



Agenda Date: 03/24/21
Agenda Item: 8E

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
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www.nj.gov/bpu/

CLEAN ENERGY

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLEAN ENERGY ORDER) ORDER
PROGRAMS AND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 -)
TRUE-UP AND REVISED BUDGETS AND PROGRAM) DOCKET NO. QO20080539
CHANGES

Parties of Record:

- Stefanie A. Brand, Esq.**, Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel
- Andrew McNally, Esq.**, Atlantic City Electric Company
- Joshua R. Eckert, Esq.**, Jersey Central Power and Light Company
- Andrew K. Dembia, Esq.**, New Jersey Natural Gas Company
- Matthew M. Weissman, Esq.**, Public Service Electric and Gas Company
- Margaret Comes, Esq.**, Rockland Electric Company
- Deborah M. Franco, Esq.**, South Jersey Gas Company
- Michael Ambrosio**, TRC Energy Services

BY THE BOARD:

This Order memorializes action taken by the Board of Public Utilities (“Board” or “BPU”) at its September 23, 2020 public meeting, where the Board considered revisions to the Fiscal Year 2021 (“FY21”) budget¹ for New Jersey’s Clean Energy Program (“NJCEP”) and approval of revisions associated with FY21 Programs.

BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On February 9, 1999, the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act (“EDECA” or “Act”), N.J.S.A. 48:3-49 et seq., was signed into law, creating the societal benefits charge (“SBC”) to fund programs for the advancement of energy efficiency (“EE”) and renewable energy (“RE”) in New Jersey. The Act also provided for the Board to initiate proceedings and undertake a comprehensive resource analysis (“CRA”) of EE and RE programs in New Jersey every four years. The CRA would then be used to determine the appropriate level of funding over the next four years for the EE and Class I RE programs, which are part of what is now known as NJCEP. Accordingly, in 1999, the Board initiated its first CRA proceeding, and in 2001, it issued an order setting funding levels, the programs to be funded, and the budgets for those programs, all for

¹ The budgets approved in this Order are subject to State appropriations law.

years 2001 through 2003. Since then, the Board has issued numerous Orders setting the funding levels, related programs, and program budgets for the years 2004 – FY21.²

The Board established FY21 programs and budgets through a Board Order entered on September 23, 2020 (“September 2020 Order”)³. On February 23, 2021, Board staff (“Staff”) released a proposal for the draft true-up budget, revised budgets, and program revisions. Staff provided a summary of the proposed true-up budget, budget reallocations, and program changes via a webinar on March 4, 2021. Public comments were originally due March 9, 2021, but were extended to March 11, 2021. The comments are summarized below.

PROPOSED FY21 BUDGET TRUE-UP AND REALLOCATIONS

1. True-up

The FY21 NJCEP budget was established, in part, based upon an estimate of expenses expected to be incurred during FY20. Once actual expenses become available, the Board typically approves what is known as a “True-up Budget” which calculates the difference between estimated expenses for budgetary purposes and expenses actually incurred. Consistent with that practice, and now that all expenses actually incurred during FY20 are final, Staff has proposed a budget true-up of the differences between estimated and actual expenses (“True-up”), which would result in an additional \$31,166,975 being available for NJCEP, as shown in the tables below:

(In \$)

<i>FY20 Program/Budget Line</i>	<i>FY20 Final Budget</i>	<i>FY20 Actual Expenses</i>	<i>FY20 Actual Year End Commitments</i>	<i>FY20 Actual Expenses plus Year End Commitments</i>	<i>FY20 Budget Less Actual Expenses and Commitments</i>
State Energy Initiatives	102,328,074	93,918,789	-	93,918,789	8,409,285
Total NJCEP	457,758,955	241,646,655	166,004,759	407,651,414	50,107,541
Energy Efficiency Programs	380,237,257	210,881,034	139,468,037	350,349,071	29,888,186
Distributed Energy Resources	22,953,909	3,492,531	17,586,331	21,078,862	1,875,047
RE Programs	6,834,010	4,712,441	538,701	5,251,142	1,582,868
EDA Programs	113,236	112,674	-	112,674	563
Planning and Administration	23,570,542	10,727,702	6,428,988	17,156,690	6,413,852
New Initiatives	24,050,000	11,720,274	1,982,701	13,702,975	10,347,025

*FY20 Actual Year End Commitments includes approximately \$34 million for State Facilities Initiative.

² In the early years, the budgets and programs were based on calendar years, but in 2012, the Board determined to begin basing the budgets and programs on fiscal years in order to align with the overall State budget cycle.

³ In the Matter of the Clean Energy Programs and Budget for FY21, BPU Dkt. No. QO20080539 (September 23, 2020)

<i>FY20 Estimated Uncommitted Carryforward</i>	<i>FY20 Budget Less Actual Expenses and Commitments</i>	<i>Difference Between FY20 Estimated Uncommitted Carryforward and Actuals</i>	<i>Other Revenues (Interest Payments, Application Fees, etc.)</i>	<i>Additional FY20 Carryforward and Other Revenues</i>
33,223,445	58,516,826	25,293,381	5,873,594	31,166,975

In addition to proposing the above True-up, Staff has also proposed reallocating funds among and within programs. The proposed reallocations are described in more detail below (“Reallocations”).

2. Reallocations and Rationale for Programs Administered by the Division of Clean Energy⁴

a. Offshore Wind (“OSW”)

- The increased budget of \$15,372,188 will ensure adequate funding is available to support programmatic needs, including the development of OSW component manufacturing location, the development of the New Jersey Wind Port and support for transmission analysis. This amount includes \$6,093,566 in additional FY20 carryforward.

b. Memberships

- Staff recommends reallocating \$275,000 from the “Outreach, Website and Other” budget line, which is managed by TRC Energy Services (“TRC”), to the “Membership” budget line to be managed by Staff to allow for participation in organizations specific to State entities.

c. Plug In EV Incentive Fund

- Staff is recommending reallocating \$3,037,025 from Charge Up New Jersey, administrative budget line, to the Plug In EV Incentive Fund budget line. Additionally, some funding was uncommitted in FY20; therefore, such funding is being reallocated to the FY21 EV program budget to ensure continuity over FY20 and FY21. This amount includes \$2,037,025 in additional FY20 carryforward.

d. Charge Up New Jersey

- Staff is recommending reallocating \$1,000,000 from Charge Up New Jersey, administrative budget line, to the Plug In EV Incentive Fund budget line.

⁴ More information about the programs administered by the Division of Clean Energy is included in NJCEP’s FY21 revised compliance filing (“DCE Compliance Filing”) (attached as Exhibit A).

e. Microgrids

- Staff recommends reallocating \$698,956 from the Microgrids budget line because the full FY21 amount will not be utilized this year and can be reallocated to other programs/initiatives.

f. Program Evaluation/Analysis

- Staff recommends reallocating \$1,579,666 from this budget line as this funding was anticipated to be utilized in FY21, but will not be spent this fiscal year.

g. Storage

- Staff recommends reallocating \$7,000,000 from this budget line. This funding was anticipated to be utilized in FY21, but will not be spent this year.

3. Reallocations and Rationale for Programs Administered by TRC⁵

a. Residential Retrofits

- Due to higher levels of increased spending compared to forecasts, Staff recommends increasing the budget by \$2,500,000.

b. Commercial and Industrial (“C&I”) Buildings

- Staff recommends increasing the budget by \$18,727,099 due to general increased participation, especially regarding Enhanced Incentives for prescriptive lighting, which have recently been eliminated. This budget also includes funding for over \$5,100,000 in projects anticipated to be approved in FY20 that were delayed until FY21. This amount includes \$7,627,099 in additional FY20 carryforward.

c. Residential New Construction

- Staff recommends reducing the budget by \$1,500,000 to reflect updated forecast of participation levels.

d. Energy Efficiency Products

- Staff recommends reducing the budget by \$2,100,000 to reflect updated forecast of participation levels.

e. Local Government Energy Audit

- Staff recommends reducing the budget by \$500,000 to reflect updated forecast of participation levels.

⁵ More detail about the programs administered by TRC is included in TRC’s FY21 revised compliance filing (attached as Exhibit B).

f. Direct Install

- Staff recommends reducing the budget by \$8,000,000 to reflect updated forecast of participation levels.

g. Outreach, Website, Other

- Staff recommends reducing the budget by \$535,000 to reflect updated forecast of participation levels.

4. Reallocations and Rationale for the Comfort Partners Program⁶

- a. Staff is recommending a reallocation within the Comfort Partners Program budget amongst the previously approved allocations to each utility. The total budget for the Comfort Partners program will remain unchanged. The reallocation is being proposed as a result of the fluctuation of program demand in response to current participation rates. Some service areas have experienced an influx of work compared to original forecasts, while others have seen a slight reduction. To ensure the continuity of the Comfort Partners program, this request of budget reallocation amongst the utilities will ensure that the impacted program contractors can continue their work unimpeded. This budget change would align the Comfort Partners' budgets to ensure that funds are properly allocated in needed utility territories and to ensure that all funding will be utilized.

FY21 Approved Comfort Partners Budget

<u>Utility</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Admin and Program Development</u>	<u>Sales, Marketing, Call Centers, Web Site</u>	<u>Training</u>	<u>Rebates, Grants and Other Direct Incentives</u>	<u>Rebate Processing, Inspections, Other QC</u>	<u>Evaluation & Research</u>
ACE	\$1,600,275	\$192,504	\$26,212	\$26,249	\$1,285,253	\$70,057	\$0
JCP&L	\$3,754,265	\$348,441	\$83,506	\$69,006	\$3,007,974	\$141,984	\$103,354
PSE&G- Elec	\$7,793,912	\$380,580	\$225,792	\$195,026	\$6,731,765	\$260,749	\$0
RECO	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
NJNG	\$4,295,568	\$261,232	\$80,707	\$81,707	\$3,735,340	\$136,582	\$0
Elizabethtown	\$2,668,110	\$185,370	\$51,108	\$51,282	\$2,275,588	\$104,762	\$0
PSE&G-Gas	\$11,690,869	\$570,870	\$338,688	\$292,539	\$10,097,648	\$391,124	\$0
SJG	\$2,322,101	\$258,539	\$42,328	\$41,775	\$1,901,946	\$77,513	\$0
TOTAL	\$34,125,100	\$2,197,536	\$848,341	\$757,584	\$29,035,514	\$1,182,771	\$103,354
PSE&G – Combined	\$19,484,781	\$951,450	\$564,480	\$487,565	\$16,829,413	\$651,873	\$0

⁶ More detail about the Comfort Partner Program is included in the Comfort Partners Program FY21 revised compliance filing (attached as Exhibit C).

FY21 Proposed Comfort Partners Reallocations

<u>Utility</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Admin and Program Development</u>	<u>Sales, Marketing, Call Centers, Web Site</u>	<u>Training</u>	<u>Rebates, Grants and Other Direct Incentives</u>	<u>Rebate Processing, Inspections, Other QC</u>	<u>Evaluation & Research</u>
ACE	\$1,600,275	\$192,504	\$26,212	\$26,249	\$1,285,253	\$70,057	\$0
JCP&L	\$3,800,305	\$354,201	\$84,266	\$63,266	\$3,045,974	\$142,744	\$109,854
PSE&G- Elec	\$6,798,960	\$372,192	\$195,404	\$176,638	\$5,812,365	\$242,361	\$0
RECO	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
NJNG	\$4,295,568	\$258,232	\$83,707	\$81,707	\$3,735,340	\$136,582	\$0
Elizabethtown	\$2,522,850	\$182,680	\$48,418	\$48,592	\$2,141,088	\$102,072	\$0
PSE&G-Gas	\$12,601,441	\$602,788	\$337,606	\$309,457	\$10,943,548	\$408,042	\$0
SJG	\$2,505,701	\$261,939	\$45,728	\$45,175	\$2,071,946	\$80,913	\$0
TOTAL	\$34,125,100	\$2,224,536	\$821,341	\$751,084	\$29,035,514	\$1,182,771	\$109,854
PSE&G – Combined	\$19,400,401	\$974,980	\$533,010	\$486,095	\$16,755,913	\$650,403	\$0

Revised Budget Table:

The proposed True-up and reallocations are shown in the table below:

Fiscal Year 2021 True-up Budget (In \$)

<i>FY21 Program/Budget Line</i>	<i>Initial FY21 Budget</i>	<i>Additional FY20 Carryforward and Other Revenues*</i>	<i>Line Item Transfers</i>	<i>Revised FY21 Budget</i>
Total -NJCEP + State Initiatives	509,029,779	31,166,975	0	540,196,754
State Energy Initiatives	100,000,000	15,409,285	0	115,409,285
Total NJCEP	409,029,779	15,757,690	0	424,787,469
Energy Efficiency Programs	302,058,180	7,627,099	1,500,000	311,185,279
Res EE Programs	68,171,319	0	-1,100,000	67,071,319
Residential Retrofit	27,824,379	0	2,500,000	30,324,379
RNC	12,656,413	0	-1,500,000	11,156,413
EE Products	27,690,527	0	-2,100,000	25,590,527
Res Low Income	34,125,100	0	0	34,125,100
Comfort Partners	34,125,100	0	0	34,125,100

C&I EE Programs	173,322,979	7,627,099	2,600,000	183,550,078
C&I Buildings	130,584,866	7,627,099	11,100,000	149,311,965
LGEA	4,231,673	0	-500,000	3,731,673
DI	38,506,440	0	-8,000,000	30,506,440
State Facilities Initiative	24,938,782	0	0	24,938,782
Acoustical Testing Pilot	1,500,000	0	0	1,500,000
Distributed Energy Resources	30,625,265	0	-1,938,956	28,686,309
CHP – FC	24,625,265	0	-1,240,000	23,385,265
Microgrids	6,000,000	0	-698,956	5,301,044
RE Programs	6,262,561	6,093,566	9,278,622	21,634,749
Offshore Wind	4,162,561	6,093,566	9,278,622	19,534,749
Solar Registration	2,100,000	0	0	2,100,000
EDA Program	130,393	0	0	130,393
Clean Energy Manufacturing Fund	130,393	0	0	130,393
Planning and Administration	29,142,520	0	-1,839,666	27,302,854
BPU Program Administration	3,555,000	0	0	3,555,000
Marketing	7,568,006	0	0	7,568,006
CEP Website	400,000	0	0	400,000
Program Evaluation/Analysis	10,939,450	0	-1,579,666	9,359,784
Outreach and Education	6,567,518	0	-535,000	6,032,518
Sustainable Jersey	988,435	0	0	988,435
NJIT Learning Center	1,029,083	0	0	1,029,083
Conference	750,000	0	0	750,000
Outreach, Website, Other	3,800,000	0	-535,000	3,265,000
Memberships	112,546	0	275,000	387,546
BPU Initiatives	40,810,860	2,037,025	-7,000,000	35,847,885
Community Energy Grants	560,000	0	0	560,000
Storage	7,000,000	0	-7,000,000	0
Electric Vehicle Program	23,000,860	2,037,025	0	25,037,885
Charge Up New Jersey	3,433,739	0	-1,000,000	2,433,739
Plug In EV Incentive Fund	19,567,121	2,037,025	1,000,000	22,604,146
NJ Wind	4,500,000	0	0	4,500,000
R&D Energy Tech Hub	1,250,000	0	0	1,250,000
Workforce Development	4,500,000	0	0	4,500,000

5. Detailed Budgets

Staff has proposed that the Board review and approve the detailed budgets to allocate the proposed budget revisions among the appropriate cost categories for each of the programs identified above, with the resulting detailed budgets as shown in the table below (“Detailed Budgets”):

FY21 Detailed Budgets (In \$)

Program/Budget Line	Total Budget	Cost Category Budgets					
		Administration	Sales, Marketing, Website	Training	Rebates, Grants and Other Direct Incentives	Rebate Processing and QA	Evaluation
Total -NJCEP + State Initiatives	540,196,754	22,287,848	13,261,176	10,160,584	463,538,612	16,944,147	14,004,387
State Energy Initiatives	115,409,285	0	0	0	115,409,285	0	0
Total NJCEP	424,787,469	22,287,848	13,261,176	10,160,584	348,129,327	16,944,147	14,004,387
EE Programs	311,185,279	13,574,763	1,212,908	1,194,584	284,849,415	10,243,755	109,854
Res EE Programs	67,071,319	4,128,865	130,523	315,000	56,313,927	6,183,004	0
Residential Retrofit	30,324,379	2,187,463	65,261	301,500	25,703,953	2,066,202	0
RNC	11,156,413	1,180,984	32,631	13,500	9,284,865	644,433	0
EE Products	25,590,527	760,418	32,631	0	21,325,109	3,472,369	0
Res Low Income	34,125,100	2,224,536	821,341	751,084	29,035,514	1,182,771	109,854
Comfort Partners	34,125,100	2,224,536	821,341	751,084	29,035,514	1,182,771	109,854
C&I EE Programs	183,550,078	5,721,362	261,044	128,500	174,561,192	2,877,980	0
C&I Buildings	149,311,965	4,296,689	195,782	103,500	142,290,891	2,425,103	0
LGEA	3,731,673	682,542	32,631	12,500	2,693,895	310,105	0
DI	30,506,440	742,131	32,631	12,500	29,576,406	142,772	0
State Facilities Initiatives	24,938,782	0	0	0	24,938,782	0	0
Acoustical Testing Pilot	1,500,000	1,500,000	0	0	0	0	0
Distributed Energy Resources	28,686,309	493,774	32,631	12,500	22,710,702	5,436,702	0
CHP - FC	23,385,265	493,774	32,631	12,500	22,710,702	135,658	0
Microgrids	5,301,044	0	0	0	0	5,301,044	0
RE Programs	21,634,749	787,679	32,631	16,000	15,000,000	1,263,690	4,534,749
Offshore Wind	19,534,749	0	0	0	15,000,000	0	4,534,749
Solar Registration	2,100,000	787,679	32,631	16,000	0	1,263,690	0
EDA Programs	130,393	130,393	0	0	0	0	0
Planning and Administration	27,302,854	3,555,000	11,983,006	0	2,405,064	0	9,359,784
BPU Program Administration	3,555,000	3,555,000	0	0	0	0	0

Marketing	7,568,006	0	7,568,006	0	0	0	0
CEP Website	400,000	0	400,000	0	0	0	0
Program Evaluation/Analysis	9,359,784	0	0	0	0	0	9,359,784
Outreach and Education	6,032,518	0	4,015,000	0	2,017,518	0	0
Sustainable Jersey	988,435	0	0	0	988,435	0	0
NJIT Learning Center	1,029,083	0	0	0	1,029,083	0	0
Conference	750,000	0	750,000	0	0	0	0
Outreach, Website, Other	3,265,000	0	3,265,000	0	0	0	0
Memberships	387,546	0	0	0	387,546	0	0
BPU Initiatives	35,847,885	3,746,239	0	8,937,500	23,164,146	0	0
Community Energy Grants	560,000	0	0	0	560,000	0	0
Storage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Electric Vehicles	25,037,885	2,433,739	0	0	22,604,146	0	0
Charge Up NJ Program	2,433,739	2,433,739	0	0	0	0	0
Plug In EV Incentive Fund	22,604,146	0	0	0	22,604,146	0	0
NJ Wind	4,500,000	250,000	0	4,250,000	0	0	0
R&D Energy Tech Hub	1,250,000	62,500	0	1,187,500	0	0	0
Workforce Development	4,500,000	1,000,000	0	3,500,000	0	0	0

6. Program Revisions

Staff is proposing to make the following program changes.

Large Energy Users Program (LEUP):

Staff recommends adding a requirement capping overall total energy savings for lighting to 50%. It is designed to encourage comprehensive projects and to better align LEUP's lighting incentives with SmartStart's generally lower lighting incentives, thereby maximizing energy savings using limited funds.

Combined Heat and Power-Fuel Cells ("CHP-FC"):

Staff recommends maintaining the status quo of the existing design by re-defining the categories of Fuel Cells ("FCs") from FCs with Heat Recovery versus FCs without Heat Recovery to, respectively, $\geq 60\%$ FCs versus $\geq 40\%$ FCs.

In addition, Staff proposes to add flexibility to the time periods for which COVID-19-impacted participants must collect operating data in order to qualify for Incentive #3. Experience has shown that COVID-19 and the restrictions related to it have made it difficult or impossible for many

participants to collect twelve (12) months of continuous operating data that reflect normal operating conditions. The added flexibility would authorize the Program Manager to work with the applicant towards other reasonable methods of demonstrating whether the applicable performance thresholds have been met.

Comfort Partners Program:

Staff is recommending that Comfort Partners pilot a location-based automatic eligibility in six (6) low-income neighborhoods, equitably distributed geographically throughout the State. Eligibility in the six pilot locations would be based on census tract data, while customers not located in the pilot areas would continue to have to meet the traditional eligibility requirements based on income level and participation in assistance programs. This pilot aims to address barriers and obstacles low-income customers may have applying for Comfort Partners by having automatic eligibility based on their location while also increasing participation in areas of most need.

Electric Vehicles – Approved Program Revisions

The FY21 Revised Electric Vehicle Program Compliance Filing is reflective of action previously taken by the Board through the following Board Orders.

- [I/M/O the Electric Vehicle Program Compliance Filing](#) (July 15, 2020)
- [I/M/O the Electric Vehicle Program Compliance Filing](#) (December 16, 2020)
- [I/M/O the Electric Vehicle Program Compliance Filing](#) (January 27, 2021)

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC STAKEHOLDERS

On February 23, 2021, Staff posted on the NJCEP website and distributed to the listservs a Request for Comments regarding the proposed FY21 True-up, budget revisions, and program changes. Comments were originally accepted through March 9, 2021, but were extended to March 11, 2021. Written comments submitted by the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel (“Rate Counsel”), Vote Solar, GRID Alternatives, New Jersey Sustainable Business Council, Solar United Neighbors of New Jersey, PosiGen, Neighborhood Sun, the NJ League of Conservation Voters, Environment New Jersey, Green Waste Energy, Sunrise Movement, Bloom Energy, ChargeVC, New Jersey Utilities Association, NJPIRG, Environment New Jersey, NRDC, NJ Work Environment Council, Jersey Renews, and Isles, Inc. are summarized below, along with Staff’s responses.

Budget

Comment: NJPIRG, Environment New Jersey, New Jersey Sustainable Business Council, NRDC, NJ Work Environment Council, Jersey Renews, and Isles, Inc. requested that more time be provided to stakeholders for future budget and program revisions, along with the ability to ask questions. Additionally, the group expressed concern over more funds being allocated from the Clean Energy Program to the FY22 state budget.

Response: Staff appreciates the comments from the groups and would like to clarify that the Request for Comments that was submitted to the public on February 23, 2021 included an email for any questions about the True-up budget, budget reallocations, and program revisions. Staff encourages all stakeholders to submit questions to Staff via the email address provided.

Comment: NJPIRG, Environment New Jersey, New Jersey Sustainable Business Council, NRDC, NJ Work Environment Council, Jersey Renews, and Isles, Inc. commented that it is important for funding, especially in the current pandemic, to remain available toward critical programs such as the Comfort Partner Programs and Workforce Development.

Response: Staff appreciates the comment and confirms that both the Comfort Partners Program and Workforce Development remain funded.

Comment: Rate Counsel commented on the amount of additional carryover from FY20 and opposes the \$15.4 million being allocated to the “State Energy Initiatives” budget category. Rate Counsel suggests that all of the additional funds from FY20 be allocated towards NJCEP programs or, at a minimum, be appropriately proportioned to the total budgets where \$25 million would be added to NJCEP programs and \$6.1 million would be added to the State Energy Initiatives. Additionally, Rate Counsel suggests that FY20 carryover could be utilized in the Energy Efficiency Products and Direct Install Programs instead of the suggested budget reductions.

Response: Staff appreciates the comments submitted by Rate Counsel regarding the funding for the “State Energy Initiatives” and appreciates Rate Counsel’s suggestions; however, Staff believes the funds are appropriately allocated in the State’s budget. Staff has recommended reduced budgets for Energy Efficiency Products and the Direct Install Program in response to current spending rates and program participation levels. Staff continuously reviews program budgets and makes recommendations based on spending levels to ensure that appropriate funding levels are in place for all NJCEP programs.

Comment: NJPIRG, Environment New Jersey, New Jersey Sustainable Business Council, NRDC, NJ Work Environment Council, Jersey Renews, and Isles, Inc. requested clarity on how Staff arrived at the FY21 True-Up Budget amounts from the additional FY20 carry-forward funds and other revenues of \$31.1 million, and the “FY20 Budget Less Actual Expenses and Commitments” of \$58.5 million.

Response: Staff calculated the additional FY20 carry-forward for true-up based on the following calculations: First, we compared the FY20 estimated versus the actual expenses (“FY20 Budget Less Actual Expenses and Commitments”) to reach the \$58.5 million. Staff then took the difference between \$58.5 million and the “FY20 Estimated Uncommitted Carryforward” of \$33.2 million, which was assumed when the FY21 Budget was first approved in September. Since there was approximately \$25.3 million more than what was estimated, this was added to “Other Revenues” of \$5.8 million to arrive at the “Additional FY20 Carryforward and Other Revenues” of \$31.1 million that was available to allocate.

Comment: NJPIRG, Environment New Jersey, New Jersey Sustainable Business Council, NRDC, NJ Work Environment Council, Jersey Renews, and Isles, Inc. thanked Board Staff for including an additional \$2,500,000 in the budget for Residential Retrofits, which it said was especially appropriate in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Response: Staff appreciates the support.

Comment: NJPIRG, Environment New Jersey, New Jersey Sustainable Business Council, NRDC, NJ Work Environment Council, Jersey Renews, and Isles, Inc. expressed their concern about the \$1,500,000 reduction for Residential New Construction (“RNC”) Program. It commented that if participation is less than expected, the funds that thereby become available should be used

to increase outreach and education to drive greater participation in the RNC Program, rather than being re-allocated to other programs. It wants to ensure that as many new residential projects as possible incorporate energy efficiency.

Response: COVID-19 and other factors have been delaying the construction of new homes, consequently reducing participation in the RNC Program during FY21. Those factors have also necessarily driven a reduction in certain outreach expenses (e.g., less in-person outreach at conferences, conventions, etc.). Although Staff agrees with the goal of ensuring that as many new residential projects as possible incorporate energy efficiency, Staff respectfully submits that increasing outreach expenditures during the remainder of FY21 will have relatively little impact on achieving NJCEP's goals, at least as compared to the significantly greater impact of re-allocating funds to programs experiencing unexpectedly high levels of participation.

Comment: Rate Counsel commented that the Microgrid program responds to the 2015 Energy Master Plan Update's recommendation to increase the use of microgrid technologies to improve grid resiliency and reliability. Rate Counsel notes that Phase 1 of the BPU's Town Center Distributed Energy Resources ("TCDER") Microgrid Incentive Program was to implement a feasibility incentive program and conduct feasibility studies, which was completed in FY2020. Rate Counsel also notes that the Board approved 8 projects for funding for the Phase II program for detailed design out of a \$4 million budget at its March 3, 2021 agenda meeting.

Response: Staff agrees with the comments from Rate Counsel.

Comment: Rate Counsel provided its support for the FY21 True-Up Budget, which will continue to support administering the Transition Incentive Program for its SREC Program and the ongoing process to establish the new Successor Program.

Response: Staff appreciates Rate Counsel's support.

Clean Energy Equity and Comfort Partners Program

Comment: Vote Solar, GRID Alternatives, New Jersey Sustainable Business Council, Solar United Neighbors of New Jersey, PosiGen, Neighborhood Sun, the NJ League of Conservation Voters, and Environment New Jersey expressed their strong support for the newly created Office of Clean Energy Equity and the need to establish clear directives, including soliciting feedback from impacted communities, providing sufficient funding, and working with other State agencies in developing equitable clean energy policies. Lastly, the commenters indicated that they would like to see additional funding for programs that reduce energy burdens of the lowest income residents pursuant to the Clean Energy Equity Act, S. 2484 through solar deployment and energy efficiency, increased resilience from local battery storage, and promotion of job development in these sectors.

Response: The Office of Clean Energy Equity was established in 2020. The Office is charged with overseeing the equitable deployment of clean energy technologies and energy efficiency programs, ensuring access for all residents, including New Jersey's low- and moderate-income communities. The Office of Clean Energy Equity has begun to oversee the development and implementation of clean energy policies, technologies, and programs, including energy efficiency programs, to better serve New Jersey's overburdened communities and to ensure equitable participation in clean energy programs and distribution of related benefits. The Office is currently working across the Division of Clean Energy on projects that include the energy efficiency transition and will be involved in the reconvening of the Energy Efficiency Working Groups and

public stakeholder meetings. Additionally, it has begun to collaborate with partner agencies in the implementation of relevant policies, programs, training, and education, liaise with community-based organizations, work within the communities to provide effective outreach on workforce training and program education initiatives, and expand the dialogue between NJBPU and community leaders to ensure that programs are effectively meeting their needs.

Comment: The New Jersey Utilities Association expressed support for the Comfort Partners Pilot Program.

Response: Staff appreciates the support and agrees that an expedited start to the program will be valuable to increasing participation.

Comment: NJPIRG, Environment New Jersey, New Jersey Sustainable Business Council, NRDC, NJ Work Environment Council, Jersey Renews, and Isles, Inc. submitted a comment regarding the True Up Budget and Comfort Partners location eligibility pilot.

Response: The location eligibility pilot is being developed by Comfort Partners, a free program that helps income-eligible customers reduce their utility bills through implementing cost effective measures co-managed by the Board and the electric and gas utilities. It is believed that this pilot will help reduce barriers for participation by making eligibility based on census tract data, which will in turn increase participation from customers who may have found the traditional income-based method burdensome. The proposed pilot will be geographically distributed across the state and determined by both the Board and utility partners.

Combined Heat and Power and Fuel Cells

Comment: Bloom commented that it appreciated the elimination of the distinction between Fuel Cells (FCs) with and without Heat Recovery.

Response: Board Staff appreciates the support.

Comment: Bloom commented that the proposed two-tier incentive structure providing one incentive for $\geq 40\%$ FCs and a higher incentive for $\geq 60\%$ FCs, and CHPs, is too blunt and will inappropriately encourage the development of lower efficiency FC projects. It pointed out that a hospital that installs a 60% efficient CHP could receive an incentive of up to \$3,000,000 while another that installs a 59% efficient FC would be limited to \$1,000,000, resulting in NJCEP paying \$2,000,000 for the 1% incremental increase in efficiency and ultimately disincentivizing the developer of the FC to invest in the technology to get its equipment from 40% to 59%. Bloom suggested that a sliding scale between 40% and 60% would better achieve NJCEP's goals.

Response: Staff agrees that there may be merit in using a sliding scale rather than a cliff to manage the incentivization of FCs that range between 40% and 60%. Proper design of such a scale would require more analysis and time. Accordingly, although Staff does not support the adoption of the sliding scale as part of the current process, Staff will more carefully consider the sliding scale approach in the relatively near future and, possibly, through the process around setting budgets and programs for FY22.

Comment: Bloom repeated comments it has made in the past that the "manufacturer diversity" cap inappropriately discriminates against cleaner FCs in favor of polluting CHPs.

Response: The comments submitted by Bloom in response to this proposal relative to “manufacturer diversity” have been fully considered and addressed in prior Staff proposals. To avoid repetition and redundancy, Staff would direct the reader to those materials. Staff, however, will note that it would be imprudent to make sweeping changes to program design given that the structure of NJCEP is expected to substantially change over the next several months as the programs are transitioned to the utilities and/or substantially re-structured.

Comment: Rate Counsel commented that while Combined Heat and Power and Fuel Cells technologies provide resiliency and reliability, Staff should consider carefully evaluating the future needs for fossil-fueled projects.

Response: Staff appreciates the comments and will continue to review the benefit and costs of the program.

Energy Efficiency Transition

Comment: The New Jersey Utilities Association noted that the Division of Clean Energy’s compliance filing included a summary of planned evaluation activities during FY21 and suggested that any planned studies that have not yet been initiated should be postponed and integrated into the upcoming Evaluation, Measurement and Verification (“EM&V”) Working Group planned activities to increase the applicability and usability of those studies for both state and utility programs going forward.

Response: Staff confirms that any evaluation studies that have not yet been initiated will be integrated into the upcoming EM&V Working Group activities, as suggested.

Comment: NJPIRG, Environment New Jersey, New Jersey Sustainable Business Council, NRDC, NJ Work Environment Council, Jersey Renews, and Isles, Inc. requested clarity on the timeline for energy efficiency working groups to form and begin meeting, including the structure and timing of the working groups, and noted that the commenters and partners are eager to participate and engage with program development and implementation. In particular, the commenters noted the importance of establishing these working groups given the approval of PSE&G and New Jersey Natural Gas programs, the new suite of other utility programs that are expected to start on July 1, 2021, and the State-run programs that will be proposed for FY22.

Response: On March 15, 2021, the Board announced via its listserv that the monthly energy efficiency stakeholder meetings will resume starting on March 31 from 1 – 4 p.m. These meetings will include program updates, as well as energy efficiency working group updates, and will provide stakeholders with the opportunity to engage and provide input as the working groups develop recommendations for all new energy efficiency programs that will begin in 2021.

Electric Vehicles

Comment: Rate Counsel comments focused on the still-in-development Phase 3 of the program – the residential charger program. Comments ask that given the now approved utility programs Staff should be “judicious” with ratepayer funds and to prioritize programs that encourage adoption of EVs and questions if, in light of the new programs, this incentive achieves that goal. Comments also suggest that prior to the start of the program Staff should provide additional information regarding requirements for networking and data collection.

Response: Phase 3 of the program is still in development and Staff anticipates that more information regarding the program will be provided to stakeholders prior to launch of the program.

Comment: Comments from the Charge EVC program note that Staff has indicated that Year 2 of the Program will be a Point of Sale program, which is a welcomed change, and request that FY 22 should start with a minimum of \$30 million and it is suggested that any carry over funds should be utilized in Year 2.

Response: The True-up budget has allocated funds in order to satisfy FY21 expenses, and Staff will consider comments regarding FY22 when budgeting and planning for FY22.

Comment: NJPIRG, Environment New Jersey, New Jersey Sustainable Business Council, NRDC, NJ Work Environment Council, Jersey Renews, and Isles, Inc. submitted comments focused on a request to accelerate the amount of incentives offered in future years of the program.

Response: Staff will consider comments regarding FY22 when budgeting and planning for FY22.

Energy Master Plan

Comment: NJPIRG, Environment New Jersey, New Jersey Sustainable Business Council, NRDC, NJ Work Environment Council, Jersey Renews, and Isles, Inc. note that while they appreciate the importance of executing the Energy Master Plan Rate Impact Study with a goal of examining ratepayer impacts in the effort to reach the EMP's goal of 100% clean energy by 2050, they urge the NJBPU to fully account for the full range of expected climate change costs that can be expected under the EMP.

Response: The Energy Master Plan and Integrated Energy Plan did take into account the full costs and benefits of transitioning New Jersey's energy system, including the social costs of carbon and public health benefits. Staff's intent in issuing the Ratepayer Impact Study is to further study the impact specifically on gas and electric utility bills under various scenarios, balanced by also factoring the costs and savings impact realized with fuel switching.

Grid Modernization

Comment: NJPIRG, Environment New Jersey, New Jersey Sustainable Business Council, NRDC, NJ Work Environment Council, Jersey Renews, and Isles, Inc. expressed their support of the efforts to modernize the grid and update the State's interconnection rules.

Response: Staff thanks the commenters for their support.

Offshore Wind

Comment: NJPIRG, Environment New Jersey, New Jersey Sustainable Business Council, NRDC, NJ Work Environment Council, Jersey Renews, and Isles, Inc. noted that they are strongly in support of the Board's investment in offshore wind, especially the work to build out the offshore wind supply chain in the state. Commenters specifically note their support of the investments of \$1.8 million via the South Jersey Port Corporation for the work to develop the Port of Paulsboro into turbine monopile manufacturing, and the investment in the New Jersey Wind Port in Lower Alloway Creek in Salem County.

Response: Staff appreciates the commenters' support.

Comment: Rate Counsel notes that \$15.4 million was added to the FY21 offshore wind budget of \$4.16 million which reflects two new initiatives: 1) a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) between the Board and the South Jersey Port Corporation to support the development of manufacturing facilities in New Jersey to support the OSW industry. \$1.8 million in Societal Benefits Charge (“SBC”) is allocated to this initiative; 2) the Board entered into an MOU with the Economic Development Authority to support a portion of the development and related expenses of the New Jersey Wind Port. The MOU will transfer \$13.2 million of SBC funds for this initiative. Rate Counsel supports these two initiatives.

Response: Staff agrees with Rate Counsel comments and appreciates Rate Counsel’s support.

Solar

Comment: Vote Solar, GRID Alternatives, New Jersey Sustainable Business Council, Solar United Neighbors of New Jersey, PosiGen, Neighborhood Sun, the NJ League of Conservation Voters, and Environment New Jersey commended the Board’s commitment to maximize public input as it develops the Solar Successor Program and stressed the importance of allowing overburdened communities⁷ to participate in the process.

Response: Staff appreciates the support and looks forward to continued engagement with all stakeholders as the Solar Successor Program is developed.

Comment: Vote Solar, GRID Alternatives, New Jersey Sustainable Business Council, Solar United Neighbors of New Jersey, PosiGen, Neighborhood Sun, the NJ League of Conservation Voters, and Environment New Jersey recommended that the Solar Successor Program use performance-based incentives.

Response: Specifics regarding the Solar Successor Program are outside the scope of this proceeding. The Board anticipates a robust public stakeholder process with an opportunity for comment regarding the pending Solar Successor Program.

Comment: NJPIRG, Environment New Jersey, New Jersey Sustainable Business Council, NRDC, NJ Work Environment Council, Jersey Renews, and Isles, Inc. indicated they were encouraged by the Program Year 2 Community Solar Energy Pilot Program and the increasing opportunities for all communities to benefit from solar.

Response: Staff appreciates the commenters support as it continues to work towards the development of a permanent Community Solar Program.

Storage

Comment: NJPIRG, Environment New Jersey, New Jersey Sustainable Business Council, NRDC, NJ Work Environment Council, Jersey Renews, and Isles, Inc. note that the \$7 million for energy storage was carried over from FY20, and they express uncertainty about whether the study on battery storage was ever completed and whether final results were ever shared publicly.

⁷ An overburdened community is defined as any census block group as determined in accordance with the most recent United States Census, in which: (1) at least 35% of the households qualify as low-income households; (2) at least 40% of the residents identify as minority or as members of a state recognized tribal community; or (3) at least 40% of the households have limited English proficiency.

Commenters hope that the elimination of these funds in FY21 is not an indication of de-prioritizing battery storage in policy development.

Response: Staff notes that the energy storage analysis was completed and the report⁸ is available on the BPU website in FY19. Staff also notes that it is continuing its efforts to develop energy storage programs in FY22.

Comment: Rate Counsel noted that the FY2021 budget included \$7 million in funding for grants and administration of an energy storage program, and that the FY21 True-up budget removes this \$7 million. Rate Counsel also notes that the compliance filing indicates that the Board will continue its efforts to develop a program to meet the energy storage goals of the CEA.

Response: Staff agrees with Rate Counsel comments and notes that Staff is continuing its efforts to develop energy storage programs in FY22.

Additional Comments

Comment: Green Waste commented that NJCEP should fund new initiatives, such as Green Waste's Advanced Recycling and Energy Conversion ("AREC") technology for the processing of municipal solid waste and other wastes into energy by converting the wastes into a syngas that can then be combusted to produce heat and/or electricity. It claims implementation of its proposal would improve air quality, create jobs, and have other beneficial effects, but that thus far nobody has been willing to invest in the first AREC plant in New Jersey. On a related note, Green Waste asked why the FY21 Budget does not contain the same line item as the "New Initiatives" line item in the FY20 Budget.

Response: Staff notes that its current Combined Heat and Power – Fuel Cell (CHP-FC) Program provides incentives to utilize renewable fuels sourced from sustainable biomass and that the program is supporting at least one CHP project that will be combusting sustainable biogas. The current program provides the bonus only for energy sources, including certain fuels from biomass, that qualify as Class I renewable energy. Class II renewable energy does not qualify for a bonus under the current Program. Staff will continue to monitor developments in this area to determine whether any further support or incentives would be appropriate.

Staff also notes that NJCEP's mission is more focused on encouraging the use of energy efficient technologies that are already in the marketplace, and less focused on funding the research and development of first-of-a-kind technology applications, such as AREC.

With respect to Green Waste's question about budget line items, what was referred to as "New Initiatives" in FY20 has simply been renamed as "BPU Initiatives" in FY21 with generally similar initiatives being included in each FY's budget.

Comment: Sunrise Movement commented that the FY21 budget should better align with the goals of the Energy Master Plan. Some comments included how to improve the Energy Master Plan. Sunrise Movement expressed that converting low-income customers who heat with oil, under certain circumstances, would be considered for conversion to natural gas which contradicts the goals of the EMP. The commenter also states that the budget for Warm and Cool Advantage

⁸ New Jersey Energy Storage Analysis (ESA) – May 23, 2019, <https://www.bpu.state.nj.us/bpu/pdf/commercial/New%20Jersey%20ESA%20Final%20Report%2005-23-2019.pdf>

does not allow for participation to achieve the maximum energy savings potential and that the EEP should not be subsidizing natural gas equipment.

Response: Staff appreciates the comments. The move to decarbonize the building sector and reduce energy demand are important and interwoven goals, and Staff endeavors to establish stronger mechanisms to improve energy efficiency outcomes through decarbonization measures. The NJCEP will continue to work towards the goals of the EMP and stresses that reducing energy burdens on low-income customers remains a priority.

BOARD STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Consistent with the Board's contract with its Program Administrator, Staff coordinated with TRC and the Comfort Partners Program Team regarding the proposed budget revisions and program revisions. The FY21 Proposed Budget Revisions include the True Up, Reallocations, and Detailed Budgets.

Having reviewed and considered the comments, Staff recommends that the Board adopt and approve FY21 Proposed Budget Revisions and the revised DCE, TRC, Comfort Partners, and Electric Vehicle Compliance Filings attached hereto.

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

The Board **FINDS** that budget revisions will benefit customers and are consistent with the goals of reducing energy usage and associated emissions. Therefore, the Board **HEREBY APPROVES** the revised DCE, TRC, Comfort Partners and Electric Vehicle Compliance Filings.

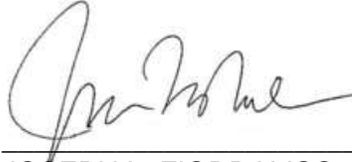
Staff distributed the Proposed FY21 Budget Revisions to the EE and RE listservs, posted them on the NJCEP website, and solicited written comments about them from stakeholders and the public. Staff and the Board considered those comments. Accordingly, the Board **FINDS** that the processes utilized in developing these proposed budget revisions and programs were appropriate and provided stakeholders and interested members of the public with adequate notice and opportunity to comment.

The Board has reviewed the FY21 Budget Revisions. The Board **FINDS** that these budget revisions and new programs will benefit customers and are consistent with the goals of reducing energy usage and associated emissions and **HEREBY APPROVES** the Proposed FY21 Budget Revisions and programs recommended by Staff.

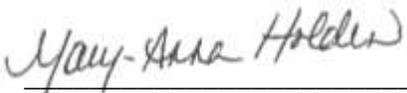
This Order shall be effective on April 3, 2021.

DATED: March 24, 2021

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:



JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO
PRESIDENT



MARY-ANNA HOLDEN
COMMISSIONER



DIANNE SOLOMON
COMMISSIONER



UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA
COMMISSIONER



ROBERT M. GORDON
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH
SECRETARY

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLEAN ENERGY ORDER PROGRAMS AND BUDGET FOR FISCAL
YEAR 2021 –TRUE-UP AND REVISED BUDGET AND PROGRAM CHANGES
DOCKET NO. QO20080539

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