



CASE STUDY: WHOLE FOODS MARKET

Environmental Stewardship Through Energy Conservation

The motto at Whole Foods Market is “America’s Healthiest Grocery Store.” With more than 450 natural and organic foods supermarkets in North America and the United Kingdom, the company has seen significant growth since opening its first store in 1980. Whole Foods Market focuses on eight core values, including selling the highest quality natural and organic products available, and the practice and advancement of environmental stewardship.

Environmental stewardship includes the mission to reduce, reuse and recycle from the local level through to the executive leaders. Dedicated to making wise environmental choices, the Whole Foods Market in Henderson, Nevada, teamed up with NV Energy to improve energy efficiency and save money on their utility bills. With an NV Energy incentive of almost \$3,000, this facility has taken another step to reduce waste and promote energy conservation.



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Project Summary

At a typical grocery store, refrigeration accounts for 45%-55% of the total electricity use. The Whole Foods Market in Henderson installed energy-efficient refrigeration equipment and earned incentives from NV Energy. The store added anti-sweat heater controls to frozen food glass cases and installed electrically commutated (EC) motors in walk-in coolers.

When customers open and close refrigerator display case doors, air from the store mixes with air in the refrigerated display. Warm, humid air meets cool, dry air resulting in condensation. This fogging and “sweating” not only obscures the customers’ views, but ice can build up on door gaskets. Installing heaters in display case doors and frames helps prevent condensation; however, these heaters often run continuously regardless of conditions. To conserve energy, anti-sweat heater controls use sensors to determine humidity levels and cycle on only when needed.



Energy-saving Equipment

This store installed 27 anti-sweat heater controls on frozen food glass cases and 32 EC motors in the walk-in coolers. As a result of the refrigeration system retrofit, Whole Foods Market in Henderson can expect more than 51,000 kWh in energy savings and close to \$5,000 in annual energy cost savings.



Project Results

Building Type: Grocery store

Project Type: Retrofit

Measures: EC motors and anti-sweat heater controls

Incentive: \$2,960

Projected Annual kWh Savings: 51,630