

Complete Energy Solutions

Working together to create sustainable communities

Case study: Lil Joe's

Project details

Building type
Restaurant

Square footage
1,600 ft²

Estimated annual carbon savings
2.77 metric tons of CO₂
(equivalent to 2.5 cars removed from the road)

Incentive amount
\$25,021

Contractors
[Sierra Valley Mechanical](#)

“

What SMUD helped me do is heroic in ensuring that this place is going to stay a restaurant forever.”

– John Fierro,
Owner of Lil Joe's

CES supports site assessments, energy efficient upgrades, gas-to-electric conversions, EV charger installations and much more!

Get started on property upgrades by submitting an interest form: smud.org/CES



Lil Joe's is shining a light on what's possible for restaurant owners looking to create a healthier and more comfortable space by upgrading to all-electric equipment. The North Sacramento landmark for over 70 years replaced two gas HVAC systems and one gas water heater with heat pumps. These installations helped improve indoor air quality and provide better comfort for employees and customers.

After completing a lighting upgrade with the SMUD Complete Energy Solutions (CES) program, restaurant owner John Fierro saw an opportunity to reduce gas usage by upgrading to all-electric heat pumps. SMUD CES connected Fierro with Sierra Valley Mechanical, who installed two 5-ton rooftop heat pump HVAC units, two smart thermostats and a heat pump water heater. The heat pump water heater is the first one installed in a kitchen facility in the Sacramento area and required the project team to successfully navigate stringent city and county requirements. SMUD provided over \$25,000 in CES incentives and a Community Impact Plan grant to offset project costs.

Since the project's completion, Fierro says the space smells better, is quieter and the kitchen stays cool thanks to the cooling power of the heat pump HVAC. In addition to the boost in comfort, the new equipment strengthens the restaurant's reliability and resiliency, helping to preserve its legacy. With this project, Lil Joe's is making a meaningful impact on the community by contributing to Sacramento's sustainability efforts. Looking ahead, Fierro plans to continue to reduce Lil Joe's gas usage and believes "going without gas is going to be the way of the future."

Installed measures



Electrical panel upgrade



Heat pump water heater



Lighting



Heat pump HVAC



Smart thermostats

This program is brought to you by SMUD and delivered by TRC and Brighton Energy | CES@trccompanies.com | 1-844-529-4084

