

The “M” in Moscow Stands for “Miserly”

Throughout the inland Northwest, Moscow, Idaho, is known as the “City With a Smile.” This quiet, northern Idaho farming community is located 80 miles from the nearest interstate and has a population of 12,000. Not only is this small community safe and friendly, but Moscow has also made a commitment to lessen energy costs and improve their environment.

In March 2000, the City of Moscow, Latah County, and the Moscow School District took the first step toward their goal by starting a Rebuild America partnership—Rebuild Moscow Community. This partnership subscribes to the notion that actions undertaken in conjunction with Rebuild Idaho are wise energy investments that will subsequently benefit every citizen in the region.

A Trusted Product

Overall, the United States, has more than 4 million beverage vending machines. On average, a small-sized school district has approximately 20 vending machines, a medium-sized school district houses around 50 machines, and a large-sized school district has anywhere between 150-200 machines.

Two factors led administrators to install the vending machines—students’ convenience and increased revenues for schools. Oftentimes, schools do not consider the significant energy costs associated with operating the machines.

To combat these expenses and control energy use, Bayview Technology Group, Inc. of San Carlos, California, released an innovative technological breakthrough that reduces the vending machines’ energy consumption without compromising the quality of the vended product. VendingMiser[®] uses a customized infrared sensor that limits the energy supplied to the machine when the surrounding area is unoccupied. The machines are also equipped with smart controls that “learn” the temperature of the



One of several beverage machines within the Moscow School District that is utilizing the VendingMiser.

room, increasing the power to the machine when necessary and ensuring that products remain at an optimal temperature. Taken together, these energy-saving measures reduce maintenance costs and extend the useful life of the machines.

PARTNERSHIP FACTS:

- **Targeted Buildings:**
City Buildings and School Facilities
- **Anticipated Energy Savings:**
375,000 kWh a year
- **Estimated Cost Savings:**
About \$20,000 a year
- **New and Notable Innovations:**
Utilities offering to buy the VendingMiser product and distributing it for free to communities to help them save energy and money

A Rebuild Idaho Partner Does Its Part

It is estimated that each VendingMiser[®] will save about 1500 kWh of electricity a year, averaging approximately \$75.00 a year per machine. The installation of the new technology reduces energy consumption by an average of 47 percent, with no impact on sales or the quality of the vended beverage.



Bayview Technology's VendingMiser unit that is helping communities around the nation save money.

Realizing what the energy-saving VendingMiser[®] could mean for the local schools and buildings, Avista Utilities Corporation of Spokane, Washington, a Rebuild Idaho Partner, took the initiative to offer a unique proposition to local organizations. The company offered to buy the units and distribute them free of charge to communities in their service territory throughout northern Idaho and southern Washington. The program provides schools not only with a new, energy-saving technology, but allows them to take advantage of the payback costs.

Moscow Gets Miserly!

The Moscow School District did not hesitate to take Avista up on their generous offer, quickly obtaining 20 units for their six schools. During the first six months of use, an additional 110 units were installed throughout the community. Currently, there are plans to install an additional 130-140 units in the community's public school buildings, city and state municipal buildings and the University of Idaho. Once all of these machines are installed, the Moscow community anticipates saving about 375,000 kWh or \$18,750 a year.

As of September 2000, more than 80 percent of the schools in Avista's service territory have taken advantage of their VendingMiser[®] program. A large part of this success was due to Avista's expertise in marketing the unit to school districts, convincing administrators that the machines benefit the school in the long run. Avista employee's know that cutting down on energy expenses can equal big payoffs for schools, allowing them to dedicate their financial resources for educational purposes rather than electrical costs. For schools, a few dollars a day can mean a few more teachers, a few more textbooks, more supplies, computers, and most of all, a better school.

Thanks to collaboration with Rebuild Idaho and its partners, the community of Moscow now smiles when called "miserly"!

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT REBUILD MOSCOW, CONTACT:

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