



News Releases

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND



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Montgomery County's Aggressive Commitment to Solar Energy Systems on Public Facilities Recognized by The White House

Montgomery County's commitment to install more than six megawatts of solar photovoltaic systems on a total of 17 public facilities by 2016 was highlighted in a White House [fact sheet](#) issued recently that features commitments from communities and private organizations across the United States. The systems convert sunlight to electricity with no emissions. Under the County's program, systems will generate electricity equivalent to the annual use of more than more than 600 homes.

During the first phase of this nationally recognized project, the Department of General Services will install solar photovoltaic systems on libraries, recreation centers, parking lots and administrative buildings. Specific locations will be determined based on the suitability for the systems including structural, condition, orientation and other facility characteristics. The plan calls for solar systems to be spread throughout the County to enable educational opportunities with surrounding neighborhoods.

The County's plan is one of nine programs included by The White House from commercial sector leaders, low income housing authorities, and communities across the country that "are rising to the President's call to action once again and committing to increase onsite solar generation."

County Executive Ike Leggett said, "Montgomery County has long been a supporter of clean energy. Installing solar energy on our facilities will save money, create local jobs, bolster the reliability of our electric grid and benefit the environment. It is a win-win all around."

Roger Berliner, chairman of the Council's Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy & Environment Committee, said, "As the world and our country struggles with addressing the crisis posed by climate change, our county has assumed a leadership role in using clean alternative sources of energy. I am proud of our County for moving forward with this initiative which demonstrates that helping the environment can also bring about cost savings and efficiencies for our taxpayers. This is the first phase of an aggressive effort in which the County has partnered with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, supported by the U.S. Department of Energy's Sunshot Initiative, to develop a plan to expand the program.

David Dise, director of the Department of General Services, said that "We are delighted to leverage public facilities to host photovoltaic systems onsite. Demonstrating our commitment to renewable energy, we expect to incorporate solar photovoltaic and other renewable energy technologies at all county facilities where it is technically and economically viable."

In June, the County's Department of Transportation issued a Request for Energy Proposals (RFEP) to solicit responses from qualified solar electric power project developers interested in installing solar electric power generation systems on 12 County parking garages. These facilities will be above and beyond the 17 facilities recognized by The White House announcement. Montgomery County will be among the first major east coast urban jurisdictions to have solar generation on top of its parking facilities. The Request for Proposals closed on September 19, and the County is evaluating the submissions.

Installing solar photovoltaic systems on County facilities is just one part of the County's overall efforts to reduce carbon emissions and other environmental impacts from public infrastructure. Additional initiatives will be launched in the coming months.

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