

# A Strong Energy Blueprint

After two years of hard work and much public input, New Jersey has issued its blueprint for the future of energy. The state's final Energy Master Plan (EMP) was unveiled by Governor Corzine last Thursday and builds on our state's already aggressive environmental goals. Some 100 pages long, it outlines a balanced approach to lowering carbon emissions and contributing to the nation's goal of achieving energy independence.

The EMP starts with energy efficiency. Everyone agrees that the best power plant is the one that is not needed and never built. Studies have shown that energy efficiency investments are the most effective and least expensive way to lower carbon emissions. These investments have two added benefits: They lower bills and create jobs.

The EMP recognizes that utilities have the resources and expertise to conduct energy efficiency audits and can assist in making sure that sound investments indicated by audits – more efficient lights, weatherized windows and doors or improved heating and cooling systems – are made. The plan also calls for better construction codes and energy standards for new appliances.

In an especially challenging move, the EMP increases from 20 to 30 percent the level of the state's energy needs to be derived from renewable sources by 2020. Initially, al-

ternative energy, such as wind and solar, will be more costly than traditional sources, but with new investment, costs should decline – and thousands of jobs will be created.

The EMP also encourages research and development of innovative energy technologies. The corporate sector can be particularly helpful on this front.

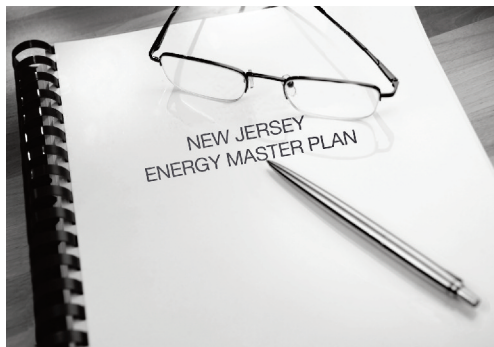
The EMP further recognizes that, even with aggressive actions around alternative energy, new and clean generation, including nuclear, will likely be needed in the years ahead.

The plan calls for a study over the next year of the role of nuclear power in meeting our future energy needs. Nuclear power, which is carbon free, currently provides half of the state's energy. It will be essential to meeting the state's long-term energy and carbon reduction goals. PSEG has begun its own evaluation on the suitability of expanding its

three-unit nuclear campus in South Jersey.

Above all, the clear message in the EMP is that action is needed by all of us to assure an adequate and clean energy supply for everyone who works and lives in New Jersey.

*What's your view? Please let us know at [Opinion@PSEG.com](mailto:Opinion@PSEG.com)*



***The Energy Master Plan outlines a balanced approach to lowering carbon emissions.***



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