

NYSP2I Assists Hannaford Latham with Managing Supply Chain and Food Waste

Based in Scarborough, Maine, Hannaford operates stores in New England and upstate New York. The Hannaford Latham (Hannaford) grocery store is comprised of the following departments: bakery, deli, seafood, meat, fresh produce, and dry goods.

CHALLENGE

Hannaford places commitment to sustainability and healthy communities at the center of their strategy. The goal at Hannaford 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 Hannaford 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 footprint of the New York State (NYS) grocery industry.

Prior to NYSP2I's assessment Hannaford completed an environmental checklist to identify opportunity areas where the supermarket can improve and provided guidance for NYSP2I during the assessment. NYSP2I reviewed Hannaford's environmental checklist, performed an on-site assessment and identified cost effective solutions to conserve water, reduce toxins and hazardous materials such as cleaning products, and manage organic and food waste.

RESULTS

Results from the assessment show that Hannaford has practices in place to minimize water use, landfilled food waste, electricity use, waste cooking oil and meat trimmings, and to recycle bottles, cans, heavy plastic packaging, and cardboard.

To conserve more water in the public restrooms, it was recommended that low flow aerators be added to the sink faucet. Currently, Hannaford has sensor controlled automatic sink faucets in the public restrooms. By adding low flow aerators, the amount of water would be reduced while still allowing efficient water flow.

NYSP2I suggested replacing cleaning products with environmentally preferable alternatives. Current cleaning products used by Hannaford are not third party certified as low environmental impact cleaners. 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.

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 store

SOLUTION

- NYSP2I conducted an on-site environmental assessment at the Hannaford Latham location as part of their Sustainable Grocer Pilot
- Hannaford completed an environmental checklist prior NYSP2I's assessment, identifying opportunity areas

RESULTS

- Hannaford has practices in place to minimize water use, food waste, electricity use, waste cooking oil, and recycling of bottles, cans and cardboard
- Conserve water by adding low flow aerators to the sink faucets in restrooms
- Replace cleaning products with environmentally preferable alternatives
- To extend the life of produce and reduce the amount of food waste sent to the landfill, to use ethylene absorbing products
- Share the results of this assessment with store employees to create a greater awareness



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.

NYSP2I's recommends Hannaford share their sustainability information with store employees. It is important to make this information known to all employees, as creating awareness will continue to help Hannaford reduce their environmental impact.



NYSP2I PARTNERS



New York Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Funding provided by the US EPA and the Environmental Protection Fund as administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. © 2016 Rochester Institute of Technology Any opinions, results, findings, and/or interpretations of data contained herein are the responsibility of Rochester Institute of Technology and its NYS Pollution Prevention Institute and do not represent the opinions, interpretation or policy of the State.

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