



Submitted by: Allan Reetz, areetz@coopfoodstore.com

Company/Organization: Hanover Co-op Food Stores

Number of Employees: 370

For-profit/ Nonprofit: for profit

Category: Environment

Challenge or Opportunity:

Like grocery stores around the nation, the Hanover Co-op Food Stores' coolers and freezers suffered refrigerant leaks of hydrofluorocarbons, a class of potent greenhouse gases. Annual costs for our 4 stores was over \$300,000. Older systems, constant use and upgrade costs were a massive challenge. We had to face the problem and find the best plan.

Approach or Solution:

The Hanover Co-op became the first food co-op in the US to join the GreenChill Partnership, EPA's voluntary program for green refrigeration technologies, strategies and practices. We publically committed to actions like: buying state-of-the art condensers, leak-alert systems that message our team, making refrigeration a top priority, and staying committed.

Impact:

GreenChill Partners—29 mostly large chains totaling 10,800 stores, and now more co-ops like ours—have emission rates of 13.9%, nearly 50% lower than industry avg. Hanover's current emission rate is 9%! That earned us EPA's top-in-the-nation award for emissions since joining GreenChill (82.9% drop) and improved-rate from prior year (77.4% drop).