

**Request for Comments
January 31, 2013**

The OCE Staff is recommending two changes to the 2012-2013 NJCEP programs and budgets described below and is requesting comments on the proposed changes prior to submitting them to the Board for approval. Given the minor nature of the proposed changes, Staff is requesting comments by COB Friday, February 8, 2013. Comments should be submitted to:

publiccomments@njcleanenergy.com

and reference: "proposed changes to 2012-2013 NJCEP programs and budget"

Local Government Energy Audit Program

The Local Government Energy Audit Program (LGEA) currently offers energy audits to public schools interested in participating in an Energy Savings Improvement Program (ESIP). Prior to January 1, 2013 the program was also open to other local government entities and non-profit organizations. The change that limited the program to public schools was implemented in part due to the need to significantly reduce the NJCEP budgets to reflect the level of funds lapsed into the State's general fund.

Since that time two things have occurred that have led to Staff recommending changes to the program. First, a number of municipal government entities have approached Staff and indicated that they were interested in participating in an ESIP and that the LGEA would be a useful tool to jumpstart the ESIP process. Several non-profits have also approached Staff indicating an interest in the LGEA. Second, TRC has forecast that it currently estimates that through June 30, 2013 it will only expend or commit approximately 70% of the LGEA budget leaving enough room in the existing budget to accommodate the proposed changes.

Based on the above, staff recommends that the LGEA program be modified to include other local government entities as well as non-profit organizations. The eligibility requirements in place in 2012 would be applicable to the revised program.

South Jersey Gas Budget

South Jersey Gas Company (SJG) submitted a letter dated January 15, 2013 to the OCE requesting the transfer of \$8,000 from the rebates, grants and other direct incentives budget category to the training budget category of its Board approved Comfort Partners program budget. The overall program budget approved by the Board would remain unchanged. SJG has indicated to Staff that it inadvertently understated anticipated training expenses when it submitted its 2012 – 2013 budgets that were approved in the November 20, 2012 Order referenced above. Staff has reviewed this request and recommends approval.