

42 North Brewing Company Identifies Sustainability Opportunities



42 North Brewing Company

42 North Brewing Company (42 North) is a craft brewery located in East Aurora, New York. The company was founded in 2015 and produces 2,300 barrels of beer annually. In 2019, the brewery added a 6,600 square foot expansion that included a canning line, increased cooler space, and more.

Challenge

42 North is very committed to environmental stewardship and has already implemented several sustainability practices at its brewery. To further its environmental efforts, 42 North wanted a fresh perspective to identify additional sustainability opportunities that could be adopted by the brewery.

Solutions

42 North was selected to receive a pollution prevention opportunity assessment as a part of the Brewery Sustainability Initiative being pursued by the New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP21). NYSP21 partnered with Cornell University to identify and evaluate opportunities to reduce the brewery's environmental footprint. NYSP21 conducted a virtual assessment of the facility to collect operational information and learn about 42 North's brewing process. NYSP21 and Cornell University used the baseline data gathered during the virtual assessment to identify potential sustainability opportunities that 42 North could pursue.

Results

The work performed by NYSP21 and Cornell University led to key findings that can support 42 North with its goal of reducing its environmental footprint:

- 42 North has already implemented several sustainability practices, including:
 - Recycling cooling water as part of the heat exchanger system.
 - Developing a PakTech can carrier recycling program to encourage customers to recycle.
 - Repurposing plastic drums to transport brewing solids to local farms.

Challenge

- 42 North wanted to increase sustainability efforts by identifying practices that would decrease the environmental impact of the brewery.

Solution

- NYSP21 partnered with Cornell University to evaluate and identify opportunities to reduce 42 North's water, chemical, and energy usage.

Results

- 42 North has already implemented some sustainability practices to reduce its environmental footprint such as recycling cooling water in the heat exchanger system and developing a can carrier recycling program.
- NYSP21 and Cornell University identified several additional opportunities to decrease the brewery's environmental impact such as installing low-flow water fixtures and investigating the use of a clean-in-place system for standardized water and chemical use.

- Several opportunities were identified that could potentially reduce water, chemical, and energy usage including:
 - Testing and installing low-flow water fixtures throughout the facility.
 - Assessing the use of a clean-in-place system to standardize the amount of water and chemicals needed to clean tanks.
 - Working with a centrifuge or filter press manufacturer to determine if it would be cost effective to recover beer currently lost during normal productions.

“The information provided from NYSP2I by this study opportunity assessment has helped 42 North identify additional ways to lower our environmental footprint and save money.”

**Fred Fellendorf, Co-owner
42 North Brewing Co.**

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