



## OUR ENVIRONMENT

*Environmental sustainability is embedded in our DNA.* Our ability to adapt and transform our business model with the changing times helps us move in the right direction to ensure that our communities have the materials and resources to thrive for years to come.

That means finding innovative ways to minimize White Castle's impact on the environment. Beginning in the 1960s, we put in place processes to drive continuous improvement in our company's environmental efficiency. For example, we began reusing the cardboard boxes that our bakeries use to ship sandwich buns to our Castles. Today, each box is reused approximately five times. Annually, this practice has saved White Castle and the environment more than one million new cardboard boxes. We also switched to recycled brown-paper sacks and corrugated Crave Cases, which were originally launched in 1931, and today are made from 100 percent recycled material.

We continue our tradition of conserving resources while producing goods and services for our customers. This includes energy and water conservation, waste minimization through efficiency and recycling and, when feasible, buying products made with recycled/renewable materials. These efforts are not just family traditions, they are values that are deliberately embedded into our business strategies.

### **REDUCING CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS**

Unlike our Sliders, Earth's ozone layer is better off without holes. That's why we are committed to improving White Castle's environmental footprint by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from all of our facilities.

Our goal is to continually reduce our carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions because little changes can make a big difference. We are committed to team members' environmental education and engagement, to installing energy-reduction and energy-efficient technologies, to reducing, reusing and recycling waste streams.

One way to reduce our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is to decrease our energy usage. Our Castles' parking lots are being converted to Light Emitting Diodes (LED) fixtures, and are approximately 85 percent complete. These fixtures last longer, consume considerably less energy than incandescent lights, are smaller, turn on faster and improve lighting consistency. In fact, our new parking LEDs have reduced our Columbus area Castles' energy usage by more than 54,000 kWh per year or 4,500 kWh per month per Castle.

“As a company, we're always **looking into cost-effective ways to reduce our waste**. This is the way the culture is moving, and we want to be at the front end of the curve.”

- **SHANNON TOLLIVER**, SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER, WHITE CASTLE

### **WASTE REDUCTION PROGRAMS**

In 2017, our Castles transitioned to a new automated napkin dispenser. This dispenser uses 64 percent fewer napkins than our previous open-faced dispenser because this dispenser distributes one napkin at a time, thereby encouraging customers and team members to think green with regards to their napkin usage. Surveys from the test Castles reveal that the dispenser is easy to operate and that the new (brown) napkin is adequate in size and environmentally friendlier than our previous napkin. The dispenser produces a win-win situation by reducing waste and saving money for White Castle, and by increasing convenience for our customers and team members.

Since January 2012, we have donated more than 4,000 pounds of marketing materials to education organizations and local schools for reuse in art rooms and classrooms across the 12 states where our restaurants are located. The previously used marketing materials, such as banners, paperboard, plastic boards and more, are donated to local schools and other organizations for a variety of creative projects.

We are pleased to give students an opportunity to learn about conservation and other important environmental practices through our recycling program. It helps raise awareness among students, teachers and parents about the positive impact environmental responsibility can have in our communities.

Teamwork is a critical part of any successful recycling program. At White Castle, our team members continually collaborate among ourselves — restaurant, regional and home office team members alike — to find environmentally minded partners who will reuse our materials.

In fact, more than 92 percent of our Castles have a recycling program in place, and White Castle restaurants use a system to deliver, distribute and recycle used cooking oil to refiners of biodiesel fuel. These waste-reduction efforts continue our tradition of trying to conserve and recycle as much as we can.

