



New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

NEWS RELEASE

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East Amwell First N.J. Municipality To Take Advantage Of Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant Rebates

Hunterdon County town to receive \$70,000 in incentives for energy saving measures

TRENTON – New Jersey’s Board of Public Utilities’ Clean Energy Program (NJCEP) has been at the forefront in offering the state’s local governments expert guidance and financial incentives to offset the costs of energy efficiency improvements since 2001. Today, NJCEP is pleased to announce that East Amwell Township will be the first municipality in the state to receive approval for an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to help fully subsidize their latest energy efficiency upgrade.

Officials in East Amwell started the grant application process through NJCEP’s Direct Install Program, which identified areas for improvements in energy efficiency including lighting and HVAC systems and programmable thermostats in the township’s municipal building. Total project costs are estimated at \$71,916 and will be significantly offset by \$57,533 in NJCEP incentives. East Amwell then applied for an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) in the amount of \$14,383 to fully subsidize the remaining project costs.

Once the upgrades are complete, the township will realize estimated annual utility cost savings of approximately \$10,800 through energy savings of 52,193 kWh of electricity and 942 therms of natural gas annually.

“These State and federal incentives give all New Jersey municipalities an opportunity to take advantage of today’s most energy efficient measures to reduce energy usage and save taxpayers’ money,” said NJBPU President Lee A. Solomon. “I applaud East Amwell for taking a leadership role in clean energy and maximizing the available incentives.”

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Other local governments are encouraged to follow East Amwell's example and take advantage of the available NJCEP incentives, such as \$50,000 in energy efficiency incentives through the Direct Install program, and the ARRA EECBG, available as a rebate up to \$20,000. Applicants for the ARRA EECBG must also participate in at least one eligible NJCEP Commercial & Industrial program, an eligible Utility Energy Efficiency Incentive Program, or install building shell measures recommended by the Local Government Energy Audit Program.

Eligible NJCEP Commercial and Industrial programs include:

New Jersey SmartStart Buildings

The primary goal of New Jersey SmartStart Buildings is to provide a range of free support and financial incentives to help commercial, industrial, institutional, municipal and educational organizations of all sizes throughout the state implement energy efficiency measures to yield substantial energy savings, both now and for the future.

Pay for Performance

Pay for Performance takes a comprehensive, whole-building approach to energy efficiency in new construction or existing commercial, industrial and institutional facilities with an annual peak demand over 200 kW. This requirement is waived for hospitals, non-profits, public universities/colleges, governmental entities, and affordable multifamily housing. The program includes technical and construction-related assistance as well as financial incentives that can substantially offset the costs of an initial investment in energy efficiency measures.

Direct Install

Direct Install is a newly introduced turnkey operation that uses a network of participating contractors to identify cost-effective opportunities for saving energy and then implementing those measures through a seamless process. While this program is designed for smaller buildings with peak demand below 200 kW, the demand threshold has been waived for all Direct Install projects receiving full or partial ARRA incentive funding.

“New Jersey’s Clean Energy Program has experts available to guide you through each step of your energy efficiency project,” said President Solomon. “Explain that you would like to take advantage of Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funds and we will work with you to complete the process.”

For more details, an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant application, information on free Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant webinars and all NJCEP sponsored initiatives, visit www.NJCleanEnergy.com/EECBG or call 866-NJSMART.

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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.