



New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
December 10, 2015

Contact:
Greg Reinert
609-777-3305

Christie Administration Marks Milestone of 100,000 Low-Income Households Benefiting from New Jersey Comfort Partners Program

Initiative Helps Low-Income Residents make Energy-Efficiency Improvements

Trenton, N.J. – Today, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities President Richard S. Mroz joined Laurence M. Downes, Chairman and CEO of New Jersey Natural Gas, President Jim Fakult from Jersey Central Power & Light and other local officials at the home of Irene Perrini in Keansburg to highlight that 100,000 low-income families have benefited from the New Jersey Comfort Partners Program (NJCP). President Mroz, along with the other officials, toured the home to see first-hand the energy-saving measures installed at no cost to the homeowner.

“For nearly 15 years the New Jersey Comfort Partners Program has been helping lower income residents and families save money on their energy bills by improving the efficient use of energy within their homes,” said Richard S. Mroz, President of the NJ Board of Public Utilities. “In addition to providing assistance to qualified low-income homeowners and tenants, the program helps reduce energy costs for all ratepayers and improves the environment through energy conservation.”

NJCP, a component of New Jersey’s Clean Energy Program, offers free energy-saving improvements and energy education for income-eligible residents. Delivered by the state’s electric and natural gas utilities, NJCP has lowered energy costs for 100,000 New Jersey families who typically spend a high percentage of their income on energy.

Through NJCP, New Jersey’s low-income residents have reduced their annual energy usage by an estimated 113,552 megawatt-hours and an estimated 926,207 dekatherms; enough electricity to power approximately 10,387 average residential homes and enough natural gas to supply approximately 9,262 homes using 1,000 therms annually.

The NJCP program is available to any New Jersey household with significant energy use and an income at or below 225 percent of the federal poverty guidelines or is a participant in one of the following programs: Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), Lifeline, Pharmaceutical

Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD), Section 8 Housing, Federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) or Universal Service Fund (USF).

“As a lifeline service provider, we understand the importance of a warm home,” said Laurence M. Downes, chairman and CEO of New Jersey Natural Gas. “It is not a luxury; it’s a necessity. This is why programs like New Jersey Comfort Partners are so vital to our customers and their quality of life.”

“The Comfort Partners Program enables utilities to assist qualified customers by lending a helping hand and saving energy,” said Jim Fakult, Jersey Central Power & Light (JCP&L) president. “Together, JCP&L and our fellow electric and gas companies have been able to effectively partner under New Jersey’s Clean Energy Program to reach a significant number of customers and make a difference.”

While NJCP saves energy, it can also save lives. Some of the significant benefits include safety testing of all appliances and checking for natural gas and carbon monoxide (CO) leaks. In addition, the program provides education about crucial home maintenance issues that may reduce the risk of fire, CO poisoning, mold and other potential hazards. The whole-house improvements provided by NJCP result in increased comfort and safer temperature levels in homes, which can be critical for the elderly, children and the infirm.

NJCP identified energy-saving opportunities in Ms. Perrini’s home, implementing home energy improvements in the attic, including new insulation and air sealing, weather stripping on the attic pull-down stairs, soffit venting for under-ventilation and a new flue pipe. NJCP also installed a high-efficiency, wall-mounted combination boiler and water heater with new venting; an ENERGY STAR® high-efficiency refrigerator, two digital programmable thermostats, energy-efficient lighting and weather stripping around doors. In addition, it replaced two leaky air-conditioner wall units with remote-controlled, wall-mounted ENERGY STAR models. Other measures installed were floor joist support beams in the crawl space and new crawl space vents around the foundation to allow for better ventilation and eliminate the current moisture issue in the home. The home’s crawl space was air sealed, including the hot water pipes, and damaged insulation was replaced with new batt insulation. Lastly, a new vapor barrier was installed on the crawl space floor.

For additional information on the New Jersey Comfort Partners Program and other New Jersey Clean Energy Programs for local governments, businesses and residents, visit www.NJCleanEnergy.com/CP or call 866-NJSMART. Interested NJCP participants may also call their local utility company.

###