Seeking NYS Grocers to Participate

Six NYS grocery stores are being sought for participation and will receive an environmental assessment that will prioritize opportunities for cost reductions and environmental impacts. The assessment will identify opportunities for environmental improvements and savings to your bottom line. Assessments focus on cost effective solutions to: conserve water, reduce toxic and hazardous materials such as cleaning products, and manage organic and food wastes. This sheet outlines the process for conducting an assessment.

1. **Interested stores will talk with NYSP2I staff** to determine eligibility and discuss project timeline and responsibilities.

2. **An agreement is provided by NYSP2I to participating stores** outlining the tasks to be completed, responsibilities, and timeline. Participation in the pilot program is at no cost.

3. **A site visit is scheduled** at a time and date most convenient for the participating store.

4. **An environmental checklist is provided by NYSP2I** to the participating store. The checklist is to be completed and returned to NYSP2I at least one week prior to the site visit and includes the following information:
   a. Water use in bathrooms, food prep areas, and landscaping
   b. Cleaning product use, including the type and amounts used throughout the store and other chemicals that are used within the store
   c. Food waste types, sources, quantities, and disposition

5. **A site visit is performed by NYSP2I staff** to validate information on the checklist and identify potential environmental improvements. The site visit will last approximately one day, depending on the store’s size. NYSP2I will meet with staff knowledgeable about the store’s water use, food and organic waste management, and cleaning product purchase and use.

6. **A written report summarizing the environmental improvements identified** during the site visit is provided to the store. Cost benefit analyses will be performed for the most viable options. NYSP2I will connect the store with funding sources that may be able to assist with the costs to implement improvements.

7. **NYSP2I contacts the store to determine behavioral changes and environmental improvements** that result immediately from the site visit and written report.

8. **NYSP2I develops and distributes a case study** summarizing environmental improvement opportunities in the NYS grocery industry.

9. **NYSP2I and DEC develop and deliver a webinar** that includes information from all six participating stores as well as other opportunities for grocers to better manage their environmental affairs. The goal of the webinar is to share highlights of the environmental opportunities identified with other stores. Store names will be kept confidential.

10. **NySP2I follows up with the store six months after the written report is provided** to discuss additional changes that have been made since the assessment.

**Interested stores can contact Kate Winnebeck at Kate.Winnebeck@rit.edu or (585) 475-5390**

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**Eligibility Requirements**

Grocery stores in NYS are eligible to participate. Gas stations, mini marts, delis, and convenience stores are not eligible.

Independent, regional chain, and national chain stores are eligible. Priority will be given to stores located in areas affected by Hurricane Sandy.

All interested stores should contact NYSP2I to participate, regardless of location in NY. Assessments are provided free of charge.

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