



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Innovative intergovernmental cooperative effort to upgrade lighting in 35 SE PA communities will save \$1.4 million annually**

(Philadelphia, PA) – Thirty-five municipalities in southeastern Pennsylvania are upgrading to LED streetlights thanks to an innovative, intergovernmental cooperative program. The effort is known as the Regional Streetlight Procurement Program and is led by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) in partnership with the Pennsylvania Sustainable Energy Finance Program (PennSEF) offered by the Pennsylvania Treasury Department and the Foundation for Renewable Energy and Environment. (FREE)

DVRPC assembled the resources needed to design, procure, and finance the transition to LED street lighting and other outdoor lighting tailored to each municipality's specific needs.

Lighting costs typically account for 60-70% of a local government's energy budget. The project upgrades more than 26,000 streetlights, exterior lights, and traffic signals. The 35 municipalities will achieve annual reductions of 10.6 million kilowatt hours; 5,500 metric tons of CO2 emissions; and \$1.4 million in annual energy and operating costs. Construction is underway and is expected to be completed by the end of 2017.

“There was an impressive amount of coordination among state and local governments, public agencies, and businesses to develop a model for intergovernmental cooperation in a way that helped municipalities overcome technical and financial barriers to implementation. The result was significant energy and costs savings and improved lighting quality throughout southeastern Pennsylvania,” said Hon. Valerie Arkoosh, MD, MPH, Chair of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners and DVRPC Board. “As a regional agency, that's what makes us feel great about this program.”

Large-scale retrofits such as this typically have a high upfront cost, often making these projects difficult for municipalities to implement. By pooling their buying power, each municipality participating in the RSLPP was able to leverage a tool known as energy performance contracting, whereby an Energy Services Company “guarantees” savings resulting from the project. Those savings are used to pay back project financing until the project pays for itself. Further, as a result, the equipment and labor was procured at below market rates. The project will produce gross savings of \$1.4M annually, and after the project costs have been paid for by these savings, municipalities will see \$15.3 million in net savings over 20 years.

DVRPC's partner, PennSEF brought significant legal, financial, and energy performance contracting and technical expertise that helped municipalities navigate the energy performance contracting process. By leveraging this expertise, the project complied with the Guaranteed Energy Savings Act of PA. PennSEF also provided access to financing for all projects, which is typically costly for small municipalities to access on their own. Keystone Lighting Solutions served as DVRPC's technical advisor and worked one-on-one with several municipalities to provide additional technical expertise towards decision making in the process. Johnson Controls Inc. is the Energy Services Company servicing the first round of the project.

The 35 participating local governments are:

**Bucks County (7)** – Bensalem Township, Buckingham Township, Middletown Township, New Britain Township, New Hope Borough, Newtown Borough, Warrington Township

**Chester County (3)** – Kennett Square Borough, Phoenixville Borough, Uwchlan Township

**Delaware County (14)** – Aston Township, Brookhaven Borough, Collingdale Borough, Darby Borough, East Lansdowne Borough, Glenolden Borough, Lansdowne Borough, Marcus Hook Borough, Media Borough, Millbourne Borough, Morton Borough, Newtown Township, Rutledge Borough, Yeadon Borough

**Montgomery County (11)** – Cheltenham Township, Hatfield Township, Jenkintown Borough, Lansdale Borough, Lower Moreland Township, Lower Pottsgrove Township, Schwenksville Borough, Springfield Township, Towamencin Township, Upper Dublin Township, Whitemarsh Township

The announcement was made at a press conference and reception at WESCO Distribution, Inc. in Eagleville, PA, where the program partners had a behind-the-scenes look at the new LED lights and technology.

The event featured Hon. Joe Torsella, PA State Treasurer; Hon. Valerie Arkoosh, MD, MPH, Chair of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners and DVRPC Board; Barry Seymour, DVRPC Executive Director; Stephanie Teoli Kuhls, Township Manager, Middletown Township, Bucks County; Dr. John Byrne, Chairman and President of the Foundation for Renewable Energy and Environment. Also in attendance were representatives from the 35 participating communities, Keystone Lighting Solutions, Johnson Controls, and other environmental and energy experts.

#### **About DVRPC**

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission is dedicated to uniting the region's elected officials, planning professionals and the public with the common vision of making a great region even greater. Shaping the way we live, work and play, DVRPC builds consensus on improving transportation, promoting smart growth, protecting the environment, and enhancing the economy. We serve a diverse region of nine counties: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia in Pennsylvania; and Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Mercer in New Jersey. DVRPC is the official metropolitan planning organization for the Greater Philadelphia Region - leading the way to a better future. For more information, visit [www.dvrpc.org](http://www.dvrpc.org).

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