

EcoComplex Plays Big Role in New Energy Master Plan

The NJ State Energy Master Plan (EMP), is a document that serves to guide NJ State policy makers and state agencies in a long term energy policy for NJ. It is intended to address issues including electricity production, transportation fuel use, heating, energy efficiency, renewable energy production and economic growth. One of the goals of the EMP is to support the renewable portfolio standard , of 22.5 percent of the State's energy must be produced from renewable sources by 2021. "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.

New Jersey is statutorily required to do an EMP every 10 years and an update every three years, the most recent update having been published in 2008. Governor Christie published a Draft Energy Master Plan on June 7, 2011, and public hearings were held on the plan July 26, August 3 and August 11 and August 24. A series of four additional hearings composed of working groups of subject matter experts from various industries, academia and trade organizations will be held at the at Rutgers EcoComplex Auditorium (<http://ecocomplex.rutgers.edu/>), 1200 Florence Columbus Rd., Bordentown, NJ 08505. These groups will provide specific recommendations on key issues left unresolved in the draft energy plan issued in June. Meeting details are on the BPU's website.

<http://www.state.nj.us/bpu/pdf/announcements/EMPdates.pdf>

October 24, 2011: 9:30 – 12:30

Clean Energy Funding Work Group

November 1, 2011: 1:00 – 4:00

Alternatively Fueled Vehicles Work Group

November 7, 2011: 9:30 – 12:30

Innovative Technology Work Group

November 10, 2011: 9:30 – 12:30

Biomass Work Group

The recommendations from the four working groups, which will be posted on the EMP website (<http://nj.gov/emp/index.shtml>), will be evaluated and considered by the Board of Public Utilities as the draft EMP is finalized. Any questions or requests to participate in the upcoming Energy Master Plan Public Hearing process should be directed to EMPadmin@njcleanenergy.com. Those who are planning on attending a hearing pre-register by sending an email to empadmin@njcleanenergy.com Walk-in registration for the hearings will also be available. If you would like to submit written comments on the subcommittee recommendations, you may send them via e-mail to: empadmin@njcleanenergy.com