

# Mind the Sharks – Aquarium Saving Money to Improve Exhibits



When the New Jersey State Aquarium wanted to upgrade its facility, **Rebuild Camden County, New Jersey**, the local Rebuild America partnership, helped make it happen.

Over the next 15 years, the state-of-the-art aquarium will save \$5.6 million, thanks to the improvements recommended, designed and installed by Rebuild Camden County and ONSITE SYCOM, a national energy service company that serves as lead partner.

Located on the Delaware River waterfront just a mile from the Liberty

Bell, New Jersey's Aquarium features a 760,000-gallon Open Ocean Tank that can accommodate tuna swimming at speeds of 35 mph. Other attractions include a simulated rain forest, Shark Zone, Seal Shores, a Caribbean beach and coral reef exhibits.

The Camden County Improvement Authority provided a loan to finance the \$2.25 million of improvements, including the retrofit of an aging chiller and the installation of energy-efficient lighting, a natural gas chiller, and variable frequency drives.

The Aquarium also qualified for participation in a PSE&G utility incentive program. The \$4.1 million utility incentive, combined with projected energy savings, will generate revenues of approximately \$8.8 million. A portion of the revenues will be used to pay off the loan, while remaining savings can be applied to the upkeep and expansion of existing exhibits and for new projects.

## ***More Projects Underway***

In addition to working with the Aquarium, Rebuild Camden County entered into an agreement with the City of Camden to install energy-efficient lighting in all municipal facilities, including police and firehouse administration buildings, three firehouses, a public works building, the main library, and the City's redevelopment agency.

The partnership prepared specifications for the City to publicly bid the labor and material for the lighting project,

which is expected to stimulate economic growth in the community while saving tax dollars. The City plans to enter into a tax-exempt lease with a third party to finance the project costs over a 10-year period.

The new efficient lighting system will save the City \$49,000 in annual energy costs and produce \$210,000 in utility incentives over the next 10 years – more than offsetting the costs of equipment and installation.

*For more information, contact Brandon Sutcliffe of ONSITE SYCOM at (732) 748-9600 or e-mail [bsutcliffe@sycoment.com](mailto:bsutcliffe@sycoment.com). To see the New Jersey State Aquarium, visit [www.njaquarium.org](http://www.njaquarium.org).*

The Aquarium's 760,00-gallon Open Ocean Tank is the third largest in the country.

