



Working  
with nature

# Our Sustainability Commitments

## Business Background

Keelings is a 100% Irish-owned family business, focused on growing, sourcing, shipping, marketing, sales, distributing fresh produce and, supplying first-in-class produce-specific ERP software solutions, consultancy and management services. Keelings Group employs approximately 2,000 people across 5 Divisions - Keelings Retail, Keelings Market, Keelings Farm Fresh, Keelings International and Keelings Solutions.

## Key Sustainability Commitments

**Raw Material Sourcing:** Keelings have now successfully converted from 100% peat to 100% sustainable coconut coir as the growing medium of choice. Since 2008 we have researched the use of coir as a growing medium for strawberries and today we use only coir to produce our strawberries. We believe we are the only producer in Ireland to have achieved this. In addition, Keelings has been conducting extensive research to maximise the life of the coir and is now using almost all coir from between two to three years per batch versus one season with peat.

**Manufacturing Processes:** To reduce general waste per produced case; reduce energy per produced case; and reduce the overall GHG Emissions. Keelings invested in a combined heat and power plant at the Roslin Food Central site which went live in May 2011. The CHP unit is a 2 MW (2 megawatt) facility. The unit uses gas (i.e. burns gas) to produce electricity and heat. A by-product from gas burning in the CHP unit is that it produces CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide). In addition Keelings previously bought CO<sub>2</sub> in order to feed the plants to ensure they grow.

**Social Sustainability:** To increase fresh food consumption through communicating our products health and nutritional benefits, while also engaging effectively with local communities and organisations such as Food-Cloud & Recreate. We also support a staff elected charity which rotates every six months. We are currently working with Dyslexia Ireland.

## Health & Wellbeing

At Keelings we recognise the importance of employee wellbeing. Our aim is to promote, maintain and enhance the health of our employees to maximise their fitness to work safely and effectively. At Keelings we seek to make a positive impact on employee's health and wellbeing developing benefits for individuals and our business. In order to manage employee's wellbeing we at Keelings promote team building activities improving working relationships and increasing motivation. We also run a number of wellbeing weeks which include Yoga classes, personal wellbeing workshops, smoothie demonstrations & recipes ideas workshops, massage & relaxation classes and other programmes to promote employees wellbeing at Keelings.

## CRS

We, as a team, are committed to doing everything we can to promote the positive impacts, while identifying and minimising any negative impacts of our operations, through the adoption and promotion of sustainability principles across all our activities.