



DishRoulette Kitchen

Project summary

DishRoulette is a nonprofit that empowers local restaurateurs to sustainably scale their business by providing hospitality training mixed with financial literacy. Additionally, DishRoulette issues grants to local restaurants through the DRK \$1K CAMPAIGN and lends storefront spaces through its incubator program.

The Neighborhood Power Project team, the DishRoulette staff, and the current incubator restaurants identified reducing waste as a top sustainability priority. Using NPP funds, DishRoulette purchased compostable utensils, napkins, food-grade paper, and supplies of three different recyclable to-go clamshell containers. The organization also retrofit the kitchen spaces with LED lighting, installed a smart thermostat, and replaced certain kitchen appliances with high-efficiency ENERGY STAR upgrades. These projects will save DishRoulette on their energy costs and will make their kitchen spaces and appliances more functional and easier to control.

Future projects recommended for the organization include switching to electric induction stoves, installing water faucet aerators, and instituting a robust composting program and waste sorting regiment. Implementing these projects will help DishRoulette to save on energy costs — freeing up more funds to develop Chicago's next hit restaurant.

DishRoulette staff and the incubator restaurants wanted to focus on implementing sustainable waste management solutions for their commercial kitchens. The organization purchased sustainable utensils, napkins, and to-go packaging using NPP funds.

*According to the EPA, food and packaging together account for **nearly 45% of the landfill volume** in the United States.*

Energy-saving improvements

- LED interior lighting retrofits
- Smart thermostat installation
- ENERGY STAR® appliance upgrades
- Environmentally-preferred to-go packaging
- Compostable utensils and napkins

Project funding

- \$16,000 grant from NPP

To learn more, visit www.IllinoisGreenAlliance.org/NeighborhoodPowerProject

