

Rich Products Corporation Seeks to Reduce Food Loss and Waste



Challenge

Rich Products Corporation (Rich's) requested assistance from NYSP21 to develop a process for conducting and recording Food Loss and Waste (FLW) inventories, using the FLW Standard, at each of Rich's facilities.

Solution

NYSP21 completed a FLW inventory for Rich's at a pilot facility, created guidelines for Rich's to conduct inventories at additional facilities in the future, and documented industry best practices for achieving FLW reduction goals.

Results

- FLW for the pilot facility was found to be 7.5%. The majority of this material was recycled locally as compost.
- NYSP21 created guidelines for Rich's to use while conducting FLW inventories at additional facilities in the future.

Rich Products Corporation

Rich Products Corporation (Rich's) is a family-owned food company headquartered in Buffalo, NY, with an international footprint. Rich's manufactures a wide variety of products, including toppings, icings, cakes, desserts, bread, rolls, pizza, seafood, and snack foods, all while working to reduce waste and their environmental footprint.

Challenge

In 2020, Rich's was one of many major food companies to join the 10x20x30 Initiative. The initiative was launched by Champions 12.3, a coalition of industry, research, and civic groups working towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 12.3. The goal states, "By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses."¹ In addition to working with their supply chain partners to reduce FLW globally, the main requirement of the 10x20x30 Initiative for participants is to reduce FLW generated by their own operations by 50% by 2030. As part of the process, each participant is required to record a baseline inventory using the Food Loss and Waste Accounting and Reporting Standard (FLW Standard)² methodology. To achieve this goal, Rich's requested assistance from the New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP21) to conduct a pilot inventory at one of its facilities. Rich's also sought assistance from NYSP21 to identify improvement opportunities and develop guidance that could be leveraged by their New York-based world headquarters when replicating the inventory

¹ <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal12>

² <https://flwprotocol.org/flw-standard/>

process at additional sites in the future.

Solutions

NYSP2I took several actions to help Rich's meet its goals:

- Educated Rich's team members from the pilot location and the corporate office on the FLW Standard.
- Partnered with production team members at the pilot location to understand the sources of FLW being generated and the available data needed to conduct the inventory.
- Advised Rich's on defining the key components of the inventory, including the goal, scope, quantification methods, and data sources.
- Documented industry best practices and other considerations for achieving Rich's 50% FLW reduction goal by 2030.
- Created guidelines following the FLW Standard for Rich's to efficiently and effectively conduct FLW inventories at additional facilities.

Results

The work performed by Rich's and NYSP2I led to a baseline FLW inventory for one of Rich's facilities. For the baseline year of 2020 at the pilot facility, FLW made up 7.5% of production volume, most of which was composted locally. NYSP2I developed an inventory process guidance for Rich's use at additional facilities. The pilot facility is already practicing many waste reduction techniques identified in industry benchmarking. Additional opportunities to reduce FLW include:

- Upcycling waste streams into new products or ingredients,
- Upgrading equipment with lower performance or yield,
- Inspecting and updating quality inspection systems, and
- Utilizing associate empowerment to identify and implement solutions.

Partners



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