

PROVISION COALITION

PROCESSING FOOD SUSTAINABLY

Provision Coalition launches Online Sustainability Portal

For immediate release

October 25, 2013

Mississauga, Ontario – Provision Coalition, the leading voice on sustainability for food and beverage manufacturers, launched its Online Sustainability Portal yesterday at a special event held at the Mississauga Convention Centre.

Registering for the portal, which is accessed through the Provision Coalition website, is complimentary for food and beverage manufacturers. Portal members have access to leading edge, web-based sustainability benchmarking information, as well as tools and resources designed to help them assess, monitor and improve their sustainability performance. Until November 1, 2013, food and beverage value chain stakeholders can register and explore the portal for 30 days before paying for a discounted annual registration.

“Sustainability is increasingly important to consumers, retailers and all levels of government. Across Canada, food and beverage manufacturers are making remarkable progress toward sustainable production,” says Cher Mereweather, Executive Director of Provision Coalition. “Still, meeting customer expectations can be challenging, particularly for small and medium-sized businesses. That’s what’s so exciting about the Online Sustainability Portal – it provides the tools and resources needed to tackle these challenges.”

The result of nearly four years of research and testing, the online portal features many services that were developed to meet the needs of food and beverage manufacturers. Examples of tools and resources available in the portal include:

- **Getting Started Framework:** a step by step guide to integrating sustainability.
- **The Self-Assessment Survey:** an interactive survey that helps businesses identify sustainability strengths as well as potential gaps in their facilities or performance. The survey score shows how a business stacks up against the industry average.
- **The Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Scorecard:** enables businesses to track their natural resource consumption, waste and emissions on a per-unit of production basis.
- **Environmental Regulatory Tool:** helps users find out what environmental regulations apply to their facility and whether the facility is in compliance. (Currently Ontario only.)
- **Funding Database:** members looking to initiate a sustainability project can use the database to discover what kind of funding may be available from government (federal, provincial/regional or municipal) or through programs run by utilities.

- **Sustainability Consultant/Vendor Database:** a regularly updated listing of sustainability consultants and vendors serving the food and beverage manufacturing sector, searchable by project category as well as by company or consultant.
- **Resource Library:** a continually growing collection of case studies, industry best practices and articles on a vast range of sustainability topics.

Investment in this project has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP). In Ontario, this program is delivered by the Agricultural Adaptation Council.



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Investment is also provided by Growing Forward 2, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.



About Provision Coalition

Provision is a coalition of 11 member associations representing the sustainability interests of food and beverage manufacturing and input supply sectors in Canada. Providing valuable resources, programming and advocacy, Provision is the industry's leading voice on sustainability. Provision utilizes science, economics and the expertise of its members to ensure the competitiveness and long-term prosperity of the industry. Founded under the federal-provincial-territorial initiative Growing Forward, Provision helps its 4,000 member companies enjoy the economic, environmental and social benefits that come with operating in a sustainable manner.

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