

New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

NEWS RELEASE

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Christie Administration Announces Enhanced Clean Energy Program Incentives to Assist Hurricane Sandy Flood Victims

Residents, Businesses, Towns and Schools Eligible for Enhanced Rebates for Qualifying Energyefficient Equipment and Appliances

TRENTON, N.J. –The Christie Administration today announced that enhanced financial incentives are available to assist storm victims rebuild from Hurricane Sandy's devastation. The N.J. Board of Public Utilities (BPU) has increased rebate levels and expanded the list of qualifying equipment and products under New Jersey's Clean Energy Program (CEP) to help residents, businesses and local government entities replace storm-damaged equipment and appliances with more energy-efficient products.

To assist those who may have already replaced qualifying products, the new incentives and program changes are retroactive to October 29, 2012, and will remain in effect until funds are exhausted.

"To help New Jersey's residents, businesses and towns rebuild in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, the Christie Administration has increased New Jersey's Clean Energy Program rebate offerings and streamlined guidelines to more quickly deliver needed incentives," said Bob Hanna, President of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. "As New Jersey rebuilds, we want to ensure that everyone is aware of the advantages of purchasing energy-efficient products."

The CEP is increasing rebate levels by \$200 for residents who choose high energy-efficient equipment and appliances, such as furnaces, boilers and water heaters, to replace items damaged by flooding caused by Hurricane Sandy. Also, the Board waived the Smart Growth requirement for customers who are completely rebuilding their homes or businesses as a result of Sandy's devastation.

The CEP is also offering increased incentives for commercial, industrial and local governmental entities that have or will need to purchase new equipment, as well as adding new incentives for qualifying food service equipment. This equipment includes commercial dishwashers, fryers, griddles, ovens and refrigeration, etc.

The enhanced incentives are available until approximately \$45.5 million in current CEP budget funding is exhausted. Since the rebuilding process will be ongoing with some homeowners and business owners possibly not rebuilding until later this year, additional enhanced incentive funding may be approved by the Board in the CEP 2014 Budget, which begins July 1, 2013. If approved, enhanced incentives will be available to storm victims into the new fiscal year.

For more information on rebate amounts, qualifying equipment and appliances, eligibility and how to apply, please visit the NJ Clean Energy Program website at: <u>www.NJCleanEnergy.com</u>

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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 <<u>http://www.nj.gov/bpu</u>>.

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 <u>www.NJCleanEnergy.com</u> <<u>http://www.NJCleanEnergy.com</u>>.