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Montgomery plan cuts energy use

Washington Business Journal - by [Vandana Sinha](#) Staff Reporter

Montgomery County officials will reduce their energy consumption in county buildings by 4 percent starting in July, and the cutback is expected to result in \$1.1 million in savings during the next fiscal year, according to a plan backed unanimously by the County Council.

The proposal was offered this week by council Vice President Roger Berliner, D-District 1, who argued that a formal directive was necessary to effect real change.

“It is about changing the behavior of individuals and departments. It is about making people give a little more thought to how they can better treat the environment, often with just minimal effort and sacrifice,” Berliner said. “We can demonstrate how energy can be saved, and hopefully, it will lead to businesses and individual residents taking similar steps.”

The savings figure is based on an energy analysis of all county government buildings conducted by the county’s Department of General Services. The 4 percent energy reduction goal may require some lower-cost equipment retrofitting.

“As we work toward adopting an operating budget for the next fiscal year, we have been eyeing areas where we can save money while also protecting the environment,” said Council President Phil Andrews. “This is an initiative that meets both of these goals.”

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