

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

HP Hood LLC and CleanWorld Sacramento, California



Partners develop recipe for success

When you open the doors at one of HP Hood LLC's dairy processing facilities, you'll find a shiny, stainless steel world that's designed for energy efficiency, water conservation and, above all, quality and safety.

HP Hood's focus on quality and safety inevitably results in a small portion of their product not making it to shelves. As in any manufacturing process, some products are bound to fall, have a cap that isn't sealed tightly enough, or be collected for routine quality and safety testing. These products can't be sold and must be thrown out.

Building on its 160-year history of social responsibility, HP Hood's sustainability team sets goals, shares best practices and pursues improvement opportunities in their 14 plants across the country. So, in 2012, the leadership team at HP Hood's Sacramento plant set out to find a sustainable solution for their 35 tons a week of waste.

They found their solution by partnering with local technology company CleanWorld, which shared their goal to repurpose what would otherwise be waste. The waste is collected and combined with food waste from dozens of local restaurants and retailers in a nearby biodigester, which converts it into valuable products for their urban and agricultural neighbors. These products include renewable fuel to power public and private fleets of trucks in Sacramento, rich liquid fertilizer used to nourish nearby farms in the Sacramento and Central valleys, and renewable energy to power the biodigester as well as local waste management facilities.

The process is unique because of the variety of ingredients that can be used by the digester. Like master chefs, CleanWorld's scientists constantly refine the digester's recipes to return as much value as possible to their community. Even product packaging, such as milk jugs and cardboard boxes, are part of the recipe, thus eliminating a second waste stream.

Their Sacramento neighbors also benefit from a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 3,276 metric tons and water use by 1.8 million gallons annually.

HP Hood LLC's 35 tons of waste per week now helps:

- Reduce Sacramento's greenhouse gas emissions by 3,276 metric tons
- Reduce Sacramento's water use by 1.8 million gallons annually
- Save HP Hood \$2.6 million