



New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

NEWS RELEASE

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

New Budget Includes Modifications to Programs and Funding Levels

TRENTON – The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) today approved a second 2010 revised *Clean Energy* Program™ (NJCEP) budget with \$459 million in total funding (including past commitments) to promote and deliver renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions to the state's municipal, residential, non-profit, commercial and industrial ratepayers. Due to recent unprecedented numbers of applications submitted to many of the NJCEP programs, changes to program funding became necessary.

“The Board of Public Utilities has explored multiple options and worked with our stakeholders to ensure that program and funding changes will continue to promote the goals of the Clean Energy Program,” said BPU President Lee A. Solomon. “These changes will allow us to streamline Clean Energy Programs so that New Jerseyans can continue to save energy and money.”

The Home Performance with Energy Star (HPwES) program was flooded with almost 1,000 applications in first week of May compared to a weekly average of 100 to 150 applications in the preceding weeks. The Renewable Energy Incentive Program (REIP) program received more than 1,000 applications in three days during the beginning of May, which is approximately the number of applications received between January and April. In late May the Commercial and Industrial - New Construction and Local Government Energy Audit programs were at or near their budget limits. The programs ceased accepting new applications to allow the BPU to explore potential budget revisions that would allow the programs to begin accepting new applications.

The Board approved BPU staff recommendations to transfer funding from various administrative line items, including program marketing funds, into highly sought program areas.

“The successes of many of the N.J. Clean Energy programs has made us focus on methods to sustain these renewable energy and energy efficiency programs, and begin to transition from rebates to financing incentives,” said Solomon. As directed By Governor Christie, we need to rethink and be smarter with the ways we spend ratepayers' money. Therefore the BPU is developing plans to grow the sustainability of these programs.

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

The total budget comprises approximately \$272 million in funding for energy efficiency programs, about \$178 million in funding for renewable energy programs, and about \$8 million in funding for the Office of Clean Energy's (OCE) oversight budget.

For more information about program modifications, services and programs offered by New Jersey's Clean Energy Program, please visit NJCleanEnergy.com.

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About the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU)

The NJBPU 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 (NJCEP)

NJCEP, 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.