



## News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **Knox County Ceremony to Launch \$16.2 Million in Infrastructure Improvements**

-- High Performance Upgrades Will Reduce Energy Costs by 36 Percent --

**Knoxville, Tenn., Aug. 18, 2009** — Even with autumn just around the corner, it seems that nearly everything in Knox County is going green. Knox County administrators are undertaking \$16.2 million in improvements to address aging infrastructure and high energy and operating costs. The county will combine anticipated energy and operational savings with \$2.1 million in U.S. Dept. of Energy Tennessee Block Grant Funds to fund the improvements.

When completed, the improvements will reduce the county's energy costs an estimated 36 percent by upgrading and enhancing infrastructure in 40 facilities, 24 parks and 37 traffic intersections. The improvements are also expected to add county jobs, create one of the nation's largest solar farms and significantly reduce the county's environmental impact while providing a more productive and comfortable environment for county employees and residents who use county services.

Over the 15-year life of the program as it was approved by the Knox County commission, the county will save an estimated \$29 million, more than covering the program's \$27 million cost. This total cost includes: \$16.2 million in infrastructure upgrades, \$7.5 million in maintenance and repair services and allotments for debt service and measurement and verification services. The resulting project requires no new tax dollars.

#### **Ceremony and Reception Will Launch Improvements**

A ceremony and reception will be held to formally launch the infrastructure improvements on **Monday, Aug. 24, at 11 a.m.** at Lawson McGhee Library, 500 West Church Ave., Knoxville, Tenn.

"These improvements will generate benefits throughout the county for taxpayers, county employees, jobs seekers, the environment and the economy," said Mayor Mike Ragsdale. "Knox County's reputation as an environmental steward will be stronger than ever."

By implementing this project, Knox County government leaders also anticipate that they will maintain and/or create 176 sustainable county jobs based on the latest United States Department of Energy job creation calculations.

The improvements will have a significant positive environmental impact, equivalent to removing 2,329 passenger vehicles from Knox County roads, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) greenhouse gas equivalence calculator.

#### **Improvements Address County Goals**

Before selecting energy conservation measures, Knox County government leaders conducted a comprehensive energy and utility analysis of county facilities. Using these detailed results of energy and utility consumption, they modeled various energy conservation measures to calculate the best potential solutions.

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The selected improvements address the business objectives identified at the outset by Knox County administrators:

- Eliminate up-front capital costs
- Update aging infrastructure
- Reduce operating costs
- Reduce the county's environmental impact
- Incorporate alternative energy solutions
- Create local jobs
- Protect the county's investment

The project is anticipated to be funded by a block grant and by a performance contract, which is a package of products and services customized to building requirements to deliver significant energy and operating cost reductions.

One of the most significant planned improvements is a solar farm which will be completed later this year. As one of the nation's largest solar thermal hot water installations, the solar farm will feature 300 solar collectors with 13,978 gallons of hot water produced and stored each day.

The improvements also incorporate agreements for maintenance and repair services for many of the county's facilities, turning them into long-term fixed costs. The maintenance and repair services will protect the county's assets and assist the county with efficient long-term operation and with EPA regulatory compliance for refrigerant management and disposal.

### **Customized Solutions Incorporated Throughout County**

A variety of customized solutions were selected to address the county's needs. Improvements to county facilities will include upgrading lighting systems in nearly all buildings for greater efficiency. Water conserving system upgrades are also planned for more than a quarter of the county's buildings. Nearly all of the buildings will receive upgraded controls or building automation systems for greater efficiency, centralized control and remote access.

High efficiency heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems will also be installed to replace aging and/or outdated systems in approximately a quarter of the buildings. Administrators have also selected low maintenance, highly efficient LED (light emitting diode) traffic signals for 37 county intersections.

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### **About Knox County**

Knox County is an East Tennessee community with more than 425,000 citizens located across the county's 526 square miles. The county is located in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, and is home to the University of Tennessee, the Tennessee Valley Authority and Scripps Television Networks. Also located nearby is Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The county's public school system serves more than 55,000 students in 87 schools. Both the public library and public health systems are rated among the state's highest. The county's six senior centers provide services to the county's 70,000 residents over the ages of 60. The county's parks and recreation department maintains more than 5,700 acres of park space and nearly 90 miles of greenway and walking trails. Local law enforcement officials daily ensure the safety of the county's citizens, located across the county's 526 square miles.

### **About Trane**

Trane, a business of Ingersoll Rand - the world leader in creating and sustaining safe, comfortable and energy efficient environments - improves the performance of homes and buildings around the world. Trane solutions optimize indoor environments with a broad portfolio of energy efficient heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems, building and contracting services, parts support and advanced controls for homes and commercial buildings. For more information, visit [www.Trane.com](http://www.Trane.com).

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