

If we are going to develop a sustainable energy economy in the United States – one that creates clean energy jobs, holds down energy costs, and reduces the rate of climate change – then we must integrate energy efficiency into everything we do. While we see more and more solar collector fields and wind farms, there is an opportunity to apply energy efficient technologies to our buildings and transportation infrastructure.

Innovation is vital to economic growth and job creation, and New Jersey always has been an innovation hub. We must remember that history, and we must nurture and support entrepreneurs who are bringing their innovations to market and building the foundations of our economy.

On Monday, U.S. [Secretary of Energy Steven Chu](#) and I [visited](#) a [company](#) that is working to do just that.

Applied Photovoltaics, based in Pennington, is benefiting from a \$1.1 million Recovery Act clean energy manufacturing tax credit to produce solar energy modules for use in building-integrated applications, such as windows, walls, balconies, or roofs. They plan to build a new manufacturing facility and hire 25 people. Applied Photovoltaics is the only New Jersey company to receive a tax credit for advanced energy manufacturing facilities. New Jersey has the largest installation of solar power after California, and I believe other innovative companies will also help drive a new market of moving solar power from the fields to the roof tops. (Later, Secretary Chu and I met with staff at the Princeton Plasma Physics Lab, another site of alternative energy development).

New Health Care Protections

On September 23, new consumer health benefits protections went into effect, including protecting children with pre-existing conditions from being denied coverage, allowing young adults to stay on their parents' health insurance plan until their 26th birthday, and banning insurance companies from setting lifetime limits on coverage (annual limits are to be phased out over three years). Click [here](#) to read more about new health care protections.

October 12 is the Last Day to Register to Vote in November

October 12 – 21 days until Election Day 2010 – is the [last day](#) New Jersey citizens can [register](#) to vote in this year's federal, state, county, and local elections. Registration forms and information about how to register can be found [here](#). I urge you to check to make sure you are registered before the deadline.

I also want to remind you that in New Jersey, any voter can vote by paper absentee ballot for any election, by mail or in person (you need not show that you are out of state or ill). Absentee ballot applications can be found [here](#). The deadline to return an absentee ballot application by mail to your county clerk's office is October 26. You can apply in person to the county clerk until 3 p.m. the day before the election.

For more information, please review the [New Jersey Voter's Bill of Rights](#). If you have any additional questions, feel free to call me office at 1-87-RUSH-HOLT.