



October 29, 2009

## NJ engineering firm explores solar power for NJ schools

**ATLANTIC CITY** — Whitman, one of New Jersey's leading environmental and engineering management firms, will be presenting at the Solar Power for Schools Symposium on Thursday, Oct. 29, at the Sheraton Hotel in Atlantic City.

New Jersey is the national leader for using solar power, and schools have the ability to reap the benefits of this alternative energy. The symposium, which will begin at 8 a.m., will cover the basics of photovoltaic systems and how solar power can serve as a revenue source for school districts.

"There has never been a better time for schools to consider harnessing solar energy to help power their schools and to act as a revenue source for the district," said Barry Skoultchi, president of Whitman. "New Jersey is one of the fastest growing solar markets in the country, and the state Board of Public Utilities has approved new regulations that require the state's

electric utilities to draw 20 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2020. Schools have an unprecedented opportunity to save money, increase revenues and become part of the thousands who have switched to solar power across the country."

Other panelists include a representative of Parette Somjen Architects, a mid-sized architectural firm that specializes in solar designs; Wilentz Goldman and Spitzer, one of New Jersey's major law firms; and Marlene Wendolowski, business administrator for the Parsippany-Troy Hills school system.

The symposium, which will take place just across the street from the New Jersey School Boards Association Workshop and Exhibition at the Atlantic City Convention Center, will explore why now is an opportune time for schools to investigate and invest in solar power and how the technology can be used as an educational component in schools. Funding and ownership options will

also be discussed.

Whitman has completed electrical, structural and civil engineering work on a number of solar projects, including Halls Warehouse in South Plainfield, one of the largest solar installations of a private commercial building in the country. The flat roof solar energy system installed at Halls Warehouse will generate 3.2 megawatts of solar power – enough to power approximately 200 homes for an entire year.

"Solar energy is clean and renewable. More than ever, there are state and federal programs that can help set the initial cost of installation and most major users can expect to see a return on their investment in six to eight years," Skoultchi said. "The panel that has been put together will provide excellent insight into the tremendous economic and environmental incentives that solar energy offers."

For more information about the symposium, visit [www.solar4njschools.com](http://www.solar4njschools.com).

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