



New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

PRESS RELEASE

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STAY WARM AND SAVE ENERGY THIS WINTER

NJBPU and New Jersey's Clean Energy Program™ offer energy efficient programs, rebates and tips to help New Jersey residents prepare for cold weather

(NEWARK, NJ) – The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) and New Jersey's **Clean Energy Program™** offer a variety of money-saving programs, rebates and practical power tips to help New Jersey residents stay warm while saving energy at home this winter.

“*New Jersey's Clean Energy Program* can help residents reduce the energy they use, keep heating costs in check and still stay warm this winter,” said NJBPU President Jeanne M. Fox. “Participating in energy efficiency programs and offerings is also one of many ways residents can be part of New Jersey's plan to use energy more wisely.”

Sponsored by the NJBPU and New Jersey's **Clean Energy Program**, *Home Performance with ENERGY STAR* is a program that helps homeowners find accredited contractors who can deliver advanced energy efficiency improvements to their homes in order to increase comfort, save money, energy and the environment. Under the program, homes of any style or size can be improved to reduce energy use and decrease costs by up to 30 percent.

Accredited by the Building Performance Institute (BPI), contractors participating in the *Home Performance with ENERGY STAR* program perform a comprehensive energy assessment to test a home's overall energy performance and develop a plan to improve the home's energy efficiency and comfort. The contractors help residents repair or replace heating and cooling equipment, solve problems with cold and drafty rooms and help lower energy costs and improve comfort. They also test ovens, water heaters and other equipment to make sure dangerous combustion gases – like carbon monoxide – are not leaking into the home.

Because of increased energy efficiency and reduced energy bills, typical improvements pay for themselves. The initial assessment fee varies by contractor, with some contractors deducting the assessment fee if the homeowner decides to implement the recommended improvements. The initiative offers low-interest financing – or 10 percent cash-back options – to help pay for making the improvements. In addition, the State of New Jersey offers incentives on some eligible measures.

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No-cost direct installation of energy efficient measures, energy education and technical support are also available through *New Jersey Comfort Partners*, a program designed to improve energy affordability for income eligible households who are able to participate. The program is available to New Jersey households with significant electric and gas use, who have an income at or below 175% of the federal poverty guidelines. Participants work with the program to develop and carry out a household energy savings action plan that includes measures such as efficient lighting products, hot water conservation, energy efficient refrigerators and thermostats, insulation upgrades, air and duct sealing, and heating and cooling equipment maintenance.

New Jersey's **Clean Energy** Program also offers rebates of up to \$400 towards the purchase of qualifying high-efficiency natural gas heating equipment through its *WARMAvantage* program.

Families can save even more by taking simple steps at home that save energy. For powerful results this winter, follow any or all of the tips below:

1. Save up to 30% with Home Performance with ENERGY STAR.

Home Performance with ENERGY STAR makes it easy and affordable to take advantage of energy-efficient home improvement recommendations and ideas from BPI-accredited contractors. Low financing rates are available.

2. Save up to 12% by lowering your thermostat.

Simply set your thermostat to 68 degrees during the day and 60 degrees at night (or when you're not at home).

3. Save up to 16% by using less hot water.

Take short showers instead of baths – and lower your hot water heater from 150 degrees to 120 degrees. You can also use our *Water Heater Calculator* – found at www.NJCleanEnergy.com – to learn how much you can save with an energy-efficient water heater.

4. Take our FREE online Home Energy Analysis.

With just a few clicks of your mouse, you'll find specific energy-saving recommendations customized to your lifestyle, energy usage and location.

5. Get a \$400 WARMAvantage Rebate for energy efficient gas heating equipment.

Home Performance with ENERGY STAR and *WARMAvantage* are funded by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and New Jersey's **Clean Energy Program**TM.

For more information, visit NJCleanEnergy.com or call 1-866-NJSMART.

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.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 (NJBPU), and its website is www.njcleanenergy.com.