



Greater Washington County
FOOD BANK

*Our mission is to feed hungry people,
increase public awareness about hunger,
and to educate people about nutrition*



WPPSEF

WEST PENN POWER
SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY FUND

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**Greater Washington County Food Bank received \$15,000 grant for
comprehensive energy assessment from West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund**

May 15, 2019 – Greater Washington County Food Bank (GWCFB) received approval of a grant from West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund (WPPSEF) to obtain a comprehensive energy assessment of the 26,000 square foot facility that houses the Food Bank and its associated endeavors, Healthy Habits Training Center, Country Thrift Market, and “The Farm”.

WPPSEF approved the grant for the purpose of identifying and correcting energy inefficiencies laying the groundwork for the installation of a solar ground array that will help offset an annual \$35,000 in electrical expense. Energy-efficient upgrades will be implemented over the summer. GWCFB hopes to capitalize on renewable energy sources to reduce our demand for electricity.

GWCFB relocated to Centerville Borough in the fall of 2015, having acquired a former grocery store and produce distribution center. With the stroke of a pen, we tripled our space. The following year, we tripled our nutritional distributions to families in need.

With the current low-interest rates and a mortgage payment comparable to rent, ownership made perfect sense. The bonus was 22 farmable acres that have caused us to accelerate programming to include hydroponic / aquaponics vegetable production.

Thirty-five years of delivering nutrition to families is now being augmented by agricultural / food production opportunities for students, interns, and community members. We like to think our services wrap around individual needs. For immediate relief, GWCFB delivers nutrition. For tomorrow’s interview, Country Thrift Market provides a clean suit of clothing. Healthy Habits Training Center is empowering clients by providing the tools for success. “The Farm” offers endless wholesome opportunity to learn, explore, and absorb all that is good.

“Washington County has an estimated 25,000 people who are food insecure. The energy audit will provide a plan to better understand the GWCFB energy use within the facility and to prioritize actions to reduce their operating costs. The money saved from energy efficiency improvements will allow the GWCFB to increase services, trainings, and the availability of healthy foods, local produce and products available to the community”, said Joel Morrison, WPPSEF Director.

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. [YouTube](#) – Listen to what our project partners have to say about us.

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