

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **REBUILD VIRGINIA AWARDS GRANTS TO ENERGY-SAVING PROJECTS**

*Funds will help Virginia communities reduce energy costs in new and existing buildings*

ARLINGTON, VA – Rebuild Virginia awarded \$60,000 in grants to seven communities to help reduce energy costs in buildings. The Planning Assistance Incentive Grants (PAIG) will fund planning and evaluation projects for energy-efficiency projects in existing buildings, or the design of new high performance buildings.

“The grants will help these community partnerships achieve energy savings that otherwise may not occur,” says Annette Osso, Executive Director of Rebuild Virginia. “PAIG funds will allow these projects to tap into advanced planning and technical services and resources.”

Recipients must match the PAIG by at least 30 percent of the total project cost. Grantees include:

- *Community Housing Partners, Christiansburg*, grant will help support development of rating system to assess energy performance in multifamily housing. The goal is to use 15 percent less energy than required in the Model Building Code or an established baseline. The rating system will be replicable, for use by other non-profit organizations.
- *Northampton County*, grant will help support project planning assistance on Seaside Park, to be developed on a former landfill and recycling center site. The grant will help pay for a design charette for a proposed community building. One of the objectives is to identify design features that will reduce operation and maintenance costs by 25 percent as compared to a comparable facility using traditional building methods and materials.
- *Norfolk Environmental Commission (NEC)*, grant will help support LEED design assistance and project planning assistance to expand the Ernie Morgan Environmental Action Center. The expansion will provide 5,000 square feet of additional space for environmental education programs. The goal is to build a zero energy building which will produce as much energy as it consumes.
- *Camp Mitchell Foundation, Craig County*, grant will help support an evaluation study on energy-efficiency and indoor air quality improvements for existing facilities, as well as recommendations for incorporating the LEED™ Green Building Ratings into future projects. The short-term goal is to reduce energy use by 30-50 percent; the long-term goal is to progress toward a zero energy facility, that produces as much energy as it consumes.
- *The Gereau Center, Rocky Mount*, grant will help with development of design plans for an energy-efficient building at the Gereau Center for Applied Technology. The sustainable building, which will showcase renewable energy technologies, will house a regional center for studying alternative energy sources and their application to residential and commercial projects.

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- *Chesterfield County*, grant will help identify energy conservation opportunities in county-owned facilities, including administrative, library, health services, training and judicial buildings that can reduce energy consumption by at least 10 percent.
- *Henrico County*, grant will contribute to energy audits in existing K-12 and government buildings. The diverse set of government buildings, including jails, fire stations, and social service facilities will require an extensive audit. The completion of audit recommendations is expected to result in a three to five percent energy reduction.

The grants are funded by the U.S. Department of Energy's Rebuild America program.

### **About Rebuild Virginia**

Rebuild Virginia is part of the U.S. Department of Energy's Rebuild America program, that seeks to reduce the costs and consumption of energy in buildings through the use of proven energy-efficiency and renewable-energy technologies and practices. Through Rebuild Virginia, local communities have access to energy-saving tools, resources and technical assistance available from Rebuild America, DOE national laboratories, and state agencies. For more information, visit [www.rebuild.gov](http://www.rebuild.gov).

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