



Edward J. Bloustein School
of Planning and Public Policy

Office of the Dean
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
33 Livingston Avenue, Suite 300
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Contact: Karyn M. Olsen
karyno@rci.rutgers.edu
732-932-5475 x762
Fax: 732-932-1771



Advance Realty
1430 U.S. Highway 206, Suite 100
Bedminster, NJ 07921

Contact: Christa Segalini
csegalini@beckermanpr.com
201-465-8021
Fax: 201-465-8040

NEWS RELEASE

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EDITOR'S NOTE: ATTENTION ENERGY, BUSINESS, ASSIGNMENT EDITORS, to speak with the report's guest columnists, please contact Karyn Olsen karyno@rutgers.edu or 732-932-5475, ext.762.

SPECIAL ISSUE ADVANCE & RUTGERS REPORT EXAMINES NEW JERSEY'S SOLAR ENERGY CHALLENGES

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. – While New Jersey faces many energy challenges in the coming years, including fluctuating oil prices and the uncertain future of nuclear power, it remains one of the fastest adopters of solar energy resources. In the new special edition issue of the *Advance & Rutgers Report* “Solar Power in the Garden State” sponsored by leading real estate owner and developer Advance Realty, guest columnists Shankar N. Chandramowli, research staff member and Frank A. Felder, PhD, Director of the Center for Energy, Economic and Environmental Policy and professor at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, examine the significant issue of solar power in New Jersey.

At present, renewable resources such as solar and wind power contribute to less than 1 percent of total electricity generation in New Jersey. Nearly half of in-state electricity generation is from nuclear power, with natural gas the next major source. In recent years, however, New Jersey has instituted some of the most aggressive solar and renewable energy policies in the nation directed at reducing emissions and preserving the environment, with an expected goal of increasing the renewable resource share of electricity generation to 22.5 percent.

As the state and the nation slowly move out of the economic recession, questions as to the costs of New Jersey's renewable energy policies are beginning to surface. The state's Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS), one of the most aggressive in the nation, and innovative financing options will give New Jersey a leadership role in the renewable energy arena.

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