

NYSP2I Conducts Environmental Assessment for RAILSIDE Market & Café

Railside Market & Café (Railside) is a local supermarket in Victor, New York, that offers fresh produce, baked goods, dairy, and a prepared foods bar. They have a wide selection of craft beers, an extensive frozen section, and an in-store butcher.

CHALLENGE

Railside recently opened and was interested in finding ways to reduce the store's environmental footprint while saving money.

The goal was to identify cost effective solutions to conserve water, reduce toxic and hazardous materials such as cleaning products, and manage organic and food wastes, to improve the environmental footprint of the store.

SOLUTION

New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP2I) at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) conducted an on-site environmental assessment at Railside as part of their Sustainable Grocer Pilot. This program analyzes and assists with managing supply chain and food waste to reduce environmental impacts and operating costs to improve the environmental footprint of the New York State (NYS) grocery industry.

RESULTS

Results from the assessment show that Railside has practices in place to minimize water use, landfilled food waste and electricity use. Additionally, NYSP2I provided recommendations for the market in the following categories: water conservation, cleaning products, organic and food wastes, and other categories. The first recommendation focused on conserving water in the public restrooms. By adding low flow aerators to the sink faucets, the amount of water would be reduced while still allowing efficient water flow.

Recommendations suggest that the cleaners be replaced with more environmentally friendly alternatives. Replacing traditional cleaning products with eco-friendly products would greatly improve the day-to-day environmental impact.

To extend the life of produce and reduce the amount of food waste sent to the landfill, it was recommended to use ethylene absorbing products. As fresh fruits and vegetables ripen, they release ethylene gas which accelerates ripening and leads to quick spoilage. Ethylene absorbing products inserted into produce packaging will absorb the gas and thus extend the shelf life of produce without compromising product quality.

CHALLENGE

- Identify cost effective solutions to conserve water, reduce toxic and hazardous materials such as cleaning products, and manage organic and food wastes, to improve the environmental footprint of the NYS grocery industry

SOLUTION

- NYSP2I conducted an on-site environmental assessment at Railside as part of their Sustainable Grocer Pilot

RESULTS

- Railside has practices in place to minimize water use, landfilled food waste, and electricity use
- Conserve water in the restrooms, by adding low flow aerators to the faucets
- Replace cleaning products with environmentally preferable alternatives
- Use ethylene absorbing products to extend the life of produce and reduce the amount of food waste sent to the landfill
- Increase energy efficiency by switching to more energy efficient hand dryers, provide clearly marked recycling containers for customers and employees, and a motion sensor to the loading dock lighting

NYSP2I's final recommendations include increasing energy efficiency by switching to more energy efficient hand dryers, providing clearly marked recycling containers for customers and employees, and adding a motion sensor to the loading dock lighting. Implementing these recommendations would help RAILSIDE further reduce their environmental impact through energy conservation.

TESTIMONIAL

"It was a pleasure working with NYSP2I. They put together a very detailed report on our company's environmental impacts. Their report informed us of environmentally friendly practices we are already doing as well as offered some useful advice on additional ways to lessen our environmental impact even further. We plan to implement many of these ideas in the near future."

-Michael Cheney, Vice President
RAILSIDE Market & Café

NYSP2I PARTNERS

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New York Manufacturing Extension Partnership

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