

Durham restaurant shares results of energy efficiency cost savings and emissions reduction

Foster's Daily Democrat

Friday, November 4, 2011

DURHAM — At a free, public open house in Durham, Young's Restaurant recently shared the initial results of its recently-completed energy-efficiency upgrade project.

The project was undertaken with the help of the Jordan Institute and the Retail Merchants Association of New Hampshire's (RMANH) Energy Efficiency Program, and the energy-efficiency steps taken by Young's are projected to save the restaurant over \$12,000 per year and reduce the restaurant's carbon emissions by nearly 110,000 pounds per year.

New energy-efficiency steps include: converting from propane to less costly, more efficient and cleaner-burning natural gas; converting to more efficient, computer-controlled, on-demand, variable-speed kitchen exhaust fans; converting to more efficient, upgraded compressors; converting interior lighting to LED's; converting several large, poorly functioning windows to an insulated exterior wall; increasing the insulation in attic space over the dining area and around the building's sill plate; sealing various air leaks in walls and ceilings; insulating and repairing damaged ductwork; installing motion-sensor light switches in washrooms and other rooms; sealing gaps around exterior doors; and purchasing wind-powered electricity.



The RMANH Energy Efficiency Program helps New Hampshire retailers and other small businesses save money by increasing their energy efficiency. The program is funded by grant money generated by the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. The program provided the funding for a preliminary energy audit, offset part of the costs of the required comprehensive energy audit, and helped offset some of the costs and identify project financing opportunities for the steps that were implemented.

Young's used a loan to finance the majority of the improvements. Ken Young estimates full project investment payback to be 4.5 years. In addition, the steps are projected to reduce the restaurant's carbon emissions by nearly 110,000 pounds per year. That is equivalent to taking 9.8 cars off the road for a year, or taking 6.2 average U.S. homes off the grid for a year, or planting 1,279 trees and growing them for 10 years.

Young said of the project, "I firmly believe that being green and buying local is just the right thing to do, but when you do it right, it is also good business. We've already seen up to 20% electricity savings in the two months since we made the changes. Energy cost savings like these are very important to a business like ours, and we're also very excited about the carbon emissions reductions.

"The help of the RMANH and the Energy Efficiency Program really made this project possible for us – their knowledge, guidance, and support was immensely valuable."

Joseph Lajewski, Program Manager of the Retail Merchants Association of New Hampshire's Energy Efficiency Program, said, "The Energy Efficiency Program of the RMANH is an important program in our support of the success of New Hampshire businesses. We are very proud to work with dedicated organizations like Young's Restaurant to help them increase their energy efficiency, reduce costs, and reduce environmental impact.

"We look forward to continuing to support other New Hampshire businesses in implementing projects as successfully as this one here at Young's."