

COUNTY *of* UNION

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Union County Adopts C-PACE Resolution

Lewisburg, PA: On Tuesday, June 7th, 2022 the Union County Commissioners at their regularly scheduled meeting unanimously approved a Resolution to implement Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE). The commissioners approved C-PACE to help owners of commercial property access long-term loans to pay for renewable energy systems, energy efficient equipment, and fixtures that reduce water consumption.

Work on adoption of C-PACE began earlier this year in April when representatives of a local business and the Sustainable Energy Fund (SEF) introduced the program to the county and requested that C-PACE be considered. The Commissioners also discussed the program at meetings in May at which time notices of intent to adopt the program were sent to all county municipalities.

The Board of Commissioners adopted the C-PACE resolution and authorized the County to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with SEF for the administration of the Program. The program administration will include the adoption of Program Guidelines and a fee structure to cover the county's limited administrative costs.

"Now that a Resolution has been passed, Union County commercial businesses, agricultural interests, and not-for-profits, with the aid of private capital providers, will be able to finance clean energy and water efficiency projects. The C-PACE program, offering as much as 100% financing, will save local constituents money and energy", said Commissioner Chairman Jeff Reber.

"Sustainable Energy Fund is proud to offer its 20 years of experience in clean energy lending to Union County, allowing them to take advantage of this powerful finance tool for bringing investment, jobs and clean energy to their communities," said John Costlow, President of SEF.

Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (CPACE) is a financial tool for property owners to obtain low-cost, long-term financing for energy efficiency, renewable energy and water conservation projects. C-PACE can facilitate a loan from private capital sources for a project by placing a voluntary special payment on the property's annual tax bill that repays the cost of the upgrades. In Pennsylvania, C-PACE investment could help retrofit one of the nation's oldest building stocks and accelerate growth in a local energy efficiency industry that already accounts for over 65,000 jobs.

“Union County is pleased to join many counties across the United States, including 17 in Pennsylvania, that are encouraging and supporting the construction and renovation of commercial buildings to be more energy and water efficient,” said Commissioner Stacy Richards. Richards also noted that utility scale solar would not be eligible for this financing.

“It seemed like a win-win program if it can help local business and industry adapt buildings and new construction projects to include more energy and water conservation efficiency while not creating additional liability for the county”, added Commissioner Preston Boop.

For more information on program development, program guidelines, and links to the preapplication, visit <https://unioncountypace.org>. If you have a project and would like assistance finding a contractor or capital provider, contact SEF at (610) 264-4440.