



New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

December 16, 2009

Contact:

Doyal Siddell
973-468-8515

New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Approves 2010 Budget for New Jersey's *Clean Energy Program*TM

Budget Includes New Programs Available to Residents, Businesses, Non-Profits, Schools and Local Government for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Programs

(NEWARK, NJ) – The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) today approved a budget with \$269 million in new funding to promote and deliver renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions to the state's municipal, residential, non-profits, commercial and industrial ratepayers through New Jersey's *Clean Energy Program*TM (NJCEP). Enhancements to current programs and new programs were also approved to assist small businesses, schools, municipalities and others increase energy savings, save money and protect the environment.

"The BPU is looking forward to helping more New Jerseyans save energy and money in 2010 through the Clean Energy Program, as well as continuing the fight against climate change through energy efficiency and renewable energy," said BPU President Jeanne M. Fox.

The 2010 *Clean Energy* Program will continue to pursue New Jersey's Energy Master Plan goals of reducing projected energy use 20 percent by 2020 with strategies that encourage residents, non-profits, businesses and local governments to integrate energy management, renewable energy and energy efficiency throughout their homes, schools and facilities. Budgets for all the whole building programs (Home Performance with Energy Star for Homeowners, Direct Install for Small Businesses, Pay for Performance for Large Businesses and Local Government Energy Audit) have been increased significantly to assist in meeting this goal.

New or expanding programs for 2010 include:

- **Refrigerator/Freezer Rebate Program:** In 2010, the program will increase the Refrigerator Early Retirement incentive from \$30 to \$50, based on incentive levels of other refrigerator retirement programs in the region and to increase participation in what is still a relatively new program. The Refrigerator Early Retirement incentive will dovetail with the ARRA Energy Efficient Appliance Program, which will provide rebates for the purchase of new ENERGY STAR refrigerators.
- **ENERGY STAR Product Rebates:** The Qualified Products Program is extending rebates to new products including set top boxes, televisions, LCD monitors and desktop computers – in addition to the refrigerator rebates mentioned above.

--More--

- **Solar Rebate Program:** Rebates for solar systems on new homes have been increased to \$1.50/Watt and \$1.75/Watt for homes meeting the Tier II, and III levels of efficiency in the New Jersey ENERGY STAR Homes Program.
- **Community Partners Initiative:** In 2010, the BPU and Clean Energy Program – in partnership with Sustainable Jersey and the NJ League of Municipalities – will increase incentives for municipalities, counties, schools and community groups that want to work to advance energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainability. The Clean Energy Program will also pilot a new program to develop a “whole community” approach for sustainability.
- **Wind Projects:** The maximum annual output eligible for incentives for wind projects has been increased from 750,000 kWh to 1 million kWh. For a site with wind resources capable of producing the higher output, this increases the maximum eligible incentive from \$ 418,500 to \$543,000.
- **Local Government Energy Audit Program:** In 2010, the Local Government Energy Audit Program will be expanded to include select non-profits. (Eligible organizations must be exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.)
- **Commercial and Industrial Markets – Incentives for Energy Efficiency Program:** Tankless water heaters and LED refrigerator/freezer case lighting will be eligible for incentives in 2010 for the first time. In addition to these new incentives, a number of technology classifications will feature changes in incentive levels for 2010, including occupancy controlled thermostats for hospitality/institutional facilities; fractional electronic commutated motors under one horsepower; and induction lighting fixtures retrofitting or replacing HID, geothermal heating and cooling and replacement of T-12 lamps with T-5 and T-8 lamps and electronic ballasts.
- **NJ SmartStart Buildings Program:** In 2010, the program will increase its Multiple Measure Bonus from 10 percent of the total equipment incentives for the project to 15 percent of the total. The bonus will also be available if the multiple measures include lighting and lighting controls.
- **Offerings for Customers with Unique Needs:** In addition to the qualifying equipment incentives, customers with unique needs will be offered specialized incentives for Technical Assistance. Services may include incentives for detailed energy-efficiency studies for C&I buildings and incentives for specialized technical studies, such as studies of industrial process improvements, chiller plant optimization projects, and compressed air projects. Enhanced technical assistance will also be provided for customers with greater than 200 kW annual demand. This could include a walk-through audit which provides a high level assessment of the opportunities as well as an Action Plan with recommendations for moving ahead with energy efficiency improvements.

--More--

- **Retro-Commissioning (RCx) Pilot Program:** This program will be introduced in 2010 as a part of the NJ SmartStart Buildings Program. RCx is the process of ensuring that an existing building's energy systems and equipment are operating at their optimal levels to meet the needs of the building's owner and occupants. Its benefits include an energy-efficient building that is operated and maintained by a well-trained staff or service provider, a comfortable and safe working environment for the occupants and energy savings that will persist over time. The program will provide incentives on a per square foot basis, as well as a free training course to participating companies on general operation and maintenance procedures. A rebate incentive of up to \$100,000 per participating company will be available in this program.

The Clean Energy Program budget approved today supports a wide range of programs. The energy efficiency program includes programs managed by Honeywell International, Inc., TRC Energy Services, the state's utilities, the DEP, the Department of Community Affairs, the Department of Treasury and Office of Clean Energy (OCE) staff. The renewable energy program includes programs managed by Honeywell, the utilities, DEP and OCE staff.

In addition to the \$269 million in new funding allocated for 2010 as approved by the BPU in its Order dated September 30, 2008, in Docket No. EO07030203, the program also includes approximately \$286 million in carryover funds, of which almost \$168 million is for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that have received rebate commitments and are pending completion. The total budget comprises approximately \$321 million in funding for energy efficiency programs, about \$220 million in funding for renewable energy programs and about \$14 million in funding for the Office of Clean Energy's (OCE) oversight budget.

For more information about any of the services and programs offered by New Jersey's Clean Energy Program, 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.