

## Executive Director's Report November 2024

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**DelDOT collaboration on Charging Stations** – I met with DelDOT last week to discuss their charging network plans and how we may be able to collaborate on their Phase 3 and 4 community charging network plans. The next step is to share gaps in service areas and work towards an action plan in underserved areas of our state.

**Fire Blankets** – As approved at the September board meeting, we have purchased vehicle fire blankets for all fire companies in the state and expect delivery in early December. There was one adjustment to our order in that we had originally omitted the three fire schools from receiving blankets. Since the trainings will likely take place at the fire schools, we included three additional blankets. The total cost was less than \$210,000. There will be an invitation to the Board to attend the trainings once the blankets are received.

**Performance Contracting** – We have interest from three school districts and one state building to implement an Energy Savings Performance Contract. This program helps us achieve our overall energy reduction goals by supporting state buildings with energy efficiency upgrades, such as HVAC systems. In addition, the school districts would be able to participate in our solar for schools grant program.

**Solar for Nonprofits** – The Board approved changing the name of the Solar for Libraries grant program to Solar for Nonprofits. The grant program's updated guidelines and application have been completed and the first round of grants should be awarded before our next board meeting. The grant application window will be opened twice a year – 60 days before March 31<sup>st</sup> and 60 days before September 30<sup>th</sup>. This will help us budget for future grant cycles.

**Business Technical Assistance Program** – We started this program to assist businesses in understanding the cost and savings of efficient equipment. Recently, we found a 200,000 square foot project that, if they go through energy efficiency with a small solar offset, can achieve net zero, save 25,000 tons of carbon, and be cashflow positive by \$100,000 in Year 1.

**Value of Solar Study** – Gabel and Associates continues to work with the utilities to gather data in preparation for the Value of Solar Study report due in December.

**Energy Orbit** – We are working on a second phase to update the Energy Orbit software, which will allow us to better utilize charts, graphs, and data points in an effort to show the Board progress made on our energy reduction goals. We hope to have this completed before the next Board meeting in January.

**Energy Savings Dashboard** – Similar to Sussex Academy, I am looking into whether an interactive dashboard exists to share emissions reduction, carbon captured, carbon avoided, dollars saved, and other metrics. I hope to report back to the Board at the January meeting.

**Embodied Carbon** – I was able to attend an embodied carbon webinar to learn more about the CO2 emissions avoided through building processes, which includes steel, concrete, and other materials. While there are few companies in Delaware working on sustainable building materials, my hope is to connect with some of the businesses in the region to determine if there is a way to incorporate their materials in our building projects, such as our affordable multifamily program.