ER-00-14
SEPTEMBER
2000

Scaling Back Vending Machine Energy Use with the VendingMiser

An exclusive report for E SOURCE members

Tertia Speiser and Kirsten Cabanas-Holmen

Summary

The VendingMiser (VM), by Bayview Technology Group Inc., is an energy control device for refrigerated vending machines (vendors) that provides a simple and cost-effective way to reduce electrical loads. Using an occupancy sensor, the VM turns off the machine when no one is around.

The range of savings reported with the VM is very wide, because savings for a specific machine depend on the vendor's location. However, the energy savings for properly functioning vendors located in areas with noncontinuous occupancy generally make the VM a worthwhile investment.

Several utilities have conducted their own evaluations of the VM and now subsidize at least part of the device's cost for its customers. Among them is Avista Utilities, which gives away VMs to any customer in its service territory and sells them to others.

As with any new technology, the VM has faced technical and market barriers. These included installation problems as well as concerns about whether the device will keep the product at the desired temperature, will damage the compressor or other components, or will fail to attract customers when the vendor's lights are out.

By and large, these barriers have been overcome through product redevelopment, consumer education, and cooperation with product bottlers and distributors. Foremost among these efforts, the recent formal approval by Coca-Cola and Pepsi-Cola to use the VM on vendors dispensing their products lays to rest many of these concerns and will help to convince others of the VM's merits. Although there are other developments in vendor efficiency energy control products in other countries, so far, the VendingMiser stands alone in the U.S. market.

Contents

E SOURCE is a membership-based information service that provides our clients with timely, unbiased information on retail energy markets, services, and technologies. Member organizations have access to E SOURCE's exclusive publications, conferences and seminars, electronic resources, and consulting services. Clients include more than 400 organizations representing electric and gas utility companies and other energy service providers, corporate and institutional energy users, government agencies, consulting firms, and other organizations from around the world.

This report is one in a series of bimonthly publications issued to E SOURCE members. E SOURCE reports are also available electronically from the password-protected area of our Web site—www.esource.com. For additional information about this report, other publications and research activities, or E SOURCE in general, please contact us at:

Financial Times Energy, Inc.
3333 Walnut Street
Boulder, Colorado 80301
Tel 720-548-5000
Fax 720-548-5001
E-mail esource@esource.com
Web www.esource.com

FINANCIAL TIMES
Energy