

For Release:

CONTACT: Meghan Dear, Localize; <u>meghan@localizeyourfood.com</u>; 1-888-737-7768 ext. 700 Callie Rojewski, B Lab; <u>crojewski@bcorporation.net</u>; 610-293-0299 ext. 218

Evaluated by Comprehensive B Impact Assessment

Localize Honored as Best for Community, Creating Most Positive Community Impact

<u>Localize Honored as Best for the Long Term.</u> <u>Creating Powerful Governance Structures to Protect Company Mission</u>

<u>Localize Honored as Most Improved Impact Business.</u> <u>Leading the Race to the Top of Companies Creating Positive Change</u>

12 SEPTEMBER 2017: EDMONTON

Today, Localize was recognized for being among the companies creating the most positive community impact, for creating innovative governance structures to protect the mission of our business for the long term, and for most improved impact business, based on an independent, comprehensive assessment administered by the nonprofit B Lab. Honorees are featured on B the Change, the digital Medium publication produced by B Lab, at http://www.bthechange.com.

Localize is honored in three Best For the World categories, which includes businesses that earned a Community and Governance score in the top 10 percent of more than 2,100 Certified B Corporations on the B Impact Assessment. The full assessment measures a company's impact on its workers, community, customers and the environment. To certify as B Corporations, companies like Localize must complete the full assessment and have their answers verified by B Lab.

The Community portion of the B Impact Assessment evaluates a company's supplier relations, diversity, and involvement in the local community. It also measures the company's practices and policies around community service and charitable giving, including whether a company's product or service is designed to solve a social issue, such as access to basic services, health, education, economic opportunity and the arts. Honorees scoring in the top 10 percent set a gold standard for how business can be a force for good in communities around the world. Localize made the list thanks to exceptional practices like:

• More than 76% of Localize's budget for major suppliers and external contractors is devoted to business local to our company. We don't offshore, and we are committed to hiring local to our offices.



- We commit to producing jobs which significantly surpass living wage standards for the communities in which we employ our people.
- We have measures for ensuring transparency within the company, such as financial visibility across the team.
- We strive for an equitable representation of both men and women across levels of the team including senior management.
- Our policies and practices are even more clearly defined and broadly align our business with the values we wish to represent to the world.

The 180 winning companies in the Community category come from 80 industries and 34 countries. B Lab simultaneously released separate lists recognizing B Corporations as Best for the World (overall impact), Best for the Environment, Best for Customers, Best for the Long Term, Best for Workers and Best for the World: Changemakers, which can be found at http://www.bthechange.com.

"Localize is built around the principles of food transparency and making our food system better," says Meghan Dear, founder of Localize. "Becoming a B Corp has helped us to apply these principles to ourselves. Through our certification, we're able to measure, improve, and openly communicate our performance on things we care deeply about."

Additional 2017 Best for the Community honorees include: **Cooperative Home Care Associates**; **Better World Books**; and **Uncommon Goods**. Additional 2017 Best for the Long Term honorees include: **MAX Insurance**; **Veris Wealth Partners**; and **Home Care Associates of Philadelphia**.

"Companies like Localize exemplify what it means for a business to be a good citizen," says Jay Coen Gilbert, co-founder of B Lab. "We're proud to recognize their achievement. Best for the World is the only list of businesses making the greatest positive impact that uses comprehensive, comparable, third-party-validated data about a company's social and environmental performance."

A total of 846 Certified B Corporations were named 2017 Best for the World Honorees, including: **Patagonia**; **Seventh Generation**; **National Co+op Grocers**; and **Business Development Bank of Canada.** Forty-eight countries are represented, including Afghanistan, Kenya, Nicaragua and Turkey. The selection criteria for Best for the World honorees are available at <u>http://bit.ly/29ZYRSp</u>.

Today there are more than 2,100 Certified B Corporations across more than 130 industries and 50 countries, unified by one common goal: to redefine success in business. Any company can measure and manage social and environmental performance at <u>http://bimpactassessment.net</u>.



Localize's mission is to provide value and insight throughout the supply chain and to empower shoppers with information behind the products they buy. Localize is constantly adapting to meet market needs and provide tools to support sustainable food ecosystems, grow the market for innovative and amazing food producers - and most importantly, make sure that transparent and reliable information is available to shoppers where they make purchase decisions.

For more information, visit www.localizeyourfood.com.

B Lab is a nonprofit organization that serves a global movement of people using business as a force for good. Its vision is that one day all companies compete not only to be the best in the world, but the best for the world and society will enjoy prosperity for all for the long term.

B Lab drives this systemic change by: 1) building a community of Certified B Corporations to make it easier for all of us to tell the difference between "good companies" and good marketing; 2) passing benefit corporation legislation to give business leaders the freedom to create value for society as well as shareholders; 3) helping businesses measure, compare and improve their social and environmental performance with the free B Impact Assessment; 4) driving capital to impact investments through use of its B Analytics and GIIRS Ratings platform.

For more information, visit <u>www.bcorporation.net</u>.

B the Change is a Medium publication, produced by B Lab in collaboration with the community of Certified B Corps and the movement of people using business as a force for good.

B the Change exists to inform and inspire people who have a passion for using business as a force for good in the world. Because we believe that storytelling is an essential element in the transformation of business and society, we commit ourselves to telling the most compelling stories possible to the largest audiences possible to propel the movement of business toward its destiny as a powerful force for good. We want to dramatically broaden and deepen engagement with entrepreneurs, managers, employees, investors and citizens in one of the most important discussions of our time.

Read all B the Change stories at http://www.bthechange.com.