



For immediate release

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**Elk County's Community Recycling Center receives
West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund (WPPSEF) grant for biomass system upgrades**

Nov. 17, 2021 - Elk County's recycling program received a \$37,800 grant from West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund (WPPSEF) to improve the performance of its biomass furnace by upgrading the furnace controls.

The county purchased the former Advanced Recycling Equipment building in St. Marys, PA five years ago for its community recycling center, and since that time has worked with the WPPSEF on numerous occasions to upgrade the existing biomass system. The system is now the facility's main source of heat.

This grant will provide funding to reconfigure and update furnace controls, a much-needed step in making the operation of the biomass system as efficient and trouble-free as possible.

"The biomass furnace was originally designed by Advanced Recycling many years ago to test various feed stocks, and its controls are proprietary and very much outdated," said county recycling coordinator Bekki Titchner. "The goal of this project is to install a system that is simple to operate and simple to maintain."

In addition to providing the facility with a wonderful source of heat, the recycling department has included the biomass system in its public education efforts. Every tour includes an explanation of the biomass, how it operates and where fuel is sourced for the furnace. "The biomass system provides us with an opportunity to add a renewable energy education component to our existing education programs," she added.

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.

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