



New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

PRESS RELEASE

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LACEY TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS RAISE THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY BAR WITH 'TEACH'

New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Commissioner Joseph Fiordaliso recognizes district for its successful participation in exclusive program for schools

(LANOKA HARBOR, NJ) – New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPUB) Commissioner Joseph Fiordaliso today applauded Lacey Township School District officials for their extraordinary implementation of TEACH (Teaching Energy Awareness with Children's Help), a key initiative within New Jersey's Clean Energy Program. His commendation followed a presentation by select teachers on their specific execution of and proven results from the program.

TEACH takes a two-step approach in improving energy usage by evaluating existing public school facilities then engaging the entire school community in the energy savings process. Lacey Township, the first school district in the Garden State to participate in TEACH, began the process by undergoing a free energy use evaluation and benchmarking report, based on dollars spent per square foot and dollars spent per student. District representatives then participated in three energy smart workshops, during which teachers were provided with supplies, lesson plans and documents to educate their students on saving energy.

"The most exciting part of this program is that each and every participating school district decides exactly how they will execute TEACH," said Jeff Brown, Program Administrator. "We give them all of the tools they require – at no cost – so they can customize the program to meet the unique needs of their staff, students and school."

Several teams outlined their creative approaches to involving students in the TEACH program. By utilizing the tools provided to them in the TEACH kits, each team was able to tailor their energy saving plans to their own particular school. Some of the steps implemented at the schools included monitoring light usage in empty rooms, unplugging unused electrical equipment and generating participation from their fellow staff and students.

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These custom-crafted measures are expected to yield successful results. According to Jeff Brown, Lacey Township schools are on target to reduce their energy consumption 10-20 percent.

Once all of the benchmarking reports have been completed, each school will have the opportunity to improve upon their energy consumption and work towards their district earning a prestigious U.S. EPA ENERGY STAR® award. This award is given to the top 25 percent energy efficient schools in the nation.

According to ENERGY STAR, the annual energy bill to run America's primary and secondary schools is \$6 billion — more than is spent on textbooks and computers combined. Studies show top ENERGY STAR labeled schools cost 40 cents per square foot less to operate than the average performer, and the least efficient schools use three times more energy than the best energy performers.

“TEACH is a great step toward making schools more energy efficient, and it costs nothing but time,” said Brian DeLuca, an energy engineer with TRC Solutions, the NJBPU's Commercial & Industrial Market Manager. “Pursuing energy efficiency in our schools creates a better environment for learning, and conserves our natural resources for future generations.”

“I am thoroughly impressed with Lacey Township School District's unique execution of the TEACH Program, skillful whole-school approach and resulting energy savings,” said Commissioner Fiordaliso. “Their fine example will forever shine like a beacon for school districts throughout the state.”

To date, 98 New Jersey K-12 public schools and 10 school districts have joined TEACH. Program administrators are very pleased that these numbers are right on target, as their original goal was to have 100 schools and 6-9 school districts participating by the end of this year.

TEACH is actively looking to recruit another 6-9 school districts and 100 schools. To get your school district started in the TEACH program, call 866-NJSMART (866-657-6278) and press 4, or email NJTEACH@trcsolutions.com.

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About the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU):

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities 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.

About the New Jersey Clean Energy Program (NJCEP):

New Jersey's Clean Energy Program, 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 (BPU), and its website is www.njcleanenergy.com.