



Maryland  
Green Registry  
**MEMBER**

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

# Elite Spice, Inc.



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Custom Spice & Seasoning Manufacturer

Member since August 2020

## Management and Leadership

### Environmental Policy Statement

*Our Story & Our Commitment:*

*“Elite Spice is a family-owned business best known for our safe, wholesome spices and seasoning blends we have provided to the food industry since being founded in 1988. At Elite Spice, we believe that the role of business is not only about maintaining steady growth, but about ensuring that the processes we employ are sustainable. The goal of sustainability, defined by the U.S. National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), is to, “create and maintain conditions, under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony, that permit fulfilling the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations.” As typical 3rd party sustainability audits do not consider the uniqueness or specificity of the longstanding spice industry, we have established an action committee to create and manage a program internally. In this, we are committing to take a systems-based approach to comprehensively evaluate and understand the interactions among environmental, social and economic pillars in an effort to manufacture our spices and seasoning blends in the most responsible way possible.”*

### Environmental Team

*Our Sustainability Initiative Taskforce is comprised of a comprehensive group of individuals from Elite Spice, Inc. We convene regularly to discuss and implement activities to address the three pillars of sustainability (environmental, social and economic).*

**Annual Environmental Goals**

*Elite Spice is committed to reducing the environmental impact of global food production through managing our carbon footprint, increasing recycling, reducing resource use and waste, implementing more energy efficient machinery and beginning the company-wide conversation of sustainability and what it means to us.*

*The company issued its first sustainability report in 2020, which created a baseline for further efforts by taking inventory of programs already in place. The Sustainability Task Force is evaluating these procedures and the implementation of new ones to continually improve our processes and address the three pillars of sustainability identified in the report. This report can be found at Elite Spice's website under [News & Notices](#).*

**Environmentally Preferable Purchasing**

*Elite is adding verbiage to our supplier questionnaires to request information on the practices our suppliers currently have in place. We have started requesting this information from current suppliers and were pleasantly surprised by some of the practices already in place. Some programs established by our suppliers include taking steps to mitigate man-animal conflict and advanced technology in irrigation systems that save both water and energy.*

## Waste

**Solid Waste Reduction and Reuse**

*We are constantly looking for better ways to manage our process materials to minimize waste sent to landfills or recycling. In 2020, effort was devoted to reducing material waste by adapting finished good packaging and purchasing certain ingredients in bulk packages as opposed to boxes. Each specialized carton used saves over one pound of cardboard as compared to the standard packaging.*

*We also partner with our wooden pallet supplier in a reuse/refurbish program in which we sent back non-usable pallets. In 2022, we returned nearly 500 tons of wooden pallets for refurbishment and reuse.*

**Recycling**

*Elite Spice has expanded our recycling collection with additional recycling services and locations for paper and cardboard. In 2022, Elite Spice's Maryland facilities recycled 337 tons of single stream materials.*

**Composting**

*Elite Spice has partnered with Compost Crew to divert organic product waste to composting facilities since May 2021. Since the inception of this program, over 975 tons of spice waste has been removed from this waste stream.*

**Energy**

**Energy Efficiency**

- *We participate in the C-Power Demand Response Program by voluntarily cutting power by 70% during times of high demand. By participating in this program we help to prevent brown-outs and reduce the need for new power plants in our community. Our first voluntary curtailment was for one hour on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and we have continued to participate annually.*
- *Utilizing energy efficient equipment such as opting for motion sensing and LED light fixtures supports the sustainable use of energy at Elite Spice. Since 2018, Elite has invested heavily into this goal by converting all standard fixtures to LED. One ongoing project is the replacement of warehouse lighting. Each fixture will save 66.75 kW of energy annually. In the last quarter of 2019, 36 fixtures were replaced, equaling an energy savings of 2,403 kW per year. As of 2022, Elite Spice continues to replace fixtures with LED bulbs. Eventually all warehouse and office lighting will be replaced with energy efficient bulbs.*

**Transportation**

**Employee Commute**

*Elite started offering subsidized bus passes to employees in late 2021 to alleviate transportation costs and the environmental costs of transportation.*

**Efficient Fleet Vehicles**

*Elite joined EPA's SmartWay Program in 2020. This program sorts transportation companies based on their sustainability practices and the efficiency of their fleets. Elite uses this to decide who will transport our freight. Actual GHG reduction calculations will be available from this switch in the following year.*

*Elite Spice also strategically routes shipments through a hubless LTL carrier to offset the carbon emissions of typical trucking operations. In 2022, these shipments saved over 80,000 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.*

## Environmental Certification Programs, Awards, and Other Activities

- Applied for Work Green Howard County Business Recycling & Waste Reduction*

*Actively started participating in community outreach programs in 2022:*

- *Group of employees volunteered at Baltimore Hunger Project*
- *More outreach planned for 2023 with Howard County Food Bank*

***Profile Updated January 2023***



*Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.*

*Learn more at [green.maryland.gov](https://green.maryland.gov)*

