

# VERMONT GREEN DAIRY COHORT

## Building better businesses through environmental sustainability

An initiative of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation,  
Environmental Assistance Office  
In partnership with Efficiency Vermont

### The Vermont Green Dairy Cohort members are environmental leaders

---

The Vermont Green Dairy Cohort promotes better business practices that help the environment. Participation is open to all Vermont dairy product manufacturers committed to making voluntary improvements and tracking environmental impacts over the course of one year, from April 2019 – April 2020.

By joining the Cohort, you will join a community of like-minded businesses to share experiences and best practices, and challenge and support each other to make improvements in impact areas like waste, water, energy, and wastewater. You will receive targeted, hands-on technical assistance, trainings, and potential funding assistance from the Department of Environmental Conservation, Efficiency Vermont, and their partners.

There is no fee and no minimum qualification to participate. The goal is to help you identify and make improvements that are right for your business, that save you money, and that show environmental leadership.

### A sustainable dairy industry means a sustainable Vermont

---

Dairy products are a symbol of Vermont's agricultural history and a mainstay of the economy. They are also a symbol of a sustainable future. We know more than we used to about how dairy manufacturing can impact local and global environments, and many businesses are striving to reduce these impacts. Sustainability Cohorts help Vermont businesses learn from each other and adopt practices that *work* for their industry. Through the Green Dairy Cohort, you can help Vermont not only make the best dairy products in the world, but the greenest.

### Sustainability makes financial sense

---

Sustainability is about identifying and eliminating waste and inefficiency, which cuts costs and helps you be more profitable. By joining the Green Dairy Cohort, you will gain access to a variety of technical, media, and financial resources to help you make your business better.

## **Our commitment: To give you the help you need to get ahead**

---

### **Benefits of participation:**

- Sustainability consulting from DEC [Environmental Assistance](#).
- Energy and efficiency consulting from [Efficiency Vermont](#).
- Regulatory compliance assistance from DEC Environmental Assistance.
- Funding resources to make recommended improvements.
- Fully-subsidized [Certified Green Production](#) course from [Community College of Vermont](#).
- Trainings on data tracking, energy, waste, asset management, and wastewater.
- Opportunity to make your business stand out by going green.
- Membership in the [Vermont Green Business Program](#).
- Free publicity and media attention.
- Learn from and share ideas with other businesses at quarterly Cohort meetings.

## **Your commitment: To participate fully**

---

The Cohort's strength is in participants' full engagement. As a participant, you will be expected to:

### **Commit to environmental goals, including:**

- **5% reduction in energy use**
- **100% diversion of food waste and recyclables**
- **5% reduction in water use**
- **Minimize wastewater strength**
- **Maximize the use of recyclable, reusable, or compostable packaging**

Goals are normalized for production level. While they are non-binding, you are expected to work towards achieving them. The Cohort is designed to give you the resources you need to succeed.

### **Attend quarterly Cohort meetings to learn from experts, share skills, network, and collaborate**

Participants will gather in person four times over the year to network, share skills, and learn from experts in a workshop setting. Workshop topics may include environmental data and tracking, wastewater management, energy efficiency, and asset management.

### **Implement a tracking system**

Participants will track and report data on energy, waste, water, and wastewater as they progress towards improvement goals. DEC and Efficiency Vermont will help you develop and implement a tracking system and interpret data.

## **Learn more and join the Cohort**

---

Call **800-974-9559** or visit [dec.vermont.gov/environmental-assistance/sustainability/cohorts](https://dec.vermont.gov/environmental-assistance/sustainability/cohorts)