A Founding Member of The Registry, Industry Leader Demonstrates Environmental Initiative

Gills Onions is the nation’s largest processor of fresh-cut onions. Headquartered in Oxnard, CA, Gills is a vertically-integrated, family-owned and operated company that handles everything from growing onions to processing and shipping them. With 100,000 square feet of processing and warehouse facilities, Gills peels and cuts up to ½ million pounds of onions per day.

Energy Management

In constant search of the most efficient technologies available, Gills Onions partners with Southern California Edison (SCE), and with SCE’s help, they installed energy efficiency projects which saved them over 1.5 million kilowatt hours in 2007 alone. Replacing three natural gas ammonia compressors with three energy efficient electric ammonia compressors, and adding (2) 250 hp energy efficient ammonia compressors to the existing ammonia refrigeration system, Gills was able to increase their facilities’ refrigeration capacity by 500 tons. Gills also purchased a new dryer, which is used to keep the moisture out of the air and create a dry environment in order to blow off the onion skins. Installing energy efficiency projects with SCE that saved over one million kilowatt-hours of electricity qualified Gills for the Cool Planet Project, and in July 2008, Gills Onions became a founding member of The Climate Registry.

Taking Action On Climate Change

A forerunner in the fresh produce processing industry, Gills Onions has demonstrated environmental stewardship on several fronts by voluntarily committing to measure, independently verify, and publicly report its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions on an annual basis utilizing The Climate Registry General Reporting Protocol. Partnering with The Registry will allow Gills to establish an emissions baseline and then track and reduce their GHG emissions, a value add given the energy saving practices Gills Onions continues to implement.

Since its beginning 25 years ago, one of the Gills family’s passions has been to explore new technologies and methods to maximize conservation and efficiency in all areas of its business. From water conservation, green packaging, employee relations, recycling and waste prevention, efficient land usage to community involvement, Gills Onions has always been an environmentally-conscious pioneer in the fresh produce processing industry.

Leading The Way Forward

Pursuing a company-wide environmental consciousness, Gills Onions will continue to lead the way within its industry. One major project currently underway is the construction of an Advanced Energy Recovery System. The system will convert onion waste into reusable energy (up to 50% electrical conversion efficiency) and which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30,000 ton/year CO2 equivalent.

“At Gills Onions we are always striving to integrate environmentally-conscious methods at every level of our operation. We use the most efficient technology available to us, and it makes good business sense.”

—Nikki Rodoni, Gills Onions, Sustainability Coordinator

For more information, visit www.gillsonions.com