

Uwajimaya Grocery Stores

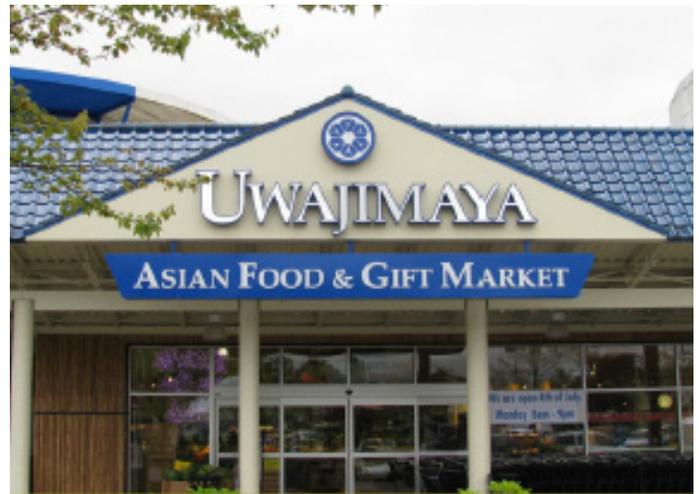
Energy Smart Grocer

Case Study



Project Description

With multiple locations in the Pacific Northwest, Uwajimaya has become one of the region's largest Asian grocery retailers. In 2006, when the company sought to increase energy efficiency in its stores, EnergySmart Grocer was the perfect solution to provide energy saving expertise and rebates to offset installation costs. By fully embracing the program's offerings and continuously reinvesting, they have expanded their energy efficiency upgrades in multiple stores, experienced significant energy savings over time, and have been recognized as a leader in energy efficiency.



Energy Efficient Upgrades

Starting with a no-cost energy audit in their Bellevue, WA location, Uwajimaya discovered a number of prime opportunities. After consulting with their Field Energy Expert, Uwajimaya pursued upgrades for their:

- High-efficiency compressor system
- Energy management system
- High-efficiency rooftop condensers
- Efficient motors for walk-ins and display cases
- Reach-in case door heater controls

These upgrades alone are expected to save the store 570,000 kWh annually and roughly \$39,900 in energy cost savings per year.

Utilizing the rebates from BPA and Puget Sound Energy, Uwajimaya saved \$71,000 and decided to immediately reinvest the money into additional efficiency upgrades at other locations for additional savings.

Upon receiving the rebate money from the Bellevue project, Uwajimaya reinvested in additional high-efficiency lighting and refrigeration upgrades for its Seattle location. The store is now poised to save an extra 434,313 kWh per year. Rebates from Seattle City Light contributed \$66,680 toward the project improving the attractiveness of this investment. Moving forward, Uwajimaya is set to roll the savings from these upgrades into even more improvements, including LED case lighting for each of its stores.

Energy Savings

Currently, Uwajimaya has successfully completed 11 energy-saving projects with the EnergySmart Grocer Program. Those projects combine to save an impressive 1.7 million kWh annually, while Uwajimaya has received more than \$215,000 in rebates from EnergySmart Grocer and local utilities to help offset the costs of new equipment and installation.



Special Recognition

In celebration of Uwajimaya's eco-friendly vision, dedication to energy efficiency, and ongoing collaboration with EnergySmart Grocer, an incentive check presentation was held in October, 2012 at the store's Seattle location. Representatives from EnergySmart Grocer, Bonneville Power Administration, Seattle City Light and Puget Sound Energy were on hand to recognize Uwajimaya's strong commitment to efficiency.



Feedback

"We are happy to reduce energy usage as part of our overall sustainability program. We already use biodegradable trays, recycle cardboard and plastic and compost produce waste. This is just good business."

-Hiroshi Hibi, Store Director, Uwajimaya

"BPA is very pleased that Uwajimaya has so strongly embraced the EnergySmart Grocer program. We applaud their leadership and dedication to improving energy efficiency in their grocery stores. Uwajimaya's strategy of rolling over the energy savings and rebate incentives from one project to help pay for the next project is a winning formula which could set the standard for other program participants."

-Gary Smith, BPA's EnergySmart Grocer Program Manager

"Uwajimaya has seen the value of investing in energy efficiency, the improvements they have made will be good for their bottom line and make a statement to other grocers who are considering whether they should invest in energy efficiency."

-Corey Corbett, Supervising Engineer, Puget Sound Energy

