

## Los Angeles Business Journal Manufacturing Green Food

A leading frozen food company is set to open the world's first certified environmentally friendly frozen-food manufacturing plant in East Los Angeles next month.

Contessa Premium Foods, Inc. announced last week its new \$35 million, four-million-cubic-foot facility has been awarded a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

“As a leader in our industry, we didn't wait for environmental standards to be established,” Said Chief Executive John Blazeovich in a statement. “Instead we collaborated with LEED and decided to raise the bar for the entire industry and do the right thing for the long-term sustainability of our environment.”

The San Pedro company, founded by Blazeovich in 1984, said it expects the factory to produce one ton of carbon dioxide less per day than that of a traditional manufacturing plant.

Called the “Green Cuisine Plant,” the facility includes solar panels, an energy-saving water heating system and a loading dock designed to prevent the loss of refrigerated air.

The plant, which opens its doors Nov. 15, will produce 150 million pounds of frozen food in its first year, the company said.