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EnergySmart Grocer, local utilities honor Uwajimaya's energy efficiency efforts with big check presentation

Popular market recognized for its strong commitment to saving energy and reducing its environmental impact.

Seattle WA (October 17, 2012) – Last Tuesday marked a special occasion for Uwajimaya. With company president and CEO Tomoko Moriguchi Matsuno proudly looking on, the destination market was recognized for its ongoing efforts to conserve energy through eco-friendly business practices. The event was held at Uwajimaya's Seattle store location on October 9, with representatives from EnergySmart Grocer and several utilities on hand to deliver a big check signifying the rebates the company has received for the many high-efficiency improvements it has made over the years. Guest speakers included Margaret Lewis of Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), David Landers of Puget Sound Energy (PSE), Lori Moen of Seattle City Light, EnergySmart Grocer's Mike Sandberg, and Moriguchi Matsuno who was happy to accept the honor on behalf of Uwajimaya.

"We believe in sustainability, because we've been here for 84 years and we want to be here for another 84 years," said Moriguchi Matsuno. "We want to do our part as a role model for the district and our Asian counterparts."

Since 2006, Uwajimaya has worked closely with EnergySmart Grocer to lessen its environmental impact through a series of energy-saving equipment upgrades. With financial and program delivery support from BPA, PSE, Seattle City Light and other participating utilities, the EnergySmart Grocer program provides personal guidance and cash rebates to make high-efficiency upgrades easy and affordable. For Uwajimaya, it's been a perfect pairing, as the company has forged a green path while lowering energy costs for each of its store locations.

"BPA is very pleased that Uwajimaya has so strongly embraced the EnergySmart Grocer program. We applaud their leadership and dedication to improving energy efficiency in their grocery stores," said Gary Smith, BPA's EnergySmart Grocer Program Manager. "Uwajimaya's strategy of rolling over the energy savings and rebate incentives from one project to help pay for the next project is a winning formula which could set the standard for other program participants."

EnergySmart Grocer is a vital component of BPA's commercial energy efficiency programs, and continues to attract new participants. Last year alone, the program accounted for roughly 25 percent of BPA's regional commercial sector energy savings. Since 2007, in partnership with BPA's public power customers, over 3,500 grocery and convenience stores have received refrigeration retrofits and helped save over 17.5 aMWs of electricity, enough to power 12,775 homes for one year.

Uwajimaya's most recent efforts included comprehensive energy upgrades to its newest location in Bellevue as well as the Seattle store. The Bellevue project focused primarily on refrigeration. Upgrades included a high-efficiency compressor system, rooftop condensers, efficient motors for walk-in coolers and display cases, and door heater controls. These changes, along with a new energy management system, are expected to save the store 570,000 kWh annually, which translates to \$39,000 in energy cost savings. Rebates from EnergySmart Grocer and PSE paid for more than \$71,000 of the installation costs.

“PSE and PECL have delivered the EnergySmart Grocer program for over six years now. During this time we have completed more than 2500 energy efficiency projects in grocery stores throughout our 11 service areas, providing more than 79 million kWh in electric savings annually. This translates into more than five million dollars annually for grocery stores. PSE commends Uwajimaya for its commitment to the environment, sustainability and energy efficiency,” said Dave Landers, PSE’s Manager of Business Energy Management.

Upon receiving the rebate money from the Bellevue project, Uwajimaya immediately reinvested in additional high-efficiency lighting and refrigeration upgrades for its Seattle location. That store is now poised to save an extra 434,313 kWh per year, with rebates from Seattle City Light contributing \$66,680 toward the project. Moving forward, Uwajimaya is set to roll the savings from these upgrades into even more improvements, including LED case lighting for each of its stores.

“With Uwajimaya, we are very honored to be a partner. In this store we’ve completed four to five measures which are saving half a million kWh now, and we have a few more in the works. When those are completed they will be saving over a million kWh a year, which is equal to 100 single-family homes’ energy use in a year. That’s true value to our rate payers,” said Lori Moen, Conservation Field Operations Manager at Seattle City Light.

All told, Uwajimaya has successfully completed 11 energy-saving projects since it began working with EnergySmart Grocer in 2006. Those projects combine to save an impressive 1.7 million kWh annually, while Uwajimaya has received more than \$225,000 in rebates from EnergySmart Grocer and local utilities to help offset the costs of new equipment and installation. That’s the number on the big check presented on Tuesday, but at the rate Uwajimaya is going, more energy savings and even greater rebates are expected in the future.

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. For more information, please call 1.800.230.9420 or visit www.energysmartonline.org.

About Bonneville Power Administration

BPA, celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2012, is a nonprofit federal agency that markets renewable hydropower from federal Columbia River dams, operates three-quarters of high-voltage transmission lines in the Northwest and funds one of the largest wildlife protection and restoration programs in the world. BPA and its partners have also saved enough electricity through energy efficiency projects to power four large American cities. For more information, contact us at 503-230-5131 or visit our website at www.bpa.gov.

About Puget Sound Energy

Washington state’s oldest local energy utility, Puget Sound Energy serves 1.1 million electric customers and more than 750,000 natural gas customers in 11 counties. A subsidiary of Puget Energy, PSE meets the energy needs of its customers, in part, through cost-effective energy efficiency, procurement of sustainable energy resources, and far-sighted investment in the energy-delivery infrastructure. PSE employees are dedicated to providing great customer service that is safe, dependable and efficient. For more information, visit www.PSE.com.

About Seattle City Light



Seattle City Light is the 10th largest public electric utility in the United States. It has some of the lowest cost customer rates of any urban utility, providing reliable, renewable and environmentally responsible power to nearly 1 million Seattle area residents. City Light has been greenhouse gas neutral since 2005, the first electric utility in the nation to achieve that distinction. For more information on City Light rebates, call an Energy Advisor at 306.684.3800.

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