

SUSTAINABLE GROCER PROGRAM



Sustainable Grocer Pilot Project - Tops Store 365

The Tops Markets supermarket chain consists of 161 stores spanning New York, Pennsylvania, and Vermont, with more than 16,000 associates. Tops Store 365 is located in Manlius, NY, employs 30 full-time associates and has approximately 28,000 square feet of retail space. The store is comprised of the following departments: deli, butcher, bakery/pastries, dry/canned goods, fresh produce, and dairy case.

Challenge

Through the Sustainable Grocer Pilot Project, New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP2I) aims to identify cost effective solutions to conserve water, reduce toxic and hazardous materials in cleaning products, and manage organic and food wastes. The ultimate goal of the project is to improve the environmental footprint of the New York State grocery industry.

Solution

Tops Store 365 completed a Pre-Assessment Checklist based on the NEWMOA Sustainable Grocers Initiative outlining their current practices. NYSP2I reviewed the environmental checklist and performed an on-site assessment. Results show that Tops Store 365 currently utilizes practices to minimize water and electricity use as well as food waste. Much of the sustainability initiatives, purchases, and operations at individual stores are controlled by Tops Markets Corporate office. Tops Store 365 is one of the most successful participants in the corporate food waste recycling program.

Results

NYSP2I recommended that Tops Store 365 consider using environmentally preferable cleaning products, ethylene absorbing products to extend the shelf life of fresh produce, and change some of their lighting to further reduce energy usage.

One month after the assessment, Tops Store 365 has:

- Forwarded recommendations for alternative cleaning products and ethylene absorption products for fresh produce to the appropriate personnel responsible within Tops Markets.

Tops Markets has a corporate led aggressive LED conversion program as each store is remodeled. Store 365 will be considered for LED lighting retrofits in the future.



CASE STUDY

CHALLENGE

- Identify cost effective solutions to conserve water, reduce toxic and hazardous materials in cleaning products, and manage organic and food wastes

SOLUTION

- NYSP2I conducted an on-site environmental assessment at the Tops Store 365 location as part of their Sustainable Grocer Pilot
- Tops Store 365 completed an environmental checklist prior to NYSP2I's assessment, identifying opportunity areas

RESULTS

- NYSP2I recommended that Tops Store 365 consider using environmentally preferable cleaning products, ethylene absorbing products to extend the shelf life of fresh produce, and change some of their lighting to further reduce energy usage



NYSP2I PARTNERS



The State University of New York



New York Manufacturing Extension Partnership

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