



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

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COUNCIL APPROVES “CLEAN ENERGY REWARDS” PROGRAM FOR COUNTY USERS OF NON-POLLUTING, RENEWABLE ENERGY

The Montgomery County Council today unanimously approved a “Clean Energy Rewards” program to give incentives to residents who use clean, renewable energy.

“County residents who use clean, renewable energy reduce air and water pollution, help conserve fossil fuels and combat global warming,” said Councilmember George Leventhal. “They pay about two-and-a-half cents more per kilowatt hour over standard rates and they pay the County’s energy tax. This program would give them about half a cent per kilowatt hour back – just about the equivalent of the County’s energy tax.”

The estimate is that 2000 to 3000 County residents could be eligible for the awards program and would receive either a direct County payment of up to \$60 per year or the same amount credited against their utility bills. Wind power, energy from landfill gas, and solar energy are among the energy sources that would be eligible for the rewards program.

Utilities and environmentalists have voiced support for the proposal, which is the first such legislation in the nation.

Last year the Council committed Montgomery County government to purchase at least five percent of its energy needs from clean renewable energy sources. Already more wind turbines have been erected in West Virginia to meet the County’s needs.

The County’s Department of Environmental Protection would be responsible for implementation of the program, with a projected start date of January 2006.

Businesses and individuals can sign up to buy clean energy through the following vendors:

PEPCO Energy Services
www.pepcoenergy.com

Washington Gas Energy Services
www.wges.com

The Clean Energy Partnership 301-754-0430
www.cleanenergypartnership.org

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