Think of what we can save if we just **Close the Case**

Why Closing the Case Matters

Closing the case is perhaps the greatest opportunity to promote sustainability and improve energy efficiency in grocery stores and supermarkets.

+ The majority of all supermarkets use open display cases in their stores. Closing those cases by installing glass doors is one way store operators can work quickly to reduce their energy consumption.

+ In the country's over 37,000 supermarkets, 40 percent of total energy consumption is due to refrigeration – over 37 million megawatt hours per year.

+ Only one third of that energy use comes from the coldest temperature units – freezer units. The other two thirds of refrigeration energy use comes through medium temperature units.

+ Supermarkets can reduce energy use in those medium temperature units by closing the case, a process that also results in a more comfortable shopping experience for customers, who will no longer shiver walking up and down the aisles.

+ In fact, some supermarkets today take extraordinary measures to keep customers comfortable at significant additional energy and financial expense. They do things like heat the floors in aisles with open cases, or keep the heat running all year round from ceiling units positioned in those parts of the store – all in an effort to offset the chill temperatures created by open case refrigeration units.

+ In addition to saving energy, closed cases also reduce food waste dramatically, prolonging shelf life from five days to seven days for sellers and making food last longer once customers get it home, too.

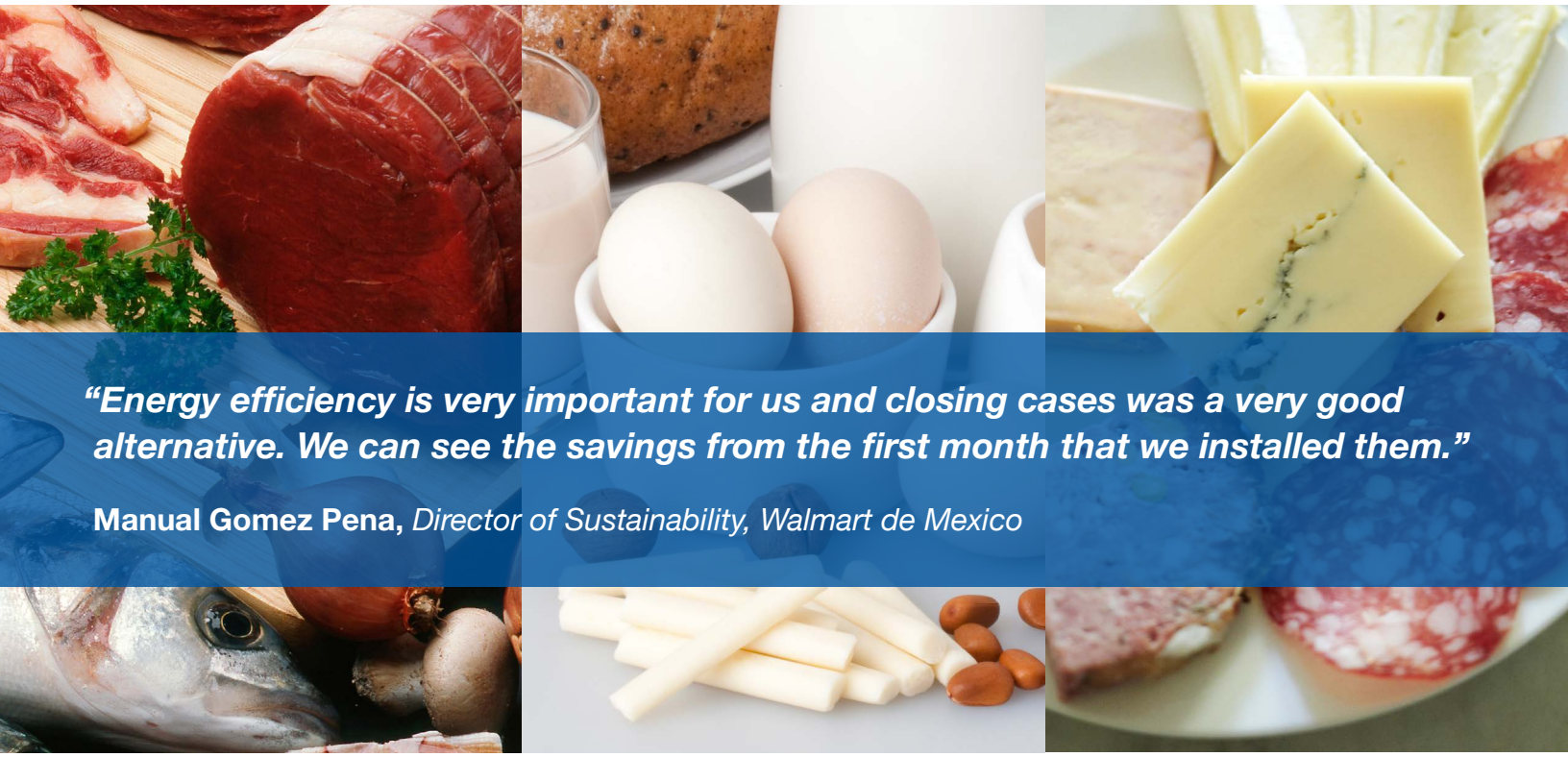
+ Food in open cases can vary by as much as 12 degrees from the front of the shelf to the back, so some food is almost frozen and some is barely refrigerated. In a closed case, temperature only varies by about four degrees, making food safer.

How it Works

"Medium temperature" refrigeration units – the types of cases that house products like meat and dairy – are responsible for massive energy inefficiency and food waste in the supermarket industry.

Stores can save energy, improve food longevity and enhance the customer experience by closing the case with glass doors like the ones that already exist on freezer units.

This can be accomplished as a retrofit, installing custom-cut glass doors on existing units, as well as by upgrading with future units that include a door.



"Energy efficiency is very important for us and closing cases was a very good alternative. We can see the savings from the first month that we installed them."

Manual Gomez Pena, *Director of Sustainability, Walmart de Mexico*

"What was really important to see was that the shrink was decreased. Whenever you put in the door the cold within the case is maintained inside the case and the temperature is stable."

Fernando Campos
Manager of Tech Innovations, Walmart de Mexico

"The new doors are the only place we have LED lighting. So, not only do we get the benefit of the good feeling of going green, but in my opinion the product just jumps off the shelf."

Barry Queen
Board Member, Associated Wholesale Grocers

"It's not freezing cold in here anymore and I can take my time and shop, and not have to rush through because I'm freezing."

Cynthia Sheppard
Shopper

By the Numbers

70%

Supermarkets can reduce energy use in medium temperature units by about 70% if they close those cases.

That's the equivalent of not burning 7 million tons of coal each year,

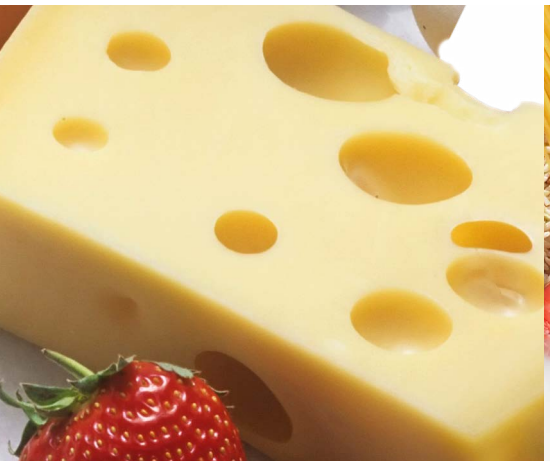
or turning off 50 million lightbulbs

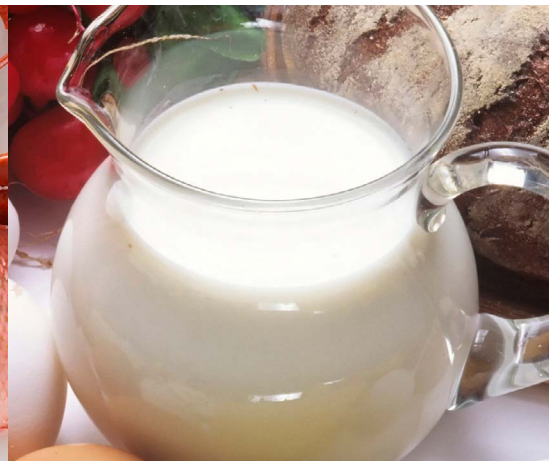
36 MILLION TONS

Each year the U.S. generates 36 million tons of food waste – much of it from grocery stores and supermarkets.

That's enough to fill 198 million shopping carts

Closing the case prolongs shelf life in the store and at home.





CO2 Systems

In addition to closed cases, there are other innovations driving refrigeration improvements. A completely different, and environmentally friendly system – the future standard for refrigeration – called a CO2 system. There are only 100 of these in the U.S. so far, but they present a great solution – no pollutants, low energy consumption and no need to retrofit as government regulations shift on permissible refrigerants every few years.