

Governor Markell Recognized with Energy Leadership Award

Receives Honor at National Forum

Dover, DE – Leaders in promoting energy efficiency in North America recognized Governor Jack Markell today with their highest honor for state government work. Markell received the [Governor's Award at the 24th Annual North American Energy Efficiency Forum](#) in Washington, DC, an event co-hosted by Johnson Controls and the United States Energy Association at the National Press Club.

[At the event](#), Markell joined energy experts, legislators and business leaders in outlining the importance of keeping energy efficiency at the forefront of national research and policies and in making communities and the world more secure, resilient and sustainable. In his remarks, Markell highlighted legislation he is currently promoting (House Bill 179) to make efficiency Delaware's first fuel by requiring utilities to procure energy efficiency when it is cheaper than buying energy from the grid.

"Energy efficiency is the cleanest, cheapest, and quickest way to save money and reduce our energy needs," said Markell. "I applaud the organizers of the Energy Efficiency Forum for their strong advocacy of using efficiency initiatives to address environmental, economic and national security challenges. If we all come together around this issue, we can create jobs and save taxpayers money, while ensuring people have cleaner air to breathe."

Markell established his commitment to energy efficiency from his first year in office, when Delaware implemented a series of efficiency and demand response programs. These efforts include establishing statewide energy efficiency standards,

retrofitting homes and businesses, improving building codes, working with the farming and agricultural community on more efficient lighting and irrigation, and encouraging the heat and power and cogeneration in the industrial sector.

In addition, Markell has worked with the Sustainable Energy Utility to retrofit numerous state offices, university buildings, and schools. He has supported the a range of efficiency programs provided through the SEU's Energize Delaware initiative, which providing incentives, financing options, and educational programs to help businesses and homeowners save on their energy bills, boost the economy and improve the environment. Markell has also promoted vehicle efficiency in partnership with the University of Delaware through the first electric vehicle-to-grid technology project, which sells electricity from vehicles to the wholesale market.

The Governor's Award recognizes a current or former holder of a state-level elective office who has made a significant contribution to energy efficiency at the state government level. It is part of the Energy Leadership Awards, established in 1991 to recognize public officials who have provided exemplary leadership in instituting and advancing energy efficiency in the United States and abroad. The awards are presented at the annual United States Energy Association/Johnson Controls Energy Efficiency Forum, where Markell gave remarks today.