## Sustainable Refrigeration Summit

Connecting the Pieces for Supermarket Refrigeration Solutions



NORTH AMERICAN Sustainable Refrigeration Council

nasrc.org

Thank You To Our Sponsors!



Premier Sponsors

KW

KYSOR WARREN





Day 1: Monday, October 24			Day 4: Thursday, October 27				
<b>9AM-10AM PST</b> Keynote: Industry & Regulatory Trends	<b>11AM-2PM PST</b> Technology Focus: Driving CO2 Performance	<b>1PM-2PM PST</b> CO2 Systems: What Retailers Need to Know	<b>9AM-10AM PST</b> Solving the Technician Shortage	<b>11AM-1</b> Technolo Natural In	<b>2PM PST</b> gy Focus: novations	<b>1PM-2PM PST</b> Reducing Refrigerant Emissions	
Day 2: Tuesday, October 25			Day 5: Friday, October 28				
<b>9AM-10AM PST</b> Distributed and Self- contained Systems	<b>11AM-12PM PST</b> Technology Focus: Total Cost of Ownership	<b>1PM-2PM PST</b> Measuring Performance of Natural Technologies	<b>9AM-10:30AM PST</b> State & Federal HFC Regulations		<b>11AM-12:30AM PST</b> Workshop: Utility Incentives for Refrigerant GWP		
Day 3: Wednesday, October 26			Sum	mit			
<b>9AM-10AM PST</b> Integrating Naturals into Existing Stores	<b>11AM-12PM PST</b> Technology Focus: Modular Tech. for Existing Stores	<b>1PM-2PM PST</b> Funding for Naturals	Program				

### Housekeeping & Logistics

#### **Question and Answer Session**

- Participants are muted
- Questions will be moderated at the end
- To ask a question, enter your comment into the Q&A box



**Need Help?** Click the *O* support button on <u>sustainablerefrigeration.com</u>

Missed a Session? Session recordings will be available on the platform



NORTH AMERICAN Sustainable Refrigeration Council

#### **NASRC Staff**



Danielle Wright Executive Director



Morgan Smith Program & Communications Director



Jeanne Ackerman Membership & Communications Coordinator

#### Contact us at info@nasrc.org

# CO2 Systems: What Retailers Need to Know

Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022





NORTH AMERICAN Sustainable Refrigeration Council

#### **CO2 Systems: What Retailers Need to Know**

Retailers share experiences & considerations for first-time adopters of CO2.



#### **Doug Milu**

Refrigeration & Energy Program Manager Publix Super Markets



#### **Chris Braun**

Senior Project Manager-Construction/Refrigeration/Facility Maintenance *Coborn's, Inc.* 





1. Please describe your company and any relevant refrigeration or climate goals.

#### **Publix Company Overview**

- One of the largest employee-owned companies
- Over 1,300 supermarkets in 7 southeastern states
- Founding partner of EPA GreenChill program
  - 103 stores with Silver certifications, 38 stores with Gold certifications, 2 Platinum certified stores
- Strong focus to reduce refrigerant GWP
  - Current remodel program to convert stores from high-GWP refrigerants to ultra-low GWP
  - CO2 becoming standard for new stores



"As one of the largest employee-owned companies with over 1300 supermarkets in 7 southeastern states, Publix associates have a huge stake in their business and the impact on the communities they serve. As we look to a sustainable / carbon neutral future, the use of advanced refrigeration technologies incorporating CO2 (R744) aligns with the Publix Mission Statement."





#### **Coborn's Company Overview**

- Coborn's Inc is family-owned company started in 1921
  - Percentage of the company is also an ESOP
- Operates 66 grocery stores plus Convenience, Liquor and Pharmacies
- Covers 5 states in the Midwest
  - MN, ND, SD, WI, and MI
- Variety of store sizes varying from 25,000sqft to 105,000sqft



#### **Coborn's Goals for Refrigeration**

- Future Proof
- Service and Install Support
- Financially Viable Upfront Cost
- Total Cost of Ownership







# 2. What is your experience with CO2 refrigeration systems?



#### **Publix CO2 Experience**

- 6 prototypes designed with CO2 as primary refrigerant
  More to follow
- Nearly 100 stores in operation with CO2 systems
- CO2 becoming standard for new stores
- In-house training facility & CO2 training certification for technicians

#### **Coborn's Inc CO2 Experience**

- 2 Ground up stores with CO2
- 1 Open Store Remodel
- All Sites Adiabatic Gas Coolers
- All new builds will be CO2
- Plans to remodel 2 existing stores to CO2 in 2023-24







3. Why did you choose CO2 over other system types? What advantages stood out to you?

#### Publix CO2 Advantages

• Support sustainability goals to reduce GWP weighted average

- First cost of systems seem to be normalizing
- Installation and materials costs are coming down
- Energy Cost achieving energy parity
- Future Proof
- Reduced compliance burden (EPA reporting)

#### Coborn's CO2 Advantages - Construction Costs

#### Construction Cost reduction

- Use CO2 to Glycol heat exchanger for vestibule in floor heat and snow melt system in lieu of natural gas boiler in winter months
- Use Same heat exchanger for glycol to air coil to aide with dehumidification
- Smaller loop piping
- Smaller compressor room
- Save on structural steel for roof top gas cooler



#### Coborn's CO2 Advantages - Utility Savings

- Seeing good energy savings
- 15% average vs new store R-448
- 25% savings in remodeled store
  - Existing was circa 1982 racks and various year cases
- Water usage up average of 10% or \$200 in summer months
- Natural Gas usage down 2-3% on average





4. What has been your experience with energy performance of your CO2 systems?

#### Publix Review of CO2 Energy Impact vs. HFC

#### PUBLIX #1668 Longwood FL CO2 Booster Performance

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Publix Store 1658 2020-2021	Refrigeration BTUs (kBTU)	Avg Suction (LT)	Avg Suction (MT)	Danfass Power Meter Power (Comp Only) (kWh)	Calculated Power (Comp Only) (kWh)	% Difference	COP (Comp Only)
Oct 2020	247,058.44	-17.70	20.10	35,989.46	35,859.08	-0.36%	2.02
Nov 2020	235,704.04	-17.83	20.25	32,926.87	32,930.66	0.01%	2.10
Dec 2020	225,231.18	-18.48	19.50	26,152.63	26,605.39	1.73%	2.48
Jan 2021	229,109.30	-18.30	19.55	26,820.75	26,907.63	0.32%	2.50
Feb 2021	220,118.51	-17.90	19.52	26,931.16	27,035.39	0.39%	2.39
March 2021	241,958.39	-18.13	19.40	30,495.41	30,643.92	0.49%	2.31
Apr 2021	234,536.37	-17.99	18.92	30,577.65	30,709.64	0.43%	2.24
May 2021	244,493.77	-17.90	18.55	35,211.63	35,218.55	0.02%	2.03
June 2021	234,557.13	-17.82	18.01	36,998.42	37,126.50	0.35%	1.85
July 2021	240,866.12	-17.77	18.56	38,098.99	38,394.81	0.78%	1.84
Aug 2021	239,187.60	-17.00	18.92	38,129.91	38, 382.49	0.66%	1.83
Sept 2021	243,721.96	-15.54	21.14	35,036.10	35,158.57	0.21%	2.03
Oct 2020- Sept 2021	2,836,542.82	-17.70	19.37	393,418.98	394,972.63	0.39%	2.10

After 1 year of metering, findings were +/- 1.73% and the avg difference was 0.39% off from calculated energy use to metered performance of compressor co-efficiency.

 Column 5 shows the monthly power consumption values that were calculated using the controller raw data (rack pressure, temperature and compressor run data taken at 1 minute intervals used in analytical tools utilizing Bitzer Compressor formulas).

- Column 6 shows the % difference between the calculated power values compared to the values reported by the power metering equipment on the racks (0.39% average difference from Oct 2020 - Sept 2021).
- The low % difference gives a high degree of confidence that the analytical tools being used to interpret the rack data are accurate.
- This accuracy ensures that the refrigeration BTUs (also calculated from the Bitzer formulas) correctly reflect the actual amount of refrigeration work done (Column 1).

#### Annual Energy Comparison of CO2 Booster Systems



- Percentage represents energy performance of CO2 Booster w/ adiabatic & parallel compression relative to R449A DX with dry cooler baseline
- With the right technology applied, CO2 Booster Systems can achieve energy parity while providing longterm sustainable option to support Net-Zero goal

#### **CO2 Advantages-Energy Savings**

Check of chart container to pit of anphi toortip





#### CO2 Advantages-Energy Savings







5. Based on your experiences, what are some lessons-learned or considerations for firsttime adopters?



#### **Publix Lessons Learned**

- Contractors ability to install, start-up and provide support for service long term
- Availability of Refrigerant Grade R744 (Still a gap in some areas)
- Higher leak rates during start up and sometimes challenging to find leaks
- Total Cost of Ownership: still a work in progress.
- Work with your Systems and Controls manufacturers to review and develop a strategy

- E.g., reliability & ease of maintenance
- E.g., specifications of standards and consistent design parameters
- Discuss objectives for your retail floor plan
  - Walk-in cooler & freezer storage and prep areas
  - Reach-in doors cases vs. open multideck
  - Refrigeration design impact on total store operation

#### Publix Adoption of CO2 Booster for Staged Remodels



Focus on a staged approach for remodels to keep stores open and reduce impact on store operations

#### Publix Technician Training

- In-House Training Center
- Training plans by tech level
- Engage with High school and vocational programs
- Technician retention



#### **Coborn's Lessons Learned**

- Things to consider before choosing CO2
  - Climate
    - System running super-critical has more issues and higher energy
  - Refrigeration Contractor
    - Experience and a quality start up tech
    - System complexity
  - Electrical/EMS Contractor
    - Experience with Refrigeration Controls
    - Poor wiring can lead to chasing "Gremlins"



#### **Coborn's Lessons Learned**

#### Disadvantages

- Increase in service calls
- Service Calls are more intensive
- Longer down times for service
- Longer restarts after power failures
- Longer lead times on parts
- Lease on full charge of CO2 cylinders
- Must tune compressor VFD harmonics
- More Leaks



#### **Coborn's Lessons Learned-Leaks**







