

NONPROFIT ENERGY ALLIANCE



PURCHASING COMPETITIVE AND CLEAN ELECTRICITY

A collaboration between The Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, Nonprofit Montgomery, the Nonprofit Roundtable, and the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection

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Overview –

Nonprofit Montgomery, Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County and the Nonprofit Roundtable formed the **NONPROFIT ENERGY ALLIANCE**, an initiative to negotiate as a group for cheaper and greener electricity.



NONPROFIT ENERGY ALLIANCE

NONPROFIT ENERGY ALLIANCE (NPEA) is not a formal or contractual group, but an alliance of like-minded nonprofits who have joined together to use their collective purchasing power to not only secure competitive electricity supply at lower cost, but to protect the environment and build a greener economy by supporting clean sources of energy that are essential to protecting our environment and building a new economy.



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Launched in May 2010, the Non-Profit Energy Alliance is now comprised of **66** leading-edge nonprofits that will collectively save an estimated **\$542,769** compared to standard energy service, while supporting clean sources of energy that are essential to protecting our environment and building a new economy. **The wind power purchased through this alliance avoids about 44.74 million pounds of CO₂, which is equivalent to removing 4,197 cars off the roads.**



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The Incentive?

- Enhancing nonprofits' "triple bottom line" by:
 - generating "cash" savings dedicated towards mission
 - protecting the environment
 - enhancing community well being
- "Greening" Nonprofits to align with County objectives
- Bolstering the case of sound social and fiscal management to funders
- Improving employee and volunteer moral, productivity and dedication



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- There have been seven (7) rounds of the Nonprofit Energy Alliance
- Organizers conducted in-person, telephone and webinar orientation meetings to educate and onboard potential participants
- 1 or 2-year quotes for 50% or 100% renewable energy were provided potential participants
- Clean Currents is the supplier, chosen by a selection committee of nonprofits that evaluated three local providers
- Formal arrangement remains between each individual organization and **Clean Currents**



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The Nonprofit Energy Alliance was honored to have been chosen as a recipient of Washingtonian Magazine's 2012 Green Awards and the 2012 recipient of the Maryland Clean Energy Center's coveted Partnership Award.



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TYPICAL TIMELINE & CHECKLIST

Week 1

- ✓ Nonprofits were to fax or email release form, a copy of most recent energy bill and 501c3 to Clean Currents

Week 2

- ✓ Clean Currents provides written quotes to all potential participating organizations
- ✓ Nonprofits must set aside time to review Clean Currents' proposal

Week 3

- ✓ If an organization opts in, the organization's authorized decision maker must sign the agreement and it must be at the vendor's by COB
- ✓ If an organization opts out, we ask that they please let us know as early in the day as possible.

Week 4

- ✓ Results of NPEA round announced



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Challenges:

- Slow adopter nonprofit boards
- Limited exec bandwidth to engage in entirely new thinking
- Paradigm shift in saving on fixed costs to variable cost saving
- Adopting new buying practices during economic downturn
- Savings were top incentive for changing purchasing behavior
- Energy market changed significantly since NPEA's conception
- As energy costs stabilized, significant savings diminished
- Opportunities to purchase green energy now widely available



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Next Steps:

Over the next six months, the Alliance will evaluate new ways to support the nonprofit of the future, especially as it pertains to the intersection between organizational and environmental sustainability.



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Messaging:

- Be Energy Conscious
- Turn out lights when not needed
- Set thermostats back in winter, forward in summer
- Turn off or eliminate excess office equipment
- Talk to employees about comfort and alternatives to expensive space heaters
- Go Green - Purchase Clean Energy



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Thank You!

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