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Contact: Matt McDermott  
(908) 868 – 6934

Jim Kehoe (609) 457-4172

## **LABOR AND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP JOIN FORCES TO PROMOTE A GREEN WORKFORCE**

Trenton, NJ -- New Jersey labor and business have formed NJ Peel – Partnership for Economic and Environmental Leadership. NJ Peel is an issue advocacy organization established to bring together interested parties for the purpose of advancing green initiatives.

The core, working group includes: organized labor, business, industry, non-profits involved in land-use issues, planners and developers. The common thread is the desire to promote sustainable green practices designed to provide quality jobs for a highly trained workforce while making advances in energy savings to reduce the state's carbon footprint. The idea to form NJ Peel originated with the NJ State Pipe Trades in order to develop a platform to showcase the green work being done by their workforce today.

“No one needs to look outside the state to find a more well-trained green workforce,” said Tom Manning, president of the NJ Pipe Trades. “Our workforce can walk onto any job today armed with the latest, most technologically advanced skill-set, making the goal of ‘green’ attainable for anyone.”

Majority Leader Stephen M. Sweeney, who also serves as general organizer of the International Association of Ironworkers said, “The concept behind establishing a group like NJ Peel is a good one.” “Anyone interested in building “green” stands to gain energy saving opportunities delivered by well-trained, highly skilled craftsmen and women. It’s a win-win scenario.”

NJ Peel’s members will make themselves available to offer expertise on green building issues and advocate for developing green building standards through public policy involvement. Its members have and will continue to set the training benchmark by incorporating the most recent curriculum standards into apprenticeship and continuing education programs to prepare the workforce and firms to perform green jobs with the highest quality and most sophisticated knowledge base.

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The group believes training for green jobs as part of an economic stimulus and energy efficiency program should be provided by employers and employees managing bona fide, established training programs that prepare workers with the skill sets necessary to support a career and earn a good wage.

The men and women of the Pipe Trades continue to be trained in, assist in the development of and install emerging green technologies, as well as other traditional piping jobs. In addition, the Pipe Trades offer a Green Systems Awareness Certification Course. Included in its state-of-the-art training curriculum is the latest information on Greywater harvesting, low-flow fixtures and toilets and energy efficiency HVAC systems.

The investment in training union members assures the proper technologies are being installed in the appropriate applications. For example, harvesting water to multiply its uses before it is fully treated reduces water consumption and saves on the energy needed to run water and sewage treatment plants. In the state's cities, with the knowledge and expert craftsmanship of union plumbers, a green roofing system has been devised and installed on buildings to collect roof water runoff. The water is collected and recycled for irrigation uses and other purposes, while also reducing the load stress on the city drainage and sewer systems. These are the green innovations and green jobs of the future, being implemented today by the talented men and women of the mechanical trades.

“It's important that we give New Jersey craftsmen and women the skills they need to transition to “green collar jobs,” said Ralph LaRossa, president of New Jersey's largest utility, PSE&G. “The increasing demand for energy efficiency and renewable energy work will provide opportunities to kick start the economy and put people to work. We need to be ready.”

For more information about NJ Peel visit [www.njpeel.org](http://www.njpeel.org).

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## Founding Members of NJ Peel

NAIOP New Jersey – Commercial Real Estate Development Association

New Jersey Association of Pipe Trades

Mechanical Contractors Association of New Jersey

South Jersey Mechanical Contractors Association

Mechanical and Allied Crafts Council of New Jersey

United Association of Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Sprinkler Fitters

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

The Ironworkers

The Heat and Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers

The Sheet Metal Workers

The Boilermakers

The Elevator Constructors

Plan Smart NJ

PSE&G