

Other Half Brewing Company Seeks to Improve the Sustainability of the Brewery



Other Half Brewing Company

Other Half Brewing Company (Other Half) is a craft brewery located in Rochester, NY that produces approximately 3,500 barrels of beer annually. Other Half is currently growing very quickly, and has incorporated a tasting room and bar to go along with their brewery operations.

Challenge

Other Half wants to understand and potentially lessen the environmental impact of the brewery as part of their commitment to environmental stewardship. As a growing brewery, Other Half has exemplified a commitment to sustainability and has already incorporated methodologies and techniques to be more sustainable. However, Other Half wanted a fresh perspective to learn even more opportunities to further their sustainable practices. As part of the Brewery Sustainability Initiative being pursued by the New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP2I), Other Half completed an initial brewery survey and were selected to receive an onsite opportunity assessment.

Solutions

NYSP2I collaborated with Cornell University to help evaluate and identify any opportunities to reduce Other Half's environmental footprint. NYSP2I conducted a site visit to collect baseline metrics and identify pathways for improving Other Half's existing sustainability practices.

Results

Other Half had already implemented a number of practices to reduce the brewery's environmental footprint when the onsite opportunity assessment was performed by NYSP2I and Cornell University. These include:

- Provides spent grain and hops to a local farmer instead of disposing of it via landfill.
- Wastewater high in BOD as well as spent yeast and trub is trucked to a biogas digester.

Challenge

- Other Half wanted to further improve sustainability practices in the brewery and decrease their environmental impact.

Solution

- New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP2I) collaborated with Cornell University and conducted a site visit and a collection of baseline metrics to help evaluate and identify any opportunities to reduce Other Half's environmental footprint.

Results

- Other Half implemented sustainability practices to reduce their utility consumption and waste generation including utilizing a heat exchanger, centrifuge, and providing their spent grain and hops to a local farmer.
- NYSP2I and Cornell University identified a number of relatively simple ways to further decrease water, chemistry, and natural gas consumption in the brewery like testing low flow spray nozzles and recycling cleaning cycles and rinses for multiple purposes.

- Utilizes a centrifuge to recover beer retained by the brewing process.
- Utilizes a heat exchanger to preheat or cool water entering the brewing process.

The work performed by NYSP2I and Cornell University led to key findings to support Other Half in their pursuit of decreased environmental impact. Some considerations for Other Half to review include:

- Testing low flow spray nozzles and tank spray balls to ensure cleanliness standards are upheld while reducing cleaning water use.
- Utilizing the final rinse solution of one cleaning cycle as the first rinse of the next to reduce both chemical and water usage.
- Installing a system to pretreat process water would reduce scaling on the equipment, which reduces the amount of cycles of cleaning required to properly clean.

Testimonial

“The NYSP2I team was incredibly thorough and professional in their analysis of our production processes here at OH FLX. They helped us gain a better understanding of our impact on the environment and highlighted areas where we could be even more efficient and cost effective. We appreciate the support and the mission of the NYSP2I project.”

Felipe Higgins
Head Brewer

Other Half Brewing Company

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