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City of Powell Takes Next Step in Solar Power Retrofit Project

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Powell, OH: The City of Powell is one step closer to completing its \$821,000 solar energy retrofit project, officially placing its ad seeking design/build firms to complete the work involved.

The City was notified in March that it would receive an \$821,861 grant from the Ohio Department of Development for a major lighting retrofit that includes the installation of LED and light sensors, as well as a 77-kilowatt solar electric system on the roof of the Municipal Building and energy-efficient improvements to the Parks and Recreation facility. The grant is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's "Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant: Local Governments" program.

"The firm chosen for this project must be able to complete the full range of services, or team with the appropriate subcontractors necessary to complete the design and construction phases of the project," said Eric Fischer, the City's development planner.

Project phases include the installation of approximately 315 fluorescent fixtures, 30 incandescent fixtures and 33 high-pressure sodium fixtures to LED technology. The project also includes the installation of roof modules, light control motion sensors, programmable thermostats, replacement windows and insulation.

The new system is expected to generate an estimated annual savings of \$18,500, according to Fischer. The grant requires the project to be completed by Dec. 31, 2011, though Fischer said he expects it to be done by summer.

Bids will be received through Jan. 31. A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for Jan. 10 at the Municipal Building (47 Hall St.).

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