



Awaken Café & Roasting Oakland, CA

Through the Oakland Indie Alliance, Awaken Café & Roasting owner Cortt Dunlap connected with the Frontier Energy Food Service Technology Center (FSTC) and the no cost PG&E-funded energy audit program. The aim of the foodservice facility audit program is to identify energy-saving opportunities through energy efficient equipment upgrades and low cost, no cost “best practice” energy management strategies and training. Furthermore, these audits can help operators like Cortt understand how much energy an individual piece of equipment uses in relation to their monthly utility bill, which only reports total facility energy use.

Frontier Energy’s Todd Bell conducted a thorough survey of the café’s equipment and quickly focused on three underutilized undercounter refrigerators as well as an aging reach-in refrigerator that was at the end of its useful life.

Todd’s audit report accurately documented the energy-saving potential of decommissioning the underutilized refrigerators and replacing the old reach-in refrigerator with two energy-efficient, rebate-qualified undercounter models. Removing the undercounters would account for an annual energy savings of **\$1,010**, while the new energy-efficient undercounter refrigerators would save **\$345** in annual operating costs with an added **\$140** in PG&E rebates.

On the hot side, Todd also identified a basic conveyor toaster as a high-energy user in the café. Tapping knowledge recently gained from Frontier Energy’s California Energy Commission study on the energy impact of small, “plug load” appliances, Todd related to Cortt the current toaster’s high operating cost and recommended an advanced conveyor toaster with smart controls as a replacement.

Lastly, the survey recommended replacing the failing back-of-house T8 fluorescent lamps and ballasts with modern direct wire linear LED lamps. Low cost and energy efficient, LED lamps provide excellent lighting with extremely long life spans.

The FSTC energy audit not only provided actionable energy-saving measures totaling a potential 8,435 kWh in annual savings, but forged a better working relationship between PG&E and this longtime commercial foodservice customer looking to minimize energy use and make informed equipment purchases for his business. Todd continued to support Awaken well after the audit, helping to secure rebates for the new refrigerators and properly analyze their utility bills.

| Energy-Efficient Equipment | Standard Equipment | Annual Energy Savings (kWh) | Energy Cost Savings (\$/year)* |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ENERGY STAR Undercounter Refrigerators (x2) | Reach-in Refrigerator (x1) | 1,500 | \$345 + \$140 Rebate** |
| Conveyor Toaster w/ Smart Controls | Standard Conveyor Toaster | 1,695 | \$390 |
| LED Lamps (x10) | T8 Fluorescent Lamps (x10) | 860 | \$200 |

* Energy savings estimate based on electric utility cost of \$0.23/kWh.

** Undercounter solid-door refrigerator rebate \$70/unit. Visit: <https://caenergywise.com/instant-rebates>