



Custom Efficiency

For Complex Projects

IdaCold freezes its power use with tough, flexible warehouse doors and energy efficiency rebates from Idaho Power

It was 95°Fahrenheit (F) outside on a hot August afternoon, but inside IdaCold's industrial frozen storage and packaging warehouse in Nampa, Idaho it was a bone-chilling 0°F. "Everyday is Christmas in here," IdaCold President Tim Viehweg said with a laugh. "At least, it feels like it."

Four companies share IdaCold's 2.5 million cubic feet of space, and keeping them merry is a big job. "It's all freezer in here," Tim said. "And all food. Diced onions, diced peppers, potato products, cheese, and a lot of beef. If the temperature in here goes up at all, spoilage becomes a big issue."

It's a busy operation, too, bordering on frantic sometimes. A fleet of forklifts scurries about the warehouse, loading trucks, unloading railcars, and whisking containers across the warehouse to their assigned areas. Sometimes, the forklifts collide with things, like the large, insulated doors that keep the cold air in and the hot air out.

"It's not a question of if the doors are going to get hit," Tim said, "but when they're going to get hit." He pointed to the 8-foot x 14-foot openings. "If a forklift runs into a standard metal door, the door buckles and loses its integrity. It won't seal properly."

When a door loses the seal around its perimeter, large amounts of warm, outside air can infiltrate the freezer. As a result, the refrigeration units must work harder and longer to maintain the 0°F temperature Tim's clients demand, and power requirements rise dramatically for the entire system.



Doors that bend but don't break

"We were saying there's got to be a better way of doing this," Tim said. "Then we heard about a company in Boise that just developed a flexible panel door that can take some abuse."

IdaCold replaced seven of its original, rigid freezer doors with Flexible Panel™ Indestructible Doors by Cold Chain LLC. Unlike their steel counterparts, the panels on these doors absorb the impact of a forklift strike without incurring permanent damage. The bond to the frame remains secure, warm air stays outside where it belongs, and IdaCold's energy requirements remain stable.



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– Tim Viehweg
President
IdaCold Packaging, Inc.

The savings

The cost of materials and labor for replacing the doors totaled \$25,517, of which Idaho Power rebated IdaCold \$10,568 through its Custom Efficiency program. The project reduces IdaCold’s energy consumption by more than 88,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per year, or enough energy to run 10 deluxe side-by-side refrigerators for over 12 years.*

“Idaho Power’s rebate program allowed us to reduce our payback time considerably, which is pretty cool,” Tim pointed out.

Uncommon savings are quite common

Saving energy has always been a smart business decision. Now, Idaho Power makes it attainable. Our complete suite of energy efficiency programs provides attractive incentives to commercial and industrial customers who want to reduce their utility costs.

- The **Custom Efficiency** program offers substantial rebates to large commercial and industrial customers who invest energy-saving improvements in their facilities.
- **Easy Upgrades** provides incentives of up to \$100,000 when companies retrofit their infrastructures with energy-saving upgrades.
- The **Building Efficiency** program pays up to \$100,000 *per project* to mitigate the additional capital costs when companies upgrade their lighting, cooling, controls, and building shells to more efficient components.
- **FlexPeak Management** offers commercial and industrial customers incentives in the form of recurring payments for reducing their power consumption during times of overall peak demand.

*Based on an ENERGY STAR®-rated, 21-cubic-foot, side-by-side refrigerator using 695 kWh per year.



How much can your company save?

For more information about Idaho Power’s energy efficiency incentive programs, go to www.idahopower.com/business or call us at 208-388-5624. We’ll show how you can join smart companies like IdaCold, saving energy and money.

The above success story was produced in cooperation with, and approval from, IdaCold Packaging, Inc.