

# Efficient vending machines are on the market

## Other opportunities exist in commercial refrigeration

Commercial refrigeration is a large, untapped opportunity for energy savings. In a March 25 working session at the MT Symposium, Noah



Horowitz and Steve Nadel discussed current and future options for energy-efficient vending machines, ice-makers and commercial refrigerators.

Horowitz, Senior Scientist at NRDC, updated the group on the latest developments with soft-drink vending machines. Outdated lighting technologies, inefficient refrigeration and limited insulation (as well as the lack of a "sleep" mode) all contribute to marked inefficiency in these units.

Royal Vendors is the only manufacturer currently producing an energy-efficient soft-drink vending machine. Its new technology, called Econo-

cool™, reduces energy consumption by 50 percent, according to Royal, and costs approximately \$60 more than a standard unit. The other big players in this market, Vendo and Dixie Narco, are working on the development of efficient models.

Bayview Technology, based in Denver, provides VendingMiser™, a selection of occupancy-based controls (costing \$125-350) that reduce electricity consumption by 30-50 percent.

The market is slowly changing, although the split incentive is a major barrier (the "host" doesn't buy the vending machine but does pay the electric bill). Coca-Cola and Pepsi bottlers, who purchase vending machines for their products, are requesting a switch to more efficient T8 lighting this year. California will require T8s in all machines by February 2003.

"We still need a national specification," said Horowitz, "and utility incentives for efficient machines. Hopefully, ENERGY STAR® can come up

with a specification."

CEE is considering an initiative for efficient soft-drink vending machines.

Nadel's presentation focused on other forms of commercial refrigeration: ice machines (used in hotels and fast food restaurants), beverage merchandisers (glass-door refrigerators) and reach-in refrigerators/freezers. Beverage merchandisers and reach-in refrigerators are commonly found in supermarkets and convenience stores.

Energy savings from ice-makers are estimated at 20-45 percent; beverage merchandisers and reach-ins can save 35-55 percent of energy costs.

Nadel recommended development of a database for these products, an ENERGY STAR label for ice-makers, purchaser awareness programs, incentive programs and minimum federal standards.

For further information about energy-efficient vending machines, contact CEE Government Program Manager Melissa Lucas at [mlucas@cee1.org](mailto:mlucas@cee1.org).