



New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

PRESS RELEASE

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New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Announces 2009 Renewable Energy Incentive Program

(NEWARK, NJ) – The Commissioners of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) recently announced the launch of its new Renewable Energy Incentive Program for 2009. The program – in which all ratepayers of BPU regulated utilities are eligible to participate – will provide incentives for onsite renewable energy projects using solar, wind and biopower technologies.

Residential solar projects less than or equal to 10 kW can receive a rebate of \$1.75 per watt for ratepayers who complete an energy audit through the *Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® Program*. Residential projects that do not complete the audit will receive rebates of \$1.55 per watt. Non-residential solar projects that are less than or equal to 50 kW can receive rebates of \$1.00 per watt. Solar projects larger than 50 kW are not eligible for rebates. The solar rebate levels will be in effect for applications received from February 3, 2009, through April 30, 2009 – subject to availability of funding. The rebate amounts are subject to change throughout the year.

“New Jersey’s **Clean Energy Program™** is making renewable energy technologies like solar, wind and biopower affordable and practical by providing financial incentives, along with technical and program support needed for implementation,” said BPU President Jeanne M. Fox.

Incentives for wind projects will be based on the estimated system production, and incentives for biopower projects will be based on system capacity. An additional rebate amount of \$0.25 per watt will be available for projects that use renewable energy systems or components manufactured or assembled in New Jersey.

Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) are available for all renewable energy projects and are calculated based on the electricity a renewable energy system generates. System owners can sell or trade these certificates to electricity suppliers, who are required to buy and retire a certain number of RECs each year to meet their obligations under the state’s Renewable Portfolio Standard. RECs can help renewable system owners pay for their projects over time.

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New Jersey's Energy Master Plan (EMP) lays out a strategy to ensure a reliable supply of sustainable energy for the state's residents and businesses. It will replace "older generation" energy – such as fossil fuels – with "new generation" energy sources which are local, sustainable and reliable. The BPU's Renewable Energy Incentive Program for 2009 is one more step toward reaching that goal.

"As we implement New Jersey's EMP, the state will build upon its progress in expanding renewable energy over the past seven years," said President Fox.

For more information about incentives and programs offered through *New Jersey's Clean Energy Program*, visit www.njcleanenergy.com or call 1-866-NJSMART (1-866-657-6278).

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About the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBP)

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 NJBP 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 NJBP, 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 (NJBP), and its website is www.njcleanenergy.com.