
U.S. SUGAR
2025 SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

INTRODUCTION

In the 1990 Farm Bill, Congress defined sustainable agriculture as practices that ensure economic viability, meet food and fiber needs, enhance environmental quality, use nonrenewable resources efficiently, and improve quality of life. Among these, economic viability is paramount—without it, farmers cannot sustain environmentally responsible production, nor the human capital necessary for a successful enterprise.

For U.S. Sugar, sustainability has been central to our business since our founding in 1931. Our founder, Charles Stewart Mott, pioneered the use of rail to transport crops from the field—an innovation that still continues to help us reduce fossil fuel emissions nearly a century later. Then, like today, our Company was committed to our community to ensure that U.S. Sugar employees and their families can grow and prosper. That Clewiston remains as "America's Sweetest Town" with a proud record of clean air, water and land stewardship is a testament to our long-term commitment to working in harmony with nature.

In our inaugural Sustainability Report, we're proud to share that our environmental performance is stronger than ever. Our farmers and factory teams actively contribute to local, state, and federal efforts to protect ecosystems and promote stewardship of our natural resources.

Looking ahead, U.S. Sugar's commitment to sustainably producing food for American families remains strong. We look forward to sharing the highlights of our success over the past year.

Sincerely,

KEN MCDUFFIE
President + CEO

U.S. SUGAR'S VISION, MISSION & PURPOSE

Our Vision

To be the low-cost producer of high quality refined sugar.

Our Mission

Maximize long-term shareholder value.

Our Purpose

Sustainably feed American families for the next 100 years.

OUR VALUES

Integrity & Trust

We are honest, upholding the highest standards of conduct in all our actions, trustworthy and trust our employees and partners.

Teamwork

We honor diverse perspectives, work together to impact others positively and apply our best efforts to the advancement of the organization.

Stewardship

We hold an unwavering commitment to our people, our communities and the assets entrusted to us.

Excellence

We lead through our commitment to safety and best-in-class operations in all that we do.

WATER

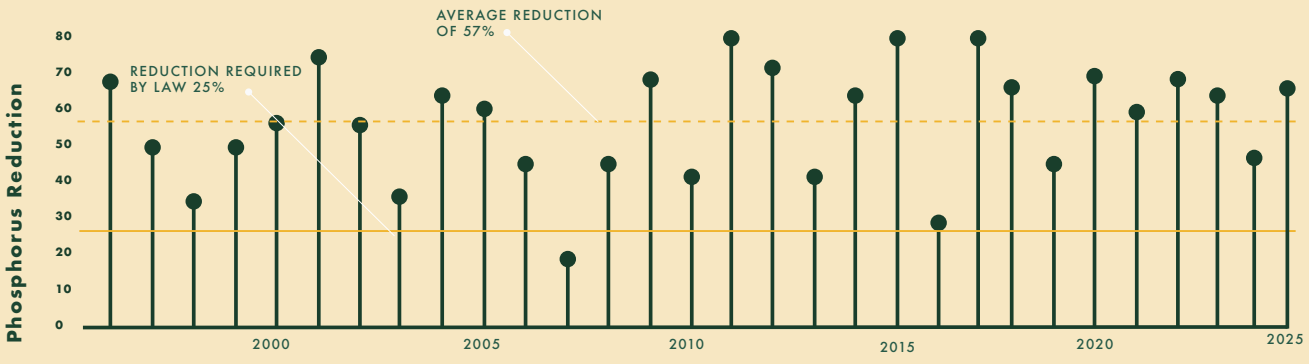
U.S. Sugar recognizes the vital role that clean water plays in both our production processes and the communities we serve.

Our commitment to protecting and enhancing the quality of Florida's water resources extends beyond compliance; we actively implement sustainable practices that prioritize water conservation, quality monitoring and ecosystem health. Through innovative technologies and partnerships, we are working toward a future where clean water is accessible and protected for generations to come.

U.S. Sugar's farms in the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) are enrolled in one of the most sophisticated and heavily monitored water treatment programs in the entire world. Farmers in this region, where the vast majority of our sugarcane is grown, are the only farmers in the entire United States required to reduce phosphorus in the water before it leaves the farms. They have done so in spades since the program began in 1996. Working with partners at the University of Florida and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), water on our farms must undergo world-class Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are designed to trap nutrient-rich wind and waterborne sediment to keep it out of the water and on our fields.

This past year, the program helped EAA farmers achieve a 66% reduction in phosphorus, bringing our total annual average reduction to 57% since 1996. This is more than twice the 25% required under Florida law and has significantly helped to improve water quality downstream in the Florida Everglades. To date, farmers in the EAA have prevented 4,765 metric tons of phosphorous from leaving the EAA and entering the state and federally protected Everglades.

Phosphorus Reduction by Sugar Farmers in the Everglades Agricultural Area



WATER, CONTINUED

This past year, water entering the EAA arrived at an average of 183 parts per billion in phosphorus and left our farms at an average of 144 parts per billion – showing water left cleaner than when it arrived. From our farming area, the water was sent further south to the Florida Everglades, which are the cleanest they have ever been in our lifetime. Today, 100% of the state Everglades (Water Conservation Areas) and 95% of Everglades National Park are meeting the stringent 10 parts per billion standard for phosphorus as determined by federal law. Water in the Everglades, on average, has less phosphorus than a bottle of water.

How Clean is Water in the Florida Everglades?

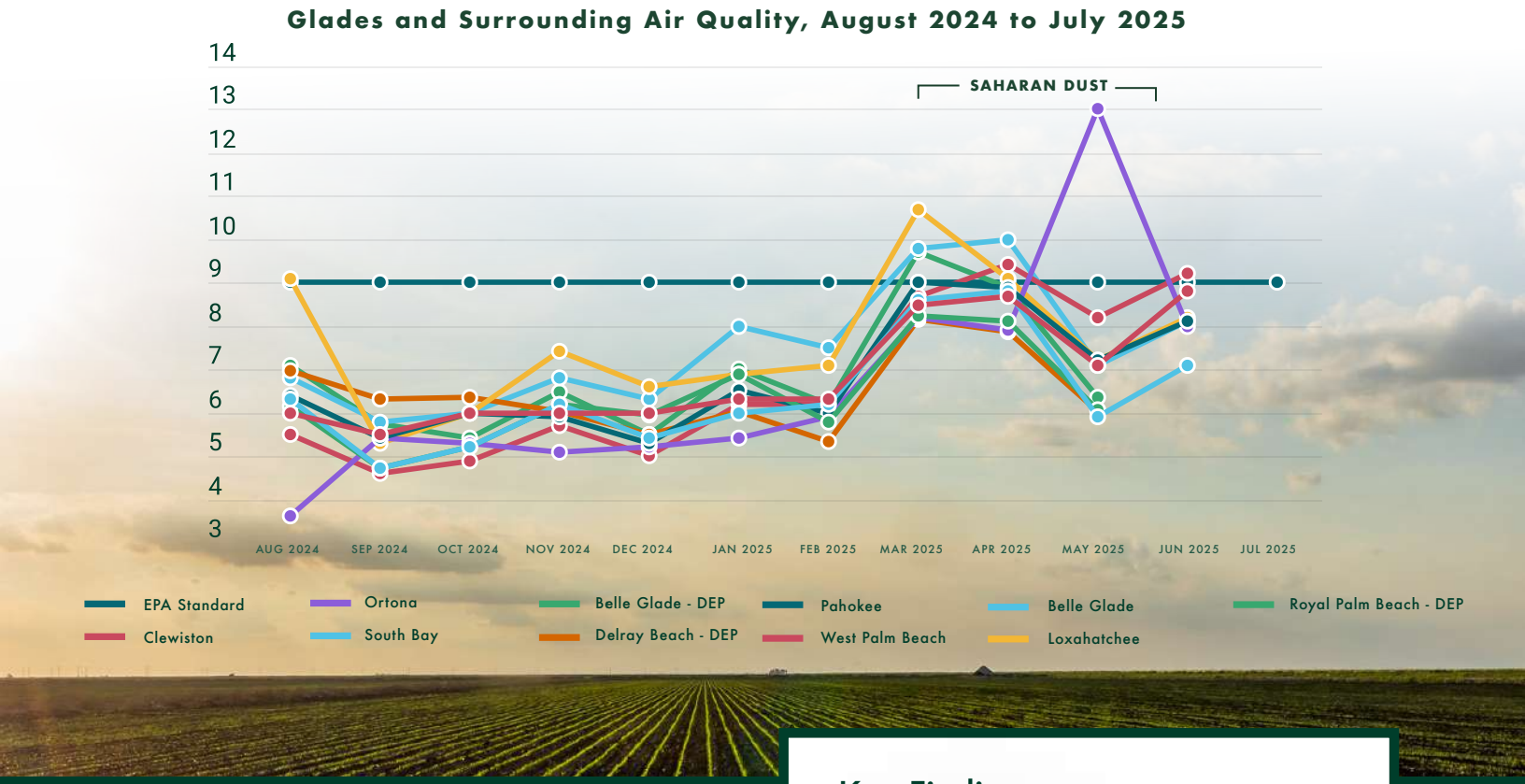
At least 90% of the water in the Everglades now meets ultra-clean water standards of **10 parts per billion** or less of phosphorus.

A bottle of water from the store can contain over **40 parts per billion** in phosphorus.

What are Best Management Practices?

Working with researchers at the University of Florida-Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) and state agencies, the BMPs developed with farmers incorporate emerging technologies and have become a national model for sediment control. Some of these techniques include:

- Using high-tech GPS equipment to level fields reducing soil erosion
- Planting cover crops to minimize wind and water soil erosion
- Promoting vegetation growth along canal banks to trap soil sediment
- Annual canal and ditch cleaning programs
- Modifying water pumping practices to prevent soil from being pumped with water as it moves off the farm



AIR

Florida has been experiencing a trend of historically clean air, and this year has been no exception. According to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, "While simultaneously growing faster than any other state, Florida continues to enjoy the best air quality since the inception of its monitoring network in the early 1970s."

While this is certainly great news for Floridians, our rural, agricultural-based communities in South Florida received even better news as having among the best air quality in the state, as confirmed by multiple independent experts over the past year.

Key Findings

1. Overall, results from government and private monitors tracked similarly throughout the year. Nearly all monthly averages in the Glades communities were better than EPA standards for "Good" air quality.
2. Sarahan Dust events from March through June 2025 resulted in slightly elevated PM 2.5 emissions both inside and outside of harvest season (October 2024 through May 2025).
3. On average, Glades communities had better air quality than suburban coastal areas like Loxahatchee and Royal Palm Beach.

According to the American Lung Association, Palm Beach County (where much of our sugarcane is grown) received an "A" for air quality in the 2025 "State of the Air Report." For particulate matter, Palm Beach County received a score of 6.3, which was the second lowest reading in the 14 counties where particulates were measured.

In its 2025 County Health Rankings, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation also found that Palm Beach County measured a 7.3 for particulate matter, which was well below the state average of 7.9.

AIR, CONTINUED

As part of our commitment to our local communities, U.S. Sugar is also publishing its private air quality data collected across a network of seven professional-grade air quality monitors throughout the Glades communities.

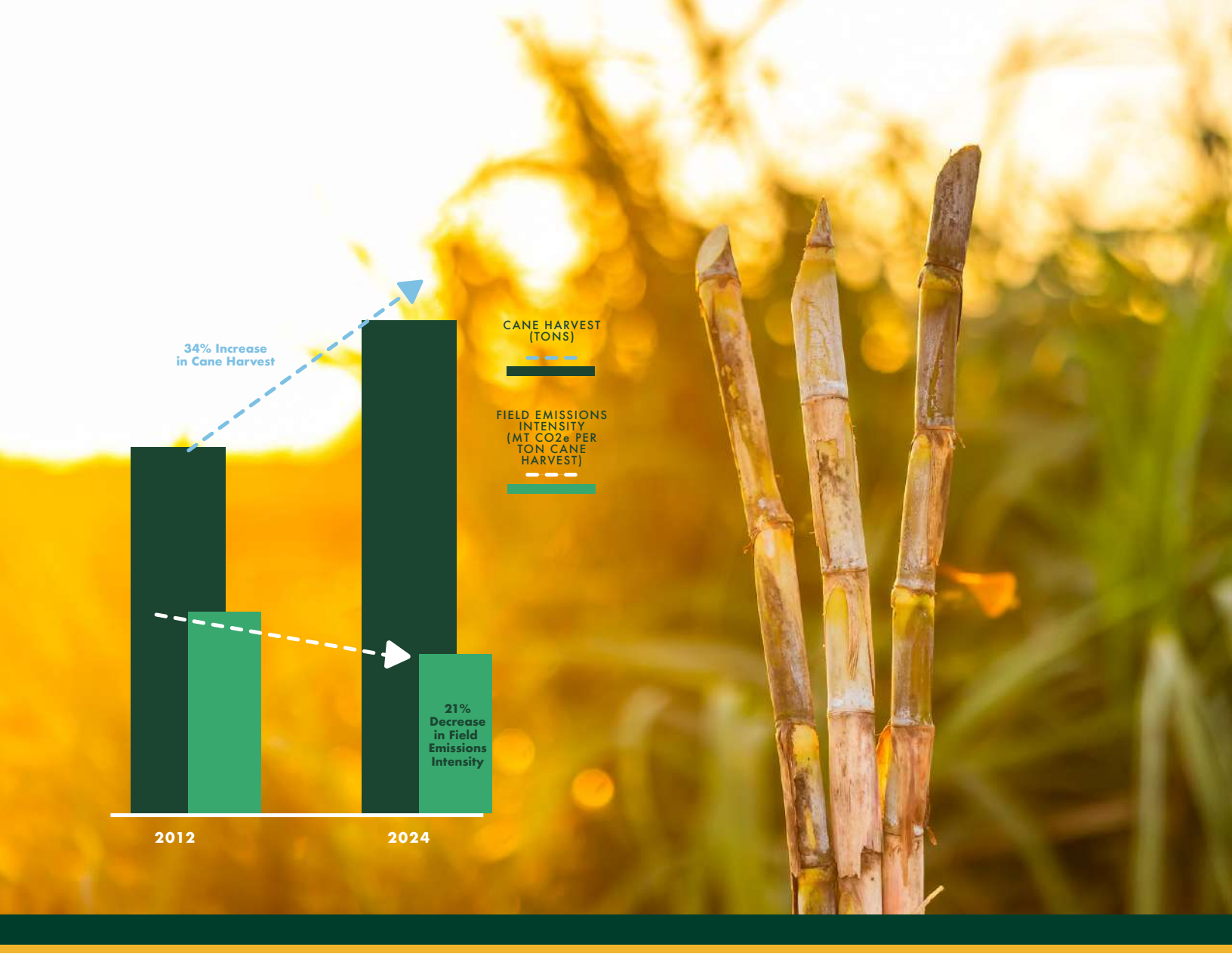
In 2025, respected universities Tuskegee and Florida A&M University announced the results of a ground-breaking year-long study into air quality and community attitudes toward agriculture in the Glades communities. The study was conducted from April through September of 2024, which included time during and after the harvest within the study period. The study found that:

- Air quality in the region remained within EPA National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) throughout the study, including during the burn season.
- Fine particulate matter (PM2.5) levels peaked in May, but researchers attributed that increase to Saharan dust and unrelated fires—not sugarcane burning.
- While pre-harvest burning did generate PM2.5 particles, those increases were small and localized, representing only 1% of total particulate matter found under a lab microscope.
- Other contributors to PM2.5—like vehicle exhaust, road dust, mold spores, pollen and Saharan dust—had a more significant impact.
- The study also included a community analysis, which found local agricultural producers were good community citizens and provided jobs and philanthropic support throughout the Glades region.

Combined, the data from multiple trusted sources overwhelmingly shows our farming communities have good, clean air – among the best in the state of Florida and on average, better than the air quality in urban coastal areas. Concerns about the impact of our harvesting practices, which includes prescribed pre-harvest sugarcane burning, are unfounded and lack data to support claims. The vast majority of employees raise families in these communities and take tremendous pride in producing food while enjoying clean air.

Tuskegee & FAMU Study: Good News for Glades Farming Communities

- Study finds **excellent air quality** in Clewiston, South Bay, Belle Glade & Pahokee during and after pre-harvest burn season.
- **Local field dust, vehicle emissions and Saharan dust** were the main sources of particulates.
- Cane ash made up **less than 1%** of the particulates found in study.
- **Farmers remain good community partners**, according to feedback in community meetings.



GREENHOUSE GAS

Across our 250,000+ acres, U.S. Sugar's farmers employ sustainable farming practices that help limit greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Two of U.S. Sugar's main crops – sugarcane and sweet corn – are classified as C4 plants, which use a more efficient form of photosynthesis than most crops. This process allows them to maximize carbon dioxide uptake and minimize water loss.

Our mill is powered mostly by bagasse, the fibrous byproduct of sugarcane processing and is a renewable biomass fuel. This green energy source is enough to power approximately 28,000 homes per year.

To measure our carbon efficiency, we work with independent consultant Stantec to collect, validate and aggregate operational data.

From 2012 to 2024, U.S. Sugar increased cane harvested by 46% while reducing GHG emissions per ton of cane harvest by 19%. In 2024, 86.75% of the Company's emissions were biogenic, of which 61.26% are from bagasse, a renewable resource. The remaining 13.25% of emissions are categorized as non-biogenic, such as fossil fuel and purchased electricity emissions, where we continue to implement GHG-reduction initiatives.

GREENHOUSE GAS, CONTINUED

LOWER EMISSIONS INTENSITY

Sugarcane emissions per ton harvested fell 19% from 2012 to 2024, driven by investments in precision agriculture, regenerative farming practices and renewable energy technologies.

LOW-CARBON TRANSPORT

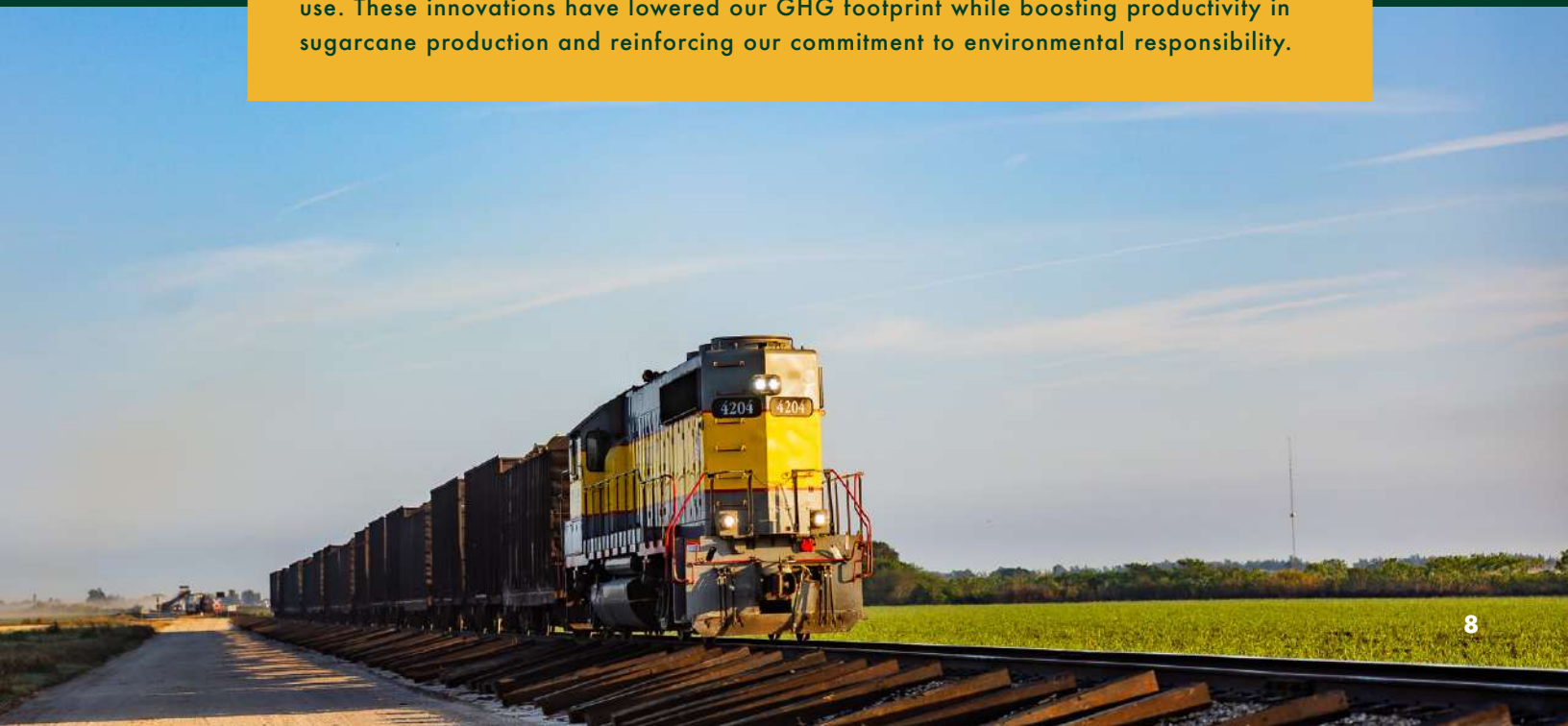
One of the most sustainable elements of our operations is our nearly 300-mile internal railroad network, used to haul sugarcane to our mill. Rail transport is about four times more fuel-efficient than trucking, on average avoiding approximately 27,000 metric tons of CO2e annually, while also reducing road congestion and wear.

RENEWABLE FUEL ADVANTAGE

Bagasse, burned at the mill to produce steam and electricity, generates about 95-99% fewer net emissions than fossil fuels (when accounting for the sugarcane absorption of carbon in the growth cycle). By repurposing this sugar production byproduct as a fuel, we reduce waste, support renewable energy generation and contribute to a circular economy.

SUSTAINABLE FARMING INNOVATIONS

Over the past 12 years, our progress in reducing GHG emissions resulted from a series of strategic projects aimed at improving efficiency and environmental performance. We've adopted regenerative agricultural practices such as GPS land leveling to optimize land use and water management, controlled-release fertilizers to reduce nutrient loss, and Autosteer tractor technology to improve precision and reduce fuel use. These innovations have lowered our GHG footprint while boosting productivity in sugarcane production and reinforcing our commitment to environmental responsibility.



ZERO WASTE

Our sugar manufacturing facility is a zero-waste facility. Not only do we contain our waste material - we recycle water and soil captured from the sugarcane milling process to create compost.

Mill mud, material captured from clarifiers and filters and mixed with water from our juice evaporators, is settled in ponds located behind the mill before being mixed with bagasse. This mixture is placed in rows to compost at a temperature of 131 degrees F or higher for 30 days, then moved to storage piles for an additional 60 days of curing. From there, it's transported to nearby sugarcane fields.

The process, though time intensive, reduces waste, reduces transportation and decreases our use of synthetic fertilizers.

COMMUNITY

The relationship between our sustainability efforts and the communities we call home is indistinguishable: without a commitment to clean air and water, we could not have the employees and families we need to grow and prosper to ensure our long-term viability as a Company. Our people are our greatest asset. U.S. Sugar employs 3,000 people, and each employee helps our communities to grow and flourish. It's why you will find generations of family members working for the Company, helping to continue a tradition reflected in our Company's values: Integrity & Trust, Teamwork, Stewardship and Excellence.

During the year, U.S. Sugar's employees remained active through service in civic organizations, youth sports, local schools, hospitals, libraries, parks and churches. How do we measure our success in sustaining our communities? Not merely by our charitable support, but also in community service hours invested, leadership roles undertaken and community projects completed.

Glades County

Support for local non-profits and other organizations include:

- Glades County Fair & Rodeo (Chalo Nitka)
- Glades County 4H
- Moore Haven Junior Senior High School Athletics
- St. Joseph the Worker Parish food pantry
- Glades County Toys for Tots
- Glades County Library
- Glades County Sheriff's Department

Hendry County

- Ongoing upgrades to the Harlem Community Garden, including irrigation improvements
- Construction of the first Amphitheater in Hendry County at the Janet B. Taylor Park in Harlem
- Title sponsorship of the Clewiston Sugar Festival, which welcomed a record 25,000 guests to Clewiston
- Upgrades to scoreboards at Clewiston's Sugarland Park, benefitting the Clewiston Little League
- Ongoing support for improvements to the Clewiston Golf Course

Support for local non-profits and other organizations include:

- Refuse to Sink (mental health awareness)
- Hendry Regional Medical Center
- AYSO Soccer Clewiston
- Clewiston Tiger Boosters
- Clewiston Christian School
- Clewiston 4H
- Hendry County Fair
- Harlem Tenants Association
- Clewiston FFA
- First Tee Clewiston
- Catholic Charities Food Pantry
- LaBelle Downtown Revitalization

Palm Beach County

- Ongoing leadership and fundraising support for the Belle Glade Boys and Girls Club

Support for local non-profits and other organizations include:

- AYSO Soccer Belle Glade
- Belle Glade Youth Baseball
- Palm Beach County Sheriffs Foundation
- Glades Day Boosters
- Belle Glade FFA Torrey Island Barbecue competition
- City of South Bay Bay Festival
- Rosenwald Elementary School
- Palm Beach County Education Foundation
- Tri-Cities Barbecue
- Pahokee High School Robotics Team