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Big Ten University Saves Big with ENERGY STAR® Qualified Vending Machines

A top-ranked public university with 40,000 students at its main campus alone, the University of Michigan is a Big Ten school with a big commitment to the environment. Since partnering with ENERGY STAR in 1997, U-M Ann Arbor has received the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Partner of the Year award for Excellence in Energy Management and is saving an estimated \$10 million annually through energy efficiency programs.

"Our staff has been very committed to pushing forward with hundreds of energy conservation measures that not only make good business sense, but also strengthen our environmental stewardship commitment," says Hank Baier, associate vice president for facilities and operations. And many of these energy conservation measures have been made possible through Michigan's relationship with EPA and ENERGY STAR.

One of U-M's most successful and easiest to implement projects involved replacing inefficient soft drink vending machines with ENERGY STAR qualified units. For institutions like Michigan that have large fleets of vending machines, making such a switch can yield great savings—roughly 1,700 kWh of electricity per machine in Michigan's case, which equates to an annual reduction in energy costs of \$150 per machine.

Thanks to staff of the Energy Conservation and Outreach (ECO) Program, more than 130 refrigerated pop machines across the Ann Arbor campus are ENERGY STAR qualified. Even more, all machines have an occupancy sensor device called a VendingMiser® that powers down the machine after periods of inactivity to cut energy costs even further. So whether you call it pop as people do in Michigan, or soda as they call it just about everywhere else, everyone can understand that these ENERGY STAR vending machines are saving U-M about \$20,000 a year.

Quick Facts

University of Michigan – Ann Arbor
132 vending machines

Annual Savings: \$19,800
Annual Energy Savings: 224,400 kWh

ENERGY STAR qualified vending machines use more efficient compressors, fan motors, and lighting systems to achieve energy savings, while keeping beverages just as cold and the machines just as visible as traditional models.

U-M simply asked its vending operator, AVI Food Systems, for the ENERGY STAR vending machines, and the company was happy to provide them for a valued customer. And vending operators can now meet demand for efficient vending machines by having select non-ENERGY STAR models rebuilt to meet the same performance standards as brand new ENERGY STAR machines.

To find out more about ENERGY STAR qualified new and rebuilt vending machines, visit www.energystar.gov/vending or contact EPA's Kate Lewis at lewis.kate@epa.gov.

For more information about other things schools can do to improve their energy efficiency, please go to www.energystar.gov/highered.