



New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

PRESS RELEASE

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OCEAN GATE BECOMES FIRST NEW JERSEY COMMUNITY TO INTEGRATE WIND ENERGY POWER

NJBPU President Jeanne M. Fox and Commissioner Joseph Fiordaliso join local officials, dedicating wind turbines that provide clean energy to Borough Hall and Water Treatment Plant

(OCEAN GATE, NJ) – New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) President Jeanne M. Fox and Commissioner Joseph Fiordaliso today joined Ocean Gate Mayor Paul Kennedy and other local officials to officially “turn on” two 50-kilowatt wind turbines, which will provide most of the electricity to power the resort community’s Municipal Office Building and Water Treatment Plant. Ocean Gate is the first New Jersey municipality to use wind power as the primary energy source for its government buildings.

Putting the Ocean Gate project into the context of the State’s Energy Master Plan, President Fox noted that Governor Corzine’s bold vision for our energy future calls for at least 30 percent of our electricity to be generated by renewable resources by 2020, with a significant portion of that coming from both offshore and onshore wind.

The wind turbines put into use in Ocean Gate are expected to generate 224,000 kilowatt hours per year, providing about 80 percent of the electricity needs for the Municipal Office Building and Water Treatment Plant while reducing carbon emissions by 162 tons annually.

During the ceremony, President Fox praised the Ocean County community for its pioneering efforts in the area of clean energy. “Ocean Gate was literally the first community out of the gate when it came to adopting New Jersey’s first Small Wind Energy System Zoning Ordinance and has now followed that up with the installation of its own wind turbines,” said President Fox. “Mayor Kennedy and the Borough Council should be commended for the leadership they displayed in using wind energy to reduce their community’s carbon footprint and energy costs.”

“As a former mayor myself, I can fully appreciate the need for a municipality to control its operating expenses while setting a standard for its residents in the area of environmental consciousness,” said BPU Commissioner Joseph Fiordaliso. “The wind turbines we’ve now set into motion stand as a prime example of how a local government can achieve both of these goals simultaneously.”

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The Commissioner added that Ocean Gate was the recipient of the New Jersey Clean Energy Program's "2008 Clean Energy Municipality of the Year."

The New Jersey Clean Energy Program provided Ocean Gate with an incentive of \$200,000 toward the \$600,000 cost of the project. That incentive – coupled with the savings produced by replacing electricity purchased from the grid with wind-generated power – will result in the borough's investment being paid back in four to seven years. Once the loans and bonds used to finance the project are paid off, Ocean Gate will use the continuing energy savings to reduce its local tax base by an estimated two to four cents per hundred dollars of assessed value.

Mayor Kennedy noted that with the new wind project, "the community of Ocean Gate has taken the first major steps to not only reduce its carbon footprint, but also stabilize its real estate tax rates for the future."

"Using the example that has now been set by Ocean Gate, we hope to encourage many other municipalities – as well as private industry, farmers and homeowners – to take advantage of the economic and environmental benefits that small wind energy systems have to offer," President Fox added.

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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.