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## Heffner & Weber wins financing to build Annapolis energy park

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Linthicum developer Heffner & Weber Cos. has landed \$105 million in financing to build a massive renewable energy complex in Annapolis.

That has prompted acting city Administrator Bob Agee to urge the City Council to hire the developer's team, called the Aerotropolis Renewable Energy Group. Agee said the plans, which he chose out of eight proposals, meet the city's criteria for a diverse mix of renewable power generation. And perhaps more importantly, it won't cost the city anything. The proposal would build at least 18 megawatts of solar, geothermal and biomass generation at the proposed 500-acre Annapolis Renewable Energy Park.

The recommendation advances a project that would be a big step forward for the local energy industry because of its large scale. And landing financing for the project gives it a boost at a time when cash for large, risky projects is still scarce. Meanwhile, the developer, Heffner & Weber, has had financing issues of its own that have delayed other projects.

Heffner & Weber is planning the project along with Global Renewable Energies of Sudbury, Mass. Centergy Alliance of Orlando, Fla., is the financier. The Annapolis City Council was presented with the plans at an Oct. 12 meeting. A vote on a memorandum of understanding between the city and the development team could come as early as Oct. 24, Agee said.