

Stonybank Bank's Energy Efficiency Grant

Ron Burkhardt owner and head chef at the Stonybank Restaurant located in Clymer, PA purchased the restaurant in late spring of 2005 with the help of the IUP SBDC. At that time the SBDC helped Ron develop a business plan. That plan helped him raise the funds he needed to acquire the business and open his restaurant.

In the summer of 2006 his HVAC system went on the brink. As is with most new businesses Bill was strapped for cash and looking for some financial assistance. He was excited to see an article in the Small Business Development Center's Advisor publication regarding energy efficiency assessments and grant opportunities. He contacted the Regional Environmental Specialist with the Environmental Management Assistance Program and was relieved to hear about the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Small Business Advantage Grant. The Small Business Advantage Grant reimburses half of an energy efficiency project with a maximum award of \$7,500.

The Regional Environmental Specialist conducted an on-site energy assessment and worked with Ron to complete the application. EMAP assistance included performing calculations and estimates, as well as explaining the grant application process. The Stonybank Restaurant has requested and received a grant award under this program.

Following the assessment, Ron made other significant improvements including replacing all of the incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs as well as retrofitting all the Exit signs. Additionally Ron installed programmable thermostats with his new high efficiency HVAC system.

With the assistance of a local contractor, the HVAC system was installed in August. This upgrade is anticipated to save Ron approximately \$4,500 annually in natural gas and electric costs. Not to mention the over \$500 savings annually for lighting upgrades and improvements. This project has less than a 2 year payback when accounting for the reimbursement. While Ron is seeing immediate savings with these upgrades, this project will also help to offset future energy cost volatility.



"Thanks to the Advisor alerting us of the EMAP program and their successes with the SBAG grant program, we would have never had the opportunity to apply for this funding. The environmental specialist was a great help and responded in a very timely manner."

- Ron Burkhardt

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Industry: Restaurant

Year Founded: 2005

SBDC Assistance: Energy Efficiency
Assessment submittal of Small Business
Advantage Grant Application

Additional Partners: DEP Small
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