

ESMEC
Eastern Shore of Maryland Educational Consortium
ENERGY TRUST

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PRESS RELEASE

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EDUCATIONAL ENERGY TRUST CONTINUES TO BRING SAVINGS ON ELECTRICITY PURCHASES TO MEMBERS

Centreville, MD (August 1, 2004). The Eastern Shore of Maryland Educational Consortium (“ESMEC”) Energy Trust continues to place member electricity accounts with competitive electricity suppliers. The most recent bidding of accounts conducted this spring yielded an additional **\$123,000** of projected savings, resulting in nearly **two million dollars** in savings since the start of the program.

In addition to the nine original founding boards of education, the local governments of Caroline, Cecil Dorchester, Somerset and Queen Anne's counties, Chesapeake College and Wor-Wic Community College joined the energy consortium increasing the Trust's membership to sixteen tax-supported governmental entities on the Eastern Shore.

Non-residential electric customers who do not choose an alternative electricity provider are served through "market-based pricing", which is the current default electric supply service provided by Conectiv. The ESMEC Energy Trust was established by the Eastern Shore of Maryland Educational Consortium (ESMEC), for the cooperative procurement of electricity, fuels and related services on behalf of the Energy Trust participants. A stated purpose under the Trust Agreement provides:

“...the Founding Boards of Education wish to take advantage of the deregulated electricity marketplace...by establishing the ESMEC Energy Trust as a Maryland trust for the purposes of considering, promoting, facilitating, coordinating and administering the collective procurement of electricity, fuels and related services for the Founding Boards of Education and Participants...”.

Participation in the Energy Trust is open to governmental entities with an interest in the collective procurement of electricity, fuels and related services for their own benefit/use, including boards of education; county and municipal governments; community colleges; other public entities and certain nonprofit or non-stock corporations.

The ESMEC Energy Trust is organized to facilitate the purchase of electricity, fuels and related services by organizing and analyzing participant load and usage data, developing a concerted request for proposals (RFP), coordinating (packaging and timing) the marketing of participant energy demands and advising participants regarding supply contract terms and conditions. The Energy Trust does not take ownership of the electricity or other fuels. Bids for electric supply are continually solicited based on market conditions.

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