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Company/Organization: Hannaford Supermarkets

Type of organization: Business

Number of Employees: large

Category: Environment

Challenge or Opportunity: Our company signed onto the Ellen MacArthur Foundation Circular Economy of Plastics Commitment. The commitment requires us to reduce and eliminate unnecessary plastics in our operations. We didn't have a very good idea of exactly what that looked like in our store.

Approach or Solution: We partnered with UNH's Social Innovation program on an intern project to review and document the use of plastic items from an employee's perspective. Our intern Jonathan worked in each fresh department in our Rochester store to provide us a comprehensive catalogue of our plastic use. He also engaged and educated the other store employees.

Impact: Jonathan's work was extremely eye opening. This work allowed us to have a more clear understanding of how and where we use plastics. Jonathan uncovered some very interesting things. We now have a comprehensive baseline for our plastics reduction work. This will inform our plan and prioritization.