



Minnesota Chamber of Commerce  
**ENERGY SMART**

# ENERGY SMART

Energy Smart helps reduce energy costs to help you grow your bottom line. This direct service of the Minnesota Chamber helps businesses spend less on everything from light bulbs to heating, air conditioning and ventilation systems. Their expert team works closely with utilities and the state to connect businesses with rebate programs and other cost-savings measures. In 2017, Energy Smart helped Minnesota businesses save nearly \$410,000 in energy costs, contributing to the nearly \$1.5 million dollars saved in the last three years.

**VISIT:**  
[mnchamber.com/grow/energy-smart](http://mnchamber.com/grow/energy-smart)

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**Kowalski's:** Popular grocer Kowalski's Markets has expanded to include 11 Twin Cities locations. The company — operating in a narrow margin, competitive industry — recently turned to Energy Smart to assess energy use at all of its stores. While doing so, Energy Smart staff identified 10 energy upgrades that qualified for utility rebates. “The Minnesota Chamber’s Energy Smart program worked closely with Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy to help us uncover more than \$75,000 in utility rebates that we were not aware were available,” reported Darren Hines, Kowalski’s maintenance director. “The staff was great to work with.”



**RAO Manufacturing Company:** Designing and manufacturing high quality metal parts have been the mission of RAO Manufacturing Company for 92 years, as have high standards of dependability and cost effectiveness. That’s why Chris Olsen, president, recruited Energy Smart, the Minnesota Chamber’s grant program to bring LED lighting to their facility. “I’ve been sitting on this project for about five years. This grant is what finally pushed me [to complete it]. It really helped.” While cost-savings was the main driver behind the upgrade, Chris noted the added benefits of reduced maintenance and better task lighting.

The Minnesota Chamber is a statewide organization representing more than 2,300 businesses – and more than half a million employees – throughout Minnesota. The chamber builds on its 100-year legacy as the voice of business by advancing public policy that grows jobs and the economy, and providing valuable services to members so they stay and grow in Minnesota. A business climate that allows for innovation and forward-thinking leadership will help grow the strength of Minnesota’s economy for generations to come.