



New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

PRESS RELEASE

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COMMUNITY PARTNERS REACH CLEAN ENERGY GOALS, SET STAGE FOR 2008 'WHOLE HOUSE, WHOLE COMMUNITY' SAVINGS CAMPAIGN

Summit, Cape May City and Princeton Recognized for Outstanding Honors

(NEWARK, NJ) – The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) and its Office of Clean Energy kicked off 2008 with an annual meeting of its *CleanPower Community Partners*, recognizing the more than 20 New Jersey municipalities, towns and groups that have committed to engaging their whole communities in a number of energy saving campaigns. Outstanding Community Partners that met or exceeded their clean energy goals for 2007 include Princeton, Cape May City, Maplewood, Summit, Atlantic County Utilities Authority, Long Branch and Red Bank.

"When faced with issues such as global warming and climate change, New Jersey municipalities and residents continue to rise to the challenge," said NJBPU President Jeanne M. Fox. "It comes as no surprise to me that these communities have not only made a commitment to reduce their carbon footprints, but they also are leading the way in adopting climate change solutions that benefit our economy and environment."

The *CleanPower Community Partners* program is part of the 2008 "Whole House, Whole Community" campaign, which engages residents and businesses in adopting a more comprehensive approach to energy savings and the use of renewable energy. In order to meet the state's clean energy goals, residents, businesses and municipalities need to think holistically about energy use and adopt more comprehensive programs. The *Community Partners* program is designed to help communities engage both residents and businesses in the need to be energy smart and take advantage of the State's clean energy programs and financial incentives.

The *CleanPower Community Partnership* Campaign creates opportunities for communities to educate their constituents and raise awareness on climate change solutions, clean energy technologies and opportunities to sign-up for *CleanPower Choice* and other clean energy programs. Each of the program's communities and/or organizations has agreed to promote the *CleanPower Choice* Program and/or *Change-A-Light* Campaign and enroll local residents or constituents; in addition to educating its residents on other energy efficiency programs and initiatives available to them through New Jersey's Clean Energy Program.

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"The *Community Partners* Program has given us an opportunity to really take advantage of all of New Jersey's Clean Energy Programs," said Gretchen Ferrante, Center Director at New Jersey Audubon Society's Nature Center of Cape May. "Our community is constantly looking for ways to become more energy efficient, and this program provided us with both an educational piece on steps we could take to 'Go Green', in addition to supporting our efforts with financial incentives, outreach materials and strategies to be effective."

The *Community Partners* Campaign contributes to the State's overall energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals. For example, each resident who enrolls in **CleanPower Choice** helps to avoid 10,000 pounds of CO₂ in New Jersey. The Community Partners have jointly committed to enrolling approximately 18,000 residents and businesses across the state, which would help avoid more than 182 million pounds carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions – the equivalent of planting more than 24,000 acres of trees or removing more than 15,800 cars, or 11,200 SUVs, off the road.

In addition to its community outreach campaigns focusing on the New Jersey *CleanPower Choice* Program, last fall the State rallied behind the Community Partners and pledged to replace 20,000 incandescent light bulbs with ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent bulbs during the *2007 National Change a Light Campaign*. This goal was met – and exceeded by more than 300 percent – thanks to the help of the **CleanPower** Community Partners, several of the State's electric and gas utilities, and the many residents across New Jersey who pledged their support in the campaign. The goal for the 2008 campaign is to replace 100,000 bulbs across the Garden State.

Current community partners include the Atlantic County Utilities Authority, Belmar, Bernards Township/Community Green, Bordentown City, the Borough of Lindenwold, Cape May City, City of Long Branch, City of Orange Township, City of Summit, Hudson County, Maplewood, Middlesex County, Montclair, NJIT, Princeton, Red Bank, Rowan University, South Orange, Unity Learning Environments and West Orange.

To learn more about how you can become a part of the NJ BPU's CleanPower Community Partnership Campaign, or read more about the CleanPower Community Partners, visit 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 <http://www.nj.gov/bpu/>

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.