



New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact:

Doyal Siddell
973-468-8515
Anne Marie McShea
609-777-3306



NEW JERSEY'S CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM NAMED ENERGY STAR 2006 PARTNER OF THE YEAR BY EPA AND DOE

Recognition Earned For Protecting the Environment through Energy Efficiency & Education

(TRENTON, NJ) – The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) today announced that New Jersey's Clean Energy Program (NJCEP) has been recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) as an ENERGY STAR 2006 *Partner of the Year for Energy Efficiency Program Delivery*.

The NJCEP was recognized for its outstanding contributions to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by promoting the use of energy-efficient products in New Jersey. These accomplishments will be recognized at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., on March 21, 2006.

"The ENERGY STAR campaign is an important program that puts the power of controlling residential energy costs and usage in the hands of the consumer," said NJBPU President Jeanne M. Fox. "As an ENERGY STAR partner, New Jersey's Clean Energy Program promotes the importance of energy efficiency and works to educate Garden State residents about the benefits of energy-efficient products."

An ENERGY STAR partner since 2001, the NJCEP is being honored for the second consecutive year for promoting energy-efficient products that help homeowners adopt smart energy practices, reduce energy use and save money. In 2005 alone, New Jersey retailers sold 1.2 million ENERGY STAR lighting products statewide through New Jersey's "Change-a-Light Campaign." These ENERGY STAR lighting products, when fully utilized, could save up to 62,587,887 kWh of electricity and save New Jersey consumers up to 8 million dollars in annual electric costs (based on average residential electric rate of \$0.14/Kwh).

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In addition to this year's award, the NJBPU's Clean Energy Program also has received the following DOE/EPA recognitions:

- 2002: EPA's ENERGY STAR "2002 Partner of the Year" -- for its NJ Energy Star Homes Program;
- 2004: ENERGY STAR *Partner of the Year Award for Excellence in Energy Efficiency and Environmental Education*";
- 2004: ENERGY STAR *Partner of the Year for Excellence in Energy in Energy Efficiency and Environmental Education* -- for its NJ Energy Star Products Program.

The *Excellence in Energy Efficiency Program Delivery Award* is presented to a variety of organizations nationwide to recognize their efforts to improve energy efficiency and reduce pollution, resulting in significant cost savings to homeowners. Award winners are selected from 8,000 organizations that participate in the ENERGY STAR program.

EPA notes that last year alone, with the help of ENERGY STAR, Americans saved \$12 billion on their energy bills and enough peak energy to power 28 million homes. Through those savings they avoided greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to more than 23 million vehicles.

"We are proud of the commitment partners like the NJCEP have made to helping Americans save energy," said Kathleen Hogan, director of EPA's Climate Protection Partnerships Division. "The Partner of the Year award recognizes partners whose efforts to promote energy-efficient products are exceptional. They have been instrumental in putting more than 2 billion ENERGY STAR qualified products into American households over the last decade."

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About ENERGY STAR

ENERGY STAR was introduced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1992 as a voluntary market-based partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through increased energy efficiency. Today, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy, the program offers businesses and consumers energy-efficient solutions to save energy, money and help protect the environment for future generations. More than 8,000 organizations are ENERGY STAR partners committed to improving the energy efficiency of products, homes and businesses. For more information about ENERGY STAR, visit www.energystar.gov or call toll-free 1-888-STAR-YES (1-888-782-7937).

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

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.