



SUPERVALU Upgrades Case Study

Indiana-based grocery distribution center receives \$39,607 rebate check for energy efficiency improvements through Indiana Michigan Power Prescriptive Refrigeration Program

Ft. Wayne, IN

The SUPERVALU® Grocery Store Corporation recognizes the importance of using resources more efficiently and passing the energy savings on to their customers. While upgrading their Ft. Wayne based distribution building, it was important to evaluate the facility's total energy use to determine how to best improve its energy efficiency. With the help of Indiana Michigan Power, the SUPERVALU distribution center decided to focus on upgrading the efficiency of the refrigeration system, which accounted for over 50% of the facility's annual energy use.

Aims & Objectives

In order to increase the energy efficiency of the refrigeration system, the service provider installed a series of micro-processor based refrigeration controls including floating head and suction pressure set points. Installed on the compressor racks inside the freezer warehouse, the floating head system works to lower the pressure of the refrigeration motors. This decreases the motor's work load and allows for target temperatures to be achieved much sooner. In addition to the compressor improvement, over 200 evaporator fan controls were installed to slow the propeller cooling fans when full-speed operation is not necessary.

Partnership

SUPERVALU utilized Indiana Michigan Power's Prescriptive Refrigeration Program to guide them through the process and help offset the cost of the initial investment. Through the program, they qualified for a \$39,607 incentive, which created a 4.8-year payback on the \$286,927 project.

Implementation

The SUPERVALU distribution center upgrades successfully decreased the refrigeration compressor energy use and improved the system's overall efficiency and capacity. The energy efficiency improvements contributed to an average energy savings of 857,000 kWh per year and provided annual energy cost savings of over \$50,000.

Current Offerings

I&M continues to offer commercial and industrial custom incentives and prescriptive rebates through their Electric Ideas program. For more information visit: <http://www.electricideas.com/work>.

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Project Cost
\$286,927

Incentive Received
\$39,607 Rebate

Utility Bill Savings
\$50,911 Annually

Energy Savings
857,000 kWh Annually

Payback Time
4.8 years

