Sustainability and stewardship have been a cornerstone of Rahr for generations. Since our founding in 1847, the connection between land, people, and community has been central to our way of doing business.

Rahr’s malts produced at Shakopee are the greenest available to craft brewers and demonstrate the Rahr family’s commitment to environmental stewardship and product quality. From the trial forest irrigated by re-used steeping water at our Alix, AB plant to the philanthropic and social work of the nonprofit Rahr Foundation, sustainability has always been a guiding principle for the Rahr family.

Rahr continues to do what is environmentally, socially, and fiscally responsible for the longevity of this company and the communities in which we operate.
Koda’s suspension-fired power boiler is fueled by agricultural byproducts, much of which is waste from the malting process.

The boiler produces steam to drive a turbine which generates renewable electricity for the malt houses and kilns. Excess electricity is metered out to the utility for use by the public.

Koda’s electrostatic precipitator strips ionized soot and smudge from the burner exhaust, leaving clean vapor venting into the air.

25% of The US Brewing Industry’s Annual Needs

Rahr malt houses produce 460,000 metric tons of malt per year—and every barley kernel is malted with clean, renewable energy thanks to Koda Energy.

CO₂ Reduction of ~260,000 Tons Per Year

Koda has eliminated the use of natural gas as a fuel for Rahr’s malt kilns and generates 220% more electricity than our Shakopee facility consumes in a year.
Does Rahr Malting Co. have goals to reduce energy use, raw material inputs, and/or CO2 footprint?

In addition to site-specific projects at our Shakopee, MN and Alix, AB facilities, we are members of the Sustainable Agricultural Initiative (SAI) Platform. This program helps our farmers with certification goals, ensuring that the agricultural raw materials and ingredients we use are supplied from sustainable sources.

How does Rahr Malting Co. reduce water usage?

We re-use excess water from the malting process for sanitation; we focus on sourcing barley grown with dry land farming instead of with irrigation; and we seek out malting barley varieties that can most efficiently use available water.

Where do our raw materials originate?

Our barley is grown in Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, and Canada. If within 200 miles of our Alix, AB or Shakopee, MN facilities, the barley is shipped via truck; beyond that distance the barley is shipped via rail. Biofuels are considered and used whenever possible.

Is Rahr Malting Co. partnering with others in the brewing industry or supply chain to establish best practices?

We maximize the use of all available waste reduction and recycling opportunities that currently exist in our market. For example, we use our wastewater stream for irrigation and sanitation, we sell our barley and malt screenings for animal feed, and we recycle all materials that can be recycled. We have also established a grass-for-fuel initiative to grow dedicated energy crops for fuel use in Koda Energy.

Is sustainability being considered when making decisions about product movement, including how any upstream supplies are being sent?

Yes, but high-quality malting barley is a niche crop which grows best in select areas, therefore there are times when our options are limited. We are currently formalizing projects with long-term sustainable agricultural practices that include winter barley and spring barley in crop rotations to bring sourcing closer to our malt house locations.
RE-USE. REDUCE. REGROW.

As part of Rahr’s commitment to sustainability, two acres of hybrid poplar trees have been planted at Rahr Malting Co’s Alix, AB facility to trial re-use of the steeping water that is a byproduct of the malting process.

Currently, after use in the steeping phase of malting, the excess water undergoes a series of treatments prior to use as irrigation water in fields. Since trees are higher water users (and take more CO₂ out of the air) than grasses and field crops, this trial plot of trees will indicate if a future “Alix forest” could allow for more steeping water to be used for irrigation, with the added bonus of decreasing atmospheric CO₂ levels.

FOSSIL FREE MALTING*

*The malts produced at Rahr’s Shakopee, MN facility are the greenest available to craft brewers, thanks to the CO₂ reductions made possible by Koda Energy.