



## Wondering why your electric bill has been so high? Ask Chris Christie

By Paul Mulshine/The Star Ledger

March 12, 2010, 3:10PM

I just paid an electric bill of hundreds of dollars. Perhaps you did as well.

Why are the bills so high? Part of the reason is that the Democrats got New Jersey into a nutty greenhouse-gas program that boosts bills to subsidize wacky alternative-energy projects, like that windmill that's **driving people crazy** in Ocean Gate.

I'll bet you thought that when Chris Christie got elected governor he'd put an end to that nonsense.

If so, you were wrong. Check **this state website** filled with Gore-like gushings about the threat of anthropogenic global warming.

And here's a press release that just came out in which the Christie crowd boasts about participating in one of those auctions that drives up your utility bills:

### **NEW JERSEY RAISES MORE THAN \$9.1 MILLION FOR JOB-GENERATING CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS IN QUARTERLY CARBON AUCTION**

TRENTON - New Jersey raised more than \$9.1 million for job-generating clean energy projects during the state's quarterly auction of carbon allowances, Department of Environmental Protection Acting Commissioner Bob Martin announced today.

New Jersey has raised \$64.5 million through six quarterly carbon auctions since December 2008. The auctions are administered by the DEP in coordination with other Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states participating in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

"Through these auctions, the DEP is harnessing market forces to create clean energy projects that spur jobs and growth," Commissioner Martin said. "The DEP is proving that doing the right things for the environment is also good for the economy."

The DEP held two auctions on Wednesday. The first auctioned carbon allowances for the period ending in 2011. This auction generated \$8.6 million, at \$2.07 per allowance. The second auctioned allowances for the period 2012 through 2014, resulting in \$509,000 proceeds at \$1.86 per allowance.

The majority of the auction proceeds allow the state Economic Development Authority to provide zero-interest loans and grants to companies and institutions for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. Proceeds also fund a DEP program that help local governments reduce carbon emission and another program that allows the DEP to protect forest and tidal marshes that capture carbon dioxide. The proceeds also fund a Board of Public Utilities consumer assistance program.

In addition to New Jersey, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative includes Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont.

**AND WHILE I'M ON THE SUBJECT** of windmills: I've got nothing against them, but it seems to me there's at least one major problem the environmental goo-goos didn't foresee. Windmills are most useful when they are close to the facility that is using the energy they produce, as in Ocean Gate. However they tend to be loud and obnoxious in a number of ways.

So why not put them out in the middle of nowhere? As it happens, when I was driving across the country last year I came across a huge installation of windmills in western Iowa. I was on a back road with no traffic and it didn't look like there was anyone living close enough to be bothered by the noise and other nuisances.

However, when you generate all that electricity you have to erect high-voltage lines to connect it to the grid. And the same enviros who love alternative energy hate high-voltage lines.

They all hate dams, by the way, which are another source of no-carbon power. And of course they hate nukes, the No. 1 source of electricity with no carbon.

They are quite confused, in other words.

But why did we get one as governor?

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