



New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

PRESS RELEASE

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NJ BPU JOINS OCEAN GATE OFFICIALS AT GROUNDBREAKING FOR STATE'S FIRST MUNICIPAL SMALL WIND PROJECT

(OCEAN GATE, NJ) – New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) President Jeanne M. Fox today joined Borough of Ocean Gate and Ocean County officials at the groundbreaking ceremony for the borough's new wind turbine project and presented Mayor Paul Kennedy with the *2008 NJ Clean Energy Leadership Award for Municipality of the Year*.

"I'd like to express my appreciation to the Borough of Ocean Gate and Mayor Paul Kennedy for partnering with the State to expand New Jersey's renewable energy resources," said President Fox. "Using the power of the wind not only creates energy, but saves residents money."

Ocean Gate has demonstrated a commitment to the development of wind power by becoming the first municipality in New Jersey to develop a small wind project. The borough was also instrumental in setting the stage for additional projects by participating in the creation of the Small Wind Model Ordinance. This ordinance was designed to aid municipalities in navigating complicated zoning and permitting policies, and is available to all New Jersey municipalities.

Today's groundbreaking event marks construction of two 50 kW wind turbines that, when completed, will cut annual electricity consumption by 224,000 kWh. According to EPA calculations, this is equivalent to avoiding the emissions of 162 tons of carbon dioxide, conserving 376 barrels of oil, or planting 36 acres of fir trees. "With this new wind project, we have taken the first major steps to not only reduce our borough's carbon footprint, but also stabilize our real estate tax rates for the future," Mayor Kennedy remarked.

New Jersey's Clean Energy Program provided nearly \$200,000 in financial incentives for Ocean Gate's wind project. Since 2001, the program has invested over \$288 million to promote renewable energy through incentives to businesses, local governments and residents. At the end of 2005, there were 897 renewable energy installations in New Jersey generating a total of 18.9 MW. Today there are over 4,000 installations generating almost 122 MW of power.

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"Under Governor Corzine's leadership, New Jersey has partnered with residents, local governments and businesses all across the state to create a vibrant renewable energy market," noted President Fox. "New Jersey is a national leader, second only to California in solar photovoltaic installations, and we look forward to being the first in the nation to build offshore wind."

As part of the groundbreaking ceremony, President Fox also presented Mayor Kennedy with the 2008 Clean Energy Municipality of the Year Leadership Award. The Awards Program supports clean energy investment and encourages entities to develop projects that reduce greenhouse gases, increase the use of energy efficiency and renewable technologies, and strengthen the "growing green" economy in New Jersey.

For more information on the New Jersey Clean Energy Leadership Awards and information on clean energy incentives for school districts, municipalities, businesses and residents, visit www.NJCleanEnergy.com or call 1-866-NJSMART.

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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.nj.gov/bpu.

About the New Jersey Clean Energy Program (NJCEP):

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.