

New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

PRESS RELEASE

Release:

March 24, 2005

Contact:

Eliot Mizrachi
973-648-7691
Doyal Siddell
973-648-2595

STATEWIDE GREEN POWER CHOICE PROGRAM APPROVED

New Jersey customers will soon make a choice about the source of their energy

(NEWARK) -- The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) today approved implementation of the New Jersey Green Power Choice Program - a voluntary program that will give retail customers the option of selecting "green energy" through a sign-up option on their utility bills.

"Investing in the future of New Jersey's energy markets is essential," said Acting Governor Richard J. Codey. "Giving ratepayers the option of helping to support green power alternatives is a valuable and worthwhile initiative."

Under the statewide program, electric customers who wish to pay a slight premium to encourage the development and expansion of renewable energy sources - like wind and solar - will be able to subscribe to the program and select from multiple green power products and marketers, without having to switch their supplier.

"The Green Power Choice Program will conveniently give residential and most business customers a choice about their energy use and sources," said Jeanne M. Fox, NJBPU President. "At the same time, the program will support the state's overarching goals of increasing the use of renewable energy and creating a cleaner environment."

The New Jersey Green Power Choice Program will be the first statewide program of its kind where multiple utilities and green power marketers will participate in a joint effort with the state to give consumers access to the regional market for renewable energy. Each customer who decides to participate in the voluntary program will pay an amount that is determined by their mix of "green power" selected from their power supplier.

The NJBPU's Office of Clean Energy will oversee and administer the program and ensure that relevant New Jersey consumer protection rules and procedures are followed. The program will be available later this year after the utility companies make the necessary changes to their billing and information systems. A detailed description of the program is available at www.bpu.state.nj.us with a link to www.njcleanenergy.com.

###

The BPU 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 (BPU).

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (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.bpu.state.nj.us.