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New Jersey's Clean Energy Program Helps Local Agencies Become Energy Efficient

-The Local Government Energy Audit Program aides in saving energy use and costs-

Trenton, NJ- Over the past ten years, *New Jersey's Clean Energy Program* TM (NJCEP) has helped state and local government agencies, state schools, as well as non-profits become more energy efficient through the Local Government Energy Audit (LGEA) Program. The LGEA Program allows qualified customers to take a closer look at their facilities and determine how they can decrease their energy use and save on energy costs.

Through NJCEP, the LGEA Program will subsidize 100% of the cost of the audit so there are no out of pocket expenses to the customer, up to a value of \$100,000. Once the audit is complete, the customer will have a list of recommended, cost-justified measures and upgrades that will decrease operating expenses as well as improve the performance of their buildings. The implementation of many of the recommended measures will be supported with incentives offered by other programs within NJCEP to offset the costs of installation.

Several local entities have recently transitioned these audits into actions by implementing the measures identified in their audit. They include: Clayton Public Schools of Gloucester County, the Delaware River Basin Commission in Ewing Township, and the Foundation Academy Charter School in Trenton.

"It is exciting to see the increased utilization of the Local Government Energy Audit Program," says New Jersey Board of Public Utilities President Joseph L. Fiordaliso. "The reduction of energy usage is consistent with Governor Murphy's clean energy initiatives."

One of the recommendations made to Clayton Public Schools included an upgrade to their lighting system. An incentive provided through NJCEP's SmartStart Program helped them to make the investment in the upgrade, which is expected to save the school and taxpayers approximately \$53,025 over the life of the project.

The Delaware River Basin Commission is taking action from their LGEA audit findings to upgrade to LED lighting and upgrade their refrigeration, water heater, boiler, furnace controls, and low-flow faucet fixtures through NJCEP's Direct Install Program. All of these advancements will result in energy cost savings of over \$330,000 over the life of the project.

The Foundation Academy Charter School used various NJCEP programs across their buildings. To start, the Foundation Collegiate Academy utilized the Direct Install Program to upgrade to LED lighting, installed occupancy sensors, gas fired heaters, and low-flow faucets. The Foundation Academy Gym also used Direct Install to upgrade to LED lighting, install lighting controls, and dual enthalpy economizers and the Foundation Academy School used the SmartStart Program to upgrade lighting in various buildings. In combination, these new energy efficiency measures will save the Charter School over \$747,000 in energy over the life of these projects.

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 and 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.