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COUNTY OF DELAWARE
GOVERNMENT CENTER BUILDING
201 W. FRONT STREET
MEDIA, PENNSYLVANIA

610-891-4931
FAX NUMBER 610-891-8055
E-MAIL: delcopr@co.delaware.pa.us

Department of Public Relations
William A. Lovejoy, Jr.
Director

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Contact: Trish Coffell
Communications Officer
610-891-4943

County municipalities can get “green” to go green
*County Council offers energy grant program
to help townships and boroughs fund conservation projects*

Delaware County Council unveiled a municipal grant program that will assist local boroughs and townships in going “green” and achieving energy-efficiency.

County Council and the County Planning Department announced at the Tuesday, Feb. 22, County Council meeting that they will host four presentations, starting March 1, to detail the grant program for officials in the 46 municipalities that have not already received direct federal energy funding.

“This is a great partnership between the county and our municipalities where we can all achieve greater energy savings, which in turn saves tax dollars,” said Council Vice-Chair Christine Fizzano Cannon. “We are hoping that all of our eligible townships and boroughs will attend the workshops and put these dollars to work in conservation efforts.”

The Municipal Energy Efficiency Grant Program is one component of an overall county initiative funded through \$3.6 million in funding awarded to Delaware County through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant is being utilized by the County to increase the use of clean energy including solar power, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, educate county residents about smart energy use, and create jobs through energy-related projects.

The municipal grant program makes available a total of \$700,000 to be distributed to municipalities through two types of grants, prescriptive and custom. The goal is to help municipalities assess their energy needs and achieve energy-saving measures in their buildings.

The grant money can also be used to leverage funds from other sources, and can be used to complement PECO’s Act 129 *Smart Ideas* commercial equipment prescriptive rebates.

The prescriptive grant measures include efficiency upgrades that result in energy savings, including interior, exterior, street and garage lighting upgrades as well as HVAC system replacements.

(more)

(Municipal Energy Grants continued)

Custom grants will be considered on a case-by-case basis and the County will welcome any project that reduces energy use by 15 percent or more, including ductwork upgrades, boiler replacements and lighting controls.

Ms. Fizzano Cannon said County Council is enlisting the help of Practical Energy Solutions, a West Chester-based energy management firm that will provide energy management services under the grant. This will include helping municipalities map out an energy efficiency plan for their facilities and guiding them through the grant process.

The four county presentations will take place on the following dates.

*** 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 1, Borough of Media, 301 N. Jackson St., Media**

*** 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 2, Upper Chichester Township, Furey Road, Boothwyn**

*** 2 p.m. Thursday, March 3, Ridley Township, 100 E. MacDade Blvd., Folsom**

*** 1:30 p.m. Monday, March 7, Lansdowne Borough, 12 E. Baltimore Ave., Lansdowne.**

The workshops are open to officials from 46 municipalities. For more information, people can contact Justin Dula, a manager in the Delaware County Planning Department, at 610-891-5219, or Dianne Herrin, energy program manager for Practical Energy Solutions, at 610-430-1382.

The County will encourage municipalities with similar needs to form localized purchasing groups and submit multi-municipal applications. This approach will streamline the process and maximize volume and contractor discounts.

The municipal projects must be completed and funds must be expended before July 2012.

In addition to the municipal grant program, Practical Energy Solutions is assisting the county in developing a forward-looking energy plan that will provide a roadmap for the county's metered facilities.

"In today's economy, there is no doubt that we have to maximize all government resources, save energy and save tax dollars," Ms. Fizzano Cannon said. "This grant program specifically helps our partners at the municipal level achieve these goals, which in turn, benefits the whole county."



Municipalities can get “green” to go green

Caption: Delaware County Council is offering a municipal grant program to assist townships and boroughs in increasing their energy efficiency while reducing energy costs. Announcing the program are, from left, Councilman Tom McGarrigle, Council Vice-chair Christine Fizzano Cannon, Paul Spiegel, president of Practical Energy Solutions, and Dianne Herrin, energy manager for Practical Energy Solutions. The County is offering four workshops to explain the program with the first set for March 1 in Media.