



New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

PRESS RELEASE

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NEW JERSEY HELPS HOMEOWNERS BE ENERGY SMART AND SAVE UP TO 30 PERCENT ON ENERGY BILLS

Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®, part of New Jersey's Clean Energy ProgramSM, Now Available to Improve Efficiency and Performance of Homes Statewide

(JACKSON, NJ) – For New Jersey residents concerned about rising energy costs, the impacts of global warming and the need to be more energy smart, a new statewide initiative called *Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®* can help them save up to 30 percent on their energy costs and improve the comfort, health and safety of their homes.

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) and New Jersey's Clean Energy ProgramSM, which sponsor the program, have expanded the program statewide.

“Our homes can be huge energy wasters and cause twice as much pollution as the average car,” said NJBPU President Jeanne M. Fox. “Home Performance with ENERGY STAR is one of many Clean Energy Programs that New Jersey residents can use to save energy, reduce cost and help protect our state's natural resources.”

Home Performance with ENERGY STAR helps homeowners find accredited contractors who can deliver advanced energy efficiency improvements to their homes in order to save money, energy and the environment. Trained and accredited by the Building Performance Institute (BPI), contractors participating in the *Home Performance with ENERGY STAR* program specialize in heating and cooling equipment, insulation and air sealing, and comprehensive, computerized home analysis to help make homes as energy efficient, comfortable and safe as possible.

BPI accredited contractors take a comprehensive approach to home energy usage that looks at the whole house, not just one room or single problem area. The contractor will perform a Comprehensive Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Assessment to test a home's overall energy performance and draw up a plan to improve the home's energy efficiency and comfort.

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Home Performance with ENERGY STAR contractors help residents repair or replace heating and cooling equipment, solve problems with cold and drafty rooms and help lower energy costs and improve comfort. Typical improvements pay for themselves because of increased energy efficiency and reduced energy bills. The initial assessment fee varies by contractor, and some contractors may deduct the assessment fee if the homeowner decides to implement the recommended improvements. The initiative offers low-interest financing options to help pay for making the improvements, and the state of New Jersey offers incentives on some eligible measures. Federal tax credits are also available on some home energy efficiency improvements.

A list of BPI-accredited contractors and more information about *Home Performance with ENERGY STAR* is available at www.njcleanenergy.com/homeperformance/index.html or by calling 1-800-418-9560. *Home Performance with ENERGY STAR* is funded by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and New Jersey's Clean Energy ProgramSM.

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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.bpu.state.nj.us

About the New Jersey Clean Energy Program

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 (NJBPU), and its website is www.njcleanenergy.com.

About the Building Performance Institute (BPI)

The Building Performance Institute (BPI) is an organization dedicated to promoting excellence in the building trades. BPI is the national resource for building science-based certification and accreditation. For more information, visit www.bpi.org.