

STANDOUT STORES

Being one of just three certified green restaurants in the state of Michigan means sourcing can be an issue for **Pekoe & Joe** in Waterford. Open since December, this environmentally friendly store is owned by Eric and Lisa Benfield, who serve up organic, natural fare, much of it vegan.

How did you go about getting green certification from the Green Restaurant Association?

We had to use sustainable building materials, energy-saving appliances, and show compliance in certain areas, such as: water conservation (including water-less urinals), compact fluorescent bulbs, and a full-scale recycling program. We have five areas for customers' trash: food waste, organics, plastics, aluminum, and glass. We cannot use any Styrofoam products.

What have been your biggest challenges?

To get started, it was hard to find products in Michigan that are sustainable and recyclable. The design company did a lot of research to find the right stuff and then to find it locally.

Now, the hardest thing is getting organic produce and all-natural meats because there's only one main supplier who handles organics in Michigan.

What are your plans for franchises of Pekoe & Joe?

We are hoping to get the franchising off the ground by mid-March. It's just about switching gears and networking. We're hoping to eventually have franchises across the country and maybe even worldwide.

A dark green, rectangular sign with rounded corners mounted on two green posts. The sign features the text 'pekoe & joe' in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font. A small green leaf icon is positioned above the ampersand. Below the main text, the tagline 'the green place to go!' is written in a smaller, white, lowercase font.

pekoe
& joe
the green place to go!