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Warrington Commits to Clean Energy

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Warrington has officially joined the fight against the effects of pollution and global warming by committing Tuesday night to using 20 percent clean energy by 2010.

The township is one of 20 municipalities in Southeastern Pennsylvania selected by the nonprofit organization Smart Power for participation in the Pennsylvania Clean Energy Communities Campaign.

The board of supervisors presented Smart Power's Pennsylvania program coordinator Molly Tsongas with a resolution declaring its commitment to the program at a meeting Tuesday night.

"Warrington seeks to take measures to improve air quality," said Chairman Glenn McKay. Efforts to achieve the goals laid out by Smart Power would begin this year and increase toward the year 2010, he said.

In addition to its commitment to using 20 percent clean energy, the township must also have 200 residents sign up to purchase clean energy. Tsongas said she will work with the township to implement a community outreach program to help in achieving this goal. She said the biggest obstacle is making residents aware that alternate power sources are available to them.

In 2010, if Warrington has met its commitments, the township will receive a solar energy system valued at \$10,000, to be installed free of charge for use in any building.

Tsongas congratulated the township, saying that residents would now have "a bunch of envious neighbors."

The Pennsylvania Clean Energy Communities Campaign is part of Smart Power's nationwide marketing campaign designed to encourage community action in response to pollution and global warming. A partnership between the Sustainable Development Fund and Smart Power, the Pennsylvania campaign seeks to assist communities in purchasing and promoting clean energy.

The Warrington Environmental Advisory Board originally brought the Smart Power program to the supervisors' attention. The advisory board will act as a task force, not

only ensuring that the Smart Power goals are met but also investigating clean air options and making recommendations to the board of supervisors as necessary.

The task force will encourage all businesses and households to adopt the goals and purpose of the campaign by purchasing clean energy, McKay said.

As defined by Smart Power for the purposes of the campaign, Warrington's clean energy must originate within Pennsylvania. Additionally, it must produce little or no harmful air, water and land pollution, come from constantly replenishing sources and be generated from facilities built after March 1, 2005.

Clean energy is now locally available from The Energy Cooperative, Peco Energy Co. and Native Energy.