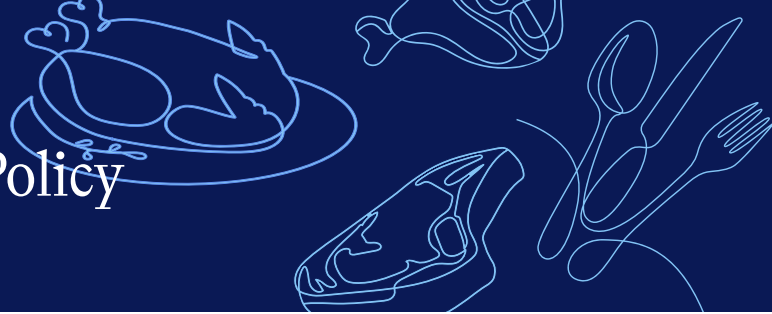




Nourishing Today
Sustaining Tomorrow

2026 Animal Welfare Policy Metric & Guidance



Instructions

- Select *Yes*, *No*, or *Not Reporting* for each metric.
- In the reporting portal, the question mark (?) after each metric provides interpretation guidance, best practices, and applicable resources.
- This focus area is completed based on the company/enterprise.

All Meat Institute Companies (Slaughter & Further Processor)

1. (Y/N) Does the company maintain a written animal welfare policy requiring direct suppliers to implement a comprehensive animal welfare program?

Yes	No	Not Reporting
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If yes, Upload policy to share with your customer.


Guidance: In this metric, direct suppliers for slaughter means direct (immediate) live animal suppliers (examples: livestock markets, feeders, producers, etc.). For further processors, direct suppliers are the slaughter establishment product is sourced from.

Best Practices:

- A program is in place to verify suppliers are implementing the program.
- Programs can be verified by an affidavit, letter of guarantee, or third-party audit.
- All suppliers provide proof of implementation prior to delivery.
- Information about the company animal welfare policy is available on a website, shared upon request, part of a supplier program, in a sustainability report, etc.

Resource:

- Meat Institute's Animal Welfare [Policy Templates for Packers and Processors](#)

 **Sector Target:** By 2030, 100% of Meat Institute members who handle live animals will pass third party animal transport and slaughter audits.

Note: Metrics Q1 and Q2 contribute to the:

- Meat Institute's packer-processor [Animal Welfare Goals](#)
- [Protein PACT Goal](#): Providing the best animal care

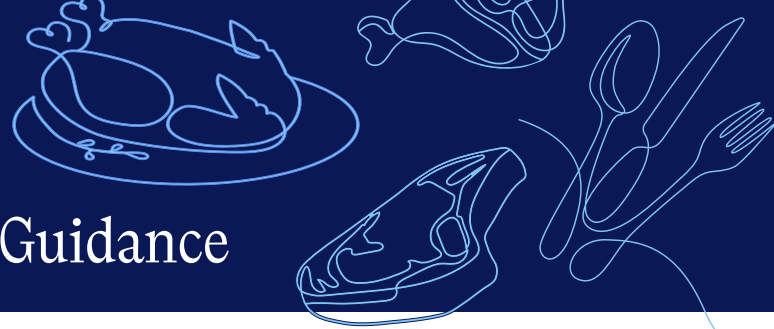
Additional Animal Welfare Resources:

- Meat Institute's [Animal Welfare Page & Committee info](#)
- Meat Institute's [Animal Handling Guidelines & Audit](#)
- Meat Institute's [Animal Welfare Policy Templates for Packers and Processors](#)



Nourishing Today
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2026 Energy Metric & Guidance



Instructions

- Select *Yes*, *No*, or *Not Reporting* for each metric.
- In the reporting portal, the question mark (?) after each metric provides interpretation guidance, best practices, and applicable resources.

Energy

1. Is an energy management program in place to increase energy efficiency?

Yes	No	Not Reporting
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Best Practices:

- Written program for energy efficiency.
- Tracking energy use/consumption and intensity.
- An intentional goal to increase in energy efficiency over time.

Resources:

- ISO 50001: [Energy Management](#)
- ENERGY STAR Build an [energy management program](#)
- ENERGY STAR [Energy Performance Indicators for plants](#)

2. Is a program in place to increase renewable energy use?

Yes	No	Not Reporting
-----	----	---------------

Best Practices:


- The company/facility has a plan to increase renewable energy usage.
- The company/facility is measuring and regularly analyzing renewable energy use.
- The company/facility has a renewable energy target by Date.
- The company/facility has completed one or more energy efficiency or conservation projects. Keeping a description of the energy management program including the type of project/program, country, quantity of energy saved, type of energy, scope, and lifetime of the initiative is a good best practice.

Resources:

- GRI 302: [Energy](#) (2016)
- Meat, Poultry & Dairy [SASB Standard](#)
- UN [SDG 13 – Climate Action](#)

Additional Resources:

- Meat Institute's [Environmental Page](#)
- Meat Institute's [Sustainability Committee](#)
- Meat Institute's [Environmental Awards](#) – Apply Annually between January 1 – 31
- US Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (USRSB) [Packer Processor Toolkit](#)
- EPA's [Green Chill Resources & Reports](#) - Any applicability to meat industry (those with retail counters)
- US Department of Energy [Better Building Challenge](#)

 **Industry Target:** The Meat Institute will support 100% of members to reduce impacts on climate, land, air and water, and increase transparency consistent with global science-based practices.