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NJMC Helps Meadowlands Municipalities Go Green

*Funding for Hybrid Vehicles, Municipal Solar Assistance
Program Are Latest Initiatives*

LYNDHURST, N.J. – The Board of Commissioners of the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission today announced the formation of a pilot Municipal Solar Assistance Program and allocated funding toward the purchase of hybrid vehicles for Meadowlands District towns, the two most recent proactive steps the NJMC has taken to promote a greener Meadowlands.

“The NJMC has been a leader in heeding Governor Corzine’s call to fight global warming by aggressively and creatively pursuing initiatives and projects that incorporate renewable energy, green building and other energy-efficient approaches,” said Joseph Doria, Chairman of the NJMC and Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. “By providing its professional expertise and funding the NJMC will help make the Meadowlands more green while keeping more green in taxpayers’ wallets.”

The Municipal Solar Assistance Program consists of professional staff from the NJMC’s Office of Sustainability and NJMC solar consultants working with District towns throughout all phases of solar facility development. The NJMC staff and consultants may assist the municipalities with various aspects of solar facility development including procurement, site selection, obtaining financial incentives and regulatory compliance.

Initially the NJMC will work with Secaucus, Rutherford, Carlstadt and Kearny, which were the first four towns to express an interest in the program. The NJMC hopes to expand the program to more of the 14 Meadowlands District municipalities in the coming months.

In addition, the NJMC is providing up to \$20,000 to each District municipality to use toward the purchase of an energy-efficient hybrid vehicle for their fleet. The NJMC has converted one-third of its own vehicle fleet to hybrids in the past two years.

“Hybrid vehicles play an important role in reducing fuel consumption, an absolute necessity from an environmental and financial standpoint,” said Robert Ceberio, Executive Director of the NJMC. “The NJMC is committed to improving the quality of life for Meadowlands residents and is pleased to be able to offer significant funding to our municipalities for such a worthwhile investment.”

The Solar Assistance Program and hybrid funding are only the latest examples of the NJMC’s proactive approach to building a more sustainable Meadowlands. Last month the Commission opened the doors to its new Center for Environmental and Scientific Education, a 10,000 square-foot building constructed to meet the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards. The Center features solar panels, recycled building material, and energy efficient heating, lighting and ventilation systems.

The NJMC plans to retrofit its administrative building and Meadowlands Environment Center (MEC) with green building technology with the ultimate goal of obtaining LEED certification. The Commission has also set a goal of achieving 20 megawatts of solar capacity on its campus by the year 2020 and is moving forward with its plan to install a 700-kilowatt solar array on NJMC property.

To learn more about the NJMC’s renewable energy and sustainability initiatives, visit the Commission’s Web site, www.njmeadowlands.gov or visit the Commission’s booth at the Global Green Expo 2008. The Expo is April 25-27 at Liberty State Park in Jersey City. For more information visit www.globalgreen2008.com.