



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jan H. Gardner
County Executive

News Release

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Executive Gardner Officially Commissions New Solar Array at County Landfill

Frederick County Is Powered By the Sun

FREDERICK, MD – County Executive Jan Gardner today officially commissioned a new solar array at the Reichs Ford Road Landfill that will generate enough renewable energy to supply close to 20% of the county's general electric usage. The array, comprised of 7,776 panels over nearly 14 acres, is expected to produce more than 3 ½ million kilowatt hours of electricity a year.

"Frederick County is powered by the sun and leading the way on renewable energy," Executive Gardner said. "Our electric buses are being charged using solar energy, so they are running on 100 percent renewable energy! This project ensures that Frederick County is poised for a bright future for generations to come."

Through a net metering agreement, electricity generated by the solar array is transferred to Potomac Edison's power grid. The county then offsets power costs at designated county facilities. In addition to the TransIT electric bus charging stations, the buildings served by this project include: Winchester Hall; the Frederick Senior Center; the landfill's scale house; and three public libraries, the C. Burr Artz Library, the Urbana Regional Library, and the Emmitsburg Library, which is also home to the Emmitsburg Senior Center and the Emmitsburg Town Offices.

The county will have access to renewable power at a fixed rate for at least the next 20 years, under the terms of a 20-year agreement between the county and TESLA Energy. TESLA will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the solar array.

The agreement also allows the county to purchase and own Solar Renewable Energy Certificates that the system generates for at least the next six years at a reduced rate of \$22. By comparison, RECs on the market today cost between \$54 and \$57.

The county is also looking at solar solutions at the Ballenger McKinney wastewater treatment plant, which by the end of this year will be home to a second solar array.

For more information, contact Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Michael Marschner at 301-600-1133 or via e-mail at mmarschner@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

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Frederick County: Rich History, Bright Future

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