

Executive Summary: Subway

The State of Illinois Agricultural Board

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Through truly committing to each of the aspects their “Plan”, Subway can successfully make progress on their policy commitments to their environmental impact, supporting communities, and promoting well-being. This report includes a brief overview of Subway’s “Plan”, a summarization and analysis of their efforts around and emphasis on sustainability, and a discussion of the progress they have made so far on their various initiatives.

Overview of Subway’s “Our Plan”

The creation of Subway’s “Our Plan” policy area was motivated by a desire to respond to the variety of policy issues that matter to their business and stakeholders—ranging from suppliers and customers to communities and NGO partners. This Plan includes four key policy areas: promoting well-being, respecting the planet, communities, and practices and processes.

The Importance of Sustainability

Sustainability, referred to as “Respecting Our Planet”, is the policy area of particular importance to Subway. Of the four key policy areas of the Plan, sustainability has some of the most robust initiatives. The initiatives include policies dealing with animal welfare, deforestation, and water stewardship. Regarding animal welfare, Subway has partnered with Compassion in World Farming, a well-established leader in animal welfare, to consult them in ways to improve their practices around their handling of animal in their global supply chain. Subway has also made efforts in recognizing and addressing their impact on the global crisis of deforestation. This has included goals of implementing sustainable forest management practices, increasing the efficiency of currently utilized land to minimize the need for expansion, and encouraging biodiversity and respect of the cultural contexts of the forests they utilize. Additionally, Subway has made commitments to their stewardship of water and water sources. Water is essential to

local and global ecosystems functioning properly and flourishing. This impacts all of life, from humans to the smallest of insects and beyond. Subway does recognize the importance of water and reflects this in their commitment to research the water usage of their restaurants and partnership with framers across the globe to share practices that promote proper water management with minimal negative impacts on the environment.

Animal welfare, deforestation, and water stewardship are just a few key initiatives of the several Subway includes in their sustainability category of their Plan. In analyzing their Plan, especially their sustainability efforts, it appears that the special focus and many initiatives dedicated to this policy area is reflective of how so many different stakeholders are impacted by sustainability efforts. Customers could be encouraged to eat at Subway more because of their notable sustainable practices. Franchisees could receive new best practices that would reduce costs in the short- or long-term that would ultimately be beneficial for both the planet and their business. Communities across the globe could potentially be exposed to less toxins, have their lands and ecosystems restored to health, and still participate in the global economy. Sustainability truly touches such a wide range of stakeholders that Subway's emphasis on it makes sense.

Progress on Key Initiatives

Overall, little progress has been made on most of the initiatives included in the "Plan" so far. This includes and is not limited to Subway's efforts surrounding sustainability. This likely due to the "Plan" likely being only relatively recently announced and the commitments being significant and very involved. Regarding sustainability, the progress has been limited to the initiatives about animal welfare and cage-free and range-free eggs. Conditions and accessing practices for the both the animals and the products they have produced have improved as more

natural and hormone free/reduces methods have been practiced. Also, subway has supported egg producing and collecting practices that are associated with better animal welfare outcomes. Beyond sustainability, their progress has been in the communities policy area where they have implemented a reduction in their antibiotic use because of the potentially harmful antibiotics may have on human consumers. Subway is slowly taking steps towards fulfilling their commitments and aims, but there is a significant amount of work that is still undone.