



Always Happy to Serve

Happy IGA Perry County, Ky

Happy IGA is a small grocery store that serves a small community. But that didn't stop third-generation grocer Martin Cox from thinking big about energy efficiency upgrades at the store.

MACED provided Cox with a loan to upgrade Happy IGA's lighting to a newer, more efficient system, and to install a new walk-in freezer and some open-faced coolers. Just six months after these improvements were made, the store saw a 10 percent drop in its utility bills.

"MACED will step in where a conventional bank loan will stop and help bridge the funding piece," Cox said. "We've been able to make some improvements that maybe we would've had a more difficult time with a traditional bank loan."

Cox said all his stores—12 in eastern Kentucky—are vital pieces of their communities because of the jobs they create—about 500 total—and the services they provide. Two full-time and four part-time jobs were added at Happy IGA because of MACED's loan.

"You're doing business in your home, where you were raised, and you employ folks that you may have grown up with," Cox said. "You're making a living and also you feel like you're doing a service to the area."

MACED works with people in eastern Kentucky and Central Appalachia to create economic opportunity, strengthen democracy and support the sustainable use of natural resources.

Development Impact

Jobs created.

Distressed county served.



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