

# Now it's on us

Private companies and government regulators usually get along something like cats and dogs. The tension is hard-wired into the way each animal is built.

So it's worth marking the moment when the relationship actually works -- when regulators are tough but reasonable, and businesses take the public mission to heart.

That's what we're seeing in New Jersey's energy sector today. And that's a huge plus for the state.

To see what we mean, look at the challenge that New Jersey is facing on energy conservation, the smartest first step in the fight against climate change.

The governor wants to cut the state's use of electricity by 20 percent. But under traditional rules, drafted long before global temperatures started to rise, utilities like PSE&G were basically shut out of the effort. It was our job to produce power and deliver it. Period.

Today, that makes little sense. Our workers know how to help customers save energy. And we have capital to invest in the effort. We should be in the game, not on the sidelines.

Now the Board of Public Utilities, following the direction of the Legislature, promptly developed ground-breaking rules that will allow that. They have opened the door, and now the challenge is on us to walk through it.

And we embrace that challenge. Next week, we plan to file the most ambitious energy conservation proposal in our company's history.

The plan is to send our crews into city neighborhoods where they will plug window leaks, add attic insulation, and start the detailed work that must be done on a giant scale.

We'll help hospitals install efficient new

heating and air conditioning systems. We'll help small businesses find ways to control their energy costs. We will work with community groups to find those in need.

The BPU will have 180 days to rule on our petition. And yes, it's possible the board will reject it.

But something is changing. The BPU earlier this year approved our \$105 million plan to promote solar power. And last week, it approved a pilot program to install smart meters that will help customers save energy and cut costs.

We are in a new era. Because we all know we have serious work to do if we want to save the planet that is home to us all.

And even cats and dogs can learn to get along when they live under the same roof.

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



## *New BPU rules open the door to conservation*



**PSEG**

*We make things work for you.*