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South Florida Sun-Sentinel.com

Pompano seeks ways to save energy

\$1 million federal grant to help city's green efforts

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South Florida Sun-Sentinel

November 22, 2009

To make Pompano Beach more energy efficient, city officials have begun taking steps to retrofit City Hall and other facilities with energy-saving technologies.

With the City Commission recently accepting a \$1 million federal grant from the Department of Energy, facilities and utilities in Pompano Beach will soon be assessed for potential energy savings. Installation is expected to begin in the summer of 2010.



"Anything we can do to save money and help the environment, we're going to focus on that," said Mayor Lamar Fisher. "I think everybody wants to go green as much as possible."

The city is negotiating with Siemens Building Technologies Inc. to implement a plan to begin developing energy-efficient buildings and utilities.

The contract stipulates that any new energy equipment that Siemens recommends must be guaranteed to save energy and money, said Public Works Director Rob McCaughan.

Once negotiations are completed, Siemens will need about four months to do energy audits and an additional two months for design.

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the city will not have to use additional money to match the grant. Instead, money saved by retrofitting the facilities will be used to pay the grant back, McCaughan said.

One of the buildings that will be retrofitted is the four-story City Hall, 100 W. Atlantic Blvd.

Plans to make it more efficient include retrofitting 52 air-conditioning units into one central cooling tower, which will cost about \$818,800. McCaughan said the current set-up "is not a system that is as efficient as it should be."

Also planned are LED street lights, which will cost \$178,100. And \$13,000 will be spent on a study aimed at finding ways of making mass transit more efficient. The remaining \$27,000 will be used to explore other methods of gaining state or federal grants in the future.

The city also will look into purchasing and installing solar panels. They would allow the city to collect energy to power its facilities, and any additional energy could be sold back to Florida Power & Light, McCaughan said.

"Anywhere we can become more green, it's a great asset to the city," Fisher said. "But we still have a long way to go."

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