

## Cape Charles Sustainable Technology Park

Cape Charles Sustainable Technology Park  
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*"First completed building in the park"*

On November 2, 1995, EDA approved a grant for \$400,000 to the County of Northampton, Virginia to create "America's Premier Eco-Industrial Park." Cape Charles, Virginia, a small, picturesque town on the southern tip of Virginia's Eastern Shore, is a model for how ecology works in tandem with industry. The town's Sustainable Technology Park Authority has worked hard to incorporate natural habitat

protection into overall plans for an eco-industrial park in the heart of Cape Charles, where 27 percent of the town's 13,000 residents live below the poverty level. The grant was used for infrastructure improvement, including: roadways, storm sewer lines, gravity sewer lines, sewer force mains, water mains, a fire



*"Designated natural area of the park"*

ring, grubbing, landscaping, and the infrastructure allowed the Cape Charles Sustainable Technologies

prototype eco-parks selected by the President's Council on Sustainable Development to demonstrate ways that industrial facilities might be designed, developed, and operated emphasizing energy and resource efficiencies, pollution prevention, and the relationship among various industrial processes. This project is also a brownfield, receiving \$200,000 assistance from EPA and NOAA as a Pilot Brownfield Demonstration project. An abandoned 25-acre town dump sat at the heart of the future park, and the Brownfield mitigation plans facilitated the site's eventual redevelopment.

On the approximately 130 acres of Phase I land, the park will accommodate at least 10 new manufacturing or related business facilities. It is estimated that about 400 new jobs will be created when Phase I is fully occupied. The entire 200 acre project is now ready for development.

Construction of the Park's first building was completed in March 1999. The Park Authority leased the 31,000-square-foot building to Energy Recovery, a manufacturing, research and development firm that has hired over 50 local residents. Another future tenant of the Park, Solar Building Systems, Inc., converted the town's former elementary school into a temporary factory while it waits for its new facility to become available. The company has already hired 30 local residents to assemble solar panels. Approximately one-half of the land in the park is natural habitat, including the 30-acre Coastal Dune Natural Area Preserve and approximately 60 acres of other natural areas. The entire park is open to the public, and construction of walkways and trails--including a Chesapeake Bay overlook--is complete.