

<p><b>New York State</b>  <b>Environmental Investment Program</b>  <i>Capital Project Summary</i>  <b>Syracuse China Company</b></p>
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**Project Background**

Syracuse China is one of the leading manufacturers of ceramic dinnerware for the foodservice industry in the US. It is owned by Libbey Inc. of Toledo, Ohio and employed 420 people at the time of the project. Prior to the project, Syracuse China was operating three tunnel kilns using 63-year-old technology to fire bisque for whiteware ceramics. The company proposed spending at least \$7.3 million to completely replace these kilns with a single fast-fire, automatic kiln. All of Syracuse China's domestic competitors were already employing the new technology. The project would help them realize \$1.8 million in savings in many areas throughout the facility over the next several years. The Environmental Services Unit (ESU) was requested to assist with the portion of the project that would help the company save on disposal costs and on the cost of raw materials. The new kiln technology could produce 10% less defective product. The company estimated that this improvement would help them avoid spending \$41,837 per year on disposal of 850 tons of fired-bisque waste (defective product) and \$29,509 per year on the clay used to make it. (Clay tonnage is lower than waste bisque tonnage since the company planned to expand production after installation of the new kiln). In addition, with the new technology, the company would switch from cordierite to special

nitride bonded silicon carbide "kiln furniture" (bisque travels through the kiln supported by this furniture). The company needed to replace the cordierite furniture every nine to twelve months. The nitride bonded silicon carbide furniture needs replacement only after at least three years. Syracuse China estimated that they would save \$14,963 per year on the avoided cost of disposing 304 tons per year of spent kiln furniture.

**Project Description**

The project involved completely demolishing and removing the old kilns and installing the new Riedhammer Fast-Fire Kiln and Lippert Ware Handling System (the special nitride bonded silicon carbon kiln furniture). Both were delivered and installed on schedule and were placed into production by September 2001.

**Project Results**

By the end of the project, Syracuse China was avoiding the disposal of 1,848 tons per year of refractory waste and waste bisque (defective product) and realizing savings of \$228,016 per year in avoided purchase and disposal costs. These results were well in excess of the project performance targets mostly because the new kiln exceeded the yield target of 90%. It yielded an average of 94-96% saleable product.

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<b>Contractor:</b>	Onondaga County IDA	<b>NYS EIP Investment:</b>	\$200,000
<b>County:</b>	Onondaga	<b>Contractor Match:</b>	\$891,259
<b>ESD Region:</b>	Central New York	<b>Total:</b> (kiln furniture only)	\$1,091,259
<b>ESD Contact:</b>	518/292-5340	<b>Completion Date:</b>	December, 2001