



# Borough of Ocean Gate Captures the Wind-2008 Clean Energy Municipality of the Year

## PROJECT INFORMATION

- Organization
  - **Borough of Ocean Gate**
- Location
  - **Ocean Gate, NJ**
- Project Contact
  - **Paul J. Kennedy, Mayor**

- Technology
  - **Wind Power**

- Total Project Cost
  - **\$600,000**

- NJCEP Incentives
  - **\$200,000**

## PROJECT SAVINGS

- Estimated Annual Savings
  - **Reduced electricity consumption by 224,000 kWh**
  - **Decreased CO2 emissions by nearly 18 tons**



Borough of Ocean Gate's Municipal Building

**“With this new wind project, we have taken the first major steps to not only reduce our borough’s carbon footprint, but also stabilize our real estate tax rates for the future.”**

Paul J. Kennedy,  
Mayor of Ocean Gate

## Background

As far as New Jersey communities go, the Borough of Ocean Gate is rather small in stature. According to the U.S. Census 2000, it is home to just 2,076 residents and spans less than one-half of a square mile in Ocean County. But, ever since the borough’s establishment in 1918, it has been thinking big. And the local government’s approach to energy efficiency has been nothing short of grand.

## Challenge

Both the mayor and council of Ocean Gate not only wanted to meet, but exceed, Governor Corzine’s Energy Master Plan to reduce energy consumption 20 percent by the year 2020. In doing so, these forward-thinking leaders hoped to inspire other larger boroughs, towns and municipalities throughout Ocean County and across the state to undertake their own green efforts to both reduce their carbon footprint and reap the immediate and long-term benefits of clean, renewable energy.

## Solution

Borrowing a page from the New Jersey Small Wind Working Group’s playbook, Ocean Gate adopted their own Small Wind Energy System Zoning Ordinance, the first of its kind in New Jersey. The passage of this ordinance allowed local leaders to proceed with the development of bid specifications,

Project information, savings and environmental benefits were provided by the project contact.





Pavillion at Wildwood Avenue in Ocean Gate

### Solution (Cont'd)

a full scale wind assessment and the necessary geological engineering analysis to explore the potential benefits of wind power to provide both the Municipal Office Building and Water Treatment Plant with energy. Combined, these two facilities consume 65 percent of the borough's demands on the power grid. In addition, the mayor and council wisely pursued avenues for funding through both New Jersey's Clean Energy Program and the New Jersey Environmental Trust in addition to traditional lending sources. The final clean energy solution came in the form of two highly efficient wind turbines.

### Benefits

The benefits gained from these two wind turbines are both impressive and far-reaching. First is the outstanding environmental impact. Ocean Gate is now able to power both their Municipal Office Building and Water Treatment Plant solely through clean, renewable wind energy. This totals an annual savings of 224,000 kWh in electricity and prevents 18 tons of carbon dioxide from being released into the air. There are significant financial savings for Ocean Gate as well. With its newly reduced energy bills, the borough has estimated that they will be able to pay off the bond and loan taken to help fund the installations in just four to seven years rather than the allotted seven to ten years. Once these financial commitments are met, the savings generated by the wind turbines, which are estimated to be two to four cents per hundred dollars a year, will be applied directly to the tax base. This will result in a welcome stabilization of Ocean Gate's tax rate. To multiply the profound and positive impacts of their own wind project, borough officials sponsored the first Ocean County Wind Summit with the objective of educating representatives from the county's 33 municipalities on the facts and myths of wind power so they, too, could benefit from this clean, renewable resource. Nineteen municipalities were represented at this summit and several of them, in addition to many area places of worship, school districts and even residents, have expressed an interest in further investigating wind power for their own use.



BOROUGH OF OCEAN GATE

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To learn more about New Jersey's Clean Energy Program, and to find out why clean energy is smart business, go to [NJCleanEnergy.com](http://NJCleanEnergy.com)

