

Broward County News Release

A Service of the Board of County Commissioners, Broward County, Florida

Protection That Pays!

- County installs new lightning protection unit that also results in energy savings -

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BROWARD COUNTY, FL - Florida has a well-earned reputation as the lightning capital of the United States, and Broward County spends large sums of money on systems to protect government facilities from catastrophic lightning, power spikes and surges. Recently, as part of the County's Green Showcase at Government Center West, new equipment was installed that not only provides 24/7 protection against lightning strikes, but also helps save on energy costs and further reduce the building's carbon footprint.

The PowerGUARD™ unit from POM Energy Concepts is expected to save enough in energy costs to result in a payback of the County's investment in less than three years. The unit incorporates unique magnetic choke technology that acts as a sort of "electrical shock absorber" to store energy that is typically wasted, and return it to your electrical distribution system. This helps to reduce the amount of energy needed from the utility. It also bears the Electrical Testing Laboratory (ETI) listing for spike and surge suppression including lightning. Extended operational life and reliability of electrical equipment is an added benefit.

"We're excited to have the opportunity to be part of the County's Green Initiative." said POM Energy Concept's President Peter Chiaravalle. "The PowerGUARD™ technology could be a part of the County's 20 percent by 2020 energy reduction goal while protecting against lightning and improving power quality."

Broward County's Green Showcase is a model for public-private collaborations that furthers the adoption of renewable energy technologies and sustainable building practices and demonstrates, through the installation and use of those technologies, how members of the community can benefit from doing the same.

Recently, POM moved production of its PowerGUARD™ units from New York to **Weston**, thus helping provide jobs in Broward County.

About the Government Center West Green Showcase

Through the installation of new technologies coupled with a dedication to green, sustainable practices, the GCW Green Showcase project showcases renewable energy technologies and sustainable building practices to the public, and serves as a model for public-private collaboration while reducing the building's carbon footprint.

For more information, visit our [website](#).

About Planning and Redevelopment

The **Planning and Redevelopment Division** leads and participates in multiple programs, including managing the County's sustainability and redevelopment planning initiatives; coordinating corridor redevelopment plans that will increase the tax base; preparing and administering elements of the Broward County Comprehensive Plan; participating in municipal and unincorporated area redevelopment; coordinating the implementation of Complete Streets; supporting the County's renewable energy and climate resiliency initiatives; promoting compliance with community standards in unincorporated areas through enforcement of applicable zoning codes and regulations; administering the Broward County Land Development Code; and overseeing site plan review for the unincorporated area. The Division also evaluates rezoning requests, land use plan amendments and land use compatibility reviews; maintains demographic and economic databases; conducts research and analyses; develops Geographic Information System (GIS) applications; and coordinates the County's GIS Program. For more information visit our [website](#).

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