



New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

April 23, 2013

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Christie Administration's Enhanced Energy Efficiency Incentives are Helping Homeowners, Businesses and Local Governments Rebuild Smarter Following Superstorm Sandy

Trenton, N.J. –The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (Board), through *New Jersey's Clean Energy Program*[™] (NJCEP) continues to assist residents, businesses, towns and schools to rebuild smarter during the Superstorm Sandy recovery process. Currently, over 1,230 businesses, residents, municipalities and schools have taken advantage of the enhanced incentives the NJCEP is offering for replacing appliances and equipment damaged by Sandy with high-efficiency technology.

In the three months since the storm response program's inception in January, the NJCEP has processed applications and committed almost \$2.35 million in incentives to help New Jerseyans rebuild their homes and businesses using energy efficient technologies.

"To assist in recovery, the Board acted to introduce a suite of enhanced Clean Energy Program incentives to assist all types of storm victims," said Bob Hanna, President of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. "The program has been well received and its positive impact will continue to expand as the rebuilding process moves forward."

In response to Governor Christie's commitment to recovery and rebuilding after Sandy, the Board increased the NJCEP's energy-efficiency incentives by as much as 50 percent for residents, businesses and local governments recovering from the storm. Additionally, an entire new line of incentives was introduced to help with the replacement of food service equipment.

One restaurateur who took advantage of the new food service equipment incentives is Anthony Baldino, owner of the Boathouse Restaurant in Beach Haven, N.J. Baldino's restaurant experienced up to 5 feet of water throughout the restaurant. Despite spending 60-70 man-hours raising all equipment and furnishings before the storm made landfall, the kitchen equipment was lost. Baldino is expecting significant energy savings from the high-efficiency he purchased.

"Energy consumption is a huge concern, especially in a seasonal business like ours where we don't have a full year to recoup our investment," said Mr. Baldino. "New Jersey's response to

Superstorm Sandy was very helpful for us, both in terms of the incentives that offset some of our equipment replacement costs and in terms of the program staff who were very responsive and understanding, including waiving the site inspection and quick application approval. The equipment is already on-site and ready for use.”

Mark Tandarich, Retail Implementation Specialist for Wawa, Inc., also took advantage of the new food service incentives to replace equipment at Wawa locations in Sayreville, Beach Haven, Ship Bottom, Ocean City, Avalon and Margate City after experiencing significant water damage.

“Our policy is to incorporate energy efficiency wherever possible,” said Mr. Tandarich. “We recently received NJ Clean Energy Program incentives when we completed a series of LED lighting upgrades in a number of locations. So, when one of our associates brought the new food service equipment incentives to our attention, we were comfortable with the process. The program staff has been very responsive with quick turn-around on the applications so we could get back in business as soon as possible.”

Since many homeowners also suffered major damage from the storm, *New Jersey’s Clean Energy Program* is providing incentives from \$50 to \$500 to help residents pay for new energy-efficient furnaces, boilers, heat pumps, gas water heaters, central air conditioners, clothes washers, and refrigerators. The program also offers refrigerator and freezer recycling.

One Long Beach Island resident, Donna Schamber, said her boiler and water heater were destroyed after they were submerged in approximately one foot of water. An HVAC contractor made Ms. Schamber aware of the incentives available through the NJCEP and New Jersey Natural Gas. Taking her contractor’s advice, Ms. Schamber replaced the equipment with a high efficient boiler and tankless water heater.

“Once we realized the rebates were substantial, the decision to purchase high efficiency equipment made our decision much easier,” said Ms. Schamber. “We were glad to switch to a tankless water heater.” The Schambers will receive \$2,100 in incentives: \$900 from New Jersey Natural Gas and \$1,200 from New Jersey’s Clean Energy Program. Ms. Schamber is now intending to purchase an ENERGY STAR qualified clothes washer in order to benefit from the \$50 *Clean Energy Program* incentive.

For details on enhanced incentives for those impacted by Hurricane Sandy, visit <http://www.njcleanenergy.com/sandy>.

For a full listing of eligible commercial food service equipment and an application for special incentives, visit <http://www.njcleanenergy.com/commercial-industrial/programs/nj-smartstart-buildings/food-service-equipment-incentives>.

For complete details on the homeowner appliance incentive programs available, go to <http://www.njcleanenergy.com/misc/residential/rebates-and-promotions>.

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About the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU)

The NJBPU 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)

NJCEP, 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 (NJBPU), and its website is www.NJCleanEnergy.com.

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