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News Release

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Waste oil furnaces just one of County's many green initiatives

NEW KENT VIRGINIA, APRIL 28, 2009: In an effort to increase efficiency and save money, New Kent County installed an environmentally friendly waste oil furnace earlier this month in the Vehicle Maintenance Facility. The furnace is the first of many in the pilot project devised by the County's General Services Department that will utilize "used oil" to heat County buildings. The 250,000 BTU burners installed are expected to perform at a level that eliminates the use of three propane heaters used previously to heat the Vehicle Maintenance Facility.

The Vehicle Maintenance Facility's waste oil furnace will make use of oil collected from the vehicles serviced at the building. Additional waste oil furnaces and boilers will be installed and they will utilize oil collected from the County's refuse sites. General Services Maintenance Supervisor David Bednarczyk said that in the past year, New Kent collected 14,000 gallons of waste oil, which would be sufficient to power up to 14 units on a typical 120-day heating cycle. The units will run off of anything, including transmission fluid and used cooking oil, and are EPA and UL rated Bednarczyk explained.

"The Vehicle Maintenance Facility has a 500-gallon waste collection tank that will easily supply the fuel needed to heat the main garage area," said General Services Director James Tacosa. "If the heating time per day is eight hours, the burner will consume approximately 14 gallons per day. Fuel cost from this point will be zero," he said. The furnace has an Energy

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Star label and a return on investment in the project is predicted in less than two years.

"It is imperative that New Kent County initiate long term strategies that will lead to energy independence as the global market price of fuels increase," Tacosa said.

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