

Energy Saving Tips – For Grocery and Convenience Stores

The Efficiency Maine Business Program offers cash incentives for qualifying energy products, making this a great time to invest in energy-efficiency. These energy saving tips are a starting place for taking advantage of the money saving opportunities for your business. In addition to reducing energy costs, many of these projects have improved customer and employee comfort, increased visibility of product assortment through better lighting and reduced maintenance costs. Look to energy-efficiency opportunities when making new purchases, considering retrofit options and maintaining equipment.

Ten energy saving tips for you and your store!

1. *Keep to a schedule of regular maintenance on your coolers, refrigerators and air conditioners.*
Make sure you are not wasting energy through dirty coils and filters, broken seals or ice build-ups. If you can slide a dollar bill between the door and the refrigeration case, it is time to have them re-sealed.
2. *Check temperature settings of coolers and refrigerators.*
Make sure they match the requirements of the product being cooled.
3. *Consider installing an economizer on medium temperature (>32° F) walk-in coolers.* Economizers use Maine's cold winter air to help cool your product.
4. *Consider operating the refrigeration system using floating head pressure controls.* Floating head pressure controls enable compressor head pressure to vary with outdoor air temperature.
5. *Use "on demand" defrost control settings rather than timed defrost.*
6. *When it is time for new refrigeration/freezer equipment, make sure you take into account the life cycle cost.*
Efficient equipment offers great opportunities to increase your profitability by reducing expenses.

7. *Use a VendingMiser[®], SnackMiser[™], PlugMiser[™] or CoolerMiser[™] on your vending machine and cooler.* These easy to install plug-ins, can reduce a vending machine's energy use by 46% and have a payback of less than a year.
8. *Upgrade the lighting in your store and refrigeration cases.*
You can reduce your electric bill and provide better product presentation.
9. *Shut off display case lighting when the store is unoccupied.*
10. *Consider using timers and occupancy sensors in seldom used areas, such as storage rooms and lavatories, where employees tend to leave on the lights.*

For More Information

Efficiency Maine's Qualified Partners are contractors, vendors and professionals that are familiar with the Efficiency Maine Program and can help determine how to operate more efficiently. A complete list of Qualified Partners is available on our website, efficiencymaine.com. The website also contains more energy saving tips for saving money on lighting, refrigeration, vending machines and motors. If you have questions, please call us at 866-376-2463.