



Contact: Serena Savina  
Phone: 410.499.3397  
Email: serena@earthandairtech.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## FIRST SOLAR ELECTRIC TRACKING SYSTEM INSTALLED IN CARROLL COUNTY



Hampstead, MD (October 24, 2011) – Earth and Air Technologies has installed the first solar electric automatic tracking system in Carroll County. The system is a 4 kW system and the modules used are recognized as the most efficient in the industry. One small tracker of this size and efficiency would offset the typical single family home by as much as 50%.

A tracking system is a ground mounted solar photovoltaic system that literally tracks the sun as it rises in the east and sets in the west, using patented sun-sensing optical sensors and solid state electronic design. The system enables a 45° tracking capability with manual control of 250°. The manual control is beneficial for dumping snow off panels in the winter, or laying panels flat when windy.

The solar electric tracking system will garner up to 40% more energy production than the typical ground or roof mount, while taking up less space. A roof mount would have to be 40% larger to match the output of the tracker. The tracker mounts on a single 8” pipe and the module footprint is approximately 225 square feet. The array maintains full power five times longer than any fixed array due to its capability of tracking the sun.

To qualify for clean energy grants, the solar electric system qualifications must include a shade study analysis that deduces the sun will hit the solar modules 70% of the year. A tracking system is a good option for those who want to go green but perhaps don't have an ideal location for solar due to shade, not adequate roof space, or a secure roof which meets standards for rooftop installation.

The SunPower modules installed are the industry's most efficient module. SunPower states their systems produce more energy per square foot than any solar solution available, up to 50% more than conventional solar systems.

With treasury grants expiring December 31, 2011, prospective solar customers and solar companies are feeling the push to have projects underway to capitalize on incentives. Current Renewable Energy Incentives set to expire include: Federal grant 30% of system installation, and 100% Modified Accelerated Depreciation (MACRS). Other grants currently available are: USDA up to 25% and Maryland State \$50,000 for solar and \$75,000 for wind. In order to secure the most substantial return, which includes the federal 30% grant and the 100% MACRS, the project has to either 1) have substantial physical construction before Dec 31, 2011 or else 2) provide a 5% of total project cost by Dec 31, 2011, also known as a 5% Safe Harbor. After 2011, the 30% federal grant will shift to a tax credit, and the 100% MACRS will reduce to 50%.

Along with being the first to install an automated tracking system in Carroll County, Earth and Air Technologies was also the first to install the largest ground mounted solar system dedicated to farm use in Maryland.

###