

**New York State  
Environmental Investment Program  
Capital Project Summary**

**Commercial Envelope Manufacturing Co., Inc.**

**Project Background**

Commercial Envelope Manufacturing Company Inc. (CEM) was founded in 1924. The Deer Park, Long Island, facility serves as the business' headquarters, and is one of seven CEM production plants throughout the U.S. CEM provides custom-manufactured, high-volume, innovative envelope and stationary products, serving promotional marketing applications, high-volume business and financial transactions, and related company communications.

At the LI facility, CEM operations generate paper waste of various grades and colors that is accumulated through both manual and semi-automatic methods. Personnel manually segregate the paper waste for recycling, which is labor intensive and yields sub-optimum results in terms of quality. As a result, it is expensive for the company to recycle its paper waste for which it is receiving minimal returns. So, to improve the collection and recycling of potentially high-value waste paper, an automated collection system was proposed.

**Project Description**

This capital project would help CEM implement equipment that would increase the yield of higher quality scrap paper by 3,760 tons per year as compared to the inefficient recycling methods being employed. The new equipment would include a triple-ducting system at each machine that would automatically direct paper waste into three distinct

streams: pure white, colored and printed, and mixed. Each duct would then direct the sorted paper to its own baler, which would package the material for more efficient transport. The system was to facilitate scrap paper recovery at the highest quality value and earn another \$146,000 for CEM each year.

Another benefit: The equipment would reduce costs for recyclers that otherwise would have to do additional sorting, and for paper mills that use recovered feedstocks but do not necessarily have the ability to sort and clean the waste paper.

**Project Results**

CEM's investment resulted in the recovery of 14% more pure white scrap paper, and 23% more colored and printed scrap paper. A total of 2,300 tons of higher-value paper earned \$107,000 of additional revenue for the business. Even though both outcomes were lower than initial projections, the project was a great success. Customer non-optimum paper sizes were not used to generate finished goods and the implementation of lean manufacturing processes actually reduced paper waste generated at the plant, so there was less material that could be recycled. Furthermore, in addition to the recycling benefits, there were improvements to the facility's air quality, the company reduced manual labor requirements, and it benefited from process efficiencies.

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<b>Contractor:</b>	Long Island Forum for Technology	<b>NYS EIP Investment:</b>	\$321,217.62
<b>County:</b>	Suffolk	<b>Contractor Match:</b>	\$357,415.65
<b>ESD Region:</b>	Long Island	<b>Total:</b>	\$678,633.27
<b>ESD Contact:</b>	518/292-5340	<b>Completion Date:</b>	June 2007