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EMERALD PACKAGING WINS FTA'S FLEXOGRAPHIC PRINTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

***Nation's Leading Flexible Packaging Company for Produce Continues to Lead
Sustainability Charge; Receives Additional Awards for its PCR Potato Bag for Walmart***

Union City, Calif. (May 5, 2026) – Emerald Packaging, the largest supplier of retail flexible packaging for the produce industry has been named the inaugural recipient of the Flexographic Printer of the Year Award by the Flexographic Technical Association Foundation (FTA). The honor recognizes Emerald Packaging's outstanding achievements in print quality, innovation, sustainability, and overall industry leadership.

Sustainability has emerged as both a major challenge and a significant opportunity shaping the future of the packaging industry. Emerald Packaging has earned this honor for its strong commitment to advancing sustainable flexible packaging solutions while maintaining high levels of production performance. The company has been a leader in integrating post-consumer recycled (PCR) materials into food-contact packaging, helping reduce reliance on virgin plastics without compromising quality or functionality.

"Receiving the Flexographic Printer of the Year award from FTA is an incredible honor. It reflects not only Emerald Packaging's commitment to delivering best-in-class print quality and performance, but also our belief that sustainability must be at the core of everything we do," said Kevin Kelly, CEO Emerald Packaging. "This recognition reinforces that innovation, and sustainability can and must go hand in hand as we work toward a more circular future for packaging."

To date, Emerald Packaging has replaced over 1.3 million pounds of virgin polyethylene (PE) with PCR material, marking a step forward towards establishing a circular economy and sustainability for flexible plastic packaging.

Emerald Packaging also received recognition in the 2026 Flexible Packaging Association's Achievement Awards competition for its new 30% food contact PCR Resin for 5 lbs. and 10 lbs. Potato Bags - a first in potato packaging. The innovation won awards for Packaging Excellence and Technical Innovation. Developed with Idaho Package and Wada Farms and in direct response to Walmart's Project Gigaton initiative, which aims to reduce or avoid 1 billion metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions from the global value chain by 2030, the film demonstrates a major step forward in sustainability.

With over six decades at the forefront of produce packaging innovation, Emerald Packaging is the largest plastic packaging manufacturer for produce in the U.S. For more than 20 years, Emerald Packaging has led industry efforts to address plastic waste, most recently helping shape legislation in California that addresses the need for a better recycling infrastructure.



Emerald is one of the few manufacturers to win a Green Business certification for its waste, water, and energy reduction efforts.

Kevin Kelly will be a featured speaker at this year's [Global Pouch Forum](#), which will take place May 27-29 in Clearwater Beach, Florida. He will present an Innovation Spotlight on "PCR Resin Use in Potato Bag Packaging."

For more information on Emerald Packaging and to learn more about the company's sustainability goals, please visit www.empack.com.

Emerald Packaging, Inc.

Since 1963, Emerald Packaging has delivered the finest quality and service in the flexible packaging industry. Today, it's the largest produce packaging manufacturer in the country, with industry leading customers such as Taylor Farms, D'Arrigo California, Duda Farms, Grimmway Farms and Wada Farms. Emerald Packaging is committed to sustainable practices and products and is continually developing next-generation packaging.

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