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## Work might begin soon Waterstone campus

BY EMILY COAKLEY : The Herald-Sun

Construction could start on Durham Technical Community College's Waterstone campus soon, officials say.

Barbara Baker, chief division officer of student support services at Durham Tech, said they are finalizing contracts with the general contractor hired for the project. She expects equipment to start arriving on the 20-acre site south of downtown Hillsborough by the end of the month.

"We're moving forward now, and I'm really pleased," Baker said.

The Orange County Commissioners last week agreed to help pay for some energy- and water-saving features at the campus.

The county bought the land for Durham Tech and will maintain the building.

Last year, the commissioners decided to explore energy efficient designs, which also have been used in other county-built schools.

Elements include a rainwater collection system, waterless urinals, aluminum light shelves and an automated system that turns off lights when enough natural light is available.

The total budget for land acquisition and the first building is about \$8 million. The elements the commissioners requested cost \$408,900, and the commissioners agreed to chip in half the money, or about \$204,000.

Baker said Durham Tech was "lucky" to partner with the Orange County officials, who have listened and done more than the school expected.

Another funding source may pay the other half of the sustainable elements.

The General Assembly recently created a grant pool dedicated to community college construction. Grant guidelines have been developed, and Durham Tech is also preparing to ask for \$375,000. Of that, \$204,000 would be earmarked for the sustainable building elements.

The rest of the \$375,000 would be used for a park-and-ride lot at the Waterstone campus. Another state grant will also offset the lot's cost. Durham Tech plans to use the lot in the evenings for overflow parking, according to county documents.

The community college construction grant requires a dollar-for-dollar match. If Durham Tech receives it, the \$204,000 the county spent could go toward their \$375,000 match, Baker said. Durham Tech should learn in November whether the application was successful, she added.

If the school does not get the grant, the full \$408,000 has been figured into the county's capital investment plan.

The new campus is at Waterstone, a 337-acre development that will eventually include homes and shops. Durham Tech may be the first building under construction at the site, which is between N.C. 86 and Old N.C. 86, and bordered to the north and south by Interstates 85 and 40, respectively. Durham Tech has planned up to five buildings at the campus.