

SOLAR POWER COMES TO NEPTUNE BEACH

On Monday, November 19th the City of Neptune Beach proudly turned on its new Solar Powered electric system at City Hall, 116 First Street. The Neptune Beach City Council was among those in attendance as well as Mayor Harriet Pruette, who performed the ceremonial switching on of the system at 2:00 pm.

The system, developed by our Building Official Don Ford, is a 37 Kw solar array with 140 solar panels each capable of producing 250 watts. The system is expected to provide more than 80% of the City Hall's electric needs in sunny weather saving \$7000 per year.

The City Staff led by Mark Greenwood assembled the system saving the City at least \$80,000 on installation. Parts and technical assistance was provided by A1A Solar of Jacksonville, through Peter Wilking, President. The electrical work of hooking the system to the grid was conducted by Limbaugh Electrical.

Funding for the project came from two grants. The first was a \$76,000 federal solar energy grant passed through Duval County. The second grant was \$40,000 from Councilman Dick Brown through the Jacksonville City Council District fund. The total cost of the project was about \$120,000.