

January 3, 2005

For Immediate Release

Contact: Judy Fowler, Grants Administrator, Borough of Media

The Department of Environmental Protection has awarded the Borough of Media a PA Energy Harvest Grant in the amount of \$94,000.00 for the installation of solar panels on five buildings; Borough Hall, the Borough garage, Media Theatre, Media Upper Providence Library and the Media Fire House.

The installation of solar panels is an important step to improve the quality of air, reducing toxic emissions and preserving natural resources. The solar panels will generate passive, clean and renewable energy, create jobs in a new technological field, and decrease national dependence on imported oil. The uncertainty of the international situation regarding imported oil is another reason this grant is important. This installation will demonstrate the viability of solar technology in an urban setting and the successful partnering of private business, non-profits organizations, local and state governments.

The five solar PV systems will produce about 33,250 kilowatt hours each year, or 33 megawatt hours per year. The actual dollar savings is estimated to be at least \$4,500 each year. There will be substantial environmental benefits. These noxious air pollutants will be eliminated; 86,058 lbs. of carbon dioxide 120 lbs., of nitrous oxide and 476 lbs. of sulfur oxide and Mercury. This is the equivalent of planting ten acres of trees annually. Clearly for an urban area this is an important health and environmental benefit to the entire region.

By earning a reputation as the "solar capital" of Pennsylvania, Media will showcase the generation of solar energy for residents living in the region. Installing solar panels on the roofs of five buildings in Media will become a premier demonstration project of the environmental, educational and economic advantages of this kind of energy production.

Media will develop solar RECs (renewable electricity credits) that will add to the portfolio of renewable energy produced in Pennsylvania. While the total amount of solar energy is small compared to use, these amounts will offset demands on the grid, benefiting all utility customers. Solar panels produce the most electricity on summer days, especially afternoons, when air conditioners are in full use. By taking the edge off demand from the grid, utilities will not need to fire up backup generation plants as often. The effect will be less costly summer electricity for all. By investing in small customer sited solar panels, the Commonwealth will be helping reduce needed investment in new natural gas and nuclear power plants. By reducing our peak energy demand, the Borough will lessen its energy bill throughout the year.

This grant is the second PA Energy Harvest Grant awarded the Borough. The first was for solar panels for the Veterans' Museum in the Media Armory. This system has been operational since August, producing 1,115 kilowatts of electricity for the museum as of December 16, 2004. The panels will provide 35% of the Pennsylvania Veterans' Museum's electricity.

The Borough of Media, Borough Council, and residents are committed to being environmentally responsible. The Borough has a long history of environmental awareness and action. It was named "Green Municipal Borough of The Year in 2002". For several years it has had an extensive recycling program and has received grants from Act 101, section 904 for the past two years it has purchased electricity from Wind Energy, part of the Energy Cooperative.