

~TOWN ENERGY AUDIT~

On May 19, 2009 the Council voted unanimously on the resolution authorizing the application to participate in the Energy Audit program of NJ Board of Public Utilities.

In May 2008, the IH Environmental Committee invited Dr. Patrick Hossay* of Stockton College to speak to the residents on 'Solutions for Energy Independence'. This talk introduced to us the methods & procedures of a municipal Energy Audit.

The Environmental Committee, which acts as an advisory body to the Mayor & Council, studied these procedures during 2008. The choice of doing a self-audit, which would take approximately a year plus, or a professional audit, which has costs, yet is comprehensive and professional. In January 2009, Dr. Hossay was invited to return, allowing the Council & residents to ask any questions about the specifics of an audit. The outcome of that meeting was forward movement and a commitment towards developing a plan to analyze the energy needs and solutions of this town.

~ What is an Energy Audit?

An energy audit establishes where & how energy is being used in all of our municipal buildings. It identifies opportunities (siting for solar or wind) and provides recommendations for energy & cost savings.

Each building is analyzed (checking insulation, windows, electrical). The result is the calculation of the borough's energy footprint, which is the baseline data, from which all cost-effective decisions are made.

The borough is performing the audit with the long term plan to not only reduce our electric bills, but to –eliminate-them. This can be done by producing our own energy and then selling this energy back into 'the grid'.

~ Costs:

In 2008 the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) Office of Clean Energy introduced the Municipal Energy Audit Program. This program offers qualifying municipalities incentives to subsidize the cost of performing an energy audit. The program provides partial reimbursement for the cost of the audit & FULL REIMBURSEMENT upon the installation of the recommended upgrades.

~ Home Energy Audits:

As residents, consider a home audit. For a fee, our homes can be professionally analyzed, checking the efficiency of our heating, air conditioning, insulation, hot water, appliances and much more, resulting in a 'game plan' that we can apply to our homes. The result is the investment in our future. Insuring that our homes will be comfortable, highly efficient and saving us considerable monies as –all- energy costs will consistently rise.

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Stockton College.
- NJ Sustainable Institute www.njssi.org
- NJ Clean Energy Program www.njcleanenergy.com
1-866-657-6278
- NJ Natural Gas www.njng.com
- through the NJ Clean Energy Program, NJNG is offering
home energy assessments for \$125. Check this out online.
Click on the 'Save Energy & Money,' then click on 'Special
Offers & Rebates'.