

Energy Efficiency in Business

Odawa Casino Resort Plays it Smart



Energy Provider: Great Lakes Energy Cooperative

Project Location: Petoskey



Saving Energy = Cost Savings

➔ **Saved 3.1 million kWh/year,
or \$217,000 in energy costs**

- Upgraded thousands of bulbs to CFLs and LEDs
- Replaced televisions with ENERGY STAR® models
- Installed VFDs on eight belt-driven motors

ACTION

Extensive lighting upgrades and efficiency improvements to motors and generators

INCENTIVE

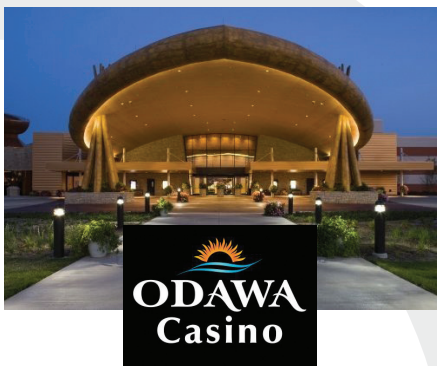
\$61,687 in Energy Optimization Program rebates

RESULTS

Slot machines, mood lighting, motors, and generators operate more efficiently—saving millions of kilowatts of electricity per year

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COMPANY NAME:
Odawa Casino Resort

ENERGY-SAVING ACTIONS:

- Installed variable frequency drives (VFDs) on motors
- Implemented custom process improvements
- Upgraded to reduced-wattage T8 fluorescent lights
- Implemented cooling system improvements
- Installed ENERGY STAR® plasma televisions
- Upgraded bulbs to LEDs in slot machines and for mood lighting

RESULTS:

- 3.1 million kWh/year savings
- Saved \$217,000 in energy costs per year
- Received \$61,687 in Energy Optimization Program rebates

If a casino finds energy waste risky, shouldn't other businesses take note? Over the last three years, Odawa Casino Resort in Petoskey, Mich. completed nine energy efficiency projects—all through partnerships with Great Lakes Energy and its Energy Optimization Program. As a result, the casino now saves three million kilowatt hours (kWh) per year—equivalent to removing 406 cars from the road.

"I think, as with any company, energy cost savings would be the biggest reason to implement energy efficiency. But the Odawa Casino Resort also believes it is very important to reduce our carbon footprint."

- Dave Heinz, Lead Electrician
at Odawa Casino Resort

➔ KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

In 2009, the casino's electric sales representative told Heinz about Energy Optimization Program rebates for businesses. It was a game changer. The Energy Optimization Program offers rebates on simple projects (i.e., equipment replacement) as well as complex energy efficiency projects unique to a business. The Program maximizes businesses' energy savings and return on investment.

"I'm impressed with the knowledge and helpfulness of everyone I have dealt with in the Energy Optimization Program. We have not completed a project that we didn't get more out of than we thought we would."

- Dave Heinz

➔ PROJECT DETAILS

The Odawa Casino Resort started its energy efficiency efforts with lighting retrofits—a practical choice for any business. They started by replacing thousands of old incandescent light bulbs with new compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs. This upgrade alone saves almost \$32,000 per year in energy costs.

Last year, Odawa Casino Resort installed variable frequency drives (VFDs) on eight belt-driven motors. VFDs prevent motors from running at full speed all the time, reducing the need for costly belt replacements. VFDs adjust the motor's electrical supply to efficiently meet varying process requirements, thereby saving energy and extending equipment life. The Odawa Casino Resort also added coolant valves to its 20-cylinder natural gas-fired generators. This reduced the run time for the 2-12k coolant heaters by 60 percent.

In 2012, several 50-inch plasma televisions were replaced by comparable ENERGY STAR models which save over \$1,400 annually. More significantly, hundreds of slot machines were converted from powering mini-fluorescent lights to new LED lights. Also, over 10,000 mini-incandescent bulbs used for mood lighting were replaced with LEDs. The change in bulbs on the gaming floor not only results in less electrical use by the bulbs themselves, but the air conditioning system doesn't have to work as hard to remove the excess heat expended from the less efficient lights. This LED project is expected to save over \$38,500 annually in electricity costs. The casino already has other projects in the works for next year.

➔ TAKING KNOWLEDGE HOME

"I know that our team members take a lot of information gained on the job from the Energy Optimization Program and use it to save energy at home," said Heinz.

The Energy Optimization Program offers rebates on energy-efficient lighting and ENERGY STAR appliances for residents as well. A free online home energy audit, energy-saving kits, and refrigerator recycling are available to customers and members of participating utilities.

➔ START SAVING TODAY

To learn more about the energy-saving options available through your electric utility's Energy Optimization Program, call **877.296.4319** or visit **michigan-energy.org**.

michigan-energy.org
877.296.4319

