



NEWS RELEASE

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St. Mary's County to Save Money and Energy with Conservation Projects

The St. Mary's Board of County Commissioners, along with the Department of Public Works and Transportation, has identified and implemented several energy conservation projects. This effort is part of a local sustainable energy initiative intended to assist with the Nation's energy consumption reduction goal of 15% by 2015.

Solar panels have been installed on the Emergency Operations Center equipment shelter. This new technology will help curb operational costs by providing approximately 90% of the facility's interior lighting needs.

The County used \$23,760 of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to complete solar cell and LED technology retrofit projects at the St. Andrews Maintenance Facility and \$24,970 for a pilot project for the installation of several solar bus shelters. The illuminated solar LED bus shelters will provide an added element of safety / security for our passengers at no additional cost.

A \$290,400 Maryland Energy Administration grant was secured for the energy efficient upgrade of 19 HVAC units at several facilities on the Governmental Center complex. A \$164,200 large scale LED interior lighting retrofit project at the Courthouse and Patuxent Buildings are also scheduled to be completed by the end of the spring.

Other County funded initiatives to be completed this year include a sustainable energy LEED facility audit, retro-commissioning of the Courthouse mechanical systems, exterior LED emergency exit lighting and parking lot lighting projects.

"I am extremely happy that we have been able to take advantage of over \$500,000 in available State and Federal funding opportunities," says Commissioner President Jack Russell. "These projects supplement the hard work our Public Works staff has already done over the past few years to help reduce our utility consumption. These efforts will help to eliminate some of our recurring expenses, which was an important element in the development of the fiscal 2013 recommended budget."

DPW&T Director George Erichsen says his Department plans to take full advantage of SMECO's retrofit lighting incentives program to save additional money for the county.

St. Mary's County Government will be responsive and accountable to the county's citizens; provide high quality, cost effective and efficient services; preserve the county's environment, heritage and rural character and foster opportunities for present and future generations