

**For Immediate Release:**  
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## Costa Fruit & Produce Receives Sustainable Business Leader Certification

The Sustainable Business Network of Boston, (SBN) presented Costa Fruit & Produce with their Sustainable Business Leader Certification at a ceremony held at Boston City Hall. The event featured representatives from the Mayor's office, the Boston ReDevelopment Authority, the City of Boston Environment Department and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

The Sustainable Business Network (SBN) engages business and community leaders in building economies that are green, local, and fair. Costa successfully completed the SBN's Sustainable Business Leader Program after a comprehensive certification process focused on enhancing their environmental business practices and reducing their overall carbon footprint.

A recent recipient of Mayor Thomas Menino's Boston Green Business Award for their sustainable business practices and support of local farmers, Costa continues to "green their goods and services".

The Boston based food distributor has made a number of "green" enhancements to their operation including energy efficient lighting, low flow water nozzles, subsidized public transportation for employees, energy saving power jacks and recycling programs for processing, warehouse, office and IT operations.

Costa's fleet of 60 trucks has also undergone some "green" enhancements that include a very robust GPS routing system, new idle, speed and refer controls as well as driver behavior tracking and modification programs.

"We've adopted a continuous sustainability improvement philosophy", says Brad Woodgate, VP, Costa Fruit & Produce. "Our goal is to reduce our overall carbon footprint by implementing sustainable business practices whenever possible."

To head up these endeavors, Costa established a "Green Team" made up of employees representing various areas of the company. Their objective is to identify sustainable business opportunities and the possibility integrating them into Costa's regular business practices. Earlier this month, Costa introduced "Green at Heart" an internal program focused on educating and motivating their employees to embrace a greener lifestyle in the office and at home. "We very excited about this new program" says Mike Scuderi, Director of Marketing, Costa Fruit & Produce. "It is quickly becoming a part of our company culture."

So impressed with Costa's progress and commitment, the SBN will document Costa's program in a case study. Baseline data and monitoring have been established for the case study with hopes that the information obtained will help other like minded organizations achieve their sustainability goals.

### **About Costa:**

A privately owned company, Costa is a produce specialist servicing all of New England. They offer a complete line of fresh products that include, fresh fruits and produce, dairy, and value added fruits, vegetables and prepared salads. In addition, over 3500 frozen food and grocery items are part of our product mix. They service a wide range of foodservice customers, consisting of hotels, restaurants, contract feeders, healthcare, K-12 schools, retail, and college and university dining.

### **About the Sustainable Business Network of Boston:**

The Sustainable Business Network of Greater Boston (SBN) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with the mission to build economies that are local, green, and fair. With over 1000 locally owned and independent businesses and individuals participating in SBN's projects and programs, SBN remains the leading organization of sustainable business in the Greater Boston area.

