PA and closed its operations at an older operating facility in New Oxford, PA. While the York facility is 175% larger than the New Oxford facility, it only consumes 16% more electricity!
- Daylight sensors and motion activated lighting sensors have been installed in many locations across our company.
- The Information Technology Department has an Energy Star purchasing policy for all new computer equipment.
- IT Data Center was recently consolidated. This decreased electricity consumption and cooling needed for servers.

Did you know? In 2009, 3% of energy used at UNFI came from renewable resources. We are currently researching different technologies to increase this percentage.

## Electricity Conservation Goals



# Emissions Reductions

## Total 2009 Greenhouse Gas Emissions for UNFI

Operational Emissions Category	Emissions Source Category	Greenhouse Gas	2009 Inventory Totals (MT CO <sub>2</sub> e)	Percentage of Total Emissions
Direct Core Emission Sources	Stationary Combustion	CO <sub>2</sub> e from Stationary Combustion	3,814	2.86%
	Mobile Combustion	CO <sub>2</sub> e from Mobile Combustion	92,028	69.06%
	Process Emissions	CO <sub>2</sub> e from Process Emissions	0	0.00%
	Fugitive Emissions	HRCs & PFCs from Refrigeration and AC units	4,296	3.22%
Total Emissions from Direct Core Sources (Scope 1 Emissions)			100,137	75.15%
Indirect Core Emission Sources	Purchased Electricity	CO <sub>2</sub> from Electricity	33,115	24.85%
	Purchased Chilled Water	CO <sub>2</sub> from Chilled Water	0	0.00%
	Purchased Steam	CO <sub>2</sub> from Steam	0	0.00%
Total Emissions from Indirect Core Sources (Scope 2 Emissions)			33,115	24.85%
Total Emissions			133,252	100%

## Non-GHG Optional Auxiliary Information

Operational Category	Emissions Source Category	Substance	2009 Inventory Totals	
			Value	Units
Optional Auxiliary Information	Non-GHG Fugitive Emissions	CFCs from Refrigeration and AC Units	0.00	Metric Tons Refrigerant
Optional Auxiliary Information	Non-GHG Fugitive Emissions	HCFCs from Refrigeration and AC Units	0.59	Metric Tons Refrigerant

## Climate Leaders

- UNFI joined the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Leaders Program in April, 2009
- EPA Climate Leaders is a voluntarily reporting partnership through which companies choose to report their Green House Gas emissions to the EPA
- UNFI has assembled inventory data on emissions from owned assets through the program
- The UNFI Sustainable Development Department is creating an Inventory Management Plan to insure timely and accurate collection of emissions data for years to come
- UNFI is one of the only distribution companies to have joined the Climate Leaders Program and acts as an industry pioneer in the field of Green House Gas reporting
- Next step: in late 2010, UNFI plans to announce an absolute reduction goal for emissions through the program

Did you know? In 2009, UNFI announced its Hybrid Vehicle Incentive Program to all full time associates that have been with the company for more than one year. The program offers associates an incentive of \$3,000 toward their purchase of a hybrid vehicle to offset the cost of buying hybrid technology.

# Water Conservation

UNFI recognizes water as a vital resource to be used conservatively. We actively monitor and report our water consumption levels to encourage conservation strategies.

In 2009, our facilities consumed over 38,000,000 gallons of water. To understand our water consumption levels, UNFI has established metrics to compare buildings by size, operation and systems. Our UNFI distribution centers with standard refrigeration systems, consume less water than our UNFI distributions centers run on ammonia refrigeration units. However, Ridgefield, WA and York, PA distribution centers, which run on ammonia refrigeration, consume far less water than the other buildings of their system type. Both buildings were built to LEED® standards and water conservation measures taken at these buildings are likely having a positive impact on consumption levels. UNFI has plans to address water consumption at each facility and to implement water saving technologies and practices over the next several years.

- UNFI has partnered with both local and national interest groups to help protect water resources where we do business including:
  - The Last Green Valley (Northeast Connecticut)
  - Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council (Providence, Rhode Island)
  - Save the Bay (Santa Cruz, California)
  - City of Rocklin Creek Week (Rocklin, CA)
- UNFI Green Teams regularly participate in and support local watershed quality initiatives both through volunteer hours and monetary donations
- A rainwater harvesting system is installed in the UNFI York, Pennsylvania facility. This unit offsets the water used by the facility's ammonia refrigeration system.



# Waste Reduction



## List of Materials Recycled Nationally

- Cardboard
- Office Paper
- Shrink Wrap
- Bottles and Cans
- Ink Cartridges
- Electronic Equipment

By distributing Holiday E-Cards instead of traditional paper greetings, UNFI saved the equivalent of 9 trees, 3,637 gallons of water, and 2133 Kilowatt Hours of energy!

In 2009, the Rocklin Operations Team used part of their recycling rebate revenue to fund charitable causes. Specifically, they helped fund the Green Team booth at the Roseville Earth Day Festival, donated to Thanks To Give — a group that prepares and delivers Thanksgiving meals to the homebound, donated to tree plantings at Twelve Bridges Elementary School, tree plantings through the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, sponsored the Rocklin Park Cleanup and more!

*A Note from Sustainable Development*  
UNFI has endeavored to collect accurate, reliable data on waste streams. We recognize the importance of waste reduction to sustainability and are committed to moving as close to zero-waste operation as possible. We realize that establishing a nationalized program is necessary as this will allow us to streamline our data, give us a better understanding of our waste production and enable us to move toward a more efficient, effective and robust program for reduction. UNFI is investigating creative waste solutions and working to establish the right nationalized partner.



# Sustainable Design

## Ridgefield, WA

UNFI's distribution center in Ridgefield, WA was awarded Gold certification in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Green Building Rating System from the U.S. Green Building Council in early 2009.

Environmental highlights include:

- Water use reduction of over 40% using motion-activated sensors and flow controls
- Energy reduction of almost 30% when compared to a typical building of the same size
- Building materials composed of a minimum of 30% recycled content; all carpets made from 100% recyclable materials
- Building powered by 25% renewable energy; resulting in more than 4 million lbs. of CO<sub>2</sub> not being released into the air
- Portion of building material sourced from regional suppliers within a 500 mile radius
- Preferred parking spaces designated for Low Emission and Hybrid vehicles

## York, PA

UNFI achieved LEED® Gold Certification for our York, PA distribution center.

Environmental highlights include:

- Water use reduction of over 40% using motion-activated sensors and flow controls throughout the building
- Energy reduction of lighting power density by more than 25% when compared to a typical building of the same size
- Over 60% of building materials sourced from regional suppliers within a 500 mile radius and contain over 35% recycled content
- No CFC-based refrigerants used in the buildings HVAC and Refrigeration systems
- Diversion of over 95% of construction waste from local landfills

Thomas Dziki, LEED® AP, UNFI Chief Human Resources and Sustainability Officer



UNFI has been a member of the United States Green Building Council since September, 2007.

# Sustainable Design

## Providence, RI

UNFI completed construction of a new 53,000 square foot corporate headquarters space in Providence, RI in September 2009. The building is part of an urban Brownfield Revitalization Project in Rhode Island's "Green Corridor." The space is pursuing LEED® Silver Certification for Commercial Interiors.

Environmental highlights include:

- Water use reduced to 42% below current EPA fixture requirements
- Energy conservation due to 82% of regularly occupied spaces having a direct line of sight to the outdoor environment & 78% electricity needs met by access to natural daylight
- All building materials have low percentage of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) & approximately 20% of the total material value is of recycled content
- During construction, over 80% of debris was either recycled and/or salvage; less than 10% of debris went to landfills
- All furniture selected is GreenGuard<sup>SM</sup> certified

## Chesterfield, NH

In late 2009, the UNFI Chesterfield distribution center was awarded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's esteemed Energy Star rating, marking it as one of the most efficient distribution facilities in the nation for superior energy efficiency and environmental protection.

Environmental highlights include:

- The facility is among the top 25% of the most energy-efficient facilities in the nation.
- The building uses over 35% less energy when compared to average buildings of its size
- Motion sensor lighting features and an upgraded HVAC system were installed to achieve improved energy efficiency

A portrait of Lisa Madsen, a woman with dark curly hair, wearing a yellow patterned top and a necklace. She is sitting outdoors with a blurred background of greenery and a stone path.

Lisa Madsen,  
LEED® AP, Director of  
Sustainability & Social  
Responsibility. Lisa is  
a board member of the  
Rhode Island Community  
Food Bank and a member  
of the Rhode Island chapter  
of the United States Green  
Building Council.

# Leading by Example



**Melody Meyer**  
SR Director of Purchasing  
*Albert's Organics*

Melody Meyer is not a noun, she is a conglomeration of verbs. Buying, advocating, lobbying, traveling, dancing, cooking, hiking and surfing barely scratch the surface of Melody's day.

Her passion for organics began as a teen with a job at a local co-op. After moving to California, Melody started Source Organic, a brokerage uniting organic growers with retail. Albert's Organics purchased Source in 2001, and Melody has been there ever since.

Improving organics globally is Melody's passion. "I work constantly to increase the amount of organic production world wide and raise the level of living for organic farmers and fair trade growers." "I travel to see their farms, hear their concerns and sit on several boards of directors. Not one to sit, Melody donates time to clean local beaches, cook gourmet meals and hike with her Ionian terrier, Rico Suave. When asked what would be important to tell others, Melody's response was, of course, in verbs, "Buy organic and dance!"



**Sara Keyes**  
Green Team Leader  
*Rocklin, CA*

In 2006, Sara was asked to form the first Green Team in the Rocklin, CA office and then do the same in all Western facilities. At first getting the team together was just a job assignment, but the associates who joined inspired Sara to stay involved. The first year the team worked to make Rocklin as green as possible, setting up recycling stations, switching to recycled copy paper and greening all the office needs.

In 2007, Rocklin installed solar panels and Sara organized the reveal event, which turned out to be such a huge success that she began to think of getting the team involved in community green efforts. The next year, the team hosted a booth at a local Solar Fair. Since then, the Rocklin facility has partnered with the city to work on environmental causes and is working with city agencies to secure funding for sustainability projects.

"This year the Rocklin Green Team will help host Creek Week and we'll sponsor a local creek," reports Sara. "When

I was given the assignment to set up the Green Team my intention was to hand it over to someone else once it was established. Now I wouldn't trade it for anything! It's my favorite part of my job and has changed the way I look at UNFI, our community and the environmental impact we make."



**Sandra Swale**  
Creative Services Manager  
/Citizen Scientist  
*Blue Marble Brands*

Sandra Swale has two passions: her organic garden and river microorganisms. "I'm all about getting good food to people," Sandra states. "Whether it's working with Blue Marble to help our consumer's grocery choices or growing and canning my own food at home, I want to be as organic as possible because that is what's best for my family. I like to promote organic gardening and farming wherever I can because it gets harmful pesticides, herbicides and non-organic fertilizers out of the soil."

Food concerns aside, Sandra is also proud of her volunteer work for the Connecticut Audubon Society as a Citizen Scientist and Streamwalker. Streamwalkers are assigned a section of stream and go in armed with a GPS, hip boots and camera. Any potential problems, chemical, physical or biological, are marked by location, assessment paperwork and a picture. All information is then given to the Department of Environmental Protection for further study. "There's global understanding that water quality is a growing problem, the time to start working is now and your own community is a great place to start."



**Jesse Hall**  
Maintenance Supervisor  
*Iowa City*

There's a recycle dumpster for metal outside the UNFI Iowa City facility, but it doesn't fill up. That's because Maintenance Supervisor, Jesse Hall, and his crew are creative geniuses when it comes to making new things out of old. When the Iowa City break room was remodeled, almost nothing went to the landfill. One associate took the old cupboards to use in his garage, chairs went to other areas of the warehouse, and the tables were dismantled and refurbished for new utility tables. Jesse and crew took damaged racking uprights, cut and welded them for legs, then created new workspace for teams checking tote accuracy. Using the same techniques, the team made five other tables for the warehouse and four benches for the Iowa City locker room. "It was a lot of fun taking stuff that was no longer usable and headed for the dumpster and turn it into something completely different and very usable," recalled Jesse.

# Giving Back



# What We Give

UNFI made great strides in 2009 to strengthen our community ties and broaden our charitable giving programs. We allocated 1% of Net Income for monetary donations to organizations aligned with our own mission and vision. We formed committees of associates in each facility to engage in community activities, organize internal team building events, and lend a “Helping Hand” to those in need.

## What We Give

- Organic & Industry Causes - \$180,000 (30%)
- Humanitarian Causes - \$115,000 (19%)
- Environmental – \$100,000 (17%)
- Local Giving - \$205,000 (34%)
- Total Giving - \$600,000

Fiscal Year 2009 Food Donations:  
\$6.5 million dollars (Wholesale) in the form of product.

## Who We Give To

Top 12 Organizations supported by UNFI

○ Vitamin Angels	\$48,479
○ Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF)	\$15,000
○ Non GMO Project	\$15,000
○ Partners In Health	\$11,240
○ Friends of World Food Program (WFP)	\$11,240
○ Haitian Well Project	\$10,800
○ Organic Seed Alliance	\$10,000
○ Organic Material Review Institute (OMRI)	\$10,000
○ Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF)	\$10,000
○ American Forest	\$10,000
○ American Cancer Society	\$10,000
○ Feeding America	\$10,000

# Industry Causes & Corporate Partners

UNFI financially supports and interacts with strategic associations that are key to the overall success of the organic industry. We support a myriad of groups in order to network and be aware of the various components that make up our industry. It is important to know the intention and goals of each organization and how they intend to move our industry forward. We do this to avoid duplicating efforts and also to expand the knowledge of research and education that is available to our stakeholders. The organizations we chose to support are all choosing slightly different routes to achieve the same end game of sustainability through organics. Whether they work in education, organic/non-GMO certification, organic farming associations, seed preservation or Fair Trade their efforts help make the entire organic industry a truly sustainable model!

UNFI has outlined five components of our charitable giving program:

### Fighting Hunger

- UNFI partners with Feeding America, the nation’s largest domestic hunger relief charity, food banks, soup kitchens, churches and relief organizations to donate product



### Humanitarian Relief

- We support Vitamin Angels, a non-profit organization dedicated to reducing child mortality worldwide by providing essential nutrients, especially vitamin A, to infants and children under five.



- Each year we participate in “Relay for Life” through the American Cancer Society to join in the fight against cancer and support those who work tirelessly to find a cure.



### Industry Support

- UNFI is dedicated to supporting the work of industry associations that promote sustainable agriculture, fair trade, and organic farming practices.



- Examples of our affiliations include the Organic Trade Association, Organic Farming Research Foundation, and The Organic Center.

### Environment

- UNFI’s Green Teams will have funding to partner with a local community organization and complete an environmental project, such as a park cleanup or tree planting effort.



### Local Giving

- Our associates have formed committees to perform community outreach and organize team building events.



# Humanitarian Causes

## UNFI and Vitamin Angels Partnering in the Bateys



In 2005, a member of the Vitamin Angels Board of Directors and UNFI's Leadership Team offered to contact Michael Funk, President and CEO of UNFI, on behalf of Vitamin Angels founder, Howard Schiffer. He felt that UNFI needed to put more emphasis on philanthropic and humanitarian programs and this was a perfect opportunity.

Howard told Michael about a program in Honduras which, seven years later, had not recovered from Hurricane Mitch, with families living in huts made from twigs and mud and eating mostly corn and beans. Severe malnutrition among children was the norm and a local school superintendant had asked Vitamin Angels to expand an existing program to reach 55,000 children in five school districts. Michael immediately saw an opportunity for UNFI to help and made a generous donation to Vitamin Angels. The partnership had begun.

But a monetary donation was not enough for Michael and, true to his nature, the following year he requested that UNFI associates be allowed to go to the country to participate in Vitamin Angels supplement distribution trips. The Dominican Republic was chosen, specifically a program to reach the children living on the Bateys. The Bateys are slums near former sugar plantations, built to house migrant workers close to the fields. The inhabitants of the Bateys had become invisible people with no schools, sanitation, medical care or rights. It was decided that the first program would be a deworming campaign followed by daily children's multi-vitamins.

As part of the first visit, key UNFI associates traveled to see for themselves how Vitamin Angels worked. Michael asked VP of International Sales, Margaret Loew to accompany Howard, and the trip changed their lives. "This was UNFI's first visit to a developing country and they were aghast at the living conditions," recalled upon returning, UNFI became huge advocates for Vitamin Angels and the partnership continues today through company financial support and projects, such as a new well for the Haitian community Anse-a-Pitre, where lack of potable water had been responsible for the death of many children.

## Haitian Water Project

In April, 2009, Michael Funk and Tom Dziki travelled to the Dominican Republic to participate in a vitamin distribution for Vitamin Angels. While there, a local relief worker shared a story about a nearby Haitian village, Anse-a-Pitre, where a well project had halted due to lack of funding. Purified water was available only by purchase, and the villagers could not afford it. Almost all infant deaths in Anse-a-Pitre were caused by drinking contaminated water from rivers or wells. Michael and Tom were stunned by the depth of poverty in Anse-a-Pitre and, after learning about the necessary work remaining, agreed to have UNFI fund the rest of the project. The well was finished and Anse-a-Pitre now has a fresh, clean water supply. Anse-a-Pitre was only marginally affected in the Haitian earthquake, and the well continues to function.



## Backpack Program

UNFI is funding a grant for a Kids Backpack Program in a Mississippi school district for 2009-2010. The Kids Backpack Program, conducted through Feeding America, provides nutritious, kid-friendly food for children to take home on weekends and vacations, when school meals are not available. Due to continued fallout from Hurricane Katrina, this district has one of the highest Food Insecurity ratings in the country, and the grant will help feed 200 children within the district for a year. UNFI has partnered with Feeding America to combat domestic hunger on many levels, and the Kids Backpack Program targets elementary school children, who, in their formative years, have the greatest need for nutrients. The long term effects of childhood hunger are teens and adults who are not prepared physically, mentally, emotionally, or socially to productively join the workforce and become contributing members of society. Working through local food banks, soup kitchens, and programs such as Kids Backpack, UNFI has partnered with Feeding America to combat domestic hunger on multiple levels in several states.



vitamin angels

# Community Giving & Environmental Events



UNFI Green Teams are comprised of associates from facilities across the nation. Each facility strives to foster an active team. Green Team members are environmentally minded associates who work on environmental initiatives both in the facility and in their local community. Green Teams plan fun events and awareness activities such as Earth Day events, facility clean-ups, volunteer community conservation projects, tree plantings and more.

#### 2009 Green Team project highlights included:

- Eye glass reuse drive held in Harrison, AR & Leicester, MA
- SOLV Beach Cleanup in Ridgefield, WA
- Adopted a Greenway in Mounds View, MN
- Joined forces with local utility company for energy conservation education in Auburn, WA and Ridgefield, WA
- Helped sponsor motion sensor installations in Greenwood, IN
- Adopted local parks in York, PA and Chesterfield, NH
- Donated to the Homeless Garden Project in Santa Cruz, CA
- Started a yogurt container recycling program in Chesterfield, NH
- Facilitated a company-wide ink cartridge recycling program rolled out nationally
- Sponsored local youth to attend agriculture and environmental summer camps
- Raised funds to plant 782 trees through American Forests

## Helping Hands at UNFI

Giving back to the communities in which we do business is an essential component of our philanthropic vision. Our goal is to engage our associates in community outreach by forming “Helping Hands” Committees that work on charitable initiatives and team building. Our startup teams have reached out to their communities to build lasting relationships, support their community and lend a hand to those in need.

#### 2009 Helping Hands Committee event highlights included:

- Hosted community blood drives
- Organized food drives for local food banks
- Volunteered to serve in soup kitchens, churches and shelters during the Thanksgiving season
- Collected toys for local children through organizations such as Toys For Tots
- Participated in coat, hat and winter boot collections for the community
- Joined in local run/walk road races for Make A Wish, March of Dimes, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and other organizations
- Sent care packages to U.S. troops stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan
- Helped to complete a painting project for an inner city rooming house
- Jumped into freezing cold water in New England on Thanksgiving morning to support the Turkey Dip for the Muscular Dystrophy Association!



# Leading by Example



**Margaret Loew**  
VP of International Sales

A nineteen year veteran of UNFI, Margaret has given back to communities all her life. “My passion is to help make a difference,” Margaret states. Margaret’s association with Vitamin Angels, an organization that provides children with essential vitamins, began by chance. “I attended a woman’s networking session and met Howard Schiff, their founder,” Margaret recalled. Sometime later, UNFI sponsored a trip to the Dominican Republic to distribute UNFI donated vitamins and Margaret was asked to go.

The three days of driving from village to village changed Margaret’s life, “I came home appreciative of what we have here and how simple it was to make a difference.” To this day, Margaret’s holiday gifts to family are contributions made to Vitamin Angels in their names. Margaret is also an active fund raiser for the American Cancer Society. Margaret is captain of Natural Born Heros, a UNFI sponsored team for Relay for Life.

“The team has participated for 15 years, and we’ve raised over \$130,000. I’ll never really retire,” Margaret mused, “I’ll always be out there giving.”



**Ken R. Lee**  
IT Internal Auditor

Ken R. Lee has only been with UNFI for five years, but he brings a lifetime of volunteering and giving back to his community. “I enjoy working for UNFI and have been involved with Relay for Life for four years,” Ken said. “I’m very involved in fund raising, for which I’ve organized bake sales, holiday wreath and daffodil sales, free throw contests, and penny wars.” Penny wars? “Each department gets a Relay bucket and starts out collecting pennies with each penny counting for a point,” explained Ken. “However, silver coins cancel penny points, so departments try to sabotage each other by putting change in everyone’s bucket but their own. It’s all in fun and all the money goes to Relay.” Ken has also chaired the Dayville, CT UNFI annual golf outing for the last two years, which has raised over \$ 10,000 for various local charities in the north eastern part of Connecticut.

Ken has been involved in Boy Scouts since he was old enough to join. “My mother was asked to be a Scout camp nurse. She made it clear that my father, a teacher, and I were a package deal. All the other Scouts came to camp for only one week but I got to go all summer!” Ken recalled. An Eagle Scout by age fourteen, Ken has spent his life sharing what scouting taught him with literally thousands of young men. Ken has been an assistant troop leader, Crew Advisor for a Venture Crew (a co-ed Scouting group), designs the annual patch for Scout Sunday and will attend this year’s National Jamboree to celebrate Scouting’s 100th anniversary. “And the funny thing,” Ken laughed, “is that my wife is now the camp nurse where my mother started, so it’s come full circle.”

# Closing Statement

At UNFI, we view our sustainability as a journey with an ever changing destination. We began to forge our relationship with nature out of our desire to provide organic and natural products to our customers.

From that beginning, we began to examine how we sourced products and brought them to market, how our buildings used resources and what alternative technologies would prove to legitimately be worth the cost of conversion.

At this point, it would be easy to point to past accomplishments. LEED® certified buildings in multiple states, concentrated water conservation, large solar installations to save electricity, an East coast SmartWay™ truck fleet are all sustainable accomplishments UNFI can show with pride. Our associates work within the company and their communities to promote green initiatives through our Green Teams and constantly bring new sustainability ideas to the corporate table. It would be simple here to say, “done,” but that attitude would ignore the UNFI motto, “Driven By Nature” and its twofold meaning. The future holds some incredibly exciting possibilities: more LEED® certification work, bringing our entire truck fleet into the SmartWay™ program, aggressively setting goals for reducing our greenhouse gas emissions, investigating wind power technology — it’s really the continuation of our journey and each new sustainable step has allowed us to strengthen UNFI’s position in the natural food industry. With each sustainability report, we hope to be able to look at past years and point to how far we have come, then turn and face the future for how far we wish to go.

“the UNFI motto,  
“Driven By Nature””





