

40 Years



**New Jersey
Meadowlands
Commission**
1969-2009

NJMC NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Brian Aberback, Public Information Officer
Phone: 201-460-4619 • Cell: 201-615-8570
brian.aberback@njmeadowlands.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 27, 2009

NJMC Solar Landfill Project Advances

5MW Installation Would Be New Jersey's Largest

LYNDHURST, N.J. – In its ongoing effort to encourage renewable energy projects and grow the green economy, the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC) today invited companies to submit proposals to develop a solar power facility on a closed landfill in Kearny. The NJMC estimates that the site provides space for a 5 megawatt system, which would make it the largest in the state.

“Building solar arrays on landfills is a novel idea that helps the environment by fighting global warming, while creating jobs and new revenue,” said Joseph Doria, Chairman of the NJMC and Commissioner of the state Department of Community Affairs. “By embracing alternative energy technology, we can help secure our environmental and economic future.”

The NJMC is seeking to lease space on parts of the 35-acre 1-A landfill to a company that would design, finance, own and operate the solar facility. The company would generate revenue by selling electricity to the power grid, and through financial incentives offered to solar energy producers by the state and federal governments. The NJMC hopes to review completed proposals this summer. The request for proposal is available at the NJMC administrative office and on the Commission’s Web site at www.njmeadowlands.gov/public/notices.html.

“Given the current level of state and federal support for clean energy initiatives, this solar landfill project is an extraordinary business opportunity that also benefits the environment,” said Robert Ceberio, Executive Director of the NJMC. “This is an excellent example of how the green economy can help the environment while spurring economic growth.”

The solar landfill project supports objectives of the NJMC Energy Master Plan and Governor Corzine’s Energy Master Plan for New Jersey. The Commission’s plan calls for the production of 20 megawatts of renewable

energy in the Meadowlands District by 2020, and the state's goals include using alternative energy sources to meet 30 percent of New Jersey's electricity needs by the same year.

The Commission has pursued renewable energy projects for decades, since it began selling methane gas collected from its landfills for electric conversion in 1987. More recently, the Commission built a classroom building that depends on solar panels for nearly half of its electricity needs. The facility won LEED platinum certification – the highest rating – from the U.S. Green Building Council earlier this year. The NJMC is also working within three local communities to help them outfit their public buildings with rooftop solar panels.

For more information on the NJMC's sustainable energy initiatives, including its solar landfill project, log on to the Commission's Web site at www.njmeadowlands.gov.

###