



MARTHA'S VINEYARD HOSPITAL

One Hospital Road • P.O. Box 1477 • Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Contact: Rachel Vanderhoop, Development Office • Tel: 508 693-4645 • www.mvhospital.com

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Martha's Vineyard Hospital Awarded Grant to Save Energy Costs

Foundations for the new Martha's Vineyard Hospital won't be poured until spring, but already the hospital has big plans for the rooftops.

This week, the hospital received notice from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC), the state's development agency for renewable energy and the innovation economy, that the hospital will receive a \$198,000 design and construction grant for solar electric panels atop the new building.

The \$370,000 project calls for 200 photovoltaic panels on south-facing roof surfaces of the new hospital, with a peak generative capacity of about 44 kilowatts. When completed, it will be the largest solar electric installation in Island history.

Tim Walsh, hospital president and CEO, noted in announcing the grant that Martha's Vineyard Hospital plans to seek a silver rating for its new building from LEED, the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program of the U.S. Green Building Council. If this effort is successful, the Island's hospital will be one of just a handful of hospitals in the United States to receive this high level of certification for earth-friendly design and construction.

"During our capital campaign for funds to construct the new hospital," Mr. Walsh said, "we heard clearly from the Island community that our supporters wanted a high-performance, environmentally responsible facility. Our pursuit of a grant for solar electric power is part of our effort to build a new hospital that shows we care not only about our community, but also about our environment."

LEED standards cover a broad range of building criteria, from water efficiency and indoor environmental quality to energy efficiency and good stewardship of materials and resources. The LEED rating system is the most respected independent measure of projects that meet the highest green building and performance standards. Said Mr. Walsh, "That's why we're pursuing certification, and that's why we're delighted to have won this competitive grant from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative."

The rooftop solar panels will be one of the final touches atop the new hospital, which is slated for completion late in 2009. But the designers and builders have been incorporating green practices throughout the project from the very outset. When trees had to be removed for a new entrance drive, they were dug up and replanted rather than chopped down. To recharge rainwater into the ground, a system of leaching basins is being built. And during the construction process, more than 75 percent of all building waste is being recycled.

Concluded Mr. Walsh, "The mission of Martha's Vineyard Hospital is to safeguard the health of Island residents with high-quality, accessible medical care. We're convinced that a greener building is a healthier building — for our staff, our patients and ultimately our community. So in the end, we want the way we build this new hospital to be a statement about the values of the institution that occupies it."