PURCHASING LOW-ENERGY AND ENERGY-EFFICIENT PRODUCTS

Purchasing energy-efficient and low energy products reduces energy costs without compromising performance or quality. Successful energy management programs adopt a procurement policy as a key element for their overall strategy. Instituting an effective policy can be as easy as re-orienting purchasing to specify ENERGY STAR qualified products, such as office equipment, in contracts or purchase orders (www.energystar.gov).

The key benefits are:

- the products procured use 25 to 50% less energy
- they reduce energy costs without compromising quality or performance
- they reduce air pollution because fewer fossil fuels are burned in their operation and/or manufacture
- there is a significant return on investment, and
- there is extended product life and decreased maintenance needs.

A community or development project can enhance the value of buildings, homes, and infrastructure as well as ensure energy efficiency in operations when a conscious effort is made to integrate low energy or energy-efficient materials, equipment and products.

APPLICABLE NEW JERSEY GOALS AND TARGETS

Reduce projected energy use by 20% by 2020 and meet 20% of the State’s electricity needs with Class I renewable energy sources by 2020 (NJ Energy Master Plan).

Stabilize GHG emissions at 1990 levels by 2020/Reduce emissions to 80% below 2006 levels by 2050 (E.O. 54; NJ Global Warming Response Act, P.L.2007, c.112).

SUGGESTED ACTIONS AND STRATEGIES

Integrate energy-efficiency in purchasing decisions - A conscious decision or policy has to be made to take every opportunity to buy low energy or energy-efficient materials and products.

Consider Energy Star qualified products - ENERGY STAR, a joint program of the US EPA and US DOE, is a voluntary labeling program designed to identify and promote energy-efficient products and practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Qualified products currently include the following categories: commercial appliances, commercial heating and cooling, commercial lighting, construction products, electronics, office products, residential appliances, residential heating and cooling, and residential lighting.

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1 Class I renewable energy is defined as electricity derived from solar energy, wind energy, wave or tidal action, geothermal energy, landfill gas, anaerobic digestion, fuel cells using renewable fuels, and — with written permission of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) — certain other forms of sustainable biomass.
STATE TECHNICAL/FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The New Jersey for ENERGY STAR provides incentives to customers to purchase Energy Star products and appliances and to stores to stock Energy Star products and promotions, targeting existing homes.

The New Jersey ENERGY STAR Homes provides incentives to builders/developers to build new homes above minimum energy code to the higher Energy Star level, targeting Smart Growth Areas.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Energy-Efficient Procurement Resources:
www.energyideas.org/documents/factsheets/Proc_Resources.pdf

Life-Cycle Costing for the Construction Industry:
www.lifecyclecosting.org/index.html

The USEPA website on ENERGY STAR, www.energystar.gov, contains resources designed to assist in energy-efficient purchasing decisions - www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=bulk_purchasing.bus_purchasing

New Jersey for ENERGY STAR:

New Jersey ENERGY STAR Homes:
www.njcleanenergy.com/residential/programs/nj-energy-star-homes/nj-energy-star-homes