

# ENERGYSMART GROCER CASE STUDY

**UWAJIMAYA**  
Bellevue, Washington



## Uwajimaya boosts efficiency, rolls energy savings from store to store

Popular Asian market works with EnergySmart Grocer to save big on high-efficiency upgrades.

With three locations in Washington and another in Oregon, Uwajimaya has become one of the Pacific Northwest's largest Asian grocery retailers. When the company sought to increase efficiency in its Bellevue, WA store, EnergySmart Grocer was the perfect partner to provide a wealth of energy-saving expertise. What followed was a ripple effect of successful energy improvements that now spans multiple store locations, and a strong relationship that promises even greater savings down the road.

### Working together toward a common goal

The partnership began with a meeting between Uwajimaya president Tomoko Moriguchi-Matsuno and EnergySmart Grocer's Mike Sandberg. As a Field Energy Analyst, Mike in essence serves as a personal energy expert, providing solutions to meet the specific efficiency needs of the store.

"Mike really opened the doors," said Tom Phillips, the contractor in charge of the Bellevue store remodel. "By introducing Tomoko to the available rebates, showing her ways to be more efficient with energy costs and which solutions offered the most bang for the buck, just providing that level of education that's so important."

Kicking off this effort was a comprehensive, no-cost energy audit that highlighted the areas where the store could garner the greatest energy savings. Uwajimaya's energy audit revealed a number of prime opportunities, and after consulting with Sandberg, the store chose to pursue the following upgrades:

- 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

### QUICK FACTS

**STORE:** Uwajimaya

**LOCATION:** Bellevue, Washington

#### SCOPE OF PROJECT:

High efficiency compressor system, high efficiency rooftop condensers, energy management system with floating controls, efficient motors in walk-ins and display cases, reach-in case door heater controls, efficient T8 case lighting

#### PROJECTED ANNUAL SAVINGS:

570,000 kWh annually, over \$39,000 in energy cost savings per year

#### TOTAL REBATE FOR PROJECT:

Rebate: \$71,162.80

Project Cost: \$616,993.90

#### PUGET SOUND ENERGY (PSE)

[www.pse.com](http://www.pse.com)

### PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Comprehensive no-cost energy audit
- Customized energy efficiency investment plan
- Technical expertise and guidance
- Rebates to offset installation costs
- Significant energy savings



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*Hiroshi Hibi, store director, Uwajimaya*



These upgrades are expected to save the store 570,000 kWh annually, which translates to \$39,900 in energy cost savings per year. On top of those totals, rebates from Puget Sound Energy paid for more than \$71,000 of the installation costs.

That’s music to the ears of Uwajimaya store director Hiroshi Hibi, who was eager to forge ahead on the store’s eco-friendly journey. “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,” he said.

### **An eye for the future**

Upon seeing the rebate numbers for the Bellevue project, Tomoko was so excited she immediately decided to reinvest the money into additional high-efficiency upgrades for Uwajimaya’s flagship Seattle location. The work is already complete and now the store is benefitting from new efficient door cases that replaced old inefficient open cases. Best of all, Uwajimaya received yet another \$70,000 in rebates for this second round of improvements which it will roll into even more upgrades, including LED case light installations, at other store locations.



Uwajimaya’s story presents a great example of how a strong commitment to energy efficiency can truly pay off with a little help from EnergySmart Grocer. It’s about relationships, understanding the needs of the customer and the end goal. That is the basis of everything EnergySmart Grocer prides itself on, and it’s what enables eco-conscious stores such as Uwajimaya to take their efficiency efforts to impressive new heights.

For more information, please call **1.800.230.9420** or visit us online at **[www.energysmartonline.org](http://www.energysmartonline.org)**.  
Puget Sound Energy (PSE) **[www.pse.com](http://www.pse.com)**

#### **About EnergySmart Grocer**

EnergySmart Grocer helps supermarkets, convenience stores and other businesses save energy and money through high-efficiency retrofits. Most of these efforts focus on refrigeration and lighting, areas where significant energy-saving opportunities abound. The program offers no-cost energy audits, site-specific analysis, access to qualified contractors, and financial rebates for suggested upgrades.