



# New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **NJBPU Announces Fall Energy Efficiency Promotion for New Jersey Homeowners**

Additional NJCEP incentives available to New Jersey residents to help make Cold, drafty homes more energy efficient and comfortable

TRENTON, NJ – The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) announced a fall promotion for homeowners in need of home energy efficiency improvements. The promotion, which runs until December 31, 2011, allows New Jersey residents to receive incentives up to \$5,000 and 0% interest financing for home improvements through New Jersey's Clean Energy Program (NJCEP) Home Performance with ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> Program.

Home Performance with ENERGY STAR enables New Jersey residents to work with specially trained and accredited Building Performance Institute (BPI) contractors, who assess where and how energy is wasted in a home. After an assessment is conducted, the contractor provides the homeowner with a list of recommended, comprehensive energy efficient upgrades to improve the comfort, safety, quality, and durability of their home. Improvements may save homeowners up to 30% of their energy costs.

The first step is to visit [NJCleanEnergy.com/hp](http://NJCleanEnergy.com/hp) to find a listing BPI certified contractors. Residents should shop around and call at least three contractors to gain an understanding of what each contractor offers before scheduling an energy audit. Contractors assess homes of any style, size, or age for energy efficiency and overall performance. The contractor will conduct combustion appliance testing, do a visual inspection of the house, ensure there are no health and safety concerns, such as gas leaks and carbon monoxide issues, etc. Some contractors offer additional testing services, such as a blower door test and infrared testing.

After an audit is conducted, the contractor provides a series of recommendations to improve the home's comfort and energy savings. They may recommend performing air sealing, installing new insulation, replacing heating and cooling equipment, etc. Contractors also will provide the costs of the upgrades in addition to the incentives and financing options available. Every customer makes their own determination as to what upgrades they decide to proceed with in their home.

“Seventy-six percent of all residential projects completed so far in 2011 through the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program have resulted in 25% or more total energy savings, said Lee A. Solomon, President of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. “These energy savings in many cases pays for the energy-saving improvements, while conservation of energy helps the environment and lowers energy cost for everyone.”

With incentives of up to \$5,000 in addition to \$10,000 zero percent interest financing, the program makes the energy efficiency upgrades affordable for New Jersey residents as most projects are covered by the current offering.

Below is a table explaining the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR incentives and the fall promotion. The incentives offered are based on the estimated total energy savings (TES) of the recommended upgrades, which are determined after the assessment.

Total Energy Savings	Regular Incentive*	Additional Fall Incentive
10-19.99%	\$1,000	\$500
20-24.99%	\$3,000	\$750
25%+	\$4,000	\$1,000

\*Not to exceed 50% of cost of the measures used to calculate TES.

For more information about the NJBPU, *New Jersey’s Clean Energy Program*, or Home Performance with ENERGY STAR, visit [NJCleanEnergy.com](http://NJCleanEnergy.com) or call 866-NJSMART.

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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](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).*