

DIRECT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



CASE STUDY

South Bronx Focuses on Improving Sustainability and Climate Resiliency

Challenge

Climate change is creating new risks for residents and workers in New York City (NYC), particularly in low-income communities. Storm surge and flooding from severe weather events such as Hurricane Sandy can result in the release of toxic substances used at industrial firms, increasing the risk of human exposure. For example, auto body shops located in storm surge zones of NYC often use solvent-based paints, which are classified as being both a health and an environmental hazard. Reducing the risks associated with operations in these storm surge zones was a priority.

Solution

As part of a grant funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to improve sustainability and climate resiliency in the industrial waterfront of the South Bronx, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), the New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP2I), and the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance (NYC-EJA) partnered to promote pollution prevention (P2) and climate adaptation strategies at an auto body shop located in the South Bronx.

NYSP2I worked with the shop to quantify the benefits associated with a newly acquired computerized mixing system. As a P2 strategy for auto body shops, the mixing system was included at no cost with their purchase of a paint bank in assisting with refinishing operations. Computerized paint mixing systems help to reduce the amount of paint used for each job as well as the hazardous wastes associated with solvent-based refinishing operations.

Results

Utilization of the computerized paint mixing system at the auto body shop has reduced the amount of paint in inventory and storage by approximately 50lbs and associated volatile organic compounds (VOC's) by approximately 30lbs. An additional reduction in solvent used for cleaning is estimated to result in an annual savings of approximately \$900 as well as a reduction of over 500lbs VOC's. Utilization of the computerized paint mixing system supports the main goals of the EPA project including pollution prevention, toxics reduction, and climate adaptation. This implementation will help transform the South Bronx community and Industrial waterfront into more sustainable and climate resilient areas.



CHALLENGE

- Reduce the release of toxic substances used at industrial firms to decrease the risks of health and environmental hazards in the storm surge zones in the South Bronx

SOLUTION

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RESULTS

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- A reduction in solvent used for cleaning is estimated to result in an annual savings of approximately \$900 as well as a reduction of over 500lbs in volatile organic compounds

NYSP2I PARTNERS



New York Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Funding provided by a grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) received from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) © 2017 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.

For more information please contact us:

111 Lomb Memorial Drive, Bldg. 78
Rochester, NY 14623

Tel: 585-475-2512
Web: nysp2i.rit.edu
E-mail: nysp2i@rit.edu

