Join MEA's Maryland Smart Energy Communities program

The MSEC program supports local governments as they adopt smart-energy policies and commit to them for the long term. Communities benefit from sustained reduction of energy usage, cost savings, and additional opportunities for renewable energy development.

April 21, 2021

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
18 56

ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE CENTER

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Agenda

- Why is Joining the MSEC Program Important?
- Taking Action/Getting Started/Getting It Done
- Submission Requirements
- Community Spotlight
- Resources and Tools

Why is Joining the MSEC Program Important?

- How is this action related to sustainability?
  - Reduced greenhouse gas emissions
  - Lower levels of ancillary pollution
  - Support State & local sustainability initiatives

- How can this benefit municipalities and residents?
  - Reduced utility and fuel expenses
  - Frees up capital for other important municipal projects
  - Supports a healthy environment

- What are the co-benefits?
  - Recognition as a leader in energy conservation and sustainability
  - Access to funding support for future projects, possible federal $

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Taking Action/Getting Started/Getting It Done

- How do you complete this Action?
  - Prior to applying, a municipal government must commit to actively participating in the MSEC program.
  - Complete the MSEC application (available online).

- Who should be involved?
  - The Green Team and at least one elected official (or a municipal staff member) should be enlisted to prepare the MSEC application and identify potential projects that can be funded by the MSEC grants.
  - Public Works staff may be utilized to implement energy projects.
  - Municipalities may also consider hiring private companies or consultants to assist them in filing the application, and for help in meeting their energy goals.

Taking Action/Getting Started/Getting It Done

Are there any typical expenses, challenges or pitfalls that should be considered?

- Initial project costs primarily include staff time required for research and preparation of the grant application. Once accepted into the program, additional costs may include:

  - Project management and implementation

  - Hiring a consultant for grant writing

  - Conducting an energy audit

Note: Funding for projects is based on overall funding availability. A cost share may be required of the municipality for each energy project.

Submission Requirements

- **In order to earn SM points, your submission must meet the following standards:**
  - Completing the MSEC application that follows the guidelines.
  - Receive official MSEC designation (or re-designation).
  - Demonstrated participation in the MSEC program within the last five years.

- **Submit the following documentation to verify the Action was completed to the above standards.**
  - **Description of implementation:**
    - In the text box, provide a short narrative (300 word max) that describes the Action, including:
      - a brief history of how and when the project was started and implemented
      - key actors and partners
      - the benefits and challenges
      - what direct support the municipality provided

Submission Requirements

- **Supporting documentation:** Upload the following documents:
    - MSEC application and approval letter
    - MSEC Energy Baseline
    - MSEC Energy Reduction and Renewable Energy Policies
    - MSEC Energy Reduction Action Plan

- **IMPORTANT NOTE:**
    To receive points for implementing projects, please submit separate documentation for specific energy projects under the appropriate actions within the Energy category (i.e., Municipal Energy Audit, Electric Vehicles, or Energy Innovative Demonstration Projects)

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Community Spotlight

Energy Efficiency
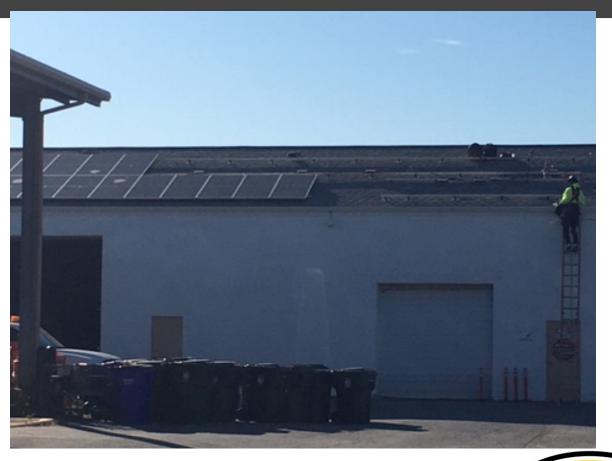City of Rockville, FY20

- Retrofit **lighting in Community Center** with LED's.
- **Reduction** of approximately **54,058 kWh/yr.**
- **Savings of $7,231/yr.**
- MSEC contribution of $27,122 ($54,460).

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Community Spotlight

Renewable Energy
City of College Park, FY18

- **Rooftop solar panels** generating approximately **36,980 kWh/yr**.
- **Cost savings** of **$4,438/yr**.
- MSEC grant of $50,000. ($86,094).

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Resources and Tools

- Maryland Smart Energy Communities home page: https://energy.maryland.gov/govt/Pages/smartenergycommunities.aspx

- MEA homepage: https://energy.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx

Questions?

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