



CREATING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

A GUIDE FOR DEVELOPERS AND COMMUNITIES

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 1¹ 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.

¹Class 1 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.lifecyclemcosting.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:

www.njcleanenergy.com/residential/programs/energy-star-product-rebates/new-jersey-energy-star-product-rebates

New Jersey ENERGY STAR Homes:

www.njcleanenergy.com/residential/programs/nj-energy-star-homes/nj-energy-star-homes

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