



New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

PRESS RELEASE

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GOVERNOR CORZINE WELCOMES U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SECRETARY CHU TO NEW JERSEY'S 'CLEAN ENERGY NOW' CONFERENCE

*Opening remarks laud New Jersey's Clean Energy achievements and economic development potential
Solar installations increase ten-fold in New Jersey over four years, advancing New Jersey's Energy Master Plan*

(ATLANTIC CITY, NJ) – U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu, co-winner of the 1997 Nobel Prize for Physics, today joined New Jersey Governor Jon S. Corzine to open *Clean Energy Now*, the 2009 Clean Energy Conference and Leadership Awards. Governor Corzine welcomed the attendees and introduced Dr. Chu, who offered the keynote address at the Opening Plenary session.

Joining Dr. Chu and Governor Corzine in offering welcoming remarks were Jeanne M. Fox, President of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities; William G. Dressel, Jr., Executive Director of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities; and Joan Verplanck, President of the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce.

In his keynote address, Dr. Chu spoke about the enormous potential of major investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency and praised New Jersey's work on both fronts. "America needs to get in the clean energy race and play to win. By moving to cleaner sources of energy, we can create jobs, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and cut carbon pollution. With strong executive leadership from Gov. Jon S. Corzine, New Jersey's innovators and entrepreneurs are leading the way, and I look forward to building on the work of this important conference," said Dr. Chu.

In welcoming conference attendees, Governor Corzine thanked them for their partnership with the state in pursuit of its clean energy goals and the creation of green jobs all across the state.

"Together, we have made great progress," Governor Corzine told attendees. "We have increased the number of solar installations ten-fold in the past four years. We are creating more than 2,500 direct jobs and 15,000 indirect jobs through utility investments in infrastructure and energy efficiency. We have increased the energy efficiency of almost 6,000 businesses in the last four years. In 2008 alone, we have saved enough electricity to power 80,000 homes and enough natural gas to power another 5,000. And working together, we have even greater achievements ahead of us."

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Governor Corzine also noted the new partnership the state has developed with the federal government under the Obama administration. “Under President Obama’s leadership, New Jersey now has friends in Washington – friends like Secretary Chu, whose Department of Energy is investing \$267 million to build our clean energy economy and create jobs in New Jersey, and friends like Interior Secretary Salazar, who is helping us build our capacity to generate energy with the power of offshore wind.”

The annual Conference, sponsored by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and New Jersey’s Clean Energy Program, brings together policy leaders, business owners, facility managers, and contractors in the renewable energy and energy efficiency trade. Attendees participate in sessions focused on technological innovations, financing opportunities, new and emerging government policy, the changing economics of renewable energy and energy efficiency, utility and government program support and emerging trends in the industry.

The conference, first held five years ago, has had steady increases in interest and attendance during its history. This year, the conference is being held at the largest venue in its history and was extended to two days to accommodate the growing attendance and interest in its agenda.

The conference runs through Thursday afternoon, at which time attendees will be offered tours of the Jersey-Atlantic wind farm located at the Atlantic County Utilities Authority Wastewater Treatment Facility and one of the world’s largest closed loop geothermal heating systems in the world as well as solar technology and a new aquifer thermal energy storage system at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

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