

# Volunteers organize rally to reach voters

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**RAMSEY-** On Sept. 11, Mahwah resident Rita Maldonado-Bear remembered those lost in the World Trade Center by organizing a political rally in front of the Ramsey post office on East Main Street. "This is a very significant day," she said. "We lost a lot of people and I wanted to do something positive for the community."

Maldonado-Bear's rally focused on two ideas - promoting clean energy and registering people to vote.

"I don't care who they vote for," she said. "I just want to register as many as possible."

"I'm here today because I support clean energy," said Rosemary Dreger-Carey. "The United States needs to move really fast and create green jobs by investing in renewable energy sources like wind and solar."

Dreger-Carey said that clean energy includes conservation and the use of renewable energy (wind, solar and new forms of biodegradable resources).

The new forms of energy would replace the finite sources of fossil fuels that damage the environment.

"They cause dependence on countries that don't like the U.S.," she said. "In New Jersey, with the right subsidy, we can create 2,000 green jobs and power over 260,000 homes with clean electricity from

wind power."

Each of the ten volunteers said they felt clean energy would solve many of the economic problems the country is currently experiencing.

"I think there is a connection between clean energy and the economy," said Dana Hall. "Clean energy is the answer to the problem. Our country needs to innovate and invest in clean energy. The economy would then create jobs that cannot be outsourced. It would also solve a lot of our environmental issues."

Activists gathered in front of the post office with fliers and information about clean energy.

They also carried signs saying, "Stop GOP hand outs for big oil," "Clean energy now!" and "Green jobs now!"

Bonnie Benowitz volunteered so she could encourage people to vote for presidential candidate Barack Obama.

"I have lived through many administrations and the next one has to take this country in a new direction," she said. "I think Obama can take the U.S. out of the dissent of the Bush administration."

The volunteers spent several hours talking to passersby, asking whether they were registered to vote and supported clean energy.

"We get to meet like-minded people and do something for a cause we care about," Dreger-Carey said. "We find out if people



CHRIS PETERS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A voter registration drive across the street from the Ramsey Post Office drew representatives from a number of election causes.

are aware of the issues and if we find someone who isn't registered, we offer our services to them."

One passerby said, "It's nice to see some Democrats in this town."

Maldonado-Bear picked the event location because it was in the center of town, in an open and

busy area.

She also said the location down the street from the high school was important.

"We are hoping when school lets out, students will come by so we can register them," she said.

Ultimately, Maldonado-Bear

said there was one message they wanted to pass on during the day.

"Obama stands for everything we're promoting," she said.

To find campaign events in the area, visit [barackobama.com](http://barackobama.com) or [moveon.org](http://moveon.org).