



Green Grows in Trenton



The New Jersey Legislature and the
rise of energy efficiency and
sustainability laws

The Role of the Legislature

- Growing # of state legislatures and Governors are showing interest & leadership in energy efficiency
- Advantages:
 - Statewide standards on energy efficiency and renewable energy
 - Better building codes
 - Effective climate policies
 - Variety of Input – Everyone gets to contribute
- Disadvantages:
 - Freezing In Time – need to move cautiously
 - Variety of Input – Everyone gets to contribute

3 Areas of Legislative Input:

1. Incentive Programs
2. Regulations / Requirements
3. Study / Review

Incentive Programs

- **P.L. 2008, Ch.90** – exempts certain renewable energy systems from real property taxes.
 - “Renewable energy system” = any equipment on a building that produces renewable energy onsite to provide electrical, heating, cooling, or general energy needs of that building.
- **S706** – Requires licensed home inspectors to report an energy rating for each home inspected for a potential homebuyer
- **S702/A1629** – Requires enhanced energy conservation construction requirements and requires BPU to provide down payment assistance
- **S647** – Requires BPU to give preference to Energy Star homes when giving out financial incentives for solar installations on residential buildings.
- **A2070** – “The Green Building Tax Credit Act”

Regulations/Requirements

- **P.L. 2008, Ch. 54** – amends the Municipal Land Use Law to allow municipal planning boards to encourage developers to make efficient use of natural resources and renewable energy systems in their master plans – **Will be important to check local requirements when planning future developments**
- **P.L. 2009, Ch. 33** – requires developers to offer solar energy systems in certain new home construction
- **S701** - Would require affordable housing to be built to green building standards to be set by DCA

Study/Review

- **S 696** Establishes NJ Green Building Technology Task Force to:
 - Develop programs to encourage builders to include green building technology in developing smart growth areas

Federal Sustainable Communities Initiative

- Partnership between HUD, DOT and EPA to incorporate Livable Communities, Transit Oriented Development and Green Building Practices in Federal Housing and Transportation Policy
- Livability Principles:
 - Provide More Transportation Choices
 - Promote Equitable, Affordable Housing
 - Enhance Economic Competitiveness
 - Support Existing Communities
 - Coordinate and Leverage Federal Policies & Investment
 - Value Communities and Neighborhoods

Resources

- NJ Legislature:
 - <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/>
- NJ Green Energy Initiatives:
 - <http://www.state.nj.us/nj/green/green/>
- HUD/DOT/EPA Sustainable Communities Initiative:
 - <http://www.epa.gov/opei/ocmp/dced-partnership.html>
- Housing and Transportation Affordability Index
 - <http://htaindex.cnt.org/>



Programs for Homeowners

Mary Sheehy

NJ Green Homes Office - NJHMFA

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Types of Energy Star

- New Construction v. Existing Buildings
- Residential Energy System Network (RESNET)
 - Home Energy Rating System (HERS)
 - HERS Rater
- Building Performance Institute
 - Certified Contractor
- Weatherization
 - Weatherization training

NJ Home Performance w/ENERGY STAR

- Standards are set at the national level
- Incentives & program information at the local level
- www.njcleanenergy.com
- Tier 1: Energy Audit for \$125
- Tier 2: Blower Door test & Air Sealing
- Tier 3: 25% energy savings - rebate 50% of the cost of the work - up to \$10,000

Specific Equipment

- Rebates for various heating or cooling equipment
- Online lighting store
- Today's Lighting Fair
 - 11am - 2pm

Low-Income Households

- NJ Department of Community Affairs (NJ DCA)
 - Weatherization Assistance Program
- NJ Board of Public Utilities (NJ BPU)
 - Comfort Partners
- Energy Bill Assistance