

The Flying Goose Brew Pub and Grille Awarded Sustainable Business of the Year By New London Energy Committee

The New London Energy Committee (“NLEC”) is pleased to award its first “Sustainable Business of the Year” award to the Flying Goose Brew Pub & Grille. Over the past year, Tom Mills, owner of the Flying Goose, embarked on a carefully crafted strategy to reduce the energy consumption and carbon footprint of the restaurant and micro-brewery. Jack Harrod, Chair of the NLEC, noted “Tom pursued a truly exemplary approach to energy saving, reducing the energy consumption of the Flying Goose before then turning to renewable power generation to help further reduce the brew pub’s consumption of fossil fuels.”

Mills began his investments with a comprehensive energy audit of the building to identify the more cost-effective means of saving through energy efficiency measures. Adros Energy, a NH-based company, performed the audit and upgraded the insulation while also tightening the building envelope. Mills followed the building envelope work with upgrades to the compressors used for refrigeration, an energy-efficient lighting retrofit, and the installation of a new air balancing system for the kitchen. Incentives from the electric utility offset a significant portion of these investments.

After reducing the Flying Goose’s energy needs, Mills invested in a 500-sq. foot solar hot water system on the rooftop of the dining room that is expected to meet half of the annual hot water needs of the restaurant and brewery. New London-based Clean REsolution installed the hot water system. Clean REsolution was also selected to install a 41.4 kW Solar Photovoltaic system later this summer. You will be able to watch its development on the back lawn through the dining room window.

“I am truly honored to receive the NLEC’s inaugural award, and I want to thank the NLEC for its assistance through the process. With the rapidly rising costs of propane and heating oil, we are fortunate that we acted when we did,” noted Mills. Indeed, higher energy costs make the payback period even shorter for those who want to follow the lead of the Flying Goose.

Tom Mills will be sharing more about his efforts through a kiosk recently installed in the lobby. It will demonstrate how much energy his renewable power plants are generating, and explain how they operate. The Flying Goose management team encourages local businesses to ask them about their path to becoming a more sustainable business, and how they were able to take advantage of various incentives to yield great returns on investment through their energy-saving measures. The New London Energy Committee encourages our community—businesses and residents, alike—to take a gander!

The Sustainable Business of the Year Award goes to a New London business that has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the areas of sustainable business practices, energy conservation and energy efficiency. If interested in learning about how to excel in these areas and become a contender for next year’s award, eligible businesses are encouraged to reach out to the New London Energy Committee for complimentary advice and support, as well as to share what they have accomplished.