



Sustainability in Fresh-Cut Processing

WASTE NOT. WANT NOT.

Who is Gills Onions?

- Founded in 1983
- Vertically integrated company
- One of the nation's largest fresh-cut onion processors



What does Sustainability mean to us?

- Staying in business by being profitable
- Preserve, conserve and use our resources efficiently
- Take responsibility for our environmental impact
- Taking care of our employees and the community



Onion Waste Problem

“Necessity is the Mother of Invention” - Plato

- Generating 300,000 lbs of onion waste on a daily basis
- Waste was becoming unmanageable and cost prohibitive
- Look at waste not as a liability but as a resource



Onion Waste-to-Energy

Advanced Energy Recovery System (AERS)

- Converts onion waste to renewable energy, ultra-clean biogas & cattle feed
- Improves energy efficiencies, reduces costs of waste disposal



Onion Waste-to-Energy

Advanced Energy Recovery System (AERS)

- Waste becomes a resource to produce energy and reduce carbon footprint



Donald Bren School of Environmental Science & Management

- What is the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management?
- Group Project
- Opportunity for Businesses to partner with education



Zero Waste Strategies for Gills Onions' Sustainable Innovation and Waste Management

- What is Zero Waste?
- How do we get there?
- Zero Waste is good for business and the environment



Zero Waste Strategies: Expected Results

- Bottom Line Net Savings
 - Increase Diversion from Landfill from 25% to 53%
 - Reduce Materials Waste by 12%
 - Cut Water Consumption by 30%
 - Eliminate 100% of Onion Waste



The Climate Registry

- Allows us to measure our energy sources and emissions
- Gills Onions became one of 243 founding members in 2008
- Why We Joined -
 - Risk Management
 - Develop a baseline from which we can document our improvements over the years
 - Recognition/Validation as an environmental leader in our industry



How we Measure our Progress

- Becoming a member of the Climate Registry
- Creating Baselines for all our resource categories
- In the process of implementing Key Performance Indicators



What You can do and Why

- Take a hard look at the resources you consume and the waste you generate
- Zero Waste Initiatives are not just good for the environment, they're good for the bottom line
- There are Opportunities in your waste streams



Awards/Recognition for our environmental achievements

