

New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

PRESS RELEASE

Release:
September 23, 2005

Contact:
Anne Marie McShea
973-648-2134
Doyal Siddell
973-648-2595

NEW JERSEY CONTINUES TO LEAD THE WAY IN ADOPTING CLEAN ENERGY POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

*New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Releases 2004 Annual Report
On New Jersey's Clean Energy Program*

(TRENTON, NJ) - For another year, New Jersey has sustained its position as a national leader in adopting forward-looking clean energy policies and programs.

President Fox of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) today released the 2004 Annual Report for New Jersey's Clean Energy Program, a statewide program designed to help customers save energy, save money and help protect the environment by installing clean, efficient energy technologies. The program provides nearly \$145 million annually in financial and other incentives to residential customers, businesses, schools and municipalities that install energy efficient and renewable energy technologies, including the use of solar electricity systems.

“New Jersey has emerged as a national leader in establishing a vibrant market for energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies,” said Acting Governor Richard J. Codey. “The Garden State remains one of the few states in the nation to offer its residents, businesses, schools and communities attractive incentives, rebates and financing that encourage clean energy usage. New Jersey is providing a unprecedented environment for clean power and consumers are taking advantage.”

In 2004, New Jersey's Clean Energy Program spent \$107,501,809 to provide New Jersey homes and businesses with services and financial assistance that generated 335,027 MWh of annual electricity savings, 432,758 Dtherms of natural gas savings and 6,515 MWh of electricity generated from clean, renewable sources of energy. The amount of electricity saved is enough to provide the annual average requirements of approximately 46,000 New Jersey homes.

Further, 2004 also saw \$165,350,219 in commitments made for projects to be completed during the next two years. These projects are expected to produce additional annual electric savings of 116,136 MWh, gas savings of 284,322 Dtherms and 46,045 MWh of renewable generation.

“New Jersey continues to provide residents with some of the strongest financial incentives to conserve energy of any state agency in the nation,” said NJBPU President Jeanne M. Fox. “Most notable is the five-fold increase in consumer demand and installation of solar electric systems that have made New Jersey the leading and perhaps fastest growing market for solar energy. Considering the current price of fossil fuels, increased access to solar technologies is vitally important to the future of New Jersey's energy market.”

More notable accomplishments during 2004 include:

- The number of solar electric and other renewable energy systems installed soared from 58 in 2003 to 284 in 2004, and the number of applications for rebates to reduce installation costs increased from 156 in 2003 to 587 in 2004.
- The BPU's Office of Clean Energy received the ENERGY STAR “Partner of the Year Award for Excellence in Energy Efficiency and Environmental Education.”
- A record 5,974 new homes were built and certified to New Jersey ENERGY STAR Home standards, representing over 16 percent of all new homes built in New Jersey.
- Almost 2 million high-efficiency lights and fixtures were sold or distributed in New Jersey. These high-efficiency lights use two-thirds less energy and last up to 10 years longer than standard incandescent light bulbs.
- More than \$4 million in commitments were made for 24 Combined Heat and Power (CHP) projects that are scheduled to be completed in 2005.
- 26,345 New Jersey residents received rebates for the purchase of high efficiency heating and cooling equipment to reduce energy use and costs.
- 6,706 low-income families participated in the Comfort Partners program and received energy efficiency home improvements at no cost.
- 6,600 businesses participated in the SmartStart Buildings program to lower their energy costs that will produce yearly savings to their operating budgets.

“Through New Jersey's Clean Energy Program, the State's policies and programs are reducing market barriers to make clean energy technologies accessible and affordable for all New Jersey ratepayers,” Office of Clean Energy Director Michael Winka said. “Together we are reducing the harmful impacts from fossil fuel energy, while bolstering infrastructure, service and reliability for our residents.”

Many of the success stories will be highlighted at the Annual New Jersey Clean Energy Conference & Leadership Awards presentations that will be held September 26 at the Hyatt New Brunswick. Copies of the annual report can be obtained at New Jersey's Clean Energy Program library on the website at www.njcleanenergy.com.

###

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.

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.