



New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

PRESS RELEASE

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SAVE MONEY, SAVE ENERGY AND STAY COOL

State Program Offers Rebates and Summertime Cooling Tips to New Jersey Residents

(NEWARK, NJ) – New Jersey residents can keep their homes cool this summer without breaking the bank by using energy efficient, ENERGY STAR® qualified air conditioning equipment and taking a few simple steps to save energy. Reducing energy use at home and at work during summer’s peak demand season is the best way to save on costs while helping reduce the greenhouse gases responsible for global warming.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Americans spend as much as half of their energy bills on cooling their homes. ENERGY STAR-qualified room air conditioners use up to 10 percent less energy than a standard new model and up to 40 percent less energy than a model that is more than 10 years old. Replacing a 10-year-old unit could save an average of \$100 or more on electric bills over the life of the unit.

“Under the leadership of Governor Corzine, New Jersey is currently developing an Energy Master Plan, a long-term energy vision for the state that plans for our energy use through the year 2020. The overarching goal of this plan is to reduce projected growth in energy 20 percent by 2020 by continually assessing and shifting how we use power and fuel,” said Jeanne M. Fox, President of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. “By purchasing ENERGY STAR qualified products and making simple changes in our lifestyles to reduce our energy use, New Jerseyans can be a part of the Governor’s plans to change our energy future.”

Residential and small business customers of Atlantic City Electric, Jersey Central Power & Light, PSE&G and Rockland Electric Company can get \$20 rebate when they purchase a new ENERGY STAR qualified room air conditioner.

For residential customers with central air conditioning equipment, the state’s COOL Advantage Program offers a rebate of up to \$400 towards the purchase and installation of energy efficient central air conditioners. Rebates are based on the unit’s Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) and Energy Efficiency Ratio (EER). In order to process the rebate, a participating North American Technician Excellence (NATE) certified contractor is required to submit documentation that the central air conditioner has been properly sized and installed.

In addition to the switching to ENERGY STAR qualified products, New Jersey's **Clean Energy Program**TM recommends taking the following steps to help reduce energy use this summer:

Install the right size air conditioner

A properly sized air conditioner will operate more efficiently and dehumidify more effectively. An oversized unit will cycle on and off more frequently. Short cycling reduces an air conditioning system's life, and a short cycling system will not reduce humidity effectively. Undersized equipment can reduce the efficiency of air distribution and accelerate wear on system components, leading to premature failure.

Keep the filter clean

A dirty filter will increase energy use and can damage the air conditioner, leading to inefficiency and early failures. Check the filter every month and replace it as needed.

Use a programmable thermostat

A home doesn't need to be chilled all day, to be comfortable in the summer. For central air conditioning, save energy and money by using an ENERGY STAR qualified programmable thermostat. The thermostat allows homeowners to preset temperatures to automatically adjust to a more comfortable temperature when they are home. Many ENERGY STAR room air conditioners also have this feature. Residents save three percent on energy costs for each degree higher than 72 degrees.

Keep air conditioners in the shade

Plant trees or shrubs to shade air conditioning units but be careful not to block its airflow. A unit operating in the shade uses as much as 10 percent less electricity than the same one operating in the sun.

Close the blinds

Block out heat by keeping blinds or curtains closed during the day, especially on south facing windows.

Use ceiling fans

Using ENERGY STAR qualified ceiling fans can help cool your home without greatly increasing electricity use. Ceiling fans improve airflow and create pleasant breezes.

Light homes with a cooler bulb

ENERGY STAR qualified lighting reduces heat, uses 66 percent less energy and lasts up to 10 times longer than a standard incandescent bulb. Switch out commonly used bulbs with compact fluorescent models and replace fixture with ENERGY STAR qualified models.

Turn it off

Save electricity and reduce waste heat by shutting off lights and home electronics while not in use.

Test your home

Making energy efficient improvements can help shrink energy bills year round. With Home Performance with ENERGY STAR, any size or style home can be improved to reduce energy costs up to 30 percent. A Home Performance with ENERGY STAR contractor will perform a comprehensive home assessment to test the performance of any home with respect to energy efficiency, comfort, health and safety. The contractor will identify opportunities for improving a home's efficiency and provide the estimated cost of making the improvements. The program also offers low-interest financing to help pay for the recommended work.

The Room Air Conditioner Rebate and COOLAdvantage are two of many offerings from New Jersey's **Clean Energy Program**TM. For more information about room air conditioning and other program offerings visit www.njcleanenergy.com or call 1-866-NJSMART (1-866-657-6278). For a list NATE certified technicians who participate in the COOLAdvantage Program, visit www.eh-cc.org or contact the Eastern Heating & Cooling Council at 1-800-247-6547.

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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 ProgramTM

*New Jersey's **Clean Energy Program**TM, 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 New Jersey's Energy Master Plan

The Energy Master Plan is New Jersey's response to its need for energy -- an essential to the quality of life for every resident. The Energy Master Plan is being developed with key involvement of the Governor's Office and the Governor's Office of Economic Growth. It is being prepared by a committee chaired by the Board of Public Utilities President and includes the heads and top leadership of nine State Departments. For more information, visit the EMP website at www.nj.gov/emp

About North American Technician Excellence, Inc. (NATE)

NATE is the leading national certification program for technicians in the heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, and refrigeration (HVAC/R) industry and is the only test supported by the entire industry. For more information, visit www.natex.org.

About the Eastern Heating & Cooling Council

The Eastern Heating & Cooling Council (EHCC, a.k.a., "the Council"), a 501(c)(6) non-profit educational organization comprised of HVAC contractors, distributors, manufacturers, and other trade allies. Since its formation in 1990, the Council has provided educational training to the HVAC community nationwide. The Council has also developed installation standards, continuing education requirements and a Code of Ethics, which all HVAC associates must abide by in order to maintain membership in the organization. For more information, visit www.eh-cc.org.