



# 2005 New Jersey Clean Energy Leader Township of Montclair Clean Energy Municipality

## PROJECT INFORMATION

### Organization

- Township of Montclair

### Location

- Montclair, New Jersey

### Project Contact

- **Gray Russell,**  
Environmental Affairs  
Coordinator, Montclair

### Technologies

- Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Fueled Vehicles
- LED
- Geothermal Heating/Cooling System
- Photovoltaic Solar Panels

### Estimated Annual mWh and Energy Savings

- LED Traffic Lights: 30.57 kW

### Clean Air Benefits (Emission Reduction)

- CNG Vehicles: 90% Emissions Reduction

### Payback Period

- CNG Vehicles: Immediate
- LED Traffic Lights: 2.5 Years
- Green School Projects: Up to 15 Years

### NJCEP Incentive/Rebate

- CNG Vehicles: \$23,500
- LED Lamps: \$8,800



## Background

When it comes to the use of clean energy, the Township of Montclair, NJ, is determined to be a model community. By 2005, the municipality had initiated several projects to increase their energy efficiency and use of renewable resources.

“Money can be saved by taxpayers at the same time we reduce energy use and our greenhouse gas footprint.”

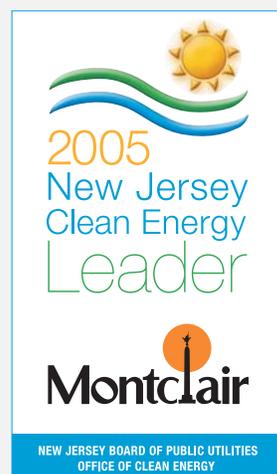
*Gray Russell  
Environmental Affairs Coordinator  
Township of Montclair*

Township Manager Joseph Hartnett and the Montclair Environmental Commission authored a Request for Proposal for a comprehensive energy audit of all municipal buildings and all Montclair Public Schools. The audit was conducted in the summer of 2005 with the goal to assess current energy usage and the related costs and greenhouse gas emissions, and to recommend energy efficiency and clean energy options for reducing them all.

Upon analyzing the changes involved in this initiative, it was estimated that when all the programs are put into place, they would save Montclair taxpayers roughly \$100,000 per year.

## Challenge

Montclair was determined to develop alternative, renewable energy, and energy efficiency initiatives throughout their municipal operations: in public buildings, in schools, and in their mobile fleet. In order to accommodate the wide scope of this assessment, Montclair needed not only a detailed plan of action but also financial support from New Jersey's Clean Energy Program™.





## 2005 New Jersey Clean Energy Leader Township of Montclair



Montclair Mayor Ed Remsen, township residents Heather and James Sherman, BPU President Jeanne M. Fox, and Montclair Deputy Mayor Joyce Michaelson gather at the couple's Montclair home to commemorate their being among the first New Jersey residents to sign on to the state's residential **CleanPower Choice Program**<sup>SM</sup>.

### Solution

With the help of rebates and incentives from New Jersey's Clean Energy Program, Montclair implemented a number of initiatives. The Township upgraded its municipal traffic lights to light-emitting diodes (LEDs). The traffic lights are safer, and they use 90 percent less energy while saving the Township \$10,000 annually.

Montclair will soon start construction of a new, high-performance "green" school. The School Board decided the construction of the new Rand School, serving grades K-5, will include a geothermal heating/cooling system, PV solar panels on its roof, daylighting in the classrooms, and green space for the students.

Montclair invested in a fleet of 6 clean fuel vehicles. The Honda Civic GX compressed natural gas (CNG)-fueled sedans help to reduce the local environmental impacts of the Township's fleet vehicles. Montclair received a total of \$23,500 in rebates from the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU), under its Alternative Fuel Vehicle Rebate Program (AFV), to offset the increased price of the CNG-fueled vehicles.

Finally, the NJCEP's Solar Rebate Program will allow the Township to soon consider installation of an array of solar panels on their Public Services Building, generating electricity from a renewable, abundant source.

### Benefits

As it paves the way for neighboring municipalities and communities, Montclair continues to utilize clean energy initiatives, including energy efficiency, alternative fuels, and renewable resources and products. These green power initiatives were brought to fruition with help from New Jersey's Clean Energy Program.

The proactive steps taken by the Township of Montclair not only save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but also save the taxpayers money. By reducing the Township's dependence on foreign fuels, protecting the environment, and making their community a more sustainable place to live, Montclair has shown that clean energy is smart business.

To learn more about New Jersey's Clean Energy Program, and to find out why **clean energy is smart business**, go to [NJCleanEnergy.com](http://NJCleanEnergy.com).

