



New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

June 11, 2012

Contact:

Greg Reinert
609-777-3305

Christie Administration to Streamline New Jersey's Clean Energy Program™

- State Issues Request for Proposal to Transition Program to One Administrator -

TRENTON, N.J. –The Christie Administration released last Friday a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a new program administrator for the N.J. Clean Energy Program™. The RFP is the first step in transitioning away from an administratively heavy Clean Energy Program, currently with three separate program administrators, to a more streamlined and flexible approach capable of offering efficient and effective residential, commercial and industrial renewable energy and energy efficiency programs consistent with Governor Christie's 2011 Energy Master Plan (EMP).

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) will continue to provide direction to the Clean Energy Program (CEP) and oversight of the CEP Program Administrator and program funding levels.

The 2011 EMP Clean Energy Funding Working Group supported the single program administrator structure as having greater flexibility in the implementation of programs. A single program administrator, instead of three separate market managers, will be better positioned to quickly respond to market conditions in offering needed programs and services matching demand. The working group also recommended streamlining the BPU's Office of Clean Energy's (OCE), enabling it to focus on oversight of the single program administrator entity.

The CEP is currently administered through three separate contractors delivering programs to three separate market segments: commercial, industrial and local governments; residential energy efficiency; and renewable energy. The new RFP details how the CEP operating under a single program administrator will be streamlined operationally and provide greater accountability and flexibility. The single administrator will work with the BPU to provide ongoing program analysis and evaluation, in conjunction with partners such as the Rutgers CEEP Market Assessment Study, to determine how to best deploy funds for existing and emerging energy conservation and efficiency programs and technologies.

"The consolidation of three separate contractors into one will ensure that the program operates in a cost efficient manner and improve delivery of effective programs and services for ratepayers," said NJ Board of Public Utilities President Bob Hanna. "The restructured Clean Energy Program will continue to serve all ratepayer sectors, at the same time reducing the costs associated with administering the

various programs and ensuring that each program meets or exceeds the performance goals of the EMP.”

The CEP directly reduces energy costs of municipal facilities, schools, homes, office buildings, manufacturing facilities and many other types of facilities, and also indirectly helps to lower the energy cost for all customers by increasing the effectiveness of electricity infrastructure and efficient delivery of service. The CEP provides financial incentives to customers and supports over 40,000 installation jobs through projects such as replacement of boilers, central air condition units, commercial lighting and many more types of appliances and equipment. Through the CEP, over 100,000 rebates are processed annually for the purpose of advancing energy efficiency and renewable energy projects across the residential, commercial, governmental, institutional and all industrial sectors.

In keeping with the Christie Administration’s efforts to reduce red tape and barriers that stifle innovation, the BPU is breaking the CEP from a silo approach, where programs and market segments operate independently of each other and replacing this approach with an integrated approach coordinated across all sectors. The transition to a single administrator will offer administrative efficiencies, greater accountability, and enhanced synergy of program segments resulting in more clean energy projects in the state and a better experience for ratepayers. For example, a homeowner who operating a small business out of his or her home no longer will need to navigate the maze of three different programs managers to install a solar array on the roof. Additionally, the transition will improve the BPU’s effectiveness in managing the contracts, allowing for smoother implementation of program changes.

All bid proposals are due to N.J. Department of Treasury by August 24, 2012, and the BPU is expected to approve of a new program administrator by the end of the year.

###

About the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPUB)

The NJBPUB 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 NJBPUB 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 NJBPUB, visit our web site at www.nj.gov/bpub.

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