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N.J. Board of Public Utilities Announces Expansion of **Compressed Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program**

Will Fund a Portion of Incremental Cost of CNG Heavy Duty Trucks and Buses

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (Board) has announced an expansion of the compressed natural gas (CNG) heavy duty vehicle grant program. The Grants are available for Class 5 through 8 heavy duty trucks and buses. The \$200,000 grant program will fund up to fifty percent of the incremental cost of a CNG powered vehicle up to fifty percent over a comparable diesel vehicle.

Originally the program was made available in seven counties. As of December 20, 2017, the grant program was opened to all 21 counties. Awards will be capped at \$25,000 per vehicle and \$50,000 per applicant and will be processed on a first-come-first-served basis until funding is exhausted. These caps have been increased from \$20,000 and \$40,000 respectively in the original program.

"This grant program is a really creative way of implementing the State Energy Master Plan policies supporting alternative fuel vehicles," said Board President Joe Fiordaliso. "This program will accelerate the state's move toward alternative fuel vehicles including electric vehicles and CNG vehicles."

Eligible applicants for the grant program include municipalities, political subdivisions, incorporated nonprofit entities, corporations and limited liability companies or partnerships registered to do business in New Jersey. The vehicles must only operate on compressed natural gas to qualify for the grant program.

The application window is now open through April 2, 2018. The application, program description and approval process details are posted on the Board's website at: <u>http://www.nj.gov/bpu/commercial/cng.html</u>. The application is also posted on the NJ Clean Energy Program website at <u>http://www.nj.gov/bpu/commercial/cng.html</u>.

The Board will accept applications submitted to the email address:

<u>BPU.CNGVehicleGrant@BPU.NJ.Gov</u>. The program is expected to result in at least ten CNG powered trucks and buses replacing similar vehicles powered by diesel fuel.