

Energy Conservation Success Story



Foodservice Operations Stir Up Savings with Energy Efficiency

Washington area foodservice establishments La Vie en Rose Bakery, Bob's Burgers and Brew and Kelly's O'Deli Catering are turning to energy efficiency to achieve savings and sustainable operations. All three foodservice operations earned cash rebates from the Cascade Natural Gas Conservation Program.

According to Johnny Lahr, owner of La Vie en Rose Bakery, their old oven was no longer making the grade. "Uneven cooking and the time it took to reach operating temperature helped in my decision to look for a new, more efficient gas oven." The rebate offered from Cascade's Conservation program made the choice for an efficient model even easier. "I chose this oven for two reasons: the reliability of the model and the rebate that was offered from Cascade," said Lahr. The bakery is now cutting baking times in half and adding green to their bottom line with reduced energy costs. "The old oven took about 20 minutes to preheat, but the new model only takes eight minutes," said Lahr.

Kelly's O'Deli Catering is seeing the benefits of energy-efficiency. "We now have more equipment, yet our gas bill has not increased," said owner Dianne Blakesley. The catering company installed two high-efficiency convection ovens and a tankless water heater. Affordable energy bills are only half the story. The catering company's tankless water heater provides hot water on-demand—reducing energy costs by eliminating heat up times. Additionally, they are seeing faster baking times with their two convection ovens, providing a more efficient cooking process. According to Blakesley, "I can cook larger quantities of food in a shorter amount of time. It has made a big difference."

La Vie en Rose Bakery

Issues

- Old equipment
- Long start-up and cooking times

Solutions

- High-efficiency gas convection oven

Trade Ally

- Dick's Restaurant Supply

Savings

- \$600 cash rebate
- \$592 estimated annual gas savings

Benefits

- Lower energy bills
- Faster cooking times

Kelly's O'Deli Catering

Issues

- Needed more equipment for operating
- Old water heater needed replacing

Solutions

- High-efficiency gas convection oven
- Tankless water heater

Trade Allies

- Dick's Restaurant Supply
- Smith Mechanical

Savings

- \$1,500 cash rebate
- \$1,355 estimated annual gas savings

Benefits

- Lower energy bills
- Faster cooking times



When it came time to purchase foodservice equipment for Bob's Burgers and Brew's new location in Yakima, Washington, Cascade's cash rebates proved quite significant. According to owner Rachel Roberts, "Building a new restaurant gets expensive, so we were thankful that the rebates helped offset some of the cost." The new location is realizing savings with their purchase of an energy-efficient gas fryer and convection oven. This equipment can cut energy bills without sacrificing quality or cooking performance.

A Menu of Savings

Collectively these organizations earned rebates totaling \$6,300. The savings don't end there - all combined these establishments will save an estimated 5,707 therms annually, equating to \$5,991 in estimated annual cost savings. Conservation is not just a part of the picture for these businesses—it is a way of doing business. La Vie en Rose Bakery has cut down their waste to five percent, implemented a recycling and compost program, uses biodegradable to-go utensils and donates leftover food each day to people in need.

According to Lahr, they wouldn't have it any other way, "Sustainability is the mantra and creed we live and operate by."

Cascade Natural Gas helps organizations implement conservation measures by offering energy conservation cash rebates to its Washington commercial and small industrial customers. These rebates provide financial compensation based on the performance specifications of the new equipment and/or insulation.

Bob's Burgers and Brew

Issues

- New restaurant—needed all new equipment

Solutions

- High-efficiency gas convection oven
- High-efficiency gas fryer

Trade Ally

- Bargreen Ellingson

Savings

- \$4,200 cash rebate
- \$4,044 estimated annual gas savings

Benefits

- Lower energy bills
- Faster cooking times

To learn more about our cash rebates for foodservice equipment, contact Autumn Marks at 1.877.508.7116 or visit us online at cngc.com/conservation.



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