

## **New Jersey Board of Public Utilities**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **ACTING GOVERNOR CODEY DECLARES OCTOBER “CLEAN ENERGY MONTH IN NEW JERSEY”**

(TRENTON, NJ) -- Acting Governor Richard J. Codey has signed a proclamation declaring October 2005 as “Clean Energy Month in New Jersey.”

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) and its Office of Clean Energy (OCE) will celebrate the month by launching a series of statewide initiatives, including the New Jersey Clean Power Choice Program - an innovative program that gives homeowners and businesses throughout the state the opportunity to choose to use clean, renewable sources of energy.

“Given the state of today's natural gas market, an emphasis on clean energy initiatives and energy efficient solutions is more important than ever,” said Acting Governor Richard J. Codey. “Wind, solar, other renewable energy resources and energy efficiency can play a significant role in reducing the demand for and price of natural gas and can serve to stabilize prices over the longer term.”

During the month of October, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities will launch a series of events and promotions that highlight energy efficiency and renewable energy options now available to New Jersey residents, businesses, schools and communities.

“Consumers now realize that the volatility of natural gas and oil prices puts our economy and our household budgets at risk,” said NJBPU President Jeanne M. Fox. “Residents and businesses can take action by using more energy efficient and renewable energy technologies. The New Jersey Clean Power Choice Program is an exciting new program that allows consumers to decide which energy sources are right for them.”

The Clean Power Choice Program is a voluntary campaign that will give retail electric customers the option of selecting “clean energy” through a sign-up option on their local utility bills. The program will begin on October 1<sup>st</sup> in PSE&G and JCP&L territories and expand to Atlantic City Electric and Orange & Rockland utilities in April 2006.

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 clean power products and marketers, without having to switch their supplier.

Also as part of Clean Energy Month, the NJBPU and its OCE will work to promote public awareness of our State's energy needs and the energy options that are available to all New Jersey residents.

Activities include:

- The NJBPU and its OCE hosted the 2005 New Jersey Clean Energy Conference on September 26<sup>th</sup> at the New Brunswick Hyatt Regency Hotel. The conference brought together almost 400 leading clean energy market participants to focus on emerging issues in energy markets and financing opportunities commercial and business customers considering clean energy technologies.
- Announcement of New Jersey Clean Energy Leadership Awards. As part of this year's New Jersey Clean Energy Conference, the NJBPU and its OCE recognized clean energy leaders that made powerful choices to select energy efficient and renewable energy technologies to benefit their businesses and communities. The awards were presented to: Montclair Township \_ NJ Clean Energy Municipality; Bayonne Board of Education \_ NJ Clean Energy School; Johnson & Johnson of New Brunswick \_ NJ Clean Business Leader of the Year; Dome-Tech Solar of Edison \_ NJ Clean Energy Market Innovator; and the NJ Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, of Hamilton \_ the NJ Clean Energy YOUR POWER TO SAVE Project of the Year.
- Participation in National "Change A Light" Campaign. Acting Governor Richard J. Codey and the NJBPU are recognizing October 5<sup>th</sup> - ENERGY STAR Change A Light Day - and supporting the nationwide "ENERGY STAR Change a Light" campaign to encourage New Jersey families to pledge greater energy efficiency and environmental stewardship by changing a single light. New Jersey, in partnership with the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), encourages residents to change a single light in their homes to ENERGY STAR through the Change A Light campaign. For example, if every household in New Jersey changed just one light bulb to an ENERGY STAR qualified one, savings would total more than \$20.5 million in energy costs each year. This year, New Jersey's participation in the Change A Light campaign will include special discounts on energy efficient compact florescent light bulbs at retailers across the state. What's more, the OCE will participate in dozens of retailer events in New Jersey to promote ENERGY STAR qualified light bulbs and fixtures.
- Free Home Energy Analysis. As winter approaches, New Jersey residents will be encouraged to find out more about their home energy use and ways to save. The Home Energy Analysis is a free, on-line energy survey that helps residential customers examine their energy use and offers them measures to implement that save energy and money on their bills. The survey is found on line at the New Jersey's Clean Energy Program website [www.njcleanenergy.com](http://www.njcleanenergy.com). The energy survey includes questions related to the type of home they live in, the type and age of their appliances, and the lighting they use, and it gives them tips on how to conserve. At the end of the interactive ten-minute questionnaire, the customer receives a summary report based on their answers.

- The release of the 2004 Office of Clean Energy (OCE) Annual Report. For another year, New Jersey has served as a national leader in adopting forward looking clean energy policies and programs. The 2004 Annual Report highlights unprecedented growth in further establishing a vibrant market for energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. Copies of the annual report can be obtained at New Jersey's Clean Energy Program library on the website [www.njcleanenergy.com](http://www.njcleanenergy.com).
- During the month of October, the NJBPU and its OCE will issue television, radio and print advertisements aimed at educating residents about the potential benefits of renewable energy, boosting awareness of the Clean Power Choice Program and encouraging residents to visit [www.njcleanpower.com](http://www.njcleanpower.com) for more information.
- Energy efficiency media tour. President Fox will meet with local newspapers and media outlets in New Jersey and throughout the region during the month of October to promote renewable energy, provide updates on New Jersey's Clean Power Choice Program and Change A Light initiative and encourage residents and businesses to learn more about how to improve their own energy usage through clean power.

“New Jersey's Clean Energy Program has made tremendous strides over the past several years,” said Michael Winka, Director. “This designation of October as 'Clean Energy Month' by Acting Governor Codey is a testament to the success of our program and provides an excellent umbrella theme for the numerous activities we have planned for the immediate future.”

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*About the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU):*

*The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities 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](http://www.bpu.state.nj.us).*

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*About the New Jersey Clean Energy Program:*

*New Jersey's 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), and its website is [www.njcleanenergy.com](http://www.njcleanenergy.com).*