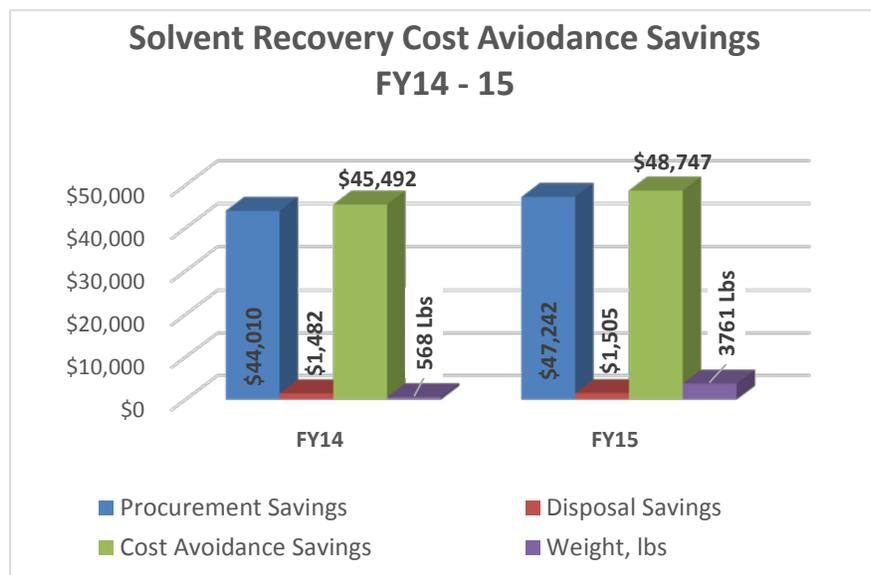


NIH SOLVENT RECYCLING PROGRAM

The Solvent Recycling Program started in January 2013 as a pilot study with DEP staff working with two volunteer histology laboratories to determine the feasibility of implementing solvent recycling at the NIH Bethesda campus. A solvent recycling system was used to recycle waste xylene, alcohol and formalin collected from NIH laboratories. The pilot study yielded pure distilled solvents with successful results. Recovered product was returned to researchers to be reused in their laboratory processes. They reported positive results with no distinction between the uses of recycled product versus unused commercial product. This was a major accomplishment. Based on these positive results, the DEP purchased a commercial system which was installed at the NIH Hazardous Waste Facility Building during July 2013 and is now operational. Operation of the recycler to recover spent solvents for re-use has already resulted in considerable cost savings for the NIH with five laboratories currently participating in the program. More substantial savings will be realized as the program is expanded to include additional laboratories. NIH main campus researchers that are interested to participate in this new innovative program are encouraged to call DEP at 301-496-7990.

DEP's implementation of the Surplus Chemical Redistribution and Solvent Recycling Programs are two of the best sustainable recycling programs ever for the NIH DEP/Waste and Resource Recovery Branch. These new programs have a significant impact NIH-wide providing a cost savings to NIH researchers who shares NIH's vision of recycling and resource recovery. They are also sustainable business practices designed to improve NIH environmental performance and conservation of resources. Additionally, these programs help the NIH achieve its HHS Strategic Sustainability Plan (SSPP) goals and NIH Green Initiatives for pollution prevention, resource conservation and toxicity reduction. The programs support NIH's waste minimization goals mandated by environmental regulations and Executive Orders.



NIH's solvent Recycler

Thus far, five ICDs are participating in both programs and will be expanded to all ICs and other NIH facilities in the near future in order to save NIH dollars that can be utilized better towards biomedical research.