

Safeway Inc.

Logix reduces energy use by 35%, save 4.2 million kilowatt hours per year

CUSTOMER NEED

Nationally recognized food and drug retailer Safeway, Inc. owns and operates numerous food processing plants and cold storage distribution centers to support thousands of stores in the U.S. and Canada. The company's long-standing desire to make its facilities as energy efficient as possible was strengthened in 2006 when Safeway launched an ambitious Greenhouse Gas and Sustainability Initiative.

LOGIX SOLUTION

Safeway first contracted with Logix for a refrigeration controls system in one of its distribution centers in 1993. Logix systems now control the refrigeration operations in four of the company's regional distribution centers, and in two of its dairy processing plants.

BUSINESS VALUE DELIVERED

Safeway has benefitted from electrical utilities' incentive programs to help expand deployment of Logix-based solutions. In just one of the Safeway distribution centers, the Logix system has reduced energy consumption by 4.2 million kilowatt hours per year, a reduction of 35%. Other Logix-equipped facilities are seeing comparable results.

With 2008 sales of \$44.1 billion, Safeway, Inc., is one of the largest food and drug retailers in North America. The company owns and operates more than 1,750 stores across the U.S. and Canada, along with a large network of distribution, manufacturing, and food processing facilities to support those stores. Since its founding early last century, Safeway has prided itself on its civic spirit and community involvement. In 2006, that philosophy led Safeway to launch a Greenhouse Gas and Sustainability Initiative that committed to their reducing greenhouse gas emissions and to continuing the search for ways to lessen its dependence on traditional fossil fuels.

Even before launching this initiative, Safeway had deployed Logix refrigeration controls systems in several of its cold storage distribution centers, with the initial Logix system installed in 1993 at a Bellevue, Washington, distribution center. Based on the success of that early Logix system, Safeway has since deployed Logix solutions to manage the refrigeration operations in two dairy processing plants (Los Angeles and San Leandro, Calif.), four distribution centers (Tracy, California, Portland, Oregon, Anchorage, Alaska, and Collington, Maryland), and a refrigerant leak detection system at their Vons distribution center in El Monte, California.

"Our first experiences with Logix told us they would be the right partner to help us take advantage of every opportunity available to reduce our energy consumption and costs," says Alan Burrows, corporate operations engineering manager. Burrows, who formerly oversaw the operations of a number of Safeway's distribution centers, is now responsible for eight of the company's dairy processing plants. "Logix has a deep knowledge of all the intricacies of a good refrigeration system in different environments," Burrows continues. "They're more than just controls experts – they have good refrigeration management knowledge."

Logix Delivers Results Across the Board

All of Safeway's Logix-controlled facilities have realized significant energy reductions, achieved increased automation and more precise refrigeration.

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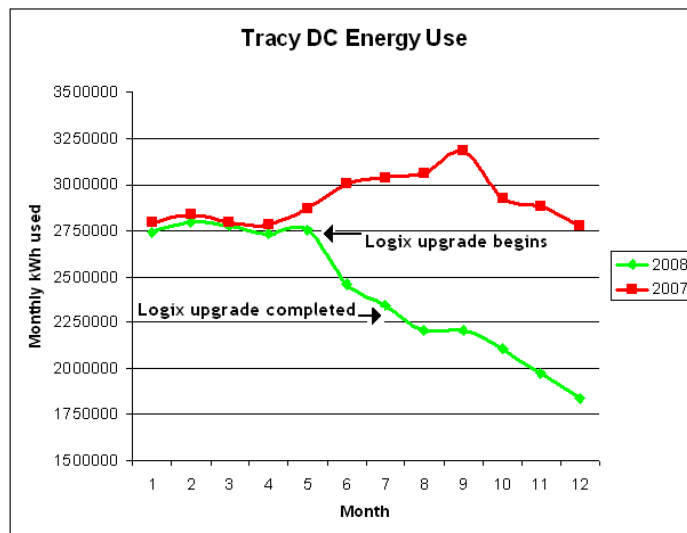
Each of Safeway's dairy processing plants and cold-storage distribution centers has its own refrigeration configurations and requirements, but Burrows says that all of the Logix-controlled facilities have realized significant energy reductions, increased automation, and more precise refrigeration. He cites the Tracy, California, distribution center as an example of the benefits the Logix systems are delivering.

In mid-2008, the Tracy cold-storage facility upgraded an earlier-generation Logix system with the company's current generation controls and software that include specific energy management and efficiency features. The upgrade occurred as part of a broader efficiency project at the Tracy plant, an effort that also added variable speed fans and a new, energy-efficient lighting system. The Tracy facility's refrigeration system includes 13 compressors totaling over 4,000 horsepower, eight condensers and 125 evaporator units running a combined 830 fan horsepower.

"Logix gives you the ability to drill down to individual evaporators, compressors and other equipment," says Tim Kierst, maintenance manager at the Tracy distribution center. "You can zero in right on any problem and fix it, which also helps us reduce our manual labor and maintenance time."

Working with a Logix contractor partner, OnSite Energy, Safeway began transitioning equipment to the upgraded Logix system in mid-May 2008 and energy savings commenced immediately. After the change-over was complete at the end of July, the Tracy plant continued to tweak its operation for several weeks to optimize its performance. "We now have it to the point where it works so efficiently, we don't even run all of our evaporators," says Kierst. "And most of those that are running run at only 50% fan speed."

As illustrated in the figure to the right, the Tracy distribution center has seen a dramatic drop in its refrigeration energy consumption, thanks to the new Logix system's equipment efficiency and demand management capabilities. The Tracy DC has realized a 35% refrigeration energy reduction, equaling 4.2 million kWh annually.



Safeway works closely with the local utility providers supplying each of its facilities, and has been able to take advantage of "huge incentives" offered by the utilities to help defray the cost of acquiring the energy-reducing Logix systems, according to Burrows. Post deployment, he and maintenance manager Kierst say that Logix has been a good partner for follow-on support and advice. "We can call them anytime, and they're very, very helpful." Kierst says.

With its multifaceted efforts to reduce its energy consumption, Safeway is lessening its environmental impact as well as improving its bottom line. Logix applauds Safeway's Sustainability Initiative, and is happy to be able to play a key supporting role in helping Safeway attain its ambitious energy-reduction goals.

For more information, contact: **LOGIX**

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Measurable Results in Energy Use Savings

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