



## What Is the CEA Alliance?

The Controlled Environment Agriculture Alliance (CEA Alliance) is a membership trade association representing and serving vertical farms and greenhouse producers growing fruits and vegetables in a highly controlled indoor production environment.

Controlled environment growers employ a variety of agricultural production methods and technology to create optimal growing conditions with rigorous environmental controls. Growers utilize innovative technologies such as hydroponics, aeroponics, aquaponics, and soil-based systems to grow a wide variety of fruits and vegetables. CEA producers work to deliver the freshest, best-tasting, and most nutritious fruits and vegetables to consumers, with the least environmental impact; reducing use of water, land and other scarce resources; and employing the most rigorous practices to ensure the safety of our products.

Membership in the CEA Alliance includes CEA growers, their business service providers, retail/foodservice customers, and government/academic representatives. The CEA Alliance provides a portfolio of services to CEA growers and their business partners supporting the CEA supply chain.

- Strong food safety standards and best practices for indoor-grown produce
- Public policy advocacy to ensure legislators and regulators understand CEA production and support its growth as an important part of climate-smart and sustainable agriculture
- Education and training for CEA growers and supply chain partners
- Development of metrics and measurement tools for growers to communicate their sustainability and the benefits of their operations
- Communication of the benefits of CEA production to the media, retail and foodservice companies, and consumers

Controlled environment produce is a distinct and rapidly growing category, offering benefits to consumers, the environment, communities, and the overall agricultural food system.

- 1. Good for Consumers.** Controlled-environment produce sets the bar for quality, cleanliness and availability, offering a differentiated option for consumers who care deeply about their eating experience and their families' health. This includes rigorous standards for quality and freshness, as well as the highest standards for food safety. Growing year-round brings consumers consistency and reliability, with a supply chain unaffected by climate change and erratic weather conditions.
- 2. Good for the Environment.** Controlled environment produce has important environmental benefits, including reduced use of water, land and other scarce natural resources. Indoor growers use fewer or no pesticides, reduce food waste, and reduce carbon emissions from long-distance transportation by locating farms closer to markets
- 3. Good for Communities.** Controlled environment farming is creating a new generation of stable and high-quality agriculture jobs that are year-round, pay good wages, and offer a safe and comfortable working environment. CEA growers support both urban and rural communities, often bringing good jobs to economically challenged communities.
- 4. Good for the Food System.** By eliminating seasonality and variability, increasing domestic production, bringing food production closer to the end consumer, and producing more outputs with fewer inputs, controlled environment farming will reduce the impact on the food system from climate events, supply shocks, geopolitical events, droughts and other unknown events.

CEA growers aspire to be the fresh produce of choice for consumers, while working with traditional outdoor growers to increase fruit and vegetable consumption. Consumers worldwide need to increase their consumption of fruits and vegetables for health, and CEA-grown produce will be an important part of overall agricultural production in delivering that solution.

*To learn more about the CEA Alliance and federal policies that will support indoor crop agriculture, please contact Tom Stenzel, Executive Director of CEA Alliance, [tom@ceaalliance.com](mailto:tom@ceaalliance.com).*



## Our Members

### Growers



## Business Service Providers

