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Campuses Cash in Big with ENERGY STAR Vending Machines

Take a look around a college campus and you'd be hard-pressed to find a building without a vending machine. Whether in residence halls or science labs, students and staff appreciate the convenience of onsite vending.

What most people don't realize is that vending machines consume a significant amount of energy, contributing to global warming and air pollution, and leading to high energy bills. The energy used by the typical vending machine can cost more than \$300 per year, adding up to thousands of dollars a year for campuses with large fleets of machines.

Some organizations are recognizing that there is a more efficient alternative and are asking for ENERGY STAR qualified vending machines. These machines offer the same aesthetics and functionality of traditional models, but require 50% less energy to operate. In order to cash in on these savings, however, organizations must specifically request these energy-efficient models from their beverage distributor.

SUNY-Buffalo: A Simple Request, Impressive Results

The Faculty Student Association at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo made a simple request for ENERGY STAR qualified machines, and they have been reaping the benefits ever since. In December 2003, they issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a beverage partnership to provide the University with a comprehensive cold beverage package. Thanks to the influence of internal energy-efficiency champions, the RFP specifically requested "energy efficient vending machines for all facilities."

Quick Facts

State University of New York at Buffalo

132 vending machines
Annual Savings: \$20,948
Annual Energy Savings: 261,849 kWh

When bids were returned, Pepsi offered a competitive package that included replacing 132 of the campus' vending machines with brand new ENERGY STAR qualified units. Each of these improved machines reduced annual energy usage by 1,800 kWh, saving the school nearly \$150 per machine each year!

According to SUNY-Buffalo, the switchover was fairly painless, offering no more snags than a typical change in contract. Since the ENERGY STAR qualified machines are visually indistinguishable from their inefficient counterparts, there were no problems with placement of machines or electrical wiring.

Since the switchover in August 2004, most people on campus have noticed the new machines, but few realize that they are much more energy efficient. Since the functionality is the same, customers haven't experienced differences in machine operation, and the dispensed drinks are just as cold. In fact, the only people noticing

a difference from the switch to ENERGY STAR machines are those who pay the University's electricity bill. Onsite testing has confirmed that the University is saving over \$20,000 each year from this one simple change.

When asked if he would recommend that other college campuses switch to ENERGY STAR, Mitch Green, Executive Director of SUNY-Buffalo's Faculty Student Association, replied: "Definitely. The machines are working well and saving the University a lot of money."

To find out how much your campus can save with ENERGY STAR vending machines, or to find information on other ENERGY STAR products for your school, visit: www.energystar.gov/purchasing. For more information on ENERGY STAR vending machines, contact Kate Lewis of the U.S. EPA at lewis.kate@epa.gov or Sarah Banas of the Cadmus Group, a technical contractor to the ENERGY STAR program, at sbanas@cadmusgroup.com.