



Operation Fuel, Inc.

WE'RE ALL PART OF THE OPERATION.

Featured Small Business **Caffé Benevento**

As far as neighborhood amenities go, a coffee shop may seem to be ordinary fare. But for residents of Waterbury’s Bucks Hill neighborhood, Caffé Benevento offers a local, family-run alternative to the typical chain store option. Located near the lower end of North Main Street, Caffé Benevento has served up Italian coffees, teas, biscotti and cookies since opening six years ago in a vacant building that had once housed a hat store. In that time, it’s evolved to become a favorite gathering spot among locals.

Owners Rosanna and Claudio Guerrera renovated the store and opened as an Italian coffee shop. As the shop’s popularity grew, the couple added food to the menu at the urging of their regular customers. Chief among their food offerings is the daily hot special. The daily specials (soups, stews, meatballs, chili, pulled pork) rely heavily on Rosanna’s slow cooker as well her culinary skills picked up from both her mother and mother-in-law.

Just as important as the menu is the casual atmosphere the owners have cultivated, encouraging customers to stay, relax and commune. “They like to hang out, watch t.v. together, “ explains Rosanna, who often stays open late if customers are still in the shop.



Rosanna Guerrera, Caffé Benevento

Caffe Benevento Project Summary

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>Owners:</i> | Rosanna and Claudio Guerrera |
| <i>Location:</i> | 2430 N. Main St., Waterbury |
| <i>Project:</i> | Refrigeration, Lighting Upgrades |
| <i>Total Project Cost:</i> | \$1,220 |
| <i>Conservation Fund Incentive:</i> | (\$459) |
| <i>Operation Fuel grant:</i> | <u>(\$761)</u> |
| <i>Owner’s Cost:</i> | \$0 |
| <i>Estimated Cost Savings:</i> | \$522/yr |
| <i>Est. Energy Reduction:</i> | 2,833 kWh/yr |

The couple runs the business by themselves and, seeking opportunities to cut expenses, recently made energy efficiency upgrades through Operation Fuel’s small business program. The project, which installed both refrigeration and lighting measures, leveraged incentives from their utility company’s Small Business Energy Advantage as well as Operation Fuel’s small business grant. The combined resources were sufficient to cover the entire cost of the energy efficiency upgrades, and the improvements are expected to save the business more than \$500 per year in energy costs.