



Founded in 1983, Gills Onions operates one of the largest, most innovative fresh-cut onion processing plants in the world. At the 14-acre plant in Oxnard, California, more than 90,000 tons of yellow and red onions are peeled, diced, and sliced annually using proprietary equipment and processes to deliver premium, fresh-cut onions to industrial, foodservice, retail, and consumer markets throughout North America.

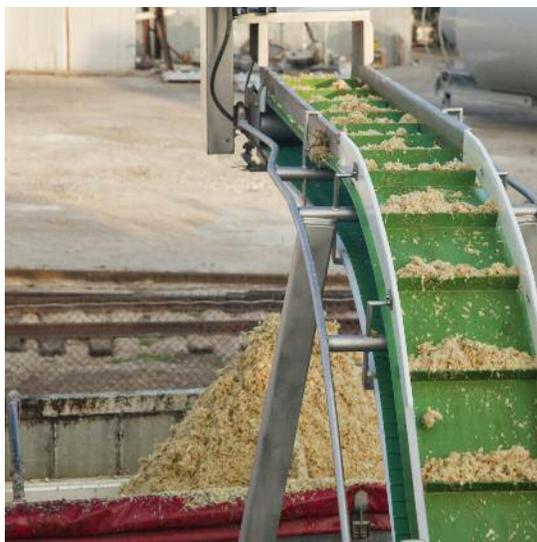
“Gills Onions continues to be at the forefront of sustainability leadership. We have developed a solid set of initiatives which allow us to measure the environmental as well as the economic benefits and better manage the business.”

Laura Hamman, Sustainability Manager

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Consistent with its core values of doing what is right, accepting responsibility, and seeking to improve, Gills Onions has adopted ambitious goals. These goals are focused on energy efficiency, carbon management, and getting to zero waste.

After a multi-year, nationwide collaboration, Gills Onions began using onion remains to generate electricity. The system, dubbed the Advanced Energy Recovery System (AERS), uses onion juice to produce biogas that powers two virtually emissions-free 300-kilowatt fuel cells, providing 100 percent of the base-load electricity for the processing plant. Overall, this accounts for nearly 60 percent of the plant's total energy requirement, and alternately, would provide enough power to supply 460 residential homes for an entire year. Since its implementation in 2009, this award-winning system has generated over 25 gigawatt hours of electricity.



Conveyor with cake, the solid portion of the onion waste after extraction of juice.

CARBON MANAGEMENT

As a founding member of The Climate Registry, Gills Onions participates in The Registry's voluntary reporting program, demonstrating a pioneering role in California's Agriculture and Food Processing Industries. Gills Onions has collected, reported, and verified the company's greenhouse gas emissions inventory to The Registry for public transparency and to benchmark their performance.

ZERO WASTE

In 2009, Gills Onions set an ongoing goal to achieve zero waste in their processing, warehouse, and office facilities. To this end, the company created a comprehensive inventory of all waste streams and developed strategies to move closer to diverting 100 percent of waste going to the landfill. Through the implementation of wide-ranging recycling programs, the expansion of waste reduction initiatives, and the quantification of material use, waste diversion reached 99.2 percent in early 2015.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.GILLSONIONS.COM**

The Cool Planet Project Program provides utility business and government customers with education and technical training to measure and manage their energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. The Cool Planet Project Program is funded by California utility rate payers and administered under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission, through a contract awarded to The Climate Registry. California customers who choose to participate in this program are not obligated to purchase any additional services offered by the contractor. This program is offered on a first-come, first-served basis from 2/1/2013-12/31/2015 or until funds are depleted. Terms and conditions apply. The trademarks used herein are the property of their respective owners.

WWW.THECLIMATEREGISTRY.ORG