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Charco Broiler: Dishing Out Energy Savings in Bite-Sized Portions

“Changing habits really does have an effect on your energy savings.”

Stan McGarvey
Owner Charco Broiler

Seventy-five employees serving breakfast, lunch and dinner in a 60-year-old building can be a challenging recipe for energy conservation—though that didn’t stop Stan McGarvey, owner of Fort Collins’ famous Charco Broiler, from taking strategic steps to beef up the restaurant’s sustainability efforts.

Lacking an appetite for high-dollar renovations, McGarvey worked closely with Fort Collins Utilities’ Efficiency Works to cook up smart changes that would take a noticeable bite out of his monthly utility bill.

“We wanted to learn more about programs that could help us save money,” said McGarvey. “We knew others who had taken advantage of incentives and wanted to see what was available for us.”

Working closely with the Efficiency Works team, McGarvey started by switching water saving pre-rinse nozzles and aerators, and even replaced gaskets on refrigeration units. As a Silver Level ClimateWise partner, McGarvey also took steps to reduce landfill waste by implementing recycling bins.

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With cost-conscious updates in mind, McGarvey took advantage of over \$15,000 in Utilities rebates by re-lamping T8s, adding motion sensors, installing an energy efficient ice machine and two new energy efficient air conditioning units.

“We have an older building with little insulation,” said McGarvey. “It’s a challenge to be efficient, but the new air conditioning units are a great improvement.”

The conservation efforts already are paying dividends. Charco Broiler has reduced its energy demand by an estimated 6.1 kilowatts, including an estimated energy savings of more than 33,000 kilowatt hours per year. McGarvey expects an annual electricity savings of \$2,100.

“Simple ideas and tips have made a big difference in reducing our use,” McGarvey added. “Changing habits really does have an effect on your energy savings.”



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