



BPU President Solomon Discusses Energy Efficiency with NJ Colleges & Universities

All eyes were on New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) President Lee Solomon as he addressed the attendees of the *NJ Clean Energy Program - Opportunities and Resources for Higher Education Conference* that took place at Rutgers Livingston Campus Center on April 14, 2011. This collaborative event between the BPU and the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA) was organized by the NJ Higher Education Partnership for Sustainability (NJHEPS) for its members.



The conference, for college and university facilities and operations staff, began with a keynote address by President Solomon who updated attendees on a number of relevant energy issues facing New Jersey. Topics included energy efficiency, renewable and nuclear energy, job creation, New Jersey's economy, progress on the development of the new energy master plan and how events such as the catastrophic earthquake and tsunami in Japan have temporarily delayed efforts to complete the plan. President Solomon remarked on the importance of pooling expertise and resources of organizations such as those represented at the conference, mentioned the exemplary and innovative energy technologies Princeton University continually incorporates into its facilities systems and then took several questions from the audience.



Following President Solomon was an overview presentation of New Jersey's Commercial and Industrial Clean Energy Program (NJCEP) offerings conducted by Mona Mosser, Bureau Chief of Energy Efficiency, BPU. Ms. Mosser gave a brief history of how NJCEP was created and then focused on high level descriptions of the NJ SmartStart Buildings equipment replacement program for new construction and existing facilities, the Local Government Energy Audit Program, Direct Install for small to medium sized buildings, Pay for Performance for larger structures, and the free energy performance analysis or benchmarking offering and how specifically the incentives offered could benefit the state's colleges and universities. Ms. Mosser responded to several questions during her presentation.



Anne Marie McShea, Program Administrator, BPU followed with a comprehensive presentation on NJCEP's renewable energy initiatives, including program guidelines, eligibility, and the benefits of participation. Given the success and high visibility of the BPU's solar program, Ms. McShea gave the audience the assurance that the future will continue to be bright with opportunities for additional solar installations.



Paul Ceppi, Business Development Specialist, EDA delivered the final presentation of the event. Mr. Ceppi focused much of his discussion on the Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund (EERLF) which will be launched by EDA in the coming weeks. The program is designed to be used in conjunction with NJCEP's Pay for Performance, providing loan proceeds to fill the gap between the cost of making the energy efficiency improvements and the incentives provided by Pay for Performance. The maximum loan amount is \$2.5 million or 80% of eligible project costs and the

minimum loan amount is \$250,000 with terms of 3 years at 2%; 5 years at 3%; and 7 years at 4%. This will offer some great opportunities for owners and managers of large facilities interested in whole building, energy efficiency treatment.



After the presentations the participants took a short break and spent additional time networking with event sponsors and exhibitors, including commercial and industrial as well as renewable energy representatives from New Jersey's Clean Energy Program, Blue Sky Power, Concord Engineering Group, Community Energy, Energy Connect, O'Brien & Gere and World Energy.

Round table sessions were set up in an adjoining room and staffed by NJCEP and EDA program representatives. Participants were invited to meet with these representatives, to get specific program information from those responsible for day-to-day program management and discuss various finance options for colleges and universities interested in implementing energy projects.



The half day conference started from a very high level perspective and proceeded to include detailed program information and practical application for attendees. In addition to information, participants left the conference with important contact names and numbers and a new level of inspiration to move forward with their clean energy projects. "This was a great opportunity for NJ Higher Education energy and facilities professionals to get a first-hand, current perspective on the opportunities and resources available to help us plan and fund clean energy projects. It was also good to have time to connect with colleagues and policy makers about the challenges we face and to explore potential solutions to these issues," said Mike Kornitas, Energy Conservation Manager for Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

This was just the first in a series of three of these events to be held around the state. For more information about where the next two events will take place visit www.njheps.org or email njheps@gmail.com. For more information about NJCEP visit NJCleanEnergy.com and for details about finance options, visit www.njeda.com.