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South Berwick Restaurant Uses Innovative Technology to Conserve Energy

12.06.10

Fogarty's Restaurant is a family-run business that has been a landmark in South Berwick for more than 50 years. The restaurant has received a Recovery Act grant of \$24,433 from the Efficiency Maine Commercial Grant Program to install a new cogeneration system that will burn waste vegetable oil to supplement electricity and generate hot water.

The "Vegawatt" system, as it's called, will generate approximately 16% of Fogarty's electricity eliminating 32,772 kWh of power each year, saving nearly \$4,900 dollars. By using the waste heat from the power generation, the restaurant will also save approximately 1,405 gallons per year of No. 2 fuel oil previously used for water heating. The total savings for both electricity and water heating annually is nearly \$8,000. A number of other local businesses will benefit from the installation of the new system, including electricians, plumbers, and CÉVON, the South Berwick-based company responsible for selling and servicing the Vegawatt system.

"This energy cogeneration project will offer immediate energy savings to our business and to the community of South Berwick," said owner Larry Fogarty. "The grant from Efficiency Maine was key. As a small business, we could not have afforded to install this new system on our own." The Efficiency Maine grant provided 50% of total project costs, which will help the restaurant shorten the payback period for the project from 6 years to 3.

"Fogarty's is a great example of how one small Maine business can invest in energy savings to help local employers and the economy in the process. By partnering with the private sector on these projects, Efficiency Maine is improving Maine's business climate and helping companies compete," stated Rick Meinking, a business program specialist at Efficiency Maine.

Efficiency Maine is an independent, not-for-profit organization that invests in cost-effective projects to reduce energy costs in Maine. For more information about business programs offered through Efficiency Maine [click here](#) or call 1-866-376-2463 (1-866-ES-MAINE).



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Efficiency Maine • 19 State House Station • Augusta, Maine 04333-0019

Efficiency Maine is located at 101 Second Street, Hallowell, ME 04347 • 1-866-376-2463 • FAX: (207) 287-1039 • TTY: (207) 287-3831