



Vending Machine Efficiency Tip Sheet

Vending machines, especially ones that chill food or beverages, can cost a business nearly \$300 a year to operate. But there are several strategies for reducing vending machine costs.

Here are answers to common questions to help you lower the costs.

Q: Why do vending machines cost so much to operate?

A: Vending machines use energy for a variety of purposes and typically stay on 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Many vending machines have lights, both for utility and decoration (think of the well-lit soda machines), and food and beverage vending machines require ongoing refrigeration to prevent spoiling.

Q. How can I reduce my vending machine costs?

A. There are several strategies for keeping vending machine costs in check, ranging from no-cost to low-cost. Here are some to consider:

- **Install a VendingMiser.** VendingMisers are sensors placed on vending machines that control the lighting of the machines so the lights get used only as necessary. A VendingMiser sensor typically retails for \$179, and is placed inside the vending machine. It automatically detects and turns vending machines lights on when space around the vending machine is occupied and then turns them off when nobody is around.
- **Remove unnecessary, decorative lights.** Many beverage machines contain lights purely for decorative purposes. But those lights cost money to illuminate constantly. Ask the vending machine supplier to turn it off or remove the light yourself.
- **Remove vending machine altogether.** Some vending machines are hardly used, wasting precious money on energy bills. Employees might instead be asked to buy snacks at a nearby convenience store or an employer might decide it's less expensive to stock snacks and beverages than pay for a vending machine.

Q. What's the expected payback of VendingMiser sensors?

A. A VendingMiser lighting sensor is estimated to shave \$130 annually off the cost of operating a cold-beverage vending machine, meaning they can pay for themselves in less than 18 months. Some utilities also offer rebates of \$50 to \$75 for installing a VendingMiser, shortening the payback time even more. Contact Energy Smart to find out whether your utility offers a rebate.

Have questions or need help? Call Energy Smart anytime at (651) 292-4652.