



Rebuilding with Efficiency

Jack's IGA

Jack and Fonda Gross are the owners and operators of Jack's IGA, a full-service grocery store in Lee County, Kentucky. With 25 employees, Jack's IGA is a major employer in the community and one of only two grocery stores in the area.

The Grosses got their start in the food industry in 1975, when they opened a fruit and meat processing shop. Within a few years they moved the business into a building large enough to add groceries. Over the past three decades, Jack and Fonda expanded the store until it became a million-dollar business.

But disaster struck in August 2009. The Grosses lost everything in a fire that gutted a busy block of Main Street in Beattyville, including Jack's IGA, a department store and the office of a weekly newspaper.

Undeterred, the Grosses resolved not only to rebuild Jack's IGA, but to improve it. Jack knew rising utility cost had been a growing concern for the business. The plan was to use their insurance proceeds to rebuild the store, but Jack also wanted to ensure that rising utility rates wouldn't impact the future success of the store as significantly as it had in the past.

In January, 2010, MACED extended a loan above what insurance would cover to Jack's IGA to finance the purchase of energy efficient upgrades, add a deli, and create an additional 1,000 square feet of space.

Construction of the new building began in November 2009, and the grand re-opening took place July 14, 2010. Since the opening, the store's electricity usage is down by 20%, resulting in an **average savings of \$33,990 per year** attributed to energy efficiency upgrades.

For more information on how MACED could help your business in your rebuilding efforts, please call 859-986-2373 or visit www.maced.org.

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



Contact us for information about our enterprise development or other programs.

433 Chestnut Street • Berea, KY 40403
859-986-2373 • www.maced.org • info@maced.org