



CASE STUDY: SAVE MART SUPERMARKETS

Energy Savings Boost Business and Benefit Customers

Save Mart Supermarkets takes pride in offering its customers quality products at the lowest price possible. When Save Mart learned about NV Energy's rebates for installing energy-saving equipment, it didn't hesitate to participate. The company recognized that energy efficiency improvements contribute to long-term cost savings that ultimately benefit their customers.

Energy is the supermarket industry's highest operating cost after shelf stock, and every penny saved on energy helps increase a store's profit margin. Since refrigeration represents between 45%-55% of the electricity use of a typical grocery store, it's a smart place to start saving. Stores can often install equipment upgrades with little disruption to operations, and refrigeration technologies have advanced rapidly in recent years.

Save Mart applied for NV Energy refrigeration incentives and received nearly \$47,000 to implement energy efficiency upgrades in six stores in the Reno and Lake Tahoe area.

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Project Summary

Save Mart's project used several types of energy-efficient equipment, including:

Anti-sweat heaters: When warm air from outside a refrigerated display case meets the cold air inside, it condenses on the glass doors, making it difficult for customers to see the products inside. Heaters added to the doors to prevent this "sweating" need to run constantly and, as a result, the refrigerator's compressor works overtime to counter the added heat. Anti-sweat heater controls ensure that the doors and frames are heated only when necessary, thus reducing energy use and wear on the compressor.

Lighting controls: Lighting controls turn off the T8 or T12 fluorescent lamps in the store's refrigerated cases between midnight and 6 a.m. These controls save on lighting energy use and cut the heat added to the case by the lamps, so the compressors also get a break.

Floating head and suction pressure controls: This measure improves efficiency of the refrigeration compressors that cool low-temperature freezers, medium-temperature coolers and reach-in units. The controls allow the head pressure and the suction pressure of the compressors to operate at optimum levels at all times to save energy automatically.



Energy-saving Equipment

As a result of the refrigeration system retrofit, Save Mart can expect energy savings of almost one million kWh annually. These measures are expected to pay back in energy savings within two to three years.



Project Results

Building Type: Grocery

Project Type: Retrofit

Measures: Refrigeration

Incentive: \$46,769

Projected Annual kWh Savings: 995,000