



New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

March 26, 2008

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NJBPU AND NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS MAKE SAVING ENERGY MORE AFFORDABLE

Incentives from Home Performance with ENERGY STAR[®], part of New Jersey's Clean Energy Program[™], help residents reduce household energy use and costs by up to 30 percent

(TRENTON, NJ) – Starting today – and for a limited time, New Jersey Natural Gas customers may be eligible for new financial incentives to help pay for energy-efficiency home improvements through *Home Performance with ENERGY STAR[®]*, a program sponsored by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) and *New Jersey's Clean Energy Program[™]* that can help residents save up to 30 percent on their energy costs and improve the comfort, health and safety of their homes.

For a limited time the comprehensive home assessment is offered at a discounted price of \$250 (a \$500 value) through the *Home Performance with ENERGY STAR* Program. When energy efficiency improvements are completed, customers will be reimbursed for the amount of the home assessment fee and a matching \$250 rebate from New Jersey Natural Gas – on eligible measures for work totaling \$2,500 or more. Additional incentives include low-interest financing – with an APR as low as 3.99 percent, or as much as 50 percent back on recommended measures.

“These incentives will help residents fight climate change, reduce their initial investment in energy efficiency and save on monthly energy bills,” said Jeanne M. Fox, president of the NJBPU. “*Home Performance with ENERGY STAR* is one of many of New Jersey’s **Clean Energy** Programs that can help the State reduce its overall energy use 20 percent by 2020.”

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, up to half the energy used to heat and cool homes is wasted due to leaky ducts, inefficient equipment, poor insulation and air leaks. In addition, the typical home produces more greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to global warming, than the average car produces annually.

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Home Performance with ENERGY STAR helps homeowners find accredited contractors who can deliver advanced energy efficiency improvements to their homes in order to save money, energy and the environment. Trained and accredited by the Building Performance Institute (BPI), contractors participating in the *Home Performance with ENERGY STAR* program specialize in heating and cooling equipment, insulation and air sealing, and comprehensive, computerized home analysis to help make homes as energy efficient, comfortable and safe as possible. BPI Accredited contractors take a comprehensive approach to home energy usage that looks at the whole house, not just one room or single problem area. The contractor will perform a Comprehensive Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Assessment to test a home's overall energy performance and draw up a plan to improve the home's energy efficiency and comfort.

Home Performance with ENERGY STAR 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. Typical improvements pay for themselves because of increased energy efficiency and reduced energy bills.

For a list of BPI Accredited contractors and more information about *Home Performance with ENERGY STAR* and New Jersey's **Clean Energy** Program, visit www.njcleanenergy.com or call 1-866-NJSMART (1-866-657-6278).

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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.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.