

# Maryland Energy

ADMINISTRATION

*Powering Maryland's Future*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **GOVERNOR O'MALLEY CUTS RIBBON ON MODEL COMMUNITY WIND TURBINE ON THE EASTERN SHORE**

*Community wind project will power Chesapeake College's Eastern Shore Higher Education Center.*

**Annapolis, Maryland** (November 1, 2011)—Today, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley joined local and state officials for the ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly constructed wind turbine at Chesapeake College in Wye Mills. A-Tech Energy, a Salisbury, Maryland-based company installed the Endurance Energy 50kW turbine. The turbine converts wind energy to electricity used for the Eastern Shore Higher Education Center at Chesapeake College. Commuters on Route 50 have witnessed the turbine's construction as it became a clean energy landmark.

"To create jobs, a modern economy requires modern investments. In Maryland, we've made wind energy a priority because wind energy means jobs," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "We've set some of the most aggressive goals in the country for reducing our energy consumption, and increasing our use of renewable energy. This dedication of the wind turbine at Chesapeake College is a true example of our State's Innovation Economy at work. Today, we have on-shore wind turbines spinning in Western Maryland, creating jobs and strengthening the local economy. And working together, we can harness the planet-saving, job-creating power of clean, green, renewable energy in Maryland – our children's future depends on it."

Chesapeake College took advantage of the Maryland Energy Administration's Anemometer Loan Program to assess the viability of the project. Through this program, MEA dispatched a 30-meter tower to gather wind speed data at the site. Following this assessment, MEA provided the wind project with a \$75,000 grant from MEA's Windswept Program. Windswept offers Maryland residents, businesses and non-profits the opportunity to install and manage their own wind energy systems. The clean energy generated from these projects helps to satisfy Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard which requires 20 percent of Maryland's electricity to be generated from renewable energy sources by 2022.

"Investments in clean, renewable energy creates jobs, reduces monthly electricity bills, and enhances our energy security" said MEA Director, Malcolm Woolf. "Combining the power of renewable energy and higher education only makes Maryland's energy outlook stronger."

The 150-foot tall turbine marks the first phase of the proposed Center for Leadership in Environmental Education (CLEEn). With classrooms and laboratories, the center will provide training in "green" careers, workforce development for small businesses in the energy field, and resources for sustainable agriculture. The turbine is the latest step in Chesapeake's efforts to be a leader for economic and environmental sustainability in our state.

"This wind turbine is a symbol of Chesapeake's commitment to sustainability on the Eastern Shore," said Chesapeake President, Barbara A. Viniar. "The turbine is only one part of a larger plan to develop a regional environmental leadership center at the college."

Members of the public are invited to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony to learn more about the wind turbine and the proposed CLEEn project. The event will take place under a tent between the turbine base and Parking Lot D. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information about the event, please call Laura Karns at 410-827-5802.

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The Maryland Energy Administration's (MEA) mission is to assist Maryland citizens and businesses to save money through smart investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy and conservation. A Maryland state agency, MEA fuels the creation of green jobs by providing funds and resources to expand the use and availability of clean, safe energy in Maryland.