



## New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

### PRESS RELEASE

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### **NJBPU'S 'NET METERING' PROGRAM RECOGNIZED AS NATIONAL MODEL BY NETWORK FOR NEW ENERGY CHOICES**

*Named Recipient of Group's Inaugural 'Golden Meter' Award*

(NEWARK, NJ) -- Described as a "model for other states" throughout the nation to emulate, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) today became the inaugural recipient of the Network for New Energy Choices (NNEC)'s Golden Meter Award.

"We are pleased and honored that the NJBPU and New Jersey's Net Metering program have been selected by the Network for New Energy Choices as the recipient of its inaugural 'Golden Meter' Award," said NJBPU President Jeanne M. Fox. "The Board and I want to share this award with the four electric utilities that service state residents. They have been full partners with us in developing this model program."

"Our Net Metering program is just one of many examples that demonstrate New Jersey's innovation and clean energy leadership in making energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies available to Garden State residents."

"In New Jersey, net metering is a metering option that credits customers with solar systems or other renewable energy generators for each kilowatt-hour produced over the course of a year. The customer is compensated at the end of the year for any remaining credits or excess power it will have provided to the grid. All electric distribution companies and suppliers/providers offer net metering to their residential and small commercial customers that generate electricity, on the customer's side of the meter, using Class 1 renewable energy sources, provided that the generating capacity of the customer-generator's facility does not exceed 2 MW, and does not exceed the customer's peak electric needs.

Together, the state's interconnection and net metering rules ensure solar generators are compensated for the clean, renewable energy they are generating and that New Jersey's ratepayers share in the benefits of solar and other small renewable energy generation.

"All over New Jersey, homeowners and small businesses are investing in new renewable energy systems that allow them to generate their own clean electricity," said NNEC Executive Director

Chris Cooper. "We can trace this rapid greening of New Jersey's electricity to the strong leadership of Jeanne Fox and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. While other states crafted burdensome rules and complex requirements for self-generation, New Jersey looked for ways to encourage energy selfreliance and helped jumpstart a robust renewable energy services market in the state. The result has been nothing short of phenomenal. According to our analysis, New Jersey's programs to encourage smallscale renewable energy have been the most successful in the nation and provide a model for other states to emulate."

In recognition of the importance that collaborative relationships between utility companies and public utility commissions play in creating a strong net metering program, the Board shared the golden meter award with the four electric generating facilities in the state. PSE&G, the distributing company with service territory in Montclair, represented the other utility companies in accepting the award.

"The success of this program speaks volumes about what can be accomplished when government and the private sector work together to address tough public policy issues," said Fred Lynk, who manages PSE&G's demand side marketing programs. "What differentiates New Jersey's efforts from those in other parts of the country is the close coordination between the state and the utilities. I'm confident that we'll make great gains as we continue to work collaboratively to help achieve the ambitious goals set out in the state's new energy master plan."

New Jersey's net metering rules are part of an integrated approach to stimulating the growth of New Jersey's solar market. The rules ensure ease of access and compensation for more than 1,850 New Jersey solar residents, businesses and schools that have switched to solar electricity. In 2006 New Jersey more than doubled its solar capacity in the first nine months of 2006. The rapid growth in solar installations across the Garden State is due to New Jersey's Solar Financing Model which effectively helps drive investment in solar technologies by combining state financial incentives with strong net metering benefits, electric cost savings, federal tax credits and clean energy credits.

The Network for New Energy Choices is a New Yorkbased nonprofit organization that is committed to providing federal, state and local governments with ideas and information to generate clean, affordable power from local, renewable energy sources. With the recent release of its report -- Freeing the Grid: How Effective State Net Metering Laws Can Revolutionize U.S. Energy Policy, the NNEC ranked New Jersey as the best in class for its net metering programs based on U.S. Department of Energy data on actual net metering participation rates.

A downloadable copy of the NNEC report that was released last month is available for free at <http://www.newenergychoices.org/>. More information on New Jersey's solar market is available at [www.NJCleanEnergy.com](http://www.NJCleanEnergy.com).

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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).*

***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).*