

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. C(2)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: May 19, 2009

TITLE: A Request to Adopt a Budget Amendment

DEPARTMENT: Economic and Community Development	PUBLIC HEARING: NO
ATTACHMENTS: A: Budget Ordinance	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: James Harris 918-7319

PURPOSE

The Board is requested to approve a budget amendment appropriating \$1,500 in donated revenue from Duke Energy for the Town Commons Solar Sign Lighting demonstration Project.

INFORMATION

At a Board of Aldermen retreat the Board expressed an interest in developing strategies to develop green job training and green jobs for Carrboro citizens. With that in mind, there have been many conversations between Town staff and other local government staff, community colleges and none profits about how this might happen. One strategy that has been developed is a partnership between the Town and Orange County Communities In Schools to develop a summer camp to introduce rising tenth graders from Orange County Green industries and associated jobs. Fifty (50) students participated in the Green Awakening Summer Camp last year. The students were taken to NC State University., Duke University and North Carolina Central University to experience, first hand, the courses of studies that they offer and to see what potential careers existed. The students, during the program, built solar cars, solar ovens and wind turbines. The project was funded by a \$150,000 grant from The Department of Public Instruction. The program was so successful that it was funded again for a 2009 summer camp. This year the program will be expanded to include the students assisting with the installation of a solar light at the Farmers' Market site. This will be a hands on project that they and other students from local schools can use as a learning tool.

Once again this solar demonstration project has been funded by Duke Energy and the installation will be supervised by Solar Tech a local green energy company that started in Carrboro and is now located on 15-501 South By-Pass.

FISCAL IMPACT

The financial contribution pays for the full cost of this demonstration project.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the budget ordinance as requested.