



Elk County
Community Recycling Center



WPPSEF
WEST PENN POWER
SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY FUND

For immediate release

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Elk County Community Recycling Center to Assess Renewable Energy Biomass System in New St. Marys Facility with a Grant From West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund

March 22, 2016 - Elk County's recycling program received a \$15,000 grant from West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund (WPPSEF) to assess the biomass system at its new Community Recycling Center. The biomass furnace in the building was used as a test furnace, and redesign is necessary to convert it to the primary heating source for the facility.

The county purchased the former Advanced Recycling Equipment building in St. Marys, PA earlier this year to provide residents and businesses with a larger, more efficient location for the recycling program. The center is expected to be relocated by late spring, and upgrades to the biomass system are planned before the 2016-17 heating season.

"This grant will go a long way in helping us redesign the existing system to be as efficient as possible," said Elk County Community Recycling Coordinator Bekki Titchner. "It is an essential first step, and we are extremely grateful to WPPSEF for their support of this project."

Titchner also noted that the biomass system would be part of the recycling department's public education efforts. "The biomass project provides us with an opportunity to add a renewable energy education component to our existing education programs."

"Biomass is a efficient but a relatively unfamiliar sustainable energy source and WPPSEF is proud to help the Elk County Community Recycling Center determine how to best use this existing biomass boiler to heat their facility and to help educate Elk County residents" says Joel Morrison, WPPSEF Director.

The **Elk County Community Recycling Center** is a not-for-profit operation that provides among the most comprehensive recycling services in the northern tier of PA. The center serves both the public and the commercial/industrial sector, and offers outlets for traditional recycling as well as Universal Waste, Household Hazardous Waste and electronics. Visit <http://www.co.elk.pa.us/recycling/> for more information.

The **West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund (WPPSEF)** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that invests in the deployment of sustainable energy technologies that benefit West Penn Power ratepayers in Pennsylvania. WPPSEF investments are focused in three broad categories:

- ✓ Deployment of sustainable and clean energy technologies;
 - ✓ Deployment of energy efficiency and conservation technologies; and
 - ✓ Facilitating economic development, environmental betterment, and public education as they relate to sustainable energy deployment in the WPP service region.
- Visit <http://www.wppsef.org> for further information.

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