



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
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TRENTON -- The 1990 Energy Master Plan, advocating that New Jersey pursue substantial policies of energy conservation, was presented to the public today by Gov. Jim Florio.

The plan asks that policies promoting the use of best available technologies for the conservation of oil, gas, electricity and other energy resources in the homes, businesses and factories of the state, and on the roadways, be adopted, leading to a reduction in the use of these resources in New Jersey during the next 10 years.

"Over the next few months, I'm hoping that everyone who uses energy -- and that means everyone in the state, from the big utilities to thousands of small businesses and millions of home-owners and renters - will consider the proposals this report contains," Governor Florio said.

"Already higher prices are making people concerned. A barrel of oil costs twice what it did at the beginning of the summer.

"These are not abstract issues. We're talking about senior citizens worried about whether they can afford heating oil prices on a fixed income in a cold winter, about working couples having their carefully planned weekly budgets blown apart by higher prices at the gas pump, about people having to be at the mercy of events far, far away.

"We're talking about what we all can do to stand up for ourselves."

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The plan, prepared by a Cabinet-level committee headed by Board of Public Utilities president Scott A. Weiner, was written under the statutory requirements of the 1977 Department of Energy Act, whose functions have been transferred to the Board.

Public hearings will be held on December 4, at the Board offices at 2 Gateway Center in Newark, starting at 10 a.m.; and on December 6, at the War Memorial Building in Trenton, starting at 1 p.m.

"We invite broad public participation in these hearings, as a means to frame a state energy policy which addresses both our current energy problems, with both gasoline and heating oil selling at \$1.30 per gallon and more, and the role of energy in our economy and in our lives over the next 10 years," Commissioner Weiner said.

"Now, more than ever, policies of aggressive pursuit of energy conservation measures are necessary, to safeguard the future of our communities and our state."

The plan, which contains 258 pages, presents analyses and recommendations for New Jersey for the use of oil, natural gas, electricity, and other energy resources over the next 10 years.

It advocates that New Jersey pursue a high-efficiency energy scenario, with the goal of reducing energy use in the state over the decade of the 1990's, stating that such use can be reduced by 25 percent by the year 2000 if the best available technologies are employed for lighting and other appliances, industrial motors, home and office heating and cooling, and travel by automobile and mass transit.

The plan states that the principal tools for pursuit of such a goal are:

- Expanded involvement by the electric and natural gas utility companies in New Jersey in the delivery of high-efficiency appliances and other conservation services, now under consideration by the Board of Public Utilities.

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- Evaluation of the State Building Code, to determine if it can be upgraded to reduce energy consumption in new buildings.
- Establishment of a Home Energy Rating System, to provide information to buyers on the energy efficiency of homes on the market.
- Advocacy of higher fuel efficiency standards for new motor vehicles before Congress.

The plan also advocates increased state support for mass transit, to make it competitive with automobile travel; and the increased use of priority lanes on busy computing roads for vehicles containing more than one person, and the increased use of ride-sharing and van-pooling for travel to work.

"The consequences of the choice are great," the plan states.

"New Jersey now consumes about 2,000 trillion British thermal units (Btu's) of energy per year. Growth at historical rates could almost double this use by the year 2000, and require a large investment to construct generating plants, transmission systems and pipelines, and new roads.

"In contrast, use of efficient appliances and equipment commercially available today would ensure a high-efficiency future, that would lower energy consumption, and allow New Jersey to continue its economic development and protect its environment."

The 1990 State Energy Master Plan is the third plan to be presented to the public under the terms of the Department of Energy Act, following plans adopted in 1978 and 1985. The current proposed plan is a revised version of a draft plan presented to public hearings in 1989, during the prior Administration, but not adopted.

Other members of the Energy Master Plan Committee, in addition to Commissioner Weiner, are commissioners Melvin R. Primas of the Department of Community Affairs, Judith A. Yaskin of the Department of Environmental Protection, Dr. Frances Dunston of the Department of Health, Alan J. Gibbs of the Department of Human Services, and Thomas M. Downs of the Department of Transportation; and State Treasurer Douglas C. Berman.