

# Radon Action Partnership Packet



**NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**

# **Radon Action Partnership Packet**

## **Activities for Radon Action Month, Lung Cancer Awareness Month, and Throughout the Year**

Thank you for your interest in being a partner in New Jersey's radon outreach efforts. Your efforts can help prevent radon-related lung cancer in your community.

We are aware that the COVID-19 pandemic will make the distribution of test kits more difficult than in previous years. There are no additional requirements from the NJDEP for distribution, we only ask that you follow all recommended CDC guidelines when dealing with residents.

Following are examples of activities and events for increasing local radon awareness:

- [The EPA bulletin](#) about National Radon Action Month (NRAP) has links to [radon media resources](#)
- Provide free test kits to residents through the Radon Awareness Program. **(Pages 3-5)**
- Social media updates on radon can raise awareness quickly and frequently to a broad audience. **(Page 6)**
- Issue press releases or include brief articles on websites, in municipal newsletters, and local newspapers. **(Page 7)**
- Mayors or other local leaders can test their homes for radon and invite local media to cover the story.
- Mayors can issue a proclamation. **(Page 8)**
- Staff can offer radon presentations and set up radon displays at community events and in public areas.
- Contacts can be made with local radio and television stations to see if they would air public service announcements (PSAs) on radon. PSAs can be obtained from the EPA ([www.epapsa.com](http://www.epapsa.com))

# ***New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection***

## **RADON AWARENESS PROGRAM GRANT**

**DEP Radon Section, Mail Code 25-01, PO Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420**  
**Phone: (800) 648-0394** **www.njradon.org**

The Radon Awareness Program (RAP) grant is available to all New Jersey municipalities, counties, and schools. Any non-profit agencies involved in the Department of Community Affairs low-income weatherization program can also qualify for the grant. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Radon Section, will reimburse up to \$2,000 for the purchase of radon test kits. A limited number of grants are available, and they are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

To participate in the RAP program, the agency, organization, or school must adhere to the following requirements. Failure to meet any of the requirements may result in disqualification from the program:

1. Submit an application (see page 5) to the Radon Section prior to purchasing test devices. Participants will be selected on a **first-come, first-served** basis based on available funding. Test kits must be purchased only **after** receipt of an approval letter issued by the Radon Section.
2. Purchase test kits from a certified radon measurement business. A list of certified businesses can be found at [www.njradon.org](http://www.njradon.org).
3. Ensure that the business from which the test kits are purchased includes the range of reference numbers for those kits on the invoice.
4. Submit RAP reimbursement documentation to the Radon Section **within 60 days** of application approval. **If not submitted within the allotted timeframe the Department reserves the right to refuse reimbursement.** Documents include:
  - Completed payment voucher.
  - Records showing that the participant reached out to a minimum of three vendors for test kit quotes and picked the lowest bidder.
  - Invoice from chosen vendor with reference numbers of all purchased devices.
  - Copy of a press release, email blast, or website posting (county and municipality participants only).
5. Applies to counties and municipalities ONLY:
  - A. Issue a press release to at least one local or one regional newspaper, an email blast to residents, or post a message on the website announcing the availability of test kits.

- B. Distribute FREE test kits at the office to residents who reside in the municipality or county. Coupons (not test kits) must be distributed at planned events such as health fairs, street fairs, etc., with arrangements made for interested residents to pick up the test kit at the office.
  - C. Records must be maintained to identify the name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of all individuals who receive a test kit, along with the reference number and date the test kit was received.
  - D. Obtain reports from the laboratory and report the percentage of kits handed out and the number of kits analyzed on January 1 and July 1 each year until the supply of test kits is depleted.
  - E. Contact residents that do not return their test kit and encourage them to complete the test.
6. Applies to schools ONLY:
- A. Contact a certified radon measurement business and they will conduct the testing.
  - B. Use test kits only to test the school that is applying for the grant.
7. Applies to non-profit agencies involved in the Department of Community Affairs weatherization program ONLY:
- A. Distribute FREE test kits.
  - B. Distribute test kits only within the area the program serves.
  - C. Either send an agency staff member for training to receive an exemption\* so they can conduct the radon testing or give the test kit to the owner.
  - D. Use kits only for weatherization clients.

\*For exemption information, contact the Radon Section at (800) 648-0394.

# New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

## APPLICATION RADON AWARENESS PROGRAM (RAP) GRANT

Return **SIGNED** form to: NJDEP Radon Section  
 Mail Code 25-01, PO Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625 or Fax: (609) 984-5595  
 Phone: (800) 648-0394      [www.njradon.org](http://www.njradon.org)

<b>Affiliation (Circle One):</b>			
School	County Agency	Municipal Agency	Weatherization Non-Profit Agency
<b>Official Contact Person</b>			
Name:			
Street:			
City:			
State:	Zip:	Phone:	
County:	E-mail Address:		
<b>Organization Information</b>			
<b>Name of School to be Tested or the Municipal, County or Weatherization Agency:</b>			
Street:		Business Phone:	
City:		Business Fax:	
State:	Zip:	County:	
<b>Applicant Certification:</b>			
<p>I have read the NJDEP RAP Guidance and agree to comply fully with all requirements. I acknowledge that deviation from the RAP Guidance may result in forfeiture of the RAP Grant reimbursement.</p>			
_____		____/____/____	
(Official Contact Person Signature)		(Date)	
<p>I certify that the above individual is authorized by me to apply for a grant to purchase radon testing devices. I understand that deviation from the guidance will result in forfeiture of reimbursement of up to \$2000.</p>			
Superintendent/Director/Manager: _____		____/____/____	
(Print)		(Signature) (Date)	

**FOR DEP USE ONLY**

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

## **Sample Social Media Messaging for Radon**

### **Facebook:**

1. Testing for radon in your home is easy and radon problems can be fixed. Contact <<insert organization>> in <<state/county/city>> for a free test kit.
2. Radon is a gas that you can't see, smell, or taste. But it can affect your health. Radon causes about 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year. Testing is simple & inexpensive. Find out how to get a radon test for your home: <<url>>
3. Radon occurs naturally and could be inside your home. Testing is important because radon can cause serious health problems like lung cancer. Testing is simple and inexpensive – get started today! <<url>>
4. Radon testing is easy and inexpensive. You can get a kit at your local hardware or home improvement store. Take steps to fix any problems you find and protect your health! <<url>>

### **Twitter:**

1. Test your home for #radon; it's easy & inexpensive! <<bit.ly>> #TrackingRadon
2. You can't see, smell, or taste #radon gas. It's the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of #lungcancer - test your home today. <<bit.ly>> #TrackingRadon
3. Does your house have radon? It can affect your health! Visit <<bit.ly>> for #radon testing help. #TrackingRadon
4. Testing for #radon & fixing problems can protect your health. Testing is easy & inexpensive – get a kit at your local hardware or home improvement store <<bit.ly>>

# **Sample Press Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: [Name & Phone Number]

[Municipality name] ANNOUNCES RADON ACTION [MONTH]

[Your community, state, date] -- [Mayor's name] announced today that [dates in January] has been designated Radon Action Week [or Month] by [municipality], in cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Radon Program.

In announcing Radon Action Month [Mayor's name] said, "Radon is a serious health risk. It is the second leading cause of lung cancer -- and the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. But because radon is invisible and odorless it is easy to ignore this potential hazard in our own homes."

Radon is a radioactive gas that occurs naturally when uranium and radium break down in the soil and in rock formations. Radon gas moves up through the soil and finds its way into homes through cracks in the foundation and openings around pumps, pipes and drains.

"A significant number [or \_\_percent (the percentage can be found in the DEP's Radon Tier Report of homes) in [municipality name] are predicted to be above the acceptable limits for radon," [Mayor or other official] said. "We would like to see as many homes tested as possible, to reduce the radon risk in [municipality name]."

During Radon Action Month, [municipality name] will provide radon information at the following locations and events: [List areas where information will be available, and any radon-related events, such as presentations].

Radon is measured in picoCuries per liter (pCi/L) of air. The average U.S. indoor level is 1.3 pCi/L. At 4 pCi/L, the risk of lung cancer from radon is greater than the risk from fire or other home accidents. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the DEP recommend that action be taken to reduce radon levels if the level in the home is greater than or equal to 4 pCi/L.

Fortunately, testing for radon is simple and inexpensive. Certified radon measurement businesses provide testing services or do-it-yourself test kits. Test kits can also be obtained from many hardware stores and home improvement stores. [Mention if the local health department sells test kits].

If the test indicates a radon problem, radon mitigation systems can be installed at a cost similar to that of other home repairs.

For more information on radon, contact [municipality contact and phone number] or the DEP Radon Program at (800) 648-0394 or visit [www.njradon.org](http://www.njradon.org).

# Sample Proclamation

## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is the second leading cause of lung cancer; and

WHEREAS, prolonged exposure to radon can kill as many as 500 people in New Jersey each year; and

WHEREAS, families who reside in homes with elevated radon levels are at risk of developing serious health problems; and

WHEREAS, any home could have high levels, even when neighboring homes do not; and

WHEREAS, radon testing can be done with great ease at a relatively low expense to the homeowner, with the cost of reducing radon concentrations being comparable to a home repair; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the United States Environmental Protection Agency are collaborating during the month of January to promote the need for radon testing in an effort to protect the lives of our State's residents; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **[Mayor's name]**, Mayor of **[municipality name]**, on behalf of the **[municipality name]** Town Council and residents of **[municipality name]**, do hereby proclaim the week **[or month]** of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_, as

### RADON ACTION MONTH

in the Township of **[municipality name]** and call upon all residents who have not yet tested to test their homes for radon and to reduce radon levels if elevated levels are found, to protect their families from the serious health risk of radon.

Signed this \_\_\_ the day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

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**[Mayor's name]**