



NEWS RELEASE

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## **Commissioners Approve C-PACE Program; Make it Easier for Property Owners to Finance Efficient, Renewable Projects**

*Westmoreland becomes the 14th county in the state to approve C-PACE*

GREENSBURG, PA, June 10, 2021 — Westmoreland County Commissioners Sean Kertes, Doug Chew and Gina Cerilli-Thrasher today approved the creation of a countywide Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) program that will make it easier for the owners of commercial, industrial and agricultural properties to obtain low-cost, long-term financing from private lenders for efficient equipment, renewable energy and water-conservation projects.

“C-PACE is going to make it easier for Westmoreland property owners to finance energy efficiency projects,” said Chairman Kertes. “We expect that it will breathe new life into older buildings as they’re retrofit to become efficient, desirable workplaces. That’s going to increase property values and help make Westmoreland an even better place to do business.”

[C-PACE is a financial tool](#) that can provide up to 100 percent of funding of total project costs by enabling property owners to repay a private loan through an additional assessment. Funding is available for existing buildings as well as the development of commercial, industrial, nonprofit and agricultural properties.

C-PACE does not decrease a property owners’ tax obligation. It adds a special lien to the property, which makes these loans more secure and attractive to the private lenders who finance C-PACE projects.

Commissioners approved the nonprofit [Sustainable Energy Fund](#) (SEF) as the county C-PACE administrator. As such, SEF will be responsible for reviewing and certifying C-PACE applications and collecting C-PACE payments from the Treasurer’s office and remitting them to the private lenders who financed the work. There is no cost to the county. Rather, SEF’s administrative fee is built into the application process.

“This is an exciting, forward-looking program,” said Vice Chairman Chew. “Not only does it help property owners finance upgrades, it benefits our communities by having existing properties — including those that are vacant or blighted — retrofit into modern workplaces. On top of that, it will stimulate economic activity through the renovation and construction work.”

According to the federal Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, more than \$800 million in projects have been financed in more than 35 states through C-PACE adoption.

The financing tool was signed into law in Pennsylvania in 2018. Westmoreland is the [14th county in the commonwealth](#) to establish a C-PACE program.

“We’re helping property owners make investments that they otherwise might not have been able to finance,” said Secretary Cerilli-Thrasher. “This is great incentive to make upgrades that will benefit them — and our communities — in the long run.”

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