

## Legislative Update 2010 – Green Workforce

As we reinvent our workforce and a new chapter in our history unfolds, the possibilities are boundless as technological breakthroughs continue to be made in the field of renewable energy. In recent years we, in the Legislature, have made significant steps forward in the areas of green construction and energy-efficient fields by passing laws to promote sustainability. Last year, the Energy Savings Improvement Program was passed, allowing public entities to make much needed energy efficient upgrades. Under this law, a public entity such as a town or school district would be able to contract with an energy services company for the implementation of energy conservation measures through a lease-purchase agreement. Energy efficiency programs have a large return on investment and as a result of this law, would literally pay for themselves without using taxpayer dollars. As we strive to make an impact on global climate change abroad and at home, we need to work to ensure a better environment in the Garden State, while creating a new and sustainable workforce.