



New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

PRESS RELEASE

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NJBPU APPROVES ALMOST \$1 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR 'GREEN' JOBS LEARNING LABORATORIES

Programs in Camden, Newark and Trenton to Receive New Jersey Green Jobs Training Grants to Facilitate State's Growing Green Energy Sector

(NEWARK, NJ) – The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) today approved \$900,000 from its 2009 Clean Energy Budget to provide three grants of \$300,000 each to enhance existing “green” jobs training programs currently being funded by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The three recipients include the following non-profit organizations: *The Hispanic Family Center*, located in Camden; *Isles*, located in Trenton; and *Lincoln Park Coast Cultural District*, located in Newark.

“Governor Corzine’s commitment to renewable energy and energy efficiency has created a vibrant and growing clean energy market, and there is an ever increasing need for ‘green’ jobs training that is enhanced by hands-on learning in the Garden State,” said BPU President Jeanne M. Fox. “Today’s Board decision will provide additional funding to programs which have shown success in recent years.”

This training program enhancement will provide students with a hands-on experience for installing Energy Efficiency (EE) technology within a “Learning Lab.” The students will be able to – in a real world setting – re-install duct work and re-seal duct work, and install and re-install insulation. In addition, student will re-wire, insulate and re-insulate piping on hot water systems, and learn the different classes of duct sealing to prepare for routine day-to-day operations. Students that come through this enhanced training will be work ready.

The Hispanic Family Center (HFC) has a special focus on recruiting a diverse group of men and women from the Camden area who have had difficulties attaining meaningful employment in their past. The Center is attempting to expand their training program, which provides clients with access to education and supportive services to increase their chances of successful employment. The HFC will expand training for students in the areas of air sealing, insulation, duct work, hot water systems piping, and blower door technology.

Isles currently provides workforce readiness, life skills and other specialized training and support for existing and potential students enrolled at their green jobs training facility. The agency offers entry-level courses in the energy efficiency, alternative energy and environmental cleanup fields to unemployed and underemployed students along with workforce development and life skills, financial literacy, environmental sustainability, and OSHA 10 training. *Isles* has 28 years of community development experience. In addition, they have 600 graduates and high success rates with their existing green jobs training program.

Lincoln Park Coast Cultural District (LPCCD) is a community development corporation whose existing education and training focuses on empowering and preparing Newark residents to gain rewarding, higher-paying and in-demand positions in the region. Their curriculum and learning platform will prepare and equip students with hands-on field training with energy technology.

All three organizations will help train individuals for work that will achieve the goals of Governor Corzine's comprehensive Energy Master Plan, which includes a goal to reduce energy consumption by 20 percent by 2020 and increase the amount of renewable energy to 30 percent of energy consumption by 2020.

For more information on New Jersey's Clean Energy Program, visit www.NJCleanEnergy.com, or call 1-866-NJSMART.

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

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 NJBP 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 NJBP, 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 (BP), and its website is www.njcleanenergy.com.