

AN EXCEPTIONAL ENERGY CASE STUDY
Sustainability, LPG and Tiny House Coffee

TINY HOUSE USING LPG TO SERVE COFFEE



LPG is a unique source of energy for its variety of applications all over the world. Apart from cooking, autogas, and power generation, many individuals find different ways to incorporate and use such a sustainable and clean source of energy in their everyday lives. This case study will examine Tiny House Coffee and its use of LPG as a way to serve coffee to people all around. It will take an in depth look at Joe Marjoram's journey in creating Tiny House, a sustainable and eco-friendly innovation that provides another use for LPG.

1. What is Tiny House Coffee?

Tiny House Coffee is the first proper, handcrafted tiny house to be used for portable catering purposes anywhere in Europe, running solely on LPG. When creating Tiny House, Joe Marjoram wanted for the unit to be a part of the challenge of building a successful new business. He was also hoping to show how practical, spacious and beautiful tiny houses can be.

As a house husband based in Leeds, England with three young children, Joe was ready to return to work. Because he was not interested in working in an office, he turned to coffee and began his self-employed journey. Along with his own designs and a creative friend, Joe's Tiny House was ready to be used in five months.



2. Make-up of Tiny House

Sustainability and the use of eco-friendly resources is a key value in the creation of Tiny House Coffee. The timber used to build Tiny House comes from a local sustainable forest in Thirsk, England – a privately owned timber estate. In addition to this, the timber has not been sprayed with chemicals, kiln dried, or treated with preservatives, rather, it has been dried naturally over the course of 5 to 6 years before being put to use.

The Tiny House itself is 4 meters in length and 2.4 meters in width. It started as a double axel vehicle transporter that was widened, strengthened, and given new wheels and suspension. The building frames were constructed in the workshop before being mounted on the trailer and the timber frame has a waterproof underlay and an air gap to prevent moisture build up. The external finish is sanded before being treated with yacht varnish and there are two serving points, allowing for superb flexibility in any weather.

Joe wanted to sell products that reflect the values built into Tiny House.

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3. LPG for Catering

When considering where to source his energy from, Joe thought back to his experiences in organising community events, with the knowledge that local authorities are rigorous in terms of assessment and are not keen on the use of petrol. In addition to this, diesel is extremely heavy and requires a large power outlet.

After exploring his options, Joe chose to use LPG due to its easy portability and safe use. Because Tiny House works at festivals,

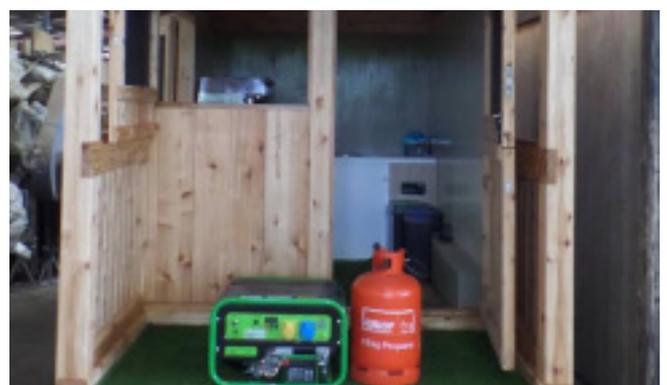


fundraising events, food festivals, agriculture shows and parks, using LPG as its primary source of energy would be widely accepted in such crowded and family oriented environments.

The GreenGear generator is built just for gas rather than a conversion and has an electric start making it very easy to use.

4. Greengear LPG

After seeing an advertisement for a Greengear generator in The Nationwide Caterers Association trade publication, Joe decided to purchase his first LPG generator from Calor. His experience with them was exceptional, he found them to have exceptional customer service and was grateful that someone from Calor visited the workshop to provide training on how to set everything up, as well as give advice on how to change the cylinders. Joe also chose to purchase his generator from Greengear because it is built just for gas rather than a conversion and has an electric start making it very easy to use. With a water tank of 70 litres and pump to connect to the coffee machine, the gas generator does not have to take two power sources, making it much more practical to use two 13kg Calor LPG cylinders. One cylinder alone has lasted him up to two full days of serving coffee non-stop.



5. Success for Tiny House Coffee

Tiny House sells coffee from Limini in Bradford, a small independent business that uses a regular blend made for mixing in a wide range of drinks tending to all customers needs. He can serve up to 200 cups of coffee an hour and the machine can make two drinks at a time. For special events, Joe will hire a team of two to work on making the orders while he engages with customers. In addition to coffee, Tiny House sells cold beverages, ice cream, cakes and biscuits. This is thanks to the LPG generator and the difference it has made to the range of products that can be sold, allowing for bigger revenue opportunities. The overwhelming

success that Tiny House has brought speaks truth to the idea that values can be built into a successful business. Joe believes that people come to Tiny House for coffee because of the story it tells and their interest in knowing more about its sustainability and efficiency. Joe has even received interest from other caterers in the LPG aspect, sparking a newfound enthusiasm for the application of LPG in catering.

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6. Acknowledgements

Joe Marjoram, Creator and Owner of Tiny House Coffee.
The Nationwide Caterers Association. www.mcass.org
www.tinyhousecoffee.co.uk
Calor
Greengear