



Middlesex County Showroom of Environmental Technology - Go Green \ Save Green

In 1999, Freeholder H. James Polos created the **Middlesex County Common Cents Cooperative Purchasing Program** - a county-wide, competitive purchasing program that utilizes the buying power of the county to assist municipalities with reducing their costs for goods and services.

This Shared Services Program has offered municipalities four ways to save tax dollars:

1. Natural Gas Purchasing
2. Electricity Purchasing
3. Water / Wastewater Program
4. Equipment, services and supplies.

The Clean Air Initiative

In 2004, the Clean Air Initiative was created as part of the Common Cents Program. The county made a commitment to convert the entire county park ranger fleet to hybrid vehicles and to educate municipal governments on "green" technologies. Out of this initiative came the Middlesex County Showroom of Environmental Technology (MCSET) Program.

The Middlesex County Showroom of Environmental Technology (MCSET) Program

The MCSET Program is a unique partnership between Middlesex County, the NJ Board of Public Utilities and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection to promote clean air and water initiatives through the use of alternative fuels, energy efficiency and "green" technologies. MCSET will assist municipalities, schools and the private sector to identify and implement "green" technologies by coordinating state grants, technical assistance and county resources.

MCSET Grants to Municipalities

In September 2006, the Middlesex County Freeholders approved a \$50,000 grant program to municipalities to encourage the goals of the MCSET Program. The grant dollars will be used for the following purposes:

- \$25,000 toward the purchase of alternative fuel or hybrid vehicles. Interested municipalities are eligible to receive \$500 per vehicle with a limit of two vehicles per municipality.
- \$25,000 toward the assistance of green building construction.

Downtown Business Improvement Grant Expanded - Application criteria to this existing grant have been modified to give first priority to projects utilizing green technologies or sustainable planning.

County Statistics
Population - 745,000
Land Area - 318 square miles

Transportation

Hybrid Vehicles - To date, 30 hybrid vehicles (7 Toyota Priuses and 23 Ford Escapes) have been purchased by the county.

Bio-diesel - Bio-diesel is now being used by the county public works department.

Middlesex County Area Transit (MCAT) Shuttles - Started in January 2006, the MCAT Shuttle provides fixed route service for senior citizens, individuals with disabilities and the general public.

Open Space and Recreation Pedestrian / Bicycle Grant Program - In 2006, through an initiative by Freeholder Camille Ferricola, the Freeholders allocated \$500,000 towards 80% of the construction cost of eligible municipal projects involving pedestrian and bicycle improvements that complement open space and recreation facilities.

Renewable Energy

With a grant from the NJBPU's Clean Energy Program, the county plans to install a 25 kilowatt solar electric system at the Cooperative Extension building.

Recycling, Compost and Household Hazardous Waste - www.mciauth.com

Traditional household recyclables are collected in addition to tires, paint, computers and electronics. Residents are also encouraged to reduce their waste by "grasscycling" and back yard composting. Household hazardous waste can be dropped off for free during seven separate collection days during the year.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

In 2002, the county adopted an IPM program for all county parks and buildings.

Open Space and Farmland Preservation

Since 1994, the county has preserved 6,000 acres as open space and 4,160 acres as farmland.

Stormwater Management

The county is educating employees and residents on the importance of proper stormwater management, as well as, encouraging nonstructural stormwater management strategies (low impact techniques) for major developments.

For more information contact:

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