

Highland Beach

October, 2013

Spotlight on Maryland Smart Energy Communities

Platinum Makes Perfect



Boldly marking their place at the forefront of municipalities adopting a sustainable agenda, in 2007 Highland Beach constructed a Town Hall that demonstrates exceptional energy efficiency, water conservation, restoration of native habitat, and commitment to occupancy health and well-being. The facility attained USGBC LEED Platinum certification with superior insulation for the building envelop, a high performance HVAC system, energy efficient and water conserving mechanical systems, and on-site, on-the-grid energy production. On hand for the Town Hall Platinum Award Ceremony were former Mayor Ray Langston, Mayor Bill Sanders, Former Mayor Crystal Chissell, and Former Governor Parris Glendening.

Changed So Little, Yet So Much



An August 7, 2003 Washington Post article stated, "That Highland Beach has changed so little is, in many ways, what makes this community distinctive. Elsewhere around the bay, neighborhoods that started as summer resort communities have succumbed to the pressures of development and individuals' desires to own a slice of the beach for themselves. As a result, most the waterfront on the Chesapeake has disappeared from the public realm, piece by piece." The Town Hall project represents the leading edge of building green and of demonstrating land management that protects the Bay, and serves as a model on how to mitigate the potential adverse effects of such growth, with local government in the lead. Highland Beach is a model for any municipality that seeks to reduce their carbon footprint and make their community more resilient for current and future generations.



Powering the Future

Highland Beach is a small community in Anne Arundel County with 10 kW of clean solar PV installed on town buildings, including their LEED Platinum Town Hall. As a result, Highland Beach is able to generate almost all of the electricity they need on-site.

As part of the Smart Energy Communities Program, Highland Beach has adopted the required energy reduction and renewable energy production policies and established their energy usage baselines. Upon completion of an energy reduction plan, the town will receive Smart Energy Communities funding for additional projects, which may include installation of solar panels on their Douglass Museum & Cultural Center and energy efficient LED street lights throughout the town.

The Smart Energy Communities Program offers grant funding to local governments for energy-related projects. Once a local government passes certain policies and energy reduction plans related to energy efficiency, renewable energy, and / or transportation petroleum reduction goals, the municipality or county can apply for grant funding to complete their energy reduction ambitions. For more information see : www.energy.maryland.gov/govt/smartenergycommunities/

For more information about the Smart Energy Communities Program or information about specific municipal or county efforts, please contact:

Maryland Energy Administration,

Lauren Urbanek, LUrbanek@energy.state.md.us

Environmental Finance Center,

Sean Williamson, srw46@umd.edu

