

ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIAL GOVERNANCE

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Costa Group supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Our Sustainable Commercial Farming principles (currently 10 in total) are reflective of, and complement these goals, in particular the following:



WELL GROWN - Sustainable Commercial Farming

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2020 At a glance

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

133,558 tonnes CO2-e



from 142,375 tonnes
(2018-2019)

ENERGY CONSUMPTION

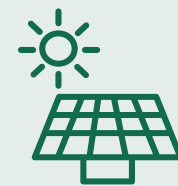


Total energy
consumption
1,076,070 GJ

Total energy
produced
7,064 GJ

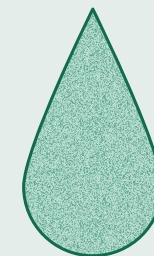
RENEWABLE ENERGY

The adoption of renewable energy sources and in particular solar energy to improve energy security and reduce emissions is a priority for the company.



The Monarto mushroom site solar farm generated 2,122,146 kWh of electricity which is the equivalent of avoiding the production of circa 900 tonnes (CO2-e) of scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions.

WATER USE EFFICIENCY AND SECURITY



Our growing techniques which utilise substrate (out of the soil), lend themselves to the capture of water for recycling and reuse.

35,986
MEGALITRES

Total water consumption
across all categories

KILOS OF PRODUCE GROWN PER ML OF WATER CONSUMPTION

Category	CY20
Avocados	1,293kgs
Berries (Aust)	
Blueberries	3,320kgs
Blackberries	2,500kgs
Raspberries	4,065kgs
Strawberries	18,653kgs
Citrus	4,507kgs
Mushrooms	56,756kgs
Tomatoes	36,683kgs
International – Morocco	3,334kgs
International – China	4,666kgs

* Includes recycled water.
2. Figure is based on the National Greenhouse Accounts (NGA) Factors (2020), developed by the Australian Government as a standard reference point of consolidated methods for estimating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from sources such as electricity and energy consumption and generation of waste disposal activities.

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COMPOSTABLE PACKAGING

Our banana team has developed a completely new style of packaging that is fully recyclable and compostable.

Switching to this new product will save an estimated 800,000 plastic bags per year.

AVOIDING FOOD WASTE TO LANDFILL

Costa donated 294 tonnes of produce to Foodbank, Australia's largest food relief organisation.

By avoiding disposal to landfill, the estimated avoided lifetime carbon emissions in 2020 were equivalent to 617.4 tonnes of CO₂-e.



RECYCLING



572 tonnes of cardboard collected for recycling from Tomoto glasshouses.

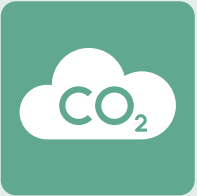
450 tonnes of mushroom growing trays recycled into bark and garden mulch.

Reduction in use of 300,000 plastic cups.

SUGARCANE PULP PACKAGING

In 2020 our Tomato category launched a sweet berry truss tomato pack made from sugarcane pulp. Sugar cane pulp packaging is made from the pulp of the sugarcane plant, and is extremely durable, lightweight and biodegrades in 30-90 days once exposed to composting conditions. The packaging is carbon neutral and contains 90 per cent less plastic than a traditional APET clamshell punnet.

CROP UTILISATION



110 tonnes of Costa and partner grown avocados, not suitable for retail and wholesale customers, was supplied to Austchilli for their AvoFresh range, resulting in an estimated avoided lifetime carbon emissions equivalent to 231 tonnes of CO₂-e.

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ORGANIC IN-CONVERSION

Our 45 hectare Tumbarumba (NSW) blueberry operation is moving all production to an organic system.

The farm, which is currently classified as 'Organic – in conversion', is the first organic blueberry venture for Costa.

To achieve full certification from a conventional growing system to organic, is a circa three-year conversion process from the day of use of the last disallowed input (November 2019).

The blueberries from the 20/21 harvest are being sold as organic-in-conversion through Driscoll's and are free from pesticides, disallowed inputs (eg. fertiliser) and are additive free and non-GMO.



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HORTICULTURAL INNOVATION AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The Costa Group Board's Horticultural Innovation and Technology Committee recognises the importance of innovation and technology to the company's long-term growth and sustainability and, from a specific Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosure perspective, the company's continued focus on adapting to the impacts of climate related risks that arise from climate change.



The Committee has a specific focus on the following areas:

- adaptation to the impacts of climate change;
- continued refinement of protected cropping techniques and technologies;
- sustainability measures, including methods to minimise or utilise operational by products;
- identification/development of superior varietal genetics;
- further development and adoption of data science to drive a major increase in crop yield, quality and forecasting accuracy;
- innovation in growing techniques;
- automation of crop harvest and other appropriate activities and
- differentiation, premiumisation and innovation in packaging and marketing.