



# Case Study: Emerald Packaging Union City, California

As the second largest employer in Union City and the largest flexible packaging manufacturer on the West Coast, Emerald Packaging proudly embraces responsible leadership.

*"If you care about the future and the world your children will inherit, then the work required to achieve Green Business Certification helps you realize the organization's environmental commitment."*

*—Kevin Kelly, CEO*



Fresh Express and Jelly Belly bags are made by Emerald Packaging.

## THE RESULTS

In the past year, Emerald Packaging has saved:

- 3,723 kWh of energy,
- 231,954 gallons of water, and
- 2,707 lbs of CO<sub>2</sub>



Emerald Packaging's printing press rolling out their biodegradable, plant based PLA.

The company has many innovative sustainable initiatives and frequently introduces innovative tools and practices to the industry. In 2006, Emerald Packing created the first compostable plastic package in the produce industry using plant-based, bio-degradable (PLA) film. In 2012, they initiated advances in "field to fork" food product traceability with their packaging.

## Emerald Packaging strives to be sustainable at every stage of production and operations.

To this end, they:

- Work with customers to reduce packaging and to use more sustainable materials.
- Recycle everything, including inks, plastics, cardboard and paper. All solvents are recovered and reused onsite.
- Use energy-efficient lighting systems, low-flow toilets and drip irrigation for their landscaping, saving water and energy.
- Partner with legislators and regulators to increase recycling opportunities for plastics.
- Minimize truck trips through efficient routing, reduce their fuel use.

**All of these practices earned Emerald Packaging certification in the Bay Area Green Business Program in 2014 for their exemplary operational practices.**

Their commitment to the environment has also won recognition from Union City, as 2012 Green Business of the year, and Stopwaste, for switching from disposable to reusable cores for their plastic film rolls.

Learn more about the Bay Area Green Business Program at [www.greenbusinessca.org](http://www.greenbusinessca.org)  
Contact Alameda County Coordinator Pamela Evans at [pamela.evans@acgov.org](mailto:pamela.evans@acgov.org)