

What is “Clean” Energy?

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Renewable energy is the second pillar. The U.S. Energy Information Administration, defines renewable energy sources as: solar, wind, hydropower, geothermal; and biomass (i.e., wood and wood waste, municipal solid waste, landfill gas and biogas, ethanol and biodiesel). Not all states’ recognize, prioritize or are capable of implementing all renewable resources. For example, New Jersey classifies electricity derived from wind, solar, small hydropower, landfills and sustainable biomass as preferred Class I renewable energy sources, whereas it deems power from large scale hydropower and environmentally compliant resource recovery (waste-to-energy) facilities as Class II renewables. (Source: NJAC 14:8-1.2). On the horizon is New Jersey Natural Gas’ pursuit of renewable natural gas (from biogas) as part of its approach to assisting New Jersey achieve its clean energy goals.

Wind and solar energy are rapidly progressing in New Jersey, consistent with the State’s Energy Master Plan. BPU recently issued a second solicitation for the development of Ocean Wind, the first phase of which is now underway and expected to be completed by the end of 2024 and revamped its solar program and is advancing community solar where it is possible to buy into a solar project without installing solar panels on an individuals roof.

Nuclear energy is the third pillar. New Jersey’s three nuclear plants are the largest zero-carbon supplier of in-state electricity and are considered essential to achieving the State’s clean energy goals. BPU has just approved a three-year extension of the Zero Emissions Credit program first approved in 2018 which provides financial support to enable continued operation of PSEG’s three Salem County nuclear plants which would otherwise be shut down as uneconomical. BPU views the continued support of the plants are essential to achieving its clean energy goals because without the electricity provided by those plants, New Jersey would have to import power from other states. (See insert which includes excerpts from NJUSA’s testimony delivered earlier this year supporting the ZEC extension.)

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT US AT: 856.840.4187 OR MEMBERSHIP@NJUSA.US
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NJUSA Insight

New Jersey Natural Gas Receives Approval For Its Largest Ever Energy-Efficiency Program

New Jersey Resources (NJR) announced its principal subsidiary New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG) received approval from the New Jersey BPU to significantly expand its energy-efficiency offerings available through The SAVEGREEN Project®. The program will further its commitment to sustainability and emissions reduction by helping customers lower their energy usage, save money and reduce their carbon footprint. NJNG is authorized to invest \$259 million in the three-year program to provide solutions to residential, multi-family and commercial customers to help make energy efficiency affordable.

“NJNG continues to take action on our

commitment to sustainability with the largest energy-efficiency program in our company’s history – building on our proven record of voluntary emissions reduction and investing to build the clean energy future,” said Steve Westhoven, President and CEO of New Jersey Resources. “This significant expansion of our energy-efficiency efforts will allow us to provide even more customers with powerful tools and resources to save energy, lower their bills and reduce emissions for the benefit of the environment.”

The investment consists of approximately \$127 million of direct investment, \$109 million in financing options and \$23 million in operation

and maintenance expenses. The initial annual increase for the typical residential heating customer using 1,000 therms per year is estimated to be \$21.30 or 1.9% for the first year of the program.

The program positions NJNG to meet or exceed its annual energy-efficiency reduction targets set by the New Jersey Clean Energy Act. If fully subscribed, the program will help NJNG customers save more than 125 million therms of natural gas over the three-year program’s lifetime. This equates to preventing the release of 663,102 metric tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere –

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear NJUSA Members, Happy Spring!

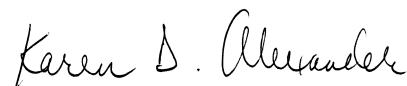
Spring is my favorite season of the year—despite pollen allergies! This spring, after a year of so much pandemic-caused sadness and seclusion, I welcomed the change of season more than ever. I sincerely hope this message finds you and yours fairing well and finding some brightness from the longer days, budding daffodils and forsythia!

The warmth that accompanies the new birth of spring, combined with more vaccinations, will hopefully enable more gatherings with family and friends. NJUSA looks forward to bringing members together as soon as public venue indoor capacity limits make it safe to do so. We will notify everyone once the ability to hold group events becomes clearer.

With warmer weather also comes the potential for severe storms. New Jersey's utilities have made significant investments to harden their infrastructure to be more resilient against extreme weather—investments that benefit their customers and shareholders. With the recent BPU approval of PSE&G's smart meters proposal, once the new meters are installed and operable, its customers will no longer have to call to let the utility know when power has been lost. All of New Jersey's electric utilities are expected to move to smart meters soon.

Even with these technological advances, the most extreme weather events can still cause temporary service disruptions. Customers with an emergency preparedness plan are best positioned to "weather the storm." If you don't already have one, consider developing a plan so that you are ready—it's always better to be safe than sorry. Included in this issue are emergency preparedness tips from utilities and government officials to help you be ready in the event of severe weather.

Be well and be safe. Hope to see you soon!



Karen D. Alexander
President



Emergency Preparedness Tips

Spring and summer bring the joy of warmer temps and the possibility of severe storms. Here are some tips to help you prepare.

- Create an emergency kit with first aid supplies, batteries, flashlight(s), battery-powered or hand cranked radio, small cell phone power bank and matches.
- Keep a three-day supply of water for each person in your household, as well as non-perishable foods and a manual can opener.
- If power is lost, call your electric utility.
- NEVER go near or touch downed power lines.
- If you or a loved one depends on life-sustaining medical devices that require electricity, make sure your electric utility has that information.
- If you have a generator, never use it or any other gas-powered equipment indoors, in a garage or near a window. Same for charcoal and propane grills or stoves. All are potential sources of dangerous carbon monoxide.
- If you smell gas, exit the premises, call the gas company and do not turn on any source of electricity (light switches) or flame (matches, lighters, smoking materials).
- Keep cell phones fully charged and cars fully fueled.
- Monitor weather reports and follow the directions of government officials to shelter-in-place or evacuate.
- More detailed information is available at New Jersey utilities' websites. For specific information for seniors go to: https://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/ready_prepare-now-seniors.pdf

What is "Clean" Energy?

The revised Energy Master Plan (EMP) finalized last year was more than just a nod to those who have raised alarm about the potentially dire environmental and economic impacts New Jersey could experience due to global climate change. The EMP established a very ambitious framework and targets for achieving 100% clean energy by 2050. The good news for shareholders of New Jersey energy utilities, including New Jersey Natural Gas and PSE&G, is that these companies are not newcomers to implementing clean energy strategies. Both companies have more than 10 years experience conducting energy efficiency programs and have made significant investments in solar energy. Wind energy, where PSE&G is also invested, and renewable gas, which is a major focus of New Jersey Natural Gas, reflect the understanding of both companies that New Jersey's energy future is "green."

What exactly is "clean" or "green" energy, and what does New Jersey's transition mean for New Jersey's gas and electric utilities and their shareholders? As used in current

environmental and energy policy parlance, "clean energy" consists of policies and technologies that enable the production and use of energy without creating or lessening the emissions of carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides and methane, all contributors to global climate change. "Clean energy" is often used interchangeably with "green energy." With "green" envisioning a healthy and sustainable natural environment.

Energy *efficiency* is the first pillar of a clean energy strategy. Energy efficiency means to achieve a task, function or operation through a technique that allows the use of less energy. Energy *conservation*, alternatively, is the act of choosing a more efficient way to perform a task using less energy. Energy efficiency is considered the least costly means of achieving clean energy since all means of producing energy have an associated cost—a kilowatt of electricity or therm of natural gas not needed is a kilowatt or therm that does not have to be produced.

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NJNG Receives Approval for Energy– Efficiency Program *Continued from page 1*

the same as removing 142,886 cars from NJ roadways each year.

Beginning July 1, 2021, NJNG will roll out energy-efficiency programs under SAVEGREEN that include enhanced features for low- to moderate-income customers and a broad range of programs to meet the diverse needs of the commercial and industrial sectors. In addition, the program reflects new legislative provisions that shift administration of some programs from the state-run New Jersey's Clean Energy Program™ to the utilities and requires that all New Jersey energy utilities collaborate to provide core offerings that are consistent throughout the state. This requires a new and innovative approach for NJNG to work directly with the electric utilities, Atlantic City Electric and Jersey Central Power & Light, whose service territories overlap with those of NJNG.

SAVEGREEN's core programs will include:

Residential:

- Rebates and incentives, including a 0% on-bill repayment program, for qualifying equipment replacement and home energy improvements
- Rebates and incentives for the installation of energy-efficient appliances, as well as the continuation of NJNG's discounted online marketplace

- No-cost, energy-efficiency kits to income-eligible households as a gateway to other energy-efficiency and conservation programs.

The program also puts energy efficiency in reach for low- and moderate-income customers by providing opportunities to help reduce their energy bills. In addition to special incentives and longer payment terms to help make energy-efficiency upgrades affordable, the program will offer: lower-cost measures that can provide immediate savings to renters and homeowners; a no-cost energy checkup; distribution of energy-efficiency kits in collaboration with local foodbanks and community organizations and a no-cost, moderate-income weatherization program. NJNG and other New Jersey energy utilities also are exploring ways to streamline the screening process to make it easier for eligible low- and moderate-income customers to participate.

Since the inception of SAVEGREEN in 2009, NJNG has invested nearly \$220 million in energy-efficiency programs, generating more than \$488 million in economic activity in its service territory while contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Over the last decade, nearly 64,000 customers have participated in SAVEGREEN and the program has grown the green energy economy in New Jersey for the more than 2,875 contractors who have participated in the program.