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Wednesday, May 12, 2004

WOULD an extra \$100 take a slice out of your bills?

NYC DEP to invest \$1M in Delhi center

BY [MY-LY NGUYEN](#)
Press & Sun-Bulletin

DELHI -- The New York City Department of Environmental Protection announced Tuesday that it is investing \$1 million in start-up funds to create a center in Delhi focused on water quality and watershed applications.

The new center could promote the creation of hundreds of high-tech jobs in Delaware County, said U.S. Rep. John E. Sweeney, R-Clifton Park, who is helping to launch the project and obtain an additional \$2 million from various sources to support the initiative.

Supporters of the planned Delhi Center of Excellence in Watershed Applications and Technology-Based Economic Revitalization, or COE in Water, report the project will help create a sustainable high-tech economy in Delaware County by:

- * Establishing a premier water testing laboratory at State University College of Technology at Delhi. The facility will be built on a 2-acre parcel at the foot of the college campus.
- * Planting and growing willow trees on area farmland to produce biomass for electricity and steam power. This effort will be conducted in partnership with the SUNY Center for Sustainable and Renewable Energy based at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.
- * Working with the SUNY Center for Sustainable and Renewable Energy to build a pilot plant at SUNY Delhi that will generate the electricity and steam power.
- * Partnering with SUNY ESF to use treated water from the Delhi sewage treatment plant to feed the irrigation system on the SUNY Delhi golf course.

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"This is an opportunity that we have to create some professional jobs and promote water quality," said James Thomson, Delaware County Industrial Development Agency chairman. "This is extremely important because it shows that we can create jobs and grow the economy of the area even though we're living with these difficult environmental regulations."

Businesses seeking to expand or relocate in Delaware County face development restrictions because nearly all of the county is in a New York City watershed.

"Some people may have viewed being in a watershed as a liability, but here's a proposal that makes being in a watershed an asset," Sweeney said.

He said the next step for COE in Water partners will be to further define their short-term and long-term goals.

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