

Montgomery County Council approves resolution on wind turbines

Leventhal hopes vote inspires private industry

County News | Erin Cunningham

The Montgomery County Council approved a resolution Tuesday that supports the state's potential use of offshore wind power as a source of renewable energy.

The resolution, sponsored by Councilman George L. Leventhal (D-At large) of Takoma Park, encourages the Maryland General Assembly to pass legislation requiring the state's Public Service Commission to direct public utilities to enter into long-term contracts for offshore wind power, a news release states.

The council voted unanimously to support Leventhal's resolution.

In November, Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley (D) and the Maryland Energy Administration joined the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement in an effort to bring offshore wind power generation off the coast of Maryland.

O'Malley has said his goal is to generate 20 percent of the state's energy from renewable sources by 2022.

"This is the future," Leventhal said in the release. "These turbines could eventually supply one-third of the electric needed by Mid-Atlantic states with zero emissions. I hope the support the Montgomery Council demonstrated today helps inspire private industry to pursue establishment of offshore wind power as a significant part of our nation's long-term plan to provide energy through clean and renewable sources."

Montgomery County currently purchases about 25 percent of its electricity from wind power.

County provides Christmas tree recycling

Christmas trees can be recycled from Dec. 27 to Feb. 4 on county residents' regularly scheduled recycling days.

The trees should be placed at the curb by 7 a.m.

After Feb. 4, Christmas trees may be recycled through the county's curbside yard trim recycling collection program, a news release states.

After Christmas trees are collected for recycling, they are shredded into mulch that will be available in February and March at county-operated Neighborhood Mulch Preserves.

The preserves are located at: Montgomery County Recycling Center, 16105 Frederick Road in the Derwood/Rockville/Gaithersburg area, and at E.E. Halmos Park in Poolesville. The mulch is free.