



## **Peking Chinese Restaurant**

205 S. McDowell  
Petaluma, CA 94954  
(707) 763-8081

Owners: Pauline and David Liu

### Hours:

Monday - Saturday: 11:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Sunday: 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Peking Chinese Restaurant has been serving authentic Chinese food in Petaluma for 22 years.

## Good Fortune Found in Energy Savings

**The Business:** Peking Chinese Restaurant, a family-owned Petaluma business, has beat the odds for restaurant survival. After 22 years, the restaurant, owned by Taiwanese immigrants Pauline and David Liu is not just surviving – it's thriving.

**The Challenge:** Independent restaurants face many challenges today: long hours; stiff competition, especially from chains and franchises; and escalating overhead, including large electric bills. After the monthly rent, the electric bill is their second largest expenditure, according to Pauline Liu. As a result, the Lius are always looking for ways to cut operating costs and increase their profitability.

**The Solution:** When the Lius found out that the Small Business Energy Alliance (SBEA) helped small businesses make energy-saving improvements, they called the toll free number right away to make arrangements for a representative to do a free energy audit at their business.

The Lius learned that the traditional light bulbs and outdated fluorescent lighting in their restaurant were silent guzzlers of electricity. The Small Business Energy Alliance

replaced the traditional, incandescent light bulbs with energy-efficient compact fluorescent lamps (CFL's) and upgraded the old-fashioned T-12 fluorescent lighting with magnetic ballasts to energy-saving T-8 lamps with electronic ballasts.

**The Outcome:** As a result of the retrofit, Peking Chinese Restaurant will save more than \$1,800 on their annual electric bill. And since the SBEA uses public goods charge funding to pay for 75% of the installation cost, the Lius will recover the cost of the new system in less than two months.

As an added benefit, the energy-efficient lamps produce less heat, thereby reducing air conditioning costs.

In addition to the dollar savings resulting from these energy conservation measures, Peking Chinese Restaurant is contributing to a cleaner environment by reducing the emission of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) into the atmosphere by nearly 9,000 pounds a year.

"We're very happy with the new lighting and the savings," said Pauline Liu.



**WINNER:** National 2003 ENERGY STAR® for Small Business Special Award



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