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# Press Release

## Clinton County Takes Step to Reduce Energy Costs and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

**St. Johns, MI, December, 2011:** Clinton County seeks to be a mid-Michigan leader in the use of new lighting technologies. Recently awarded an \$87,121 grant from the Michigan Energy Office, county government is replacing 166 outdoor and 37 indoor conventional light fixtures with new energy-efficient light-emitting diode (LED) fixtures.

The lighting project will take place on three county properties and involve the County Courthouse, Sheriff's Office/Jail, Health Department, Building and Grounds Facility and the beach house at Motz County Park. The project, entitled *Clinton County Lighting the Way*, will reduce annual electric utility and fixture maintenance costs, as well as reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with county government operations.

The Energy Office grant was made possible with funds made available by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The grant covers 67% of the total project cost of \$129, 519.

"LED lighting is 50 to 80 percent more efficient than conventional lights, depending on what kind of technology you're replacing," said Lynn Beck, Grant Administrator with the Michigan Energy Office in the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. "The new light fixtures will provide the same amount of illumination as the current fixtures at far less energy use and cost."

**For Immediate Release**

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"Clinton County's *Lighting the Way* project was selected for funding because the project involves a large number and variety of lighting applications: even the Courthouse clock cupola, a highly visible and attractive architectural feature, will be illuminated by LED lamps," Beck said. "This is a demonstration grant for new lighting technologies and the Clinton County project certainly meets this funding objective."

LED lighting is one of several new energy-efficient lighting technologies that are only now becoming available in the marketplace. Most people are familiar with LED flashlights and Christmas tree lights, however, technology improvements needed to move from novelty items to regular residential and commercial lighting applications are a recent development.

"Clinton County has been watching the development of LED lighting technology for the past couple of years and is pleased to undertake the first known large-scale commercial application of the technology in mid-Michigan," said Blaine Stevens, Clinton County Building and Grounds Director. The *Lighting the Way* project is one of several energy conservation projects Clinton County has undertaken in the recent past in an effort to reduce increasing electric and gas utility costs.

Stevens indicated that an accurate dollar savings amount from the project will not be known until after two years operational experience; however, Medler Electric estimates the annual electric savings to be around \$20,000. Even without grant funding, the project would pay for itself from utility savings in as little as six years, which Stevens considers a very acceptable period of time.

The LED lamps, purchased from Medler Electric in Lansing, were manufactured by Lumecon of Farmington Hills, MI. Installation is being handled by C&K Electric of St. Johns, MI. County officials are pleased that the project supports Michigan-based employers and the local economy.

Lumecon Project Engineer Michael Woznicki said, "Besides energy savings, Clinton County can look forward to significant maintenance savings because LED lamps don't burn out like traditional incandescent, fluorescent or metal-halide lamps. The new lights come with a 7-year guarantee against material and workmanship

defects. If a lamp exhibits greater than 30% degradation in light output or more than 5% of the LEDs have totally failed, a replacement lamp will be provided without cost to the county.”

Woznicki indicated that one additional advantage of LED fixtures is that they are designed to reduce or eliminate glare on non-targeted nearby buildings or up into the sky. “People living near project properties will notice and welcome the difference,” he said.

“Clinton County is proud of what it has been able to achieve in reduced electric and natural gas utility usage over the past five years,” said Ryan Wood, Clinton County Administrator. “The County Board of Commissioners has consistently demonstrated wise stewardship of the fiscal resources entrusted to its care. The LED lighting replacement project is the County’s most recent example of providing efficient and sustainable public services to its residents.”

For more information about Clinton County sustainability initiatives, visit [Clinton-County.Org/Government/BoardofCommissioners/GreenGovernment.aspx](http://Clinton-County.Org/Government/BoardofCommissioners/GreenGovernment.aspx).

The Michigan Energy Office is part of the Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF), which receives administrative services from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. The MEDC, a public-private partnership serving as the state's marketing arm and lead agency for business, talent and jobs, focuses on helping grow Michigan's economy. For more on the MEDC and its initiatives, visit: [MichiganAdvantage.Org](http://MichiganAdvantage.Org).