



# New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **N.J. Board of Public Utilities Waives 5-Year Program Exclusion Requirement for Low-Income Residents in Need of Assistance**

TRENTON, N.J. –The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities is waiving the requirement of its Comfort Partners Program that limits participation to once every five years. Under the temporary revision, low-income customers who have utilized the program within the last five years are eligible to replace damaged equipment due to Hurricane Sandy.

The New Jersey Comfort Partners Program is a free energy saving and energy education program for qualified low-income customers. The Program is a signature program offered by the Board of Public Utilities through New Jersey's Clean Energy Program. The program focuses on partnering with income eligible residents to help save energy and money. Certified Building Performance Institute contractors install energy saving measures in the home to help lower energy bills. The Comfort Partners Program includes an educational component that teaches participants new ways to conserve energy.

“Hurricane Sandy caused unprecedented destruction in New Jersey, and the Board of Public Utilities will have a key role in many facets of our recovery efforts,” said Bob Hanna, President of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. “The Comfort Partners Program is just one of the programs in which requirements will be relaxed in order to assist residents with replacing damaged appliances or heating and cooling equipment.

Similar to processes implemented after Tropical Storm Irene hit in August 2011, the five year participation requirement is waived effective October 29, 2012, until further notice. The Comfort Partners Program will replace HVAC equipment, hot water heaters, refrigerators or dehumidifiers for customers (including renters) who received these appliances through Comfort Partners and lost them due to the effects of flooding caused by Hurricane Sandy. Replacement appliances must meet Comfort Partners specifications and be energy efficient.

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#### **About the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBP)**

*The NJBP 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 NJBP 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 NJBP, visit our web site at [www.nj.gov/bpu](http://www.nj.gov/bpu) <<http://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](http://www.NJCleanEnergy.com)*  
<<http://www.NJCleanEnergy.com>> .