

## **New Jersey Board of Public Utilities**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **STATE'S LARGEST GROUND-MOUNTED SOLAR SYSTEM UNVEILED AT NEW JERSEY AMERICAN WATER**

*Somerset Project Made Possible Through NJBPU Solar Rebate Program,  
Saving 60 Percent of System Cost*

(SOMERSET) - New Jersey American Water (NJAW) today unveiled the state's largest ground-mounted solar electric system which was funded largely through a \$1.9 million rebate through the Clean Energy program of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU). The \$3 million, 500-kilowatt, ground-mounted system is located at NJAW's Canal Road water treatment plant.

"The Garden State provides some of the strongest financial incentives to conserve energy of any state agency in the nation," said NJBPU President Jeanne M. Fox. "The solar rebate that the NJBPU is providing the company - almost 60 percent of the project's cost - will help advance solar technologies that lower energy costs, reduce peak load and serve as an investment in the health and environment of residents for years to come."

The New Jersey American Water system was designed and built by Dome-Tech Solar - the system includes more than 2,800 solar panels from RWE SCHOTT Solar. New Jersey American Water expects it will be able to supplement 15 percent of the peak usage power needed to run the plant with solar energy and save approximately \$125,000 a year in reduced energy costs. During peak production periods, the electricity produced by the solar system would be enough to meet the average electricity demand of more than 500 New Jersey homes.

"As part of our overall campaign to reduce energy expenses, now and over time, we are working to keep our costs down, which may enable us to pass those savings on to our customers. In fact, with the rebate from the New Jersey Clean Energy Program, the solar system alone will pay for itself in about seven years, possibly creating larger savings as the system continues to produce energy for many more years," said Walter Lynch, president of New Jersey American Water.

Rebates through the New Jersey Clean Energy program and payments through the state's Solar Renewable Energy Certificates Program (SREC) have helped produce a five-fold increase in consumer demand and installation of solar electric systems in New Jersey.

Just recently, New Jersey recorded its 750th solar installation since 2001, and the number of companies engaging in solar initiatives has grown from just a handful in 1993 to more than 100 today. With a significant number of applications pending, the state plans to approve and install hundreds more solar systems in the coming months.

"New Jersey American Water's corporate vision is driving today's achievement - installing and activating the largest ground-mounted solar energy system in New Jersey," said Tom Kuster, president of Dome-Tech Solar. "We applaud New Jersey American Water for its long-term view and willingness to take action now to harness clean, renewable energy, reaping benefits today and well into the future for the company and its customers."

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About the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU)

*The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities is a state agency and regulatory authority mandated to ensure safe, adequate, and proper utility services at reasonable rates for New Jersey customers. Critical services regulated by the NJBPU include natural gas, electricity, water, wastewater, telecommunications and cable television. The Board has general oversight responsibility for monitoring utility service, responding to consumer complaints, and investigating utility accidents. To find out more about the NJBPU, visit our web site at [www.bpu.state.nj.us](http://www.bpu.state.nj.us).*

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About the New Jersey Clean Energy Program

*New Jersey's Clean Energy Program, established on January 22, 2003 in accordance with the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act (EDECA), provides financial and other incentives to the State's residential customers, businesses and schools that install high-efficiency or renewable energy technologies, thereby reducing energy usage, lowering customers' energy bills and reducing environmental impacts. The program is authorized and overseen by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU), and its website is [www.njcleanenergy.com](http://www.njcleanenergy.com).*