

Solar Energy at the CCMUA

In a continuing effort to reduce energy costs and make the CCMUA greener, the Authority has installed a new 1.8 million-watt solar panel array that is now in service and providing power to our wastewater treatment plant. The 1.8 million watts of electricity represents approximately 10% of the plant's energy needs. The projected savings are approximately \$300,000 in energy costs during the first year of the project and about \$7 million over the life of the 15 year power purchase agreement.

Go to www.ccmua.org to access more information. The amounts of energy generated today, this week and since installation are all shown. Photos, weather information, and a Real Time Power System Schematic are all provided. The amounts of Carbon Dioxide, Nitrogen Oxide and Sulfur Dioxide avoided by the energy generated by the solar panels are listed. The solar panel monitor is available both on our web site and in our Administration Building lobby.

This solar panel project is the first phase of the CCMUA's overall green energy initiative. Ultimately, the CCMUA's goal is to use 100% green energy within the next five years. The CCMUA is in the process of investigating other alternative and renewable sources of energy, such as geothermal, methane, and additional solar installations.

Camden City Achieves Sustainable Jersey Certification

Sustainable Jersey is a certification program for municipalities in New Jersey. Launched in 2009, Sustainable Jersey www.sustainablejersey.com is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that supports community efforts to reduce waste, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and improve environmental equity. Sustainable Jersey is empowering New Jersey towns to build a better world for future generations. It provides tools, training and financial incentives to support and reward communities as they pursue sustainability programs. New Jersey is the first state in the nation to have a comprehensive sustainability program for communities that links certification with strong state and private financial incentives, and a fully resourced program of technical support and training.

Typically a town will select 10-12 actions from a potential list of over 117 actions that include areas such as a commitment to environmental stewardship, community gardens, supporting local businesses, conservation of energy and water and waste reduction and recycling.

Recommended best practices/actions are vetted with local government officials. "It's quite an accomplishment to become Sustainable Jersey certified," said Pam Mount, Chair of the Sustainable Jersey Board of Trustees. "Our certified communities are leading the way with impressive sustainability initiatives in New Jersey while providing a model for towns across the United States."

Camden was able to use Sustainable Jersey as a focal point to rally non-profit organizations to coordinate with the City and the CCMUA to make progress on a number of fronts. The CCMUA had a major role in helping Camden achieve this certification. Its work in the areas of renewable energy, green jobs, water conservation education, green infrastructure and stormwater management, supporting a community asset map project and participating in a green fair, all contributed to the program. In addition to the City of Camden, Cherry Hill, Gloucester Township, Haddonfield and Haddon Township have also achieved Sustainable Jersey certification.

Using less water is the right thing to do!

- It's the right thing to do environmentally as water is a rare and precious resource. When we conserve water, we are preserving a resource for our children and future generations.
- Saving water reduces the potential for flooding and raw sewage back-ups during rain events in your town and for your neighbors upstream and downstream because you are using less of the sewer systems' finite capacity.
- Saving water reduces sewage pumping costs for your town, and treatment costs for the CCMUA which help keep costs down.



Flooding in Camden County after a typical rain event



Install a high efficiency faucet aerator

How much can you save?

Approximately 70% of water used in a household is used inside the home - the majority of which is used in the bathroom. The average household spends as much as \$500 per year on its water and sewer bill but could save about \$170 annually by retrofitting with water efficient fixtures and incorporating water-saving practices. Saving water around the house is simple and smart!

Inside the Home

- Fix household leaks. A drip rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year.
- Always wash full loads for both laundry and dishes.
- Replace showerheads with low-flow showerheads. A full bathtub can require up to 70 gallons of water, while taking a 5-minute shower uses only 10 to 25 gallons.
- Avoid using running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods. Instead, defrost food overnight in the refrigerator.
- Consider installing a WaterSense labeled toilet, which uses 20 percent less water while offering equal or superior performance.
- Installing a WaterSense labeled aerator is one of the most cost-effective ways to save water. Also consider replacing the entire faucet with a WaterSense labeled model. Either way, you can increase the faucet's efficiency by 30 percent without sacrificing performance.
- Turning off the tap while you brush your teeth can save 8 gallons per day.
- Replace your old washing machine with a high-efficiency, ENERGY STAR® labeled model, which uses up to 50 percent less water and electricity.
- Check out the following websites for more information:
 - www.epa.gov/watersense
 - www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org
 - www.home-water-works.org
 - www.njwatersavers.rutgers.edu



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