



# New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

## PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:**  
September 24, 2009

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### **NEW JERSEY BPU'S 'COMFORT PARTNERS' PROGRAM CELEBRATES 50,000 HOMES**

*New Jersey Board of Public Utilities President Jeanne M. Fox recognizes the 50,000<sup>th</sup> home outfitted with energy efficiency improvements under the Comfort Partners initiative*

*From 2002 through 2008, average savings of 1,161 kilowatts per customer equals consumer savings of \$217 per year – Average gas savings per customer of 105 therms equals consumer savings of approx \$136 per year*

**(LINDEN, NJ)** – Jeanne M. Fox, President, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) today joined local officials and representatives of the state's electric and gas utilities at the home of Leona Parker of Linden to celebrate the 50,000th participant in the *New Jersey Comfort Partners Program*. Comfort Partners, a component of New Jersey's Clean Energy Program, offers free energy-saving improvements and energy education for income-eligible residents.

“The Comfort Partners program helps to address two of Governor Corzine's priorities – helping those experiencing financial hardship and reducing the state's energy use,” said Jeanne M. Fox, President of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. “The Comfort Partners program provides critical assistance to New Jersey residents in need by improving a home's energy efficiency and reducing a resident's energy bills,”

Comfort Partners, which is delivered by the state's electric and gas utilities, has improved energy affordability for more than 50,000 New Jersey low-income households who, by definition, spend a high percentage of their income on energy. En route to this major milestone, the program has received national recognition from the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) and from ENERGY STAR®.

Since the Comfort Partners program launched, it has generated an estimated annual electric savings from 2002 through 2008 of 54,937 megawatt-hours, resulting in an average savings of 1,161 kilowatts per customer – or \$217 per year. Estimated annual natural gas savings from 2002 through 2008 are 410,872 dekatherms, resulting in an average gas savings per customer of 105 therms, equal to about \$136 per year.

Following today's celebratory introductory remarks, President Fox joined media representatives on a tour of the home to see first-hand the energy-saving measures installed at no cost to Ms. Parker.

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At an initial site visit, energy efficiency measures were identified that would benefit Ms. Parker and help lower her electric and gas bills. The home's heating system received a health and safety check, and necessary adjustments were made. Some of the many other measures implemented included water heater insulation, steam pipe and wall insulation, air sealing and caulking. A new refrigerator was installed, as well as energy-saving compact fluorescent light bulbs, a carbon monoxide detector and a water-saving showerhead.

Ms. Parker expressed her gratitude to program representatives at the event. "I am very grateful to have this work done in my home and for the savings it provides. This past summer, my house was much cooler; I did not even have to use fans to keep comfortable. I couldn't afford to pay for these services and I am very glad there is a program like this to help people like me."

"By replacing an old, inefficient refrigerator and installing insulation and other measures, Comfort Partners will dramatically reduce Ms. Parker's monthly energy costs, as it has for so many homes throughout the State," said President Fox.

The Comfort Partners program is part of New Jersey's Clean Energy Program, which has invested nearly \$1.2 billion to promote energy efficiency and renewable technologies for Garden State residents, businesses and local governments. The lifetime savings from these investments is over 23 million megawatts hours of electricity and over 72 million Decatherms of natural gas from energy efficiency programs. Another 9 million megawatt hours has been generated from renewable energy sources and combined heat and power projects.

These savings have reduced emissions of Carbon Dioxide by more than 25 million metric tons, which is equal to the annual emissions of nearly 5 million cars.

For additional information on Comfort Partners and other New Jersey Clean Energy Programs for local governments, businesses and residents, visit [www.NJCleanEnergy.com](http://www.NJCleanEnergy.com) or call 866-NJSMART. Interested Comfort Partner participants may also call their local utility company.

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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](http://www.nj.gov/bpu).*

**About the New Jersey Clean Energy Program (NJCEP):**

*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).*