



New Jersey Natural Gas Advantage

For Your Home & Business



And the winners Are

Our annual Conserve to Preserve Kids and Conservation poster and video contests are just one way to get students thinking about protecting the environment. We commend the many students from schools throughout our service territory who participated this year, submitting works of art that truly exemplify what Conserve to Preserve® is all about. Congratulations to this year's winners.

There were three fifth grade students (representing Monmouth, Morris and Ocean counties, respectively) who came out on top, winning the poster contest. Each was awarded a laptop computer while their teachers received a \$100 gift card and their schools were awarded an appearance from the Radio Disney AM 1560 Road Crew. Moreover, several high school students were lucky winners – with the individual video winner receiving \$500 and the winning group submission receiving \$2,500.

The respective schools of the poster and video contest winners each received a \$1,000 contribution toward an energy conservation or environmental beautification project.

Visit Save Energy & Money at www.njng.com and click on Kids and Conservation to view the winning entries. While there check out engaging resources that will encourage children to conserve today for a greener tomorrow.

Individual Video Winner

Gia Reilly
Communications
High School
Wall

Group Video Winners

Peter McGarry
Ryan Devosa
Howell High School
Howell

Poster Contest Winners

Madison Jones
Marie V. Duffy School
Wharton - Morris County

Kyle Harms
St. Catharine School
Spring Lake - Monmouth County

Belle Weimer
All Saints Regional School
Manahawkin - Ocean County



Tax Incentives for Energy-Efficiency Home Improvements

Did you know that energy-saving home improvement projects can reduce your energy bills as well as your tax bill? The American Taxpayer Relief Act, which was signed into law earlier this year, extends the \$500 tax credit for homeowners who install qualified energy-efficient equipment, such as high-efficiency furnaces, air conditioners and hot water heaters. This residential tax credit extension for existing homes is retroactive for 2012 through 2013, which means those energy-efficiency home improvements you made last year may apply.*

Remember, tax credits are only a part of the savings. Rebates and incentives for qualified energy-efficiency home improvements are available through New Jersey's Clean Energy Program™ and NJNG. Be sure to look for updates in our March issue on the rebates and incentives offered through NJNG's The SAVEGREEN Project®. In the meantime, visit www.savegreenproject.com or call 877-455-NJNG (6564) to learn about available state and utility financial incentives and rebates to help make energy-efficiency home improvements affordable.

** Note: NJNG cannot provide tax guidance. Please consult with your tax advisor.*

Attention Budget Plan Customers

This month you may find an adjusted budget plan amount on your bill. The original amount was calculated in July 2012 and re-evaluated February 2013 to help minimize your ending balance. Included in the budget calculation and mid-year review are natural gas prices, annual usage, weather and other factors.

Not a Budget Plan Customer? Accounts in good standing can enroll in the Budget Plan by paying the "Budget Option" amount and other non-gas charges shown on your bill prior to the due date. Or register online at My Account at www.njng.com.

A Quick Update on Our Service Restoration Efforts

We have been hard at work to restore natural gas service to all our customers affected by Superstorm Sandy. To date, we have safely restored natural gas service to nearly 28,000 customers. And with approximately 2,000 customers still without service, much work remains as we continue to repair the portions of our system that serve the more heavily damaged side streets where main or services were retired for safety reasons. We know it has been a challenging few months and we thank you for your patience. Our team's tireless dedication will continue to help get life back to normal for our customers.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning – Know the Signs!

With winter here, it is important to take necessary precaution against carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. CO is often referred to as the silent killer because you cannot smell or see it. So, it is important that you know the signs, which include headaches, nausea, vomiting, dizziness and fatigue, and can often be mistaken for the flu. But these symptoms tend to clear up when you breathe fresh air. Call 800-POISON-1 (800-764-7661) if you suspect CO poisoning. In an emergency, call 911 and immediately get fresh air.

And remember ... be sure to replace your CO detector every five to seven years based on manufacturers' recommendations.



Don't Wait Until the Last Minute to Do Your Taxes

Once again, NJNG has partnered with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) to bring FREE tax assistance to income-eligible customers, especially those 60 years and older. Now through April 11, 2013, AARP's volunteer tax counselors will be at NJNG's Asbury Park office, 633 Lake Avenue, every Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to help with simple tax return preparation.

Note: NJNG cannot provide tax guidance. Please consult with your tax advisor. Be sure to check out the enclosed information about federal and state Earned Income Tax Credit programs available to income-eligible customers.

Stay Comfortable this Heating Season

Find out how to stay comfy this winter with New Jersey Comfort Partners. Qualified income-eligible customers may benefit from Comfort Partners' free energy home improvement and education program. See the enclosed insert for details and eligibility requirements.

Rebuilding? Here's What You Should Know

Due to the extensive damage caused by the "storm of storms," the Federal Emergency Management Agency has issued stricter advisory recommendations on flood zones and building elevations along New Jersey's coastline.

With anticipated demolitions and the raising of houses, we remind homeowners and construction and demolition crews to use extreme caution when excavating or demolishing structures. Prior to demolition or raising a house, natural gas service must be retired at the main and service lines capped and marked to avoid a hazardous situation. Please contact us at 800-221-0051 six to eight weeks prior to beginning work to allow sufficient time for us to process paperwork and obtain a road opening permit from your local municipality. Also, it is equally important that you contact us prior to using heavy equipment around your home or property so that we can determine any safety concerns with the use of such equipment around natural gas infrastructure.

And don't forget to call 8-1-1, New Jersey's one call hotline, at least three days prior to digging, to request a FREE markout of underground utility lines. It's the law.

How To Reach Us

Call us:

Toll-free: 800-221-0051

People with hearing and speech impairments (TTY/TDD): 800-223-0024

Report a natural gas leak: 800-GAS-LEAK (800-427-5325)

Call before you dig: 811 or 800-272-1000

E-mail us: customerservice@njng.com

Visit our Web site: www.njng.com

Write to us: New Jersey Natural Gas, 1415 Wyckoff Road, P.O. Box 1464, Wall, NJ 07719

Are Energy Costs Adding a Significant Burden to Your Family Budget?

NJNG wants to connect qualified families with energy assistance and home energy improvement programs to help them better manage their home heating costs. So whether you are on a limited income or faced with unanticipated financial hardship, help is available. To determine eligibility requirements visit www.energyassistance.nj.gov or contact a participating agency near you. For additional information contact our energy assistance team at 800-221-0051 or energyassist@njng.com.

Available Programs:

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

(Income-based)

Universal Service Fund (USF) *(Income-based)*

Gift of Warmth Fund (GOW) *(Based on financial need)*

Temporary Relief for Utility Expenses (TRUE) *(Based on financial need)*

NJ SHARES *(Based on income guidelines and financial need)*

Call 866-657-4273 to find an agency in your area or visit www.njshares.org.

Lifeline Credit Program *(Seniors and disabled)*

800-792-9745

Comfort Partners *(Income-based home energy improvement program)*

Call 732-938-1494 or visit the Residential Section of www.njcleanenergy.com and click the Programs link.

Participating Agencies:

Middlesex County

Puerto Rican Action Board*

90 Jersey Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

732-828-4541

Monmouth County

Affordable Housing Alliance (AHA)/ TRUE Program

94 Broad Street

Eatontown, NJ 07724

732-389-2204

20 Gibson Place

Freehold, NJ 07728

732-389-2204

1828 West Lake Avenue

Neptune, NJ 07753

732-389-2204

Morris County

Morris County Organization for Hispanic Affairs

95-97 Bassett Highway, Dover, NJ 07801

973-366-1131

Ocean County

O.C.E.A.N. Inc.

22 Hyers Street, Toms River, NJ 08753

732-244-9041

507 River Avenue, Lakewood, NJ 08701

732-942-3405

**This agency does not accept Gift of Warmth or TRUE Grant applications.*

Middlesex County residents can apply for GOW and TRUE Grant benefits at AHA.

Many in our communities still face a long road to recovery. Here's your chance to help those who need it most with a donation to the Hurricane Sandy New Jersey Relief Fund – a 501(c)3 organization created by Governor Christie and First Lady Mary Pat Christie.

It's easy to contribute. Visit www.sandynjrelieffund.org to make a donation online.