



Energy- and Money-Saving Best Practices for Grocery Retailers



INTRODUCTION

As you look for ways to strengthen your grocery store's financial success, we're here to help you improve your operating income, enhance customer experience, and reduce your carbon footprint.

In this guide, you will find ways to:



Maximize savings with
time-of-use rate plans



Reduce costs while improving
energy efficiency

Refrigeration • HVAC • Lighting



Get compensated with
demand response programs

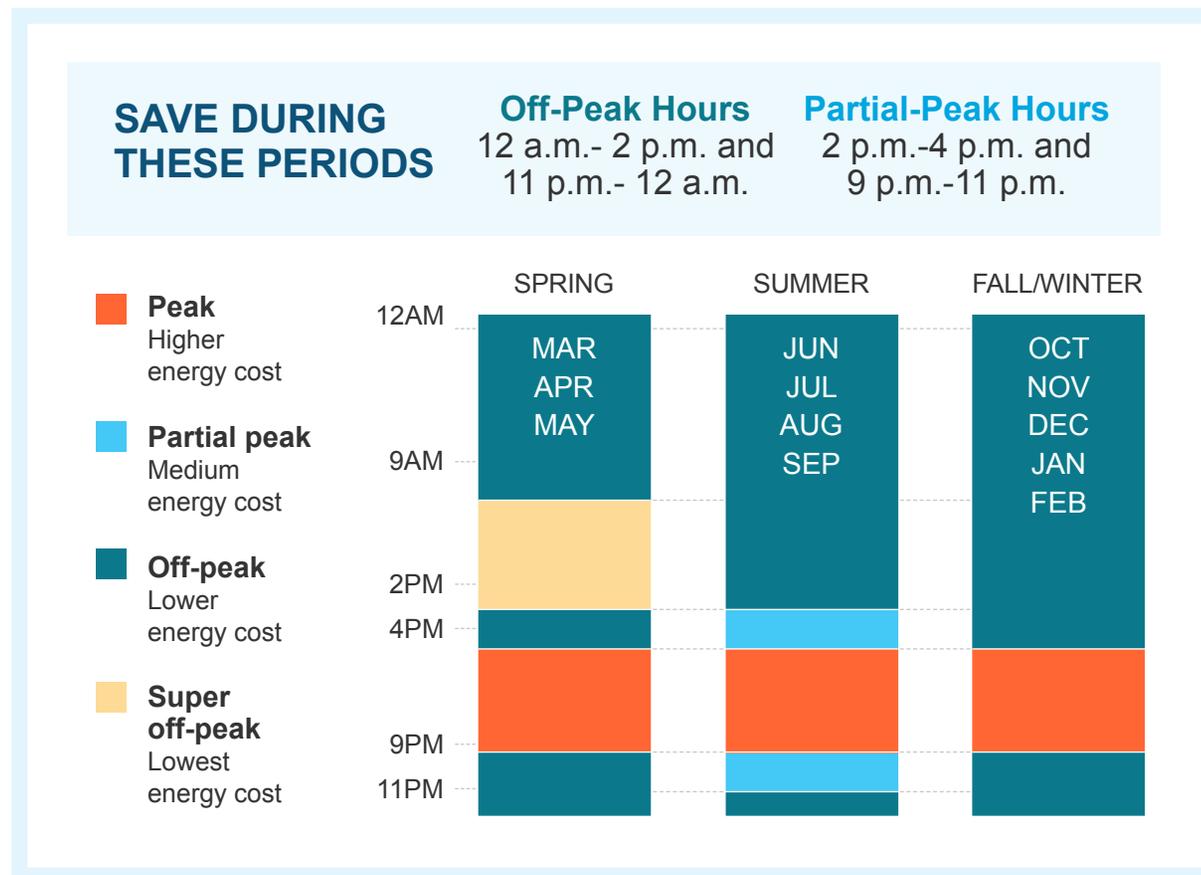


TIME-OF-USE RATE PLANS

Save money with lower energy rates

You can take advantage of lower energy rates and save money by shifting your energy use to partial-peak and off-peak hours of the day when rates are lower.

As a reminder, peak hours are 4 p.m.-9 p.m. every day.



MONEY-SAVING TIP



Businesses like yours can save money by **reducing lighting** on sales floor levels and **adjusting the temperature** to upper acceptable range in the store's air conditioning — all without impacting customers' shopping experience.



TIME-OF-USE RATE PLANS

Your next steps to save more

1

Get on the best rate plan for your operations

Use PG&E's free [Rate Comparison Tool](#) to receive personalized recommendations and easily update your rate plan.

2

Remember to shift your energy usage

With time-of-use rate plans, your business can save by reducing usage during more expensive peak hours (4 p.m.-9 p.m every day).

3

Consider energy efficiency

Review PG&E's [energy efficiency programs](#) to upgrade old equipment and reduce your energy bills.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

REFRIGERATION

Conduct a detailed on-site inspection every 1-3 years to have a technician check settings and the condition of gaskets, hinges and motors.

Keep evaporator coils clean and free of ice build-up, and condenser coils free of dust, grease and lint.

Use night covers on vertical and horizontal display cases without doors.

Keep in Mind



Set the proper holding temperature for your equipment to avoid making equipment work too hard.

Commercial freezer

0°F or below

Refrigerator

Above 32°F, no greater than 40°F

Walk-in cooler

Between 35°F and 40°F

Walk-in freezer

Between -5°F and 5°F

Adjust door latches, install automatic doors, replace worn door gaskets and add strip curtains to doors.

Adjust defrost cycles based on the need. In most cases, the default defrost schedule can be reduced.

Turn off lights in empty refrigeration cases or vacated walk-in refrigerators.

Replace shaded-pole motors with ECMs* in walk-in coolers and freezers.

Make room around equipment for better air circulation. System performance decreases when the airflow is disrupted.

Keep cooler doors closed when loading/unloading walk-ins, as escaping cold makes the equipment work harder to keep a consistent temperature.

Consider adding evaporator fan controllers to large walk-in coolers.

Insulate bare suction lines in walk-in coolers to help regulate system temperature.

*Electronically Commutated Motors



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

HVAC

Perform service on equipment at regular intervals. This includes cleaning condenser coils and replacing air filters.*

Install an air conditioning economizer, or repair and recommission your existing unit to bring in outside air when the weather is cool.

Ensure HVAC settings in warehouses, stockrooms, offices, and other special-use rooms are at minimum settings.

Use reflective window film or awnings on all south- and west-facing windows to reduce air-conditioning loads.

Install programmable setback thermostats or electronic time clocks to limit equipment operating hours.

During closed hours, turn temperature settings down in heating seasons and up in cooling seasons.

Keep exterior doors closed throughout the day to help regulate the temperature.

Regularly maintain HVAC systems including the repair of duct insulation and sagging flex duct.*

Insulate water heaters and hot water supply pipes.

Install locking covers on thermostats to prevent employees from adjusting temperature settings.

Install roof and wall insulation.

Install ceiling fans, blinds, or solar screen shades so your cooling sources don't have to work as hard to maintain an ideal temperature.

Keep in Mind



Set the **summer thermostat** between 76°F and 78°F during business hours and slightly above 78°F after closing.



Set the **winter thermostat** between 65°F and 68°F during business hours and slightly below 65°F after closing.

*Your contractor should be able to lay out a schedule for how often they need to check on the equipment, which will likely depend on the type of HVAC products and the way they are used in your facility.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

Install dimmable lights, which allow for the right light levels at the right times.

Clean dusty diffusers and lamps every 6-12 months for improved lumen output.

Turn off lights when not in use. Install dual-level switching for overhead lights, allowing alternate fixtures to be turned off during low-traffic hours.

Light evenly throughout the space to improve customer traffic flow while helping with loss prevention.

Set occupancy sensor response time between 2 and 5 minutes.

Replace linear fluorescent fixtures with LED fixtures for energy savings and improved light quality.

Install motion detectors to control lighting in frequently unoccupied areas, such as restrooms.

Retrofit incandescent or fluorescent exit signs with long-lasting, low-energy LED exit signs.

Keep in Mind



Not only can an LED lighting retrofit visibly boost product appeal, it also offers a strong ROI, **reducing energy used for lighting by 30-50% and energy used for cooling by 10-20%.***

LIGHTING



*Ecowatch: It's Time for Retailers to Retrofit Lighting for Big Energy Savings



DEMAND RESPONSE

Get rewarded for helping with grid reliability

PG&E offers a variety of demand response programs that help you optimize energy use during times of high demand. With some programs, event participation is voluntary, while others require a firm commitment to curtail usage. Whichever program you choose, it's easy to earn incentives.

PG&E DEMAND RESPONSE PROGRAMS:

- Emergency Load Reduction Program
- Automated Demand Response
- Capacity Bidding Program
- Base Interruptible Program

Review PG&E's demand response programs side-by-side to make the best choice for you.

[LEARN MORE >>](#)

See how it works:



Customers sign up for a demand response program that best aligns with their energy usage needs



Peak energy events cause a surge in demand for electricity



Demand response customers reduce energy consumption and earn financial benefits



Overall energy consumption is reduced, putting less stress on the grid



This leads to greater grid stability and reliability for customers

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Save on energy efficiency PROJECT COSTS



Rebates

Find rebates on energy-efficient equipment quickly.

[pge.com/businessrebates](https://www.pge.com/businessrebates)

Energy Efficiency Financing

Upgrade to energy-efficient equipment with 0% financing. Savings from energy efficiency can pay your monthly loan installments.

[pge.com/eef](https://www.pge.com/eef)



Project Starter Checklist

Kick off your project with this 6-step planning guide to realize maximum money and energy savings.

[pge.com/checklist](https://www.pge.com/checklist)



Save time and money on YOUR OPERATIONS



Online Account

Find the information you need to automatically pay bills, manage your account, compare rate options and track your energy use.

[pge.com/mybizaccount](https://www.pge.com/mybizaccount)



Business Energy Savings Tool

Use this online facility-assessment tool to analyze energy use and get custom tips to lower operating costs.

[pge.com/bec](https://www.pge.com/bec)



Rate Plan Comparison Tool

Evaluate your electric rate plan options and choose the best option for your business.

[pge.com/rateanalysis](https://www.pge.com/rateanalysis)

PG&E Energy Centers

Gain new skills and fuel your future with online courses and a robust learning library, all at no cost.

Search the class catalog for:

HVAC

Refrigeration and Kitchen Equipment

Lighting

Contact Us Today

HERE TO HELP YOU

We're happy to walk you through how you can take advantage of money-and-energy-saving resources for your business.

For additional assistance, please contact the Business Customer Service Center at [1-800-468-4743](tel:1-800-468-4743). Solar customers may contact the Solar Help Line at [1-877-743-4112](tel:1-877-743-4112).

