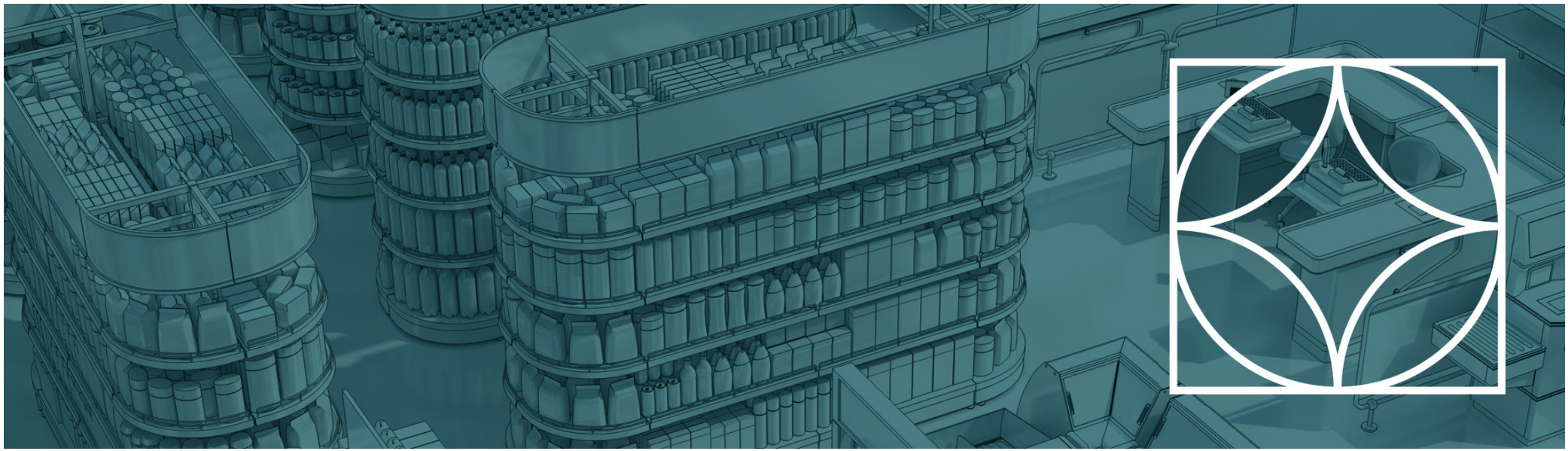
E+sd Energy & Store Development Conference

FMI THE FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

September 28 - 30, 2026 Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress Orlando, Fla.



Illuminating Freshness:

How Smart Light Spectra Can Cut Food Waste & Enhance Food Safety in Retail

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Part I – The Scope of the Problem

The Growing Crisis of Food Waste in Retail

A painful burden in retail operations that continues to grow beneath the surface

- **U.S. grocery** retailers generate **16 billion pounds of food waste** annually (according to Food Logistics [2024])
- **The average grocery store** discards **13.7 pounds of food per customer** annually (Study of A. Eser, ZipDo Education [2026])
- **170 million metric tons of CO_2e** annually from food loss and waste (ReFED, 2021 methodology)
- **Retail food waste consumes 1.12 trillion gallons of water** annually, enough for roughly 200 showers per U.S. resident (ReFED, 2024 methodology)



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The Unseen Threat Behind Fresh Food

48 million reasons to focus on food safety

- **48 million Americans suffer from foodborne illnesses** annually, 128,000 hospitalized, 3,000 deaths, 62 confirmed multistate outbreaks (according to CDC https://www.cdc.gov/food-safety/data-research/facts-stats/index.html [2024])



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- **2024: bacterial outbreaks hit** everyday **produce**

Fresh Produce	Pathogen	Illnesses	Hospitalized	Deaths
Cucumbers	Salmonella	551	155	0
Organic Carrots	E. coli O121:H19	48	20	1
Fresh Onions	E. coli O157:H7	104	34	1
Organic Fresh Basil	Salmonella	36	4	0

(Outbreak Investigation of Salmonella: Cucumbers (June 2024) | FDA

Outbreak Investigation of E. coli O121:H19: Organic Carrots (November 2024) | FDA)

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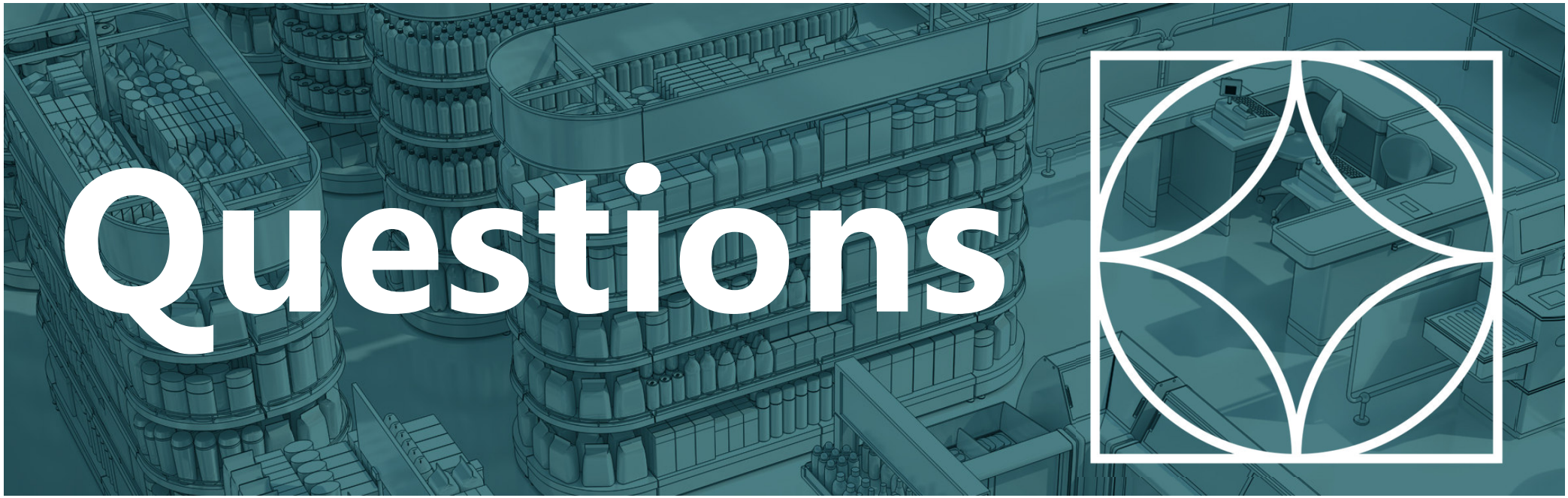

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