

Increase Profits by Reducing Your Store's Energy Use

Utility bills are a major cost for groceries. They can turn a narrow profit margin into a narrow loss easily. To protect profits, increase sales and reduce energy use.

Steps you can take to reduce your store's energy use and costs:

Perform Regular Maintenance

- Regularly clean refrigeration evaporator and condenser coils, maintain door seals, and load product quickly into coolers and freezers.
- Maintain HVAC equipment and filters. Check for adequate airflow.
- Cycle equipment to control peak electric demand.

Make Existing Equipment More Efficient

For refrigeration, install energy efficient:

- Case lighting.
- Waste heat recovery systems.
- High efficiency evaporator and condenser fans.
- Anti-sweat heater controls.
- Floating head pressure controls.

Add strip curtains to walk-ins to keep cold air in during stocking times.



For lighting, upgrade:

- Existing T-12 lamp/magnetic ballast combinations and standard T-8 lamp/electronic ballast combos with high performance T-8 lamp/electronic ballast combos.
- Inefficient parking lights with pulse start metal halides.

For HVAC equipment, install:

- Programmable thermostats with temperature setbacks for unoccupied areas.
- Variable speed drives for fans.
- Outdoor air economizers.

Improve building shell:

- Plug air leaks.
- Add insulation.
- Install reflective roof coatings.

A typical supermarket can reduce energy costs by 40 percent through cost-effective energy measures. Many steps have paybacks of three years or less.

Additional Benefits of Energy Efficiency

- Less food spoilage.
- Better shopping environments.

This information comes from Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED) www.maced.org and The Reinvestment Fund (TRF) www.trfund.com.

