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EDITORS: The following information is for immediate release. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Grigalonis, COO of the Chester County Economic Development Council, at 610 458-5700.

Rooftop mounted Solar Photovoltaic System installed in Hankin's Exton distribution center

Project managed by CCEDC's Smart Energy Initiative

EXTON _ A rooftop mounted Solar Photovoltaic System has been installed on the Hankin Group's building located at 716 Haywood Drive in Exton. The building serves as a distribution center for Crystal Springs. The project was managed by the Chester County Economic Development Council's Smart Energy Initiative as part of its recently launched Advisory Services program.

The 166 kilowatt solar system has 604 panels and is expected to offset approximately 93 percent of the distribution center's traditional electricity with clean renewable solar Photovoltaic electricity. As traditional electric rates increase, the solar system savings is estimated to be approximately 220 percent over the next 25 years.

Besides cost savings, the solar system will have a positive impact on the environment. The system will reduce Co2 emissions by 3,421 tons during the life of the system, which is equivalent to planting 136,840 trees or driving a medium-sized car 6,220,000 miles.

Lance Hillegas, Hankin Group V.P. of Design and Sustainable Development commented, "Working with the Smart Energy Initiative helped make this project a great success. The design and installation process were smoothly run, giving consideration to Crystal Spring's ongoing operation. The successful completion of this project is a major step forward for Hankin Group's goals in expanding renewable energy implementation."

"We are elated that the first project of our new SEI Advisory Services initiative was done with The Hankin Group," said Gary Smith, President and CEO of the Economic Development Council. "They have always been committed to sustainable projects and this is just one more example of that commitment."

The Chester County Economic Development Council is a private, non-profit economic development organization that has been nurturing economic growth in Chester County and the surrounding region for 50 years. The Council's portfolio of business growth services includes: low-interest financing, small business lending, workforce training, retention and expansion, customized international business assistance, land and building site selection, brownfields consultation and remediation, urban redevelopment, and agricultural economic development. The Council also offers state-of-the art conference and training facilities at its facility in Eagleview. For more information, see www.cceconomicdevelopment.com.