

Steve Rothman, D-Fair Lawn, also supported the funding.

"When we're taking care of health in some practical sense, we need to make sure we're not creating other problems ... environmental problems," Corzine said.

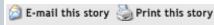
Sharon Harrington, a spokeswoman for Lautenberg, said Americans spend 80 percent of their time indoors, where pollutants can be two to five times higher than outdoors. The new building will not only conserve energy but will have furniture and bedding that does not use animal products or contain materials or finishes that can leak toxic fumes over time.

The Deirdre Imus Environmental Center for Pediatric Oncology, based at the Medical Center, is dedicated to finding links between environmental pollutants and cancer. In 2001, Imus created a "greening the cleaning" program to eliminate unsafe chemicals used by maintenance workers at Hackensack University Medical Center and replace them with biodegradable, toxin-free alternatives.

Imus has also helped "green" cleaning programs at the Jacobi Medical Center in New York City, AT&T in Morristown, the Hawthorne Boys and Girls Club and parts of Newark Liberty International Airport. She will discuss the program with staff members at St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center in Paterson next week.

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