CASE STUDY

NYS P2I | New York State Pollution Prevention Institute

Heron Hill Vineyards Seeks to Make Winery Operations More Sustainable

Challenge

Heron Hill wanted to identify practical approaches to help them become more sustainable.

Solution

NYSP2I and CEEL worked with Heron Hill to assess current winery operations and identify opportunities to reduce its environmental footprint.

Results

The Pollution Prevention Opportunity Assessment identified opportunities to reduce water usage and wastewater generation, minimize use of toxic chemicals, and conserve energy.

Heron Hill Vineyards, Inc.

Heron Hill Vineyards, Inc., located in Hammondsport, NY, produces 15,000-20,000 cases of wine per year.

"Working with NYSP2I has been a joy and a very educational experience that has given us the tools to increase environmental sustainability in our cellar and, in turn, increase financial sustainability."
Jordan Harris, Heron Hill Winery

Challenge

Heron Hill wanted to improve sustainability practices in order to reduce their environmental impact. The New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP2I) and the Cornell Enology Extension Laboratory (CEEL) collaborated to perform an assessment as part of the Environmental Results Program (ERP) Sustainability Initiative to help Heron Hill become more sustainable.

Solutions

NYSP2I and Cornell performed an on-site assessment at Heron Hill to review the current operation. Baseline information was collected regarding water/chemical use, wastewater generation, solid waste, and energy consumption. The team identified potentially viable options to reduce environmental impacts as a result of the assessment and data analysis.

HERON HILL WINERY

Results

Prior to this project with NYSP2I and CEEL, Heron Hill noted positive practices already in place to decrease their environmental footprint. These practices include:

- Using meters to monitor water use and wastewater flow to ensure prevention of collection tank overflow.
- Collecting and composting waste solids.
- Using lightweight bottles to reduce energy and cost to transport product.
- Using relatively low amounts of chemicals for cleaning.
- Converting 30% of the energy use to solar energy source.

The work performed by NYSP2I and CEEL identified other potential Best Management Practices to help reduce environmental impact. Some of the opportunities Heron Hill can consider include:

- Water/wastewater reduction options include expansion of dry cleaning methods and use of lower flow hose nozzles.
- Potential options to valorize the solid waste as opposed to composting.
- Investigating methods to reduce or eliminate use of NaOH.
- Use of tartrate inhibitors as a potentially cost-effective option to manage tartrate crystallization while using less energy.
- Use of ceiling fans to distribute heat more evenly, insulation of piping and tanks, and upgrade of LED lighting.

Partners

RIT · Binghamton University, State University of New York · Clarkson University · Cornell CALS, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences · Rensselaer · NEW YORK Manufacturing Extension Partnership

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Although the information in this document has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement X9-96250700 to the New York State Pollution Prevention Institute at Rochester Institute of Technology, it has not gone through the Agency's publications review process and, therefore, may not necessarily reflect the views of the Agency and no official endorsement should be inferred.

Funding for this project has also been provided by the Environmental Protection Fund as administered by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed are those of Rochester Institute of Technology and its NYS Pollution Prevention Institute and do not necessarily reflect the views of New York State.

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