

Board of Public Utilities Recognizes New Jersey's Clean Energy Leaders BPU Commissioners present 2009 NJ Clean Energy Leadership Awards



ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., Oct. 21 /PRNewswire/ -- The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) yesterday announced and celebrated the winners of the 2009 NJ Clean Energy Leadership Awards in seven categories at a special dinner held during *Clean Energy Now*, the 2009 Clean Energy Conference & Leadership Awards. These awards honor individuals, local and county governments, businesses, institutions and organizations that have improved New Jersey's economic competitiveness and have demonstrated effective solutions for climate change through the effective and innovative use of energy efficiency and renewable technologies.

"We received over fifty nominations in the different award categories. And, while we had very clear winners in some categories, there were other categories where the race was fairly close, further reinforcing the excellent work that so many organizations have undertaken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which are changing our climate," said BPU President Jeanne M. Fox.

"The success of New Jersey's Clean Energy Program requires partners who share our commitment and dedication," added BPU Commissioner Joseph Fiordaliso. "While tonight, we recognize New Jersey's clean energy leaders, we also celebrate all our partners and the work that they do."

Trade Ally Award - Nautilus Solar Energy, LLC

Open to suppliers, retailers, designers and installers, the Trade Ally Award recognizes an organization for its part in driving the growth of green jobs and for supporting the clean energy infrastructure.

"Nautilus Solar Energy, LLC, a provider of solar solutions for commercial and municipal buildings, was selected as the Trade Ally Award winner for its solid record of energy savings and creation of green jobs. The company distinguishes itself in two critical ways. Firstly, it provides innovative financing plans that allow customers to purchase solar electricity at a price that is lower than their current utility rate. Secondly, the company has supported industry growth with an intensive outreach and education plan," said Commissioner Nicholas Asselta. He then presented the Trade Ally Award to Laura Stern, President of Nautilus Solar Energy, LLC.

Outreach Partner of the Year - HelpLight NJ

The Outreach Award recognizes efforts to build awareness of energy efficiency and renewable energy measures by extending the message of clean energy to a wide audience in the hope of influencing others to make wise energy decisions that reduce our impact on climate change.

"HelpLight NJ was organized by a group of high school students to raise money for the purchase and distribution of over 60,000 energy saving compact fluorescent bulbs to needy families and seniors. In addition to the work they've done in their own community, the group headed out across the state to inspire and engage other high school students, recruiting 19 schools to participate. This organization embodies the goals of the Energy Master Plan, spreads the important message of energy efficiency, provides New Jersey's neediest families with the tools to save energy and money, and connects them with the state's assistance programs, as well," said Commissioner Asselta. He then presented Matt Erikson of HelpLight NJ with the Outreach Partner of the Year Award.

Market Innovator of the Year - Petra Solar

The Market Innovator Award provides recognition to the organization demonstrating new opportunities for reducing greenhouse gas emissions with viable solutions for large numbers of residential, business and/or government facilities.

Petra Solar has created a specific solar PV application that is "street ready" and is set to be installed on hundreds of thousands of light and power poles in the PSE&G service territory. "Petra Solar received high marks for replicability because the technology and the approach can be used by small communities with a few hundred poles or by utilities and communities with thousands of poles," said Commissioner Asselta before presenting Kate Vohden of Petra Solar with the Market Innovator of the Year Award.

Local Government Partner of the Year - Bergen County Utilities Authority

The Local Government Partner Award recognizes the role the state's local government officials play in promoting the wise use of energy to residents and businesses in their community. These officials' commitment to spread the message of clean energy and build awareness of programs that reduce energy use has been described as "critical" to the success of New Jersey's Clean Energy Program.

"In its first year of operation, the Bergen County Utilities Authority's combined heat and power plant (CHP) cut their electricity use in half. In addition to this major reduction off the electrical grid, the facility also reduced greenhouse gas emissions, captured methane to use as a renewable resource and supported several goals of the state's Energy Master Plan. They have also provided a template for other wastewater pollution control facilities to replicate, and have developed a comprehensive education and outreach program centered on the project," said Commissioner Elizabeth Randall as she presented the Local Government Partner of the Year Award to Eric Andersen, Director of Water Pollution Control & Chief Engineer of the Bergen County Utilities Authority.

Energy Educator of the Year - Rutgers University

The Energy Educator Award recognizes a school, college or university for its efforts to improve the energy efficiency and use of renewable technologies in their facilities and for implementing specific programs and activities to involve students and include energy education in their curricula.

After citing numerous specific examples of the model work being done at Rutgers University, Commissioner Randall remarked that, "The level of educational outreach, the widespread application of energy conservation measures and the continued support of New Jersey's Energy Master Plan earned Rutgers University the award for 2009 Energy Educator of the Year." She then presented the award to Michael Kornitas, Energy Conservation Manager at Rutgers University.

Business Leader of the Year - Harrah's Entertainment, Inc.

The Business Leader Award recognizes an organization that sets solid goals and follows through with real solutions to reduce energy consumption. The Business Leader of the Year Award also recognizes the

importance of promoting the message of saving energy to workers and driving a corporate culture shift that extends to employees' homes.

"Harrah's Resort Atlantic City's unique approach, replicability, wide-scale deployment, job creation and dedication to outreach and education serve as a model for others in the business community. In addition to installed measures reducing energy consumption, they have converted to environmentally friendly air conditioning refrigerants and bio-renewable cleaning products, adopted food and oil reuse, an aggressive recycling campaign, composting and water conservation, purchased hybrid vehicles, removed Styrofoam from the use stream, and much more," said Robert Hersh, Project Manager from Bristol-Myers Squibb, last year's winner, before presenting the Business Leader of the Year Award to Eric Dominquez of Harrah's Entertainment.

Clean Energy Advocate of the Year - Daniel Cohen

This newly established award was created to honor an individual that has pursued an agenda to support the development or utilization of clean energy in New Jersey.

"Daniel Cohen has been an avid supporter for the development of offshore wind in New Jersey. Advocating at the state and national level, he has helped move New Jersey closer to the development of offshore wind at both a near shore pilot project in State waters and a utility scale project in federal waters," said Jeanne Fox, BPU President. She then presented Daniel Cohen with his award.

Since 2001, New Jersey's Clean Energy Program has invested nearly \$1.2 billion to promote energy efficiency and renewable technologies for businesses, local governments and residents. The program has saved more than 22 million megawatt hours of electricity and over 70 million decatherms of natural gas from energy efficiency programs and another 9 million megawatt hours from renewable energy sources and combined heat and power.

For more details on the 2009 New Jersey Clean Energy Leadership Awards or information on clean energy incentives for school districts, local governments, businesses and residents, visit www.njcleanenergy.com or call 1-866-NJSMART.

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

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