Supply Chain Sustainability Assessment for O-AT-KA Milk Products Cooperative, Inc.

Client
O-AT-KA Milk Products Cooperative, Inc. (O-AT-KA) is a manufacturer of milk and dairy products including canned milk, powdered milk, butter, and ready-to-drink nutritional and other specialty beverages. O-AT-KA is owned by two highly respected dairy cooperatives, namely Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc. and Dairy Farmers of America.

Opportunity Areas
The demand for “green suppliers” in the supply chain has created the opportunity for sustainable organizations to become preferred business partners. Organizations that strategize, set targets, measure, monitor, and report their sustainability efforts will likely generate more revenue, retain and potentially create jobs, and reduce the risk of jeopardizing potential business. O-AT-KA would like to be a “greener” supplier to meet customer demands and differentiate themselves. O-AT-KA requested assistance with responding to customer inquiries and identifying means of improving their ability to report their sustainability status.

Objective
NYSP2I performed an assessment using its supply chain sustainability assessment tool to evaluate common components of internationally accepted sustainability guidelines. This assessment primarily inquired about environmental performance, but also addressed the economic, social, and governance aspects of how O-AT-KA practices sustainability. The objective was to retain and increase business for O-AT-KA by enabling them to complete sustainability scorecard and questionnaire requests including those from large global customers.

Work Performed
1. NYSP2I reviewed O-AT-KA’s documentation for sustainability policies, initiatives, and relevant company data.
2. NYSP2I then performed a one day assessment by interviewing O-AT-KA’s management, procurement, marketing, and production staff while also evaluating the manufacturing facility. The assessment included a review of the production process, inputs, outputs, procedures, targets, and measures.

Results
The assessment identified opportunities that include:
• Improving the process and detail of measuring impacts on all levels to set meaningful objectives and targets and to track performance
• Adding policy, objectives and targets, performance and action plans to marketing and communications material
• Aligning their initiatives with the sustainability commitments of the dairy products industry, to further distinguish themselves as a leading supplier