

NEWS RELEASE
From the Greater Egg Harbor Regional Board of Education

For Immediate Release

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Voters Encouraged to Cast Ballots on Solar Referendum Project

Solar Referendum Vote Date Set for December 9

MAYS LANDING, NJ, November 19, 2008 — The Greater Egg Harbor Regional Board of Education is reminding registered voters to participate in the solar project bond referendum election on Tuesday, December 9. Residents are encouraged to apply for an absentee ballot in order to participate in this special election, which seeks approval for the installation of solar panels at Absegami High School.

The total estimated cost for the proposed bond referendum is \$3.32 million. The State of New Jersey will fund 57.98 percent of the debt service costs associated with the issuance of the bonds.

The district has received a commitment for a one-time Customer On-Site Renewable Energy (CORE) rebate from the New Jersey Board of Public Utility's Office of Clean Energy in the amount of \$966,374. This rebate will likely only be available if the referendum is successful on December 9.

In addition, if the referendum passes, the Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District intends to sell Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SRECs). For each megawatt hour of electricity generated by the solar project, the school district will earn one SREC. Each SREC is expected to sell for approximately \$350, or an estimated annual source of revenue to the school district in excess of \$170,000. The district also estimates approximately \$64,000 in energy savings annually with the installation of solar panels at the high school.

“Solar panels are the way to go. Our district can be more energy-efficient, environmentally (green) friendly, and will not burden the taxpayers,” said Adam Pfeffer, superintendent of schools. “This project is a win for everyone; the project pays for itself,” Pfeffer added.

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The voter registration deadline has passed; however, absentee ballots are still available at the county clerk's office at 5901 Main Street, Mays Landing, NJ, or online at <http://www.atlanticcountyclerk.org/forms/aballot.pdf> and must be completed and received by the county clerk's office by December 2. Walk-in applications can be received in the county clerk's office until 3:00 p.m. the day before the election. Absentee ballots cannot be faxed because an original signature is required. Reasons for absentee ballots are no longer required.

To ensure the community is informed and updated in a timely matter regarding the solar referendum, the district will be mailing a special edition, district-produced, *Regional Reporter* newsletter. A special solar referendum section has also been added to the district website, providing a central information hub for all pertinent news relating to the referendum.

For additional information about the proposed solar project, please contact the district offices by calling (609) 625-0657 ext. 2732 or visit the district website at www.gehrhsd.net.

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