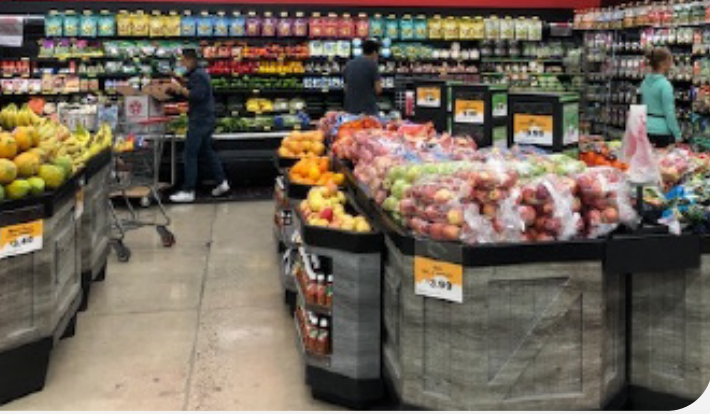


CO₂ Case Study



Retailer Grocery Outlet

East Sacramento, California

This study compared costs, energy performance, and total emissions of a new CO₂ Transcritical system and existing HFC system.

“We wanted to be prepared for California’s new HFC regulations. This project was our first CO₂ Transcritical site. We feel this will be the most common technology in the future and wanted our technician base to get familiar and be prepared to service this system type.”

– Frank Davis, Senior Director of Refrigeration and Sustainability, Grocery Outlet



CO₂ (R-744) Refrigeration rack for the East Sacramento neighborhood Grocery Outlet store

Project Profile

The new refrigeration system design is a CO₂ (R-744) transcritical booster system with an adiabatic gas cooler.



System Type: Transcritical CO₂



Refrigerant: CO₂ (R-744)



Global Warming Potential (GWP): 1



ASHRAE Climate Zone: 3B



Utility: Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)



Average Electric Rate: \$0.14 per kWh

Study Overview


The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) commissioned a study as part of their Natural Refrigerant Incentive Program (NRIP) to compare the new CO₂ (R-744) system located in East Sacramento to a traditional Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) system in the nearby Pocket neighborhood. The study included an analysis of the upfront installation costs, ongoing energy use, and CO₂ equivalent emissions of both systems.

System Summary	Baseline (Pocket)	Installed (E. Sacramento)
Refrigerant	R-404A	R-744
Refrigerant GWP	3922	1
Refrigerant Charge	600 lbs.	420 lbs.
System Type	DX rack	Transcritical
Condenser	Air-Cooled	Adiabatic
Refrigeration Load (MBH)	240.9	404.5
Store Square Footage	23,200	24,000
Vintage	2013	2020

Key Outcomes: Grocery Outlet

The study found that while the upfront equipment and installation costs of the East Sacramento's CO₂ (R-744) system were higher than the baseline HFC Pocket system, **the East Sacramento CO₂ system was superior in energy performance, energy costs, and CO₂-equivalent emissions impact.**

Project Cost

 **24%** higher than HFC System

The upfront cost of equipment and installation were approximately **24% higher for the East Sacramento CO₂ system than a traditional HFC system.** This was primarily due to the additional cost of components with energy saving features, such as the adiabatic gas cooler.

Energy Savings

 **27%** less than Baseline

The study collected energy data from the refrigeration rack at 15-minute intervals for a 2-year period and normalized by refrigeration system capacity. **The analysis showed a 27% reduction in energy use (kWh) and 23% reduction in annual energy cost** for East Sacramento's CO₂ system compared to the Pocket's HFC system.

Energy Cost

 **23%** less than Baseline


Incentives

This project received funding from several sources that covered 100% of the incremental cost of the CO₂ system equipment and installation. SMUD's NRIP provided incentives for both GHG emissions savings and energy savings, and an additional grant was awarded through the American Public Power Association's (APPA) Demonstration of Energy and Efficiency Developments (DEED) program.

Funding Sources


SMUD NRIP (GHG Savings)	\$78,728
SMUD Savings by Design (Energy Savings)	\$13,294
APPA DEED Grant (SMUD & NASRC)	\$125,000
Grand Total	\$217,022

Indirect GHG

 **36%** reduction in CO₂e emissions*

*compared to Pocket's HFC system

Direct GHG

 **92%** reduction in CO₂e emissions*

*compared to EPA average

The study compared the total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from both the indirect emissions attributed to the energy use, and direct emissions attributed to the refrigerant leaks. **East Sacramento's CO₂ system reduced indirect GHG emissions by 36% compared to Pocket's HFC system and reduced direct GHG emissions by 92% compared to EPA's national average.**

"We learned that it's very important to have a strong partnership with the installing contractor and OEM."

– Frank Davis, Senior Director of Refrigeration and Sustainability, Grocery Outlet

Partners



NORTH AMERICAN
Sustainable Refrigeration Council

NASRC is a 501(c)(3) environmental nonprofit working to advance climate-friendly natural refrigerants and reduce greenhouse gas emissions caused by traditional hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) refrigerants. We collaborate with stakeholders from across the industry, including over 38,000 food retail locations, to eliminate the barriers to natural refrigerants in supermarkets.