

For Your Business

njliving times

News and Information From New Jersey Natural Gas

Programs and Resources Available to Help Offset Costs of Energy-Efficiency Measures

Businesses and commercial establishments can take steps to lower their carbon footprint and “save green” with state and NJNG financial incentives and resources (that run through December 31, 2011).

- NJNG’s The SAVEGREEN Project™ offers commercial customers (who use a residential-sized heating system) an enhanced rebate of \$900 for the purchase of a qualified high-efficiency heating system while New Jersey’s Clean Energy Program (NJCEP) provides a \$300 rebate under the SmartStart Buildings Program.*
- Eligible larger commercial customers may benefit from The SAVEGREEN Project’s Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Program, an incremental incentive program for qualifying CHP projects.*
- The Fostering Environmental and Economic Development Program provides businesses access to investment capital, incentives and/or discounted rates for the installation of eligible energy-efficient equipment. Upfront funding is available through The SAVEGREEN Project, with the principal and interest repaid on a customer-specific basis.*
- NJNG’s Economic Development Program affords eligible new and existing businesses, within designated communities, incentive discounts on natural gas bills for up to three years.*
- Commercial entities can register for Conserve to Preserve Business Online, NJNG’s free comprehensive resource of energy-related information and industry-specific emerging technologies.*

For specific details and eligibility requirements for these programs, as well as information on NJNG energy-efficiency tools and resources, visit www.savegreenproject.com, or contact the manager of energy efficiency at 732-378-4924, sellman@njng.com.

*Terms and conditions apply.



Restaurants Serve More than Green!

A recent study conducted by the Department of Energy indicates that restaurants are the most energy-intensive businesses, using more energy per square foot. And the Green Restaurant Association (GRA) is looking to change all that by providing a transparent certification program to help restaurants become environmentally responsible for long-term sustainability.

When a restaurant is GRA certified, it meets clear environmental standards with regard to energy, water, waste, disposables, pollution and food, of course. Kitchen practices have a significant impact on the environment. According to the GRA, the average restaurant discards 50,000 pounds of garbage per year. Almost 95 percent of that waste could be recycled or composted.

What does it take to become GRA certified? For one thing, toss the polystyrene (Styrofoam) and implement a full-scale recycling program. GRA certification is a point-based system, whereby restaurants rack up points for specific eco-friendly measures and organic practices. But the quantifiable results should not be overlooked. Sustainability is a long-term investment that not only leads to cost savings but also helps protect our environment.

Green certification may not guarantee the quality of food; but taking the first step toward sustainability may be the magical touch that makes for a perfect customer experience. To learn more about GRA and sustainable practices, visit www.dinegreen.com or call 617-737-4422.

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

You may qualify for energy assistance. Whether on a limited income or faced with financial hardship, you may qualify for energy-assistance and conservation programs. To determine eligibility requirements visit www.energyassistance.nj.gov or contact a Community Action Program agency in your county.

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)
Universal Service Fund (USF) (Income-based)
Gift of Warmth Fund (Based on financial need)

NJ SHARES (Based on income guidelines and financial need)
Call 866-657-4273 to find the agency in your area or visit www.njshares.org.

Lifeline Credit Program (Seniors and disabled)
800-792-9745

Middlesex County
Puerto Rican Action Board*
90 Jersey Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901
732-828-4541

Monmouth County
Check-Mate Inc.
910 Fourth Avenue, Asbury Park, NJ 07712
732-502-8855

Affordable Housing Alliance*
59 Broad Street
Eatontown NJ 07724
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

* These agencies do not accept Gift of Warmth applications.

Tax Season is Here and Help is on its Way.

Don't wait until the last minute to do your taxes. NJNG has partnered with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) to bring FREE tax assistance to low and middle income customers, especially those 60 years and older. Through April 7, 2011, 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 the preparation of simple U.S. tax returns.

Note: NJNG cannot provide tax guidance. Please consult with your tax advisor. Check out the enclosed insert for information about the federal and state Earned Income Tax Credit programs available to income-eligible families.

Attention Budget Plan Customers

This month, Budget Plan customers may find an adjusted amount on their enclosed bill. Adjustments are made to the budget amount, when necessary, to cover estimated natural gas costs through July 2011. The Budget Plan amount (which is based on natural gas prices, annual usage, weather and other factors) is calculated in July and reevaluated approximately six months later to help minimize your ending balance. And if you haven't taken advantage of NJNG's no-cost Budget Plan ... it's not too late. For accounts in good standing, you can enroll automatically. Simply pay the "Budget Option" amount and other non-gas charges shown on your NJNG bill prior to the due date. Or register online at www.njng.com, My Account.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning – Know the Signs

With the winter months upon us, make sure you take the necessary precautions against carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Have your fuel-burning appliances and equipment inspected by a trained professional. You can't see or smell CO, so know the signs of CO poisoning which are headaches, nausea, vomiting, dizziness and fatigue and 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 get fresh air immediately.

Remember to replace your CO detector every five-to-seven years based on manufacturers' recommendations.

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.njliving.com

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

Twice as Nice!

2009



2010



Thank you for ranking New Jersey Natural Gas
"Highest in Customer Satisfaction With
Residential Natural Gas Service in
the Eastern U.S. Among Large Utilities,
Two Years in a Row."

by J.D. Power and Associates.**

**New Jersey Natural Gas received the highest numerical score among large utilities in the Eastern U.S. in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2010 Gas Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction StudySM. Study based on 61,026 online interviews ranking 10 providers in the Eastern U.S. (CT, DC, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VA). Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of customers surveyed September 2009-July 2010. Your experiences may vary. Visit www.jdpower.com.