The Beef Checkoff Program launched a comprehensive lifecycle assessment to quantify and benchmark environmental, social and economic aspects of beef industry sustainability from 2005 - 2011. Improvements included:

- 10% Emissions to water
- 7% Emissions to soil
- 2% Greenhouse gas emissions
- 32% Occupational illnesses and accidents
- 2% Energy use
- 2% Resource consumption
- 3% Water use

Increased use of precision farming techniques  
Improvements in crop yields  
Improved genetics, health and nutrition for cattle  
Increased use of biogas capture and conversion  
Improved implementation of right-sized packaging

How was sustainability improved?

Future opportunities to further increase sustainability:

- Continue to increase waste water recovery and biogas capture
- Explore additional packing alternatives to reduce inputs
- Reduce food waste
- Continue to optimize nutrient application to soil and crop yields
- Further adoption of water efficient irrigation systems

The beef industry has improved its sustainability by 5% in just 6 years to help meet those needs.

Source: Beef Industry Sustainability Lifecycle Assessment, funded by the beef checkoff