



# Matt Reesor

## Sustainability Specialist, Intern



### About Maple Leaf Foods (MLF)

#### Company Facts

- \$4.7 billion in sales (2022)
- 14,000+ employees
- 27 manufacturing facilities in the USA & Canada
- Canada's largest prepared meats and poultry producer

#### Vision

- To be the most sustainable protein company on earth

#### 4 Sustainability Pillars

- Better Food
- Better Communities
- Better Care
- Better Planet

### Carbon Neutral

In 2019, MLF announced that they became the first major carbon neutral food company in the world



### Science Based Targets

In 2019, MLF became the first Canadian food company to set Science Based Targets (SBTs), and one of only three animal protein companies to do so globally



### Exciting Developments at MLF

- Anaerobic Digestion
- Regenerative Agriculture
- Biodiversity & Deforestation Reporting



### Key Takeaways

#### Never Silo Sustainability

- Sustainability must be embedded in a company's DNA, and be supported and championed across all functions

#### Data-Driven Solutions

- Reputable, detailed, and verifiable data is the backbone of any sustainable organization and its decisions

#### Details, Details, Details

- Attention to detail is critical as companies seek to identify new opportunities to achieve neutral and/or positive impacts on the environment

#### Harness Available Resources

- Even the most qualified sustainability teams may require specialized, external support to execute on particularly challenging or ambitious projects

#### Consistency is Key

- ESG metrics may slightly fluctuate year over year, but a continuous and targeted effort is critical in order to achieve broader sustainability goals

#### It Takes a Village

- An effective in-house sustainability team requires expertise across numerous functions such as: engineering, communications, management, and finance

### My Key Projects

#### Sustainability Research and Benchmarking

- Executed research and peer benchmarking on topics including:
  - Food Loss & Waste (FLW)
  - Carbon Neutrality Claims and Verification
  - Science Based Targets & Net Zero Targets
  - Climate-Related Employee Incentives
- Initiated MLF's first WWF Biodiversity Risk Filter assessment and reported on initial key findings

#### Project Management

- Managed a \$1 million Government of Canada Grant Application Process
- Coordinated the beginning 3 months of MLF's 2023 Materiality Assessment process with our consultants

#### Waste Diversion

- Led MLF's New Hamburg Hatchery's GreenCircle Landfill Diversion Re-certification
- Audited the organization-wide Extended Producer Responsibility (Blue Box) Fees Assessment

#### Other Projects

- Presented to MLF's sustainability team on the key findings from my Carbon Neutrality & SBTi benchmarking exercises
- Updated MLF's 5 Provincial Operational Factsheets with our 2023 environmental figures

### Summer Highlights

- 1) MLF "Heritage" Facility Tour
  - LEED Silver Recipient

- 2) Team-wide Carbon Neutrality & SBTi Presentation

- 3) 1-1 Mentorship with Sustainability Leaders at all levels of the organization

