

# What's brewing?

Ultra-high efficiency roaster brews up coffee producer's sustainability solution.

By Monica Stavish Skaggs

In a U.S. region known for great java, Tony's Coffee Roastery in Bellingham, Washington, strives to produce delicious coffee while giving back to communities and the environment. As part of its sustainability pledge, the coffee producer installed an ultra-high efficiency, large natural gas coffee roaster that helps save 80% on energy usage.

The company's mission is to use energy-efficient solutions and reduce its carbon

footprint. By 2030, Tony's Coffee pledges to become historically carbon neutral by offsetting its entire carbon emissions since 1971, the year it was formed.

Since its beginning, the coffee producer has roasted coffee in small batches, using quality beans from around the world. The company also works to offset its roastery's carbon footprint by reinvesting in the local community and coffee farming communities.

In 2002, Tony's Coffee was one of the nation's first coffee roasters to source organic, fair trade, shade-grown coffee from farmer-owned cooperatives. Two years later, Tony's Coffee joined the U.S. Roasters Guild and, in 2012, became a founding member of World Coffee Research, which focuses on sustainable coffee production.

Tony's Coffee installed an ultra-efficient, American-built natural gas Loring S70 Peregrine™ roaster from Loring Smart Roast Inc. The single-burner roaster's technology enables the company to reduce its carbon footprint at its roastery by more than 40%. Loring S70's Flavor-Lock Roast Process™ technology offers smokeless, odorless exhaust during roasting, and a high-speed cooling tray reduces cooling time while protecting the beans.

The stainless-steel roaster has a capacity of 70 kilograms (about 154 pounds) of green coffee beans per batch and offers a fully automated roasting process. In addition, it provides up to 80% fuel-savings and reduction of greenhouse gases in every roast compared to conventional roasters.

The existing roaster, which required up to 25 therms/hour of natural gas, was replaced with the new Loring S70 roaster that uses only six therms/hour because of design features that reduce afterburn-

er oxidation requirements, while still meeting local air quality and odor emission-stipulated levels, said Bradey Day, commercial/industrial energy efficiency program manager for Cascade Natural Gas Corp. (CNGC).

"That means a savings of approximately 12,600 therms in the first year," he added. "The reduction of gas needed to perform the roasting process allows for less natural gas to be used, thus, reducing their carbon footprint."

Tony's Coffee's investment of \$229,000 in the project earned it an incentive of \$42,840 from CNGC's Commercial Incentive Program. It's one way Cascade encourages its customers to use gas more efficiently to reduce waste, contributing to a more sustainable future.

Cascade serves more than 310,000 residential, commercial, industrial and transportation customers in 95 communities in western and central Washington and eastern Oregon.

"From our perspective, the incentive program offers the customer a truly win-win solution," Day said. "While there is an upfront investment for the customer, the incentives help offset some of those costs. In addition, over time with the gas savings, the customer will realize even more savings and help cut down on their greenhouse gas emissions. ●



PHOTO COURTESY OF CASCADE NATURAL GAS CORP.

■ Tony's Coffee Roastery in Bellingham, Washington, uses a Loring S70 Loring S70 Peregrine Roaster with design features that reduce afterburner oxidation requirements, while still meeting local air quality and odor emission-stipulated levels. The ultra-high efficiency natural gas coffee roaster helps save 80% on energy usage.

For more information, visit:

Tony's Coffee Roastery:  
[tonyscoffee.com](http://tonyscoffee.com)

Loring Smart Roast Inc:  
[loring.com](http://loring.com)