

# 2009-10 CARD Case Study

CARD: Commercial Audit & Retrofit Demonstration



## Active Communications

Business owner: Anita Denboske  
Glenwood Springs Mall  
51027 Highway 6  
Glenwood Springs, Colorado

This past winter, employees at Active Communications inside the Glenwood Springs Mall were able to shed their extra sweaters and coats.

They didn't have to use their space heaters from home, and their customers didn't complain about shopping in a chilly store. Last fall, the cellular phone retailer received an energy audit and efficiency makeover that have already saved hundreds of dollars per month on energy bills. And, as it turns out, the retrofit is keeping employees and customers much more comfortable.

The audit and retrofit at Active Communications are part of CARD, the Commercial Audit and Retrofit Demonstration project, one of many energy efficiency projects being carried out by the Garfield New Energy Communities Initiative.



Active Communications Glenwood Springs store manager Maria Lopez said the new glass door makes a significant difference in controlling the store's temperature.

The audits and rebates for Active and five other businesses were funded by a local match to the Initiative by the City of Glenwood Springs, from its municipal electric utility. Project management was funded by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs grant to the Garfield Initiative.

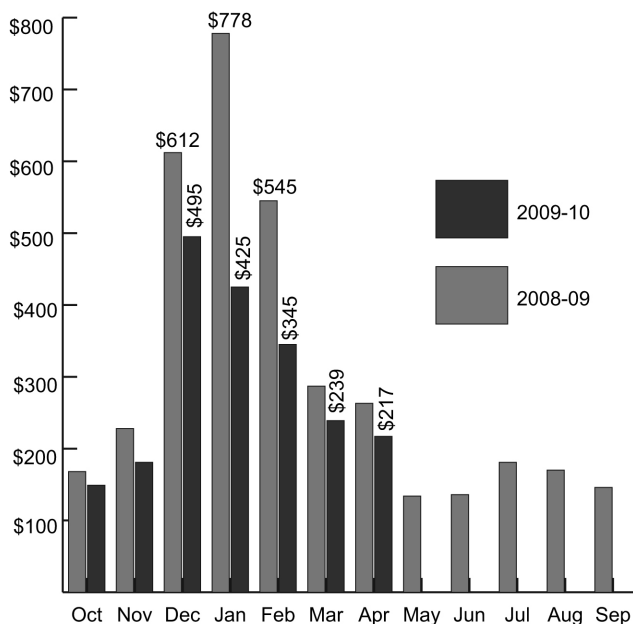
The Active Communications store in the Glenwood Springs Mall is one of six stores from Rifle to Dillon owned by Anita Denboske. The Glenwood store with its electric heating has the highest heating bills of the bunch.

Denboske said she is grateful the retrofit program helped her be more cognizant of energy use and how to properly maintain her store's heating and cooling system.

"That old furnace was on its way out," said Denboske, whose other stores have much lower heating costs with gas furnaces. "Awareness for me was a big part. We are running our businesses, and we don't think about the furnace."

When the free CARD energy audit was conducted by engineers from Schmueser Gordon Meyer in

### Monthly electric bills drop after energy efficiency upgrades completed



*Continued on next page*

## Glenwood Springs CARD Case Study: Active Communications



Store manager Maria Lopez adjusts the store's new programmable thermostat, which turns down the heat for 12 hours a day.

Glenwood Springs in September 2009, Denboske learned that her heating system was literally falling apart, and that it had been warming the false ceiling area and a mall storeroom as much as her store.

Workers from Walker Electric and Down Valley Heating and Cooling, both of Rifle, completed the upgrades including replacing the rooftop HVAC with a high-efficiency heating and cooling unit, installing a programmable thermostat and replacing inefficient T12 overhead lighting with T8 ballasts.

The project cost \$6,344, but the store owner received retrofit funding of \$4,675, an almost 75 percent rebate.

Inspired by other measures recommended in the energy audit, Denboske decided to replace an open-air gate to the mall's common area with a glass front door. Now her shop's heat does not escape into the mail hallway.

Electricity bills for the 800-square-foot store show a significant savings in costs and decreases in power use. The highest electricity bill from January 2009 showed

### Quick Facts

#### Costs

Total retrofit project cost: \$6,344

CARD rebate: \$4,675

Owner investment: \$1,669

**Savings** in first four months: \$646

#### Funded energy efficiency measures

Replace rooftop heating & cooling unit: \$5,971

Replace three lighting units: \$258

Install programmable thermostat: \$115

9,314 kilowatts used at a cost of \$778. The highest monthly bill after the work was completed in mid-December showed 5,085 kilowatts used at \$425.

The store employees are looking forward to a more comfortable and quiet summer season as well.

In 2009, they rarely ran the air conditioner because of high costs. They opened the outside emergency exit door to let in the breeze, but that created problems with dust and security for merchandise. They ran electric fans, but that was loud and windy for customers.

Denboske is pleased with the results and looks forward to tracking more savings. She said she now understands ways to be more frugal and to conserve energy.

"This was lifesaver for me," Denboske said of the audit and retrofit project. "It was extremely worthwhile."

Case study and photos by Suzie Romig

The 2009-10 Glenwood Springs CARD, Commercial Audit & Retrofit Demonstration, is a project of the Garfield New Energy Communities Initiative, which is managed by CLEER: Clean Energy Economy for the Region.

(970) 704-9200 · [www.GarfieldCleanEnergy.org](http://www.GarfieldCleanEnergy.org)

 **GARFIELD**  
New Energy Communities Initiative  
Joining forces for a clean energy economy