

Environmental Justice Task Force Newsletter March 2020

[covering 1/28/2019 – 2/24/2020] <https://www.uufaithaction.org/blog/>

UU Seventh Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. Environmental Justice (EJ): Addressing disproportionate and adverse human health or environmental effects in communities of low-income residents or persons of color.

UU CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

MORRISTOWN UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP (MUF)

Paris to Pittsburgh Film Makes Climate Change Real for Morristown

The reality of climate change and the grass-roots response in the US came to the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship (MUF) on Sunday, January 26, 2020. More than 90 people viewed the film *Paris to Pittsburgh*, which illustrated a variety of creative opportunities that green energy offers.

Attendees at the event also visited a number of information tables hosted by local environmental organizations, including the Sierra Club, UU FaithAction NJ, Sustainable Morristown, Citizen's Climate Lobby, Summit Green Faith Circle, New Jersey Highlands, Green Amendment, Green Earth Ministry at MUF and the Morris Township Environmental Commission.



EJTF Co-Chair Ray Nichols explains the state-wide programs of UU FaithAction NJ.



EJTF and Morristown Unitarian Fellowship Green Earth Ministry member Jo Sippie-Gora signs up support for New Jersey's Green Amendment.

Among the many exhibitors at the *Paris to Pittsburgh* event, Samantha “Sam” DiFalco (photo below, left) of the Morris County Sunrise Movement talked about young people’s stake in the environment and about the Climate Strikes in Morristown. Scott Fischer (photo below, center) of Ciel Power talked with potential customers about home inspections and energy saving upgrades to homes. At an adjacent table, Sandi Eisner (photo below, right) of New Jersey Clean Energy explained the state rebate program that reimburses part of the expense for home upgrades.



The New Jersey Highlands, represented by Zach Cole, works for water and land conservation.



Sierra Club’s solar proponent, Jim Andreano with MEGA hat, Bill Larsen from Citizens’ Climate Lobby, and Kathy O’Leary from the Sierra Club.



The Sierra Club’s Kathy O’Leary points out the role of plants in preserving the climate.



Buz Kenney of the Morris Environmental Commission points out the benefits of Energy Aggregation.



Morris Township Mayor Cathy Wilson with Sustainable Morristown representatives



Sam DiFalco (right) of the Morris County Sunrise Movement talks with members of the MUF Senior Youth Group.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST OCEAN COUNTY CONGREGATION (UOCC)

Green Amendment Postcard Signing

In support of the Green Amendment, UOCC member Irene Tysh helped promote Green Amendment team's postcard signing efforts to state legislators. Instead of holding a "postcard signing party", Irene took postcards with her on her travels day to day and asked people to sign them. This photo shows Irene consolidating all of the postcards for mailing to the Green Amendment team. Good work Irene! Most UOCC members signed the cards!



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF SUSSEX COUNTY (UUFSC)

Newton Green “Fridays for Future” Climate Strikes

February began the 6th month that EJTF members from UUFSC have joined the Climate Strikes on Newton Green every Friday - snow, rain or shine - to support the world's youth in their effort to raise climate awareness as part of the Global Climate Strike “Fridays for Future” begun by Greta Thunberg (photo of EJTF member Christine Dunbar is at the far left). All are welcome to join, each Friday 11 a.m. – noon, at the Newton Green.



“Con-Spiring Together to Respond to Global Warming” Special Service at UUFSC

On February 9, 2020, EJTF member Christine Dunbar hosted a special service at UUFSC, “Con-Spiring Together to Respond to Global Warming,” featuring excellent climate panelist Dr. Laurel Kearns, Professor of Ecology, Society, and Religion at Drew Theological School. Dr. Kearns has researched, published, and presented around the globe on religion and environmentalism for over 20 years. She has also contributed to the Oxford “Handbook on Climate Change and Society.” Recently, she appeared in Newton, as a panelist at the Climate Change event sponsored by Sussex County Community College and the United Methodist Church of Newton. Her talk at UUFSC explored “What are the communication strategies about global warming for environmental activists, religious groups and today’s youth?” and “How can we effectively work together?” An audience-directed conversation followed her presentation.

UUFSC EJTF members also participated in the following activities:

- Joined the Global Strike for the Climate prior to the United Nations Climate Change Conference
- Participated in the North NJ Climate Coalition Strike in Morristown
- Attended the Sussex County Community College (SCCC) Climate Change Debate in force; it was billed as having “discussions from both sides,” and they made their voices heard!

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF MONMOUTH COUNTY (UUCMC)

The UUCMC holds “Sunday Morning Dialog” sessions every Sunday morning (9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.) from October to May, with a simple breakfast available. All are welcome to attend – more information is available at: <http://www.uucmc.org/grow/sunday-morning-dialog/>

At the January 12, 2020 Sunday Morning Dialog, Jan Dash, PhD presented a program “Drawdown - Useful Responses to the Climate Emergency”, using information he gained from attending a 3-day workshop at Penn. State University.

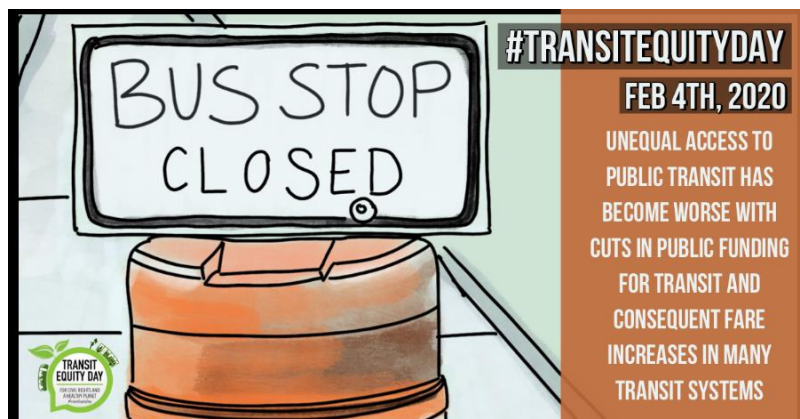
At the January 26, 2020 Sunday Morning Dialog, environmental advocate Amy Goldsmith, NJ State Director of Clean Water Action, presented a program on “Was the NJ Legislature and Government Lame during Lame Duck?” (see photos below).



EJTF ACTIVITIES

Transit Equity Day - February 4, 2020 was Transit Equity Day, so designated in honor of Rosa Parks' birthday, and Jersey Renews (a coalition of which UU FaithAction NJ is a member) called for people to go to the major NJ train stations to urge that morning's commuters to take action to improve NJ Transit. This activity fits in with EJTF's recognition of improving mass transit as part of our goal to reduce carbon emissions.

EJTF member Nancy Griffeth, in photo below left, handed out flyers in Newark for Transit Equity Day, joining about 10 people who were there for Jersey Renews:



Their basic message was: “For the sake of a healthy, livable future for all, we are calling on you to make public transit affordable, clean and accessible by reducing rider fares, expanding access, transitioning to zero emission buses, supporting all transit workers, and making necessary infrastructure updates to our rail system.”

UPCOMING EVENTS



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE and CLEAN ENERGY in NEW JERSEY



NJ Spotlight/NJTV News Roundtable

Friday, March 20, 2020, 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Nico @ New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center Street, Newark, NJ 07102

This panel discussion will address what needs to be done to bring community solar, expanded opportunities for reducing energy usage, and emerging technologies (such as energy storage) to environmental justice (EJ) and low-and moderate-income (LMI) communities in New Jersey. This topic is directly related to one of EJTF's goals for 2020! The roundtable will be livestreamed by NJTV News. The event is free, but register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/environmental-justice-and-clean-energy-in-new-jersey-tickets-95270393311>

Panelists are to include: **Ana Isabel Baptista**, PhD, Chair of Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management Program, Assistant Professor, Professional Practice, Director, Tishman Environment & Design Center, The New School; **Dr. Nicky Sheats**, Center for the Urban Environment, John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy, Thomas Edison State University; and **Rick Thigpen**, Senior Vice President, Corporate Citizenship, PSEG. Moderator will be **Tom Johnson**, Energy & Environment Reporter, NJ Spotlight.

“UUCMC and UUFANJ Synergies and Dependencies” – A Panel Discussion

Sunday, March 8, 2020, 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Monmouth County (UUCMC)
1475 West Front Street, Lincroft NJ 07738

At the UUCMC’s “Sunday Morning Dialog” session on March 8, 2020, Rev. Rob Gregson, along with UUCMC members of UU Faith Action NJ (UUFANJ) task forces, will present a panel discussion with information on Faith Action and its task forces. This panel discussion is intended to raise awareness of the Five UU FaithAction NJ focus areas (Environmental Justice, Immigration Reform, Reproductive Justice, Gun Violence Prevention and Criminal Justice Reform) and the roles and activities UUCMC members perform as a part of UUFANJ.

Rev. Gregson will also be presenting the Sunday morning sermon that day – “Hope Amongst the High Waters” from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

**The GREEN NEW DEAL - A Resolution for Creating Political Will to Save Habitable Earth
Presentation & Discussion with Dr. Marian Glenn & Daniela Gioseffi**

Sunday, March 22, 2020, 1:15 p.m.
Morristown Unitarian Fellowship - Hosted by the Green Earth Ministry
21 Normandy Heights Road Morristown, NJ 07444

Dr. Marian Glenn is Professor Emerita of Biology at Seton Hall University in South Orange and a founding faculty member of Seton Hall’s Program in Environmental Studies. She is President of the Trustees of the Rahway River Watershed Association, a member of Summit’s Environmental Commission, where she chairs the Green Energy Team, and on the Advisory Board of the Association for New Jersey Environmental Commissions. She helped to set up the Summit Area Green Faith Circle, and Summit’s Community Garden. She and her family enjoy their native habitat back yard, and are aiming for a low-waste, carbon-neutral home.

Prof. Daniela Gioseffi is an American Book Award Winning author of 17 books. She was the first journalist to integrate Selma’s WSLA-TV in 1961, 3 yrs. before the MLK Jr. Selma March. In her 1993 book ON PREJUDICE: A Global Perspective, was an essay by Al Gore on Environmental Racism. An eco-feminist since 1973, she edits www.Eco-Poetry.com, which features great poets, with editorials, news, and links to issues like the Green New Deal, climate crisis and www.SunriseMovement.org. A retired professor, she’s a member of several environmental organizations, and gives talks on the climate crisis around NJ/NY.

Roger Hallam & Chris Hedges--Common Sense for the 21st Century

Wednesday, March 4, 2020, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Labyrinth Books, 122 Nassau St., Princeton

A presentation and discussion on “what can we all do to avert catastrophic climate change?” Roger Hallam, co-founder of Extinction Rebellion, will outline how movements around the world need to come together now to start doing what works: engaging in mass civil disobedience to make real change happen. Best-selling author and award-winning journalist Chris Hedges will introduce Hallam. For more information, go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/174808503948754/>

Accountability for Climate Change Harms in NJ: Scientific, Legal and Policy Perspectives

Tuesday, March 10, 2020, 3:30 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.
Wilson Auditorium, Monmouth University, West Long Branch, NJ

Learn about local climate impacts and the associated costs now facing communities and taxpayers, and dialogue about the growing trend of climate damages litigation in the U.S.. Panelists will offer legal and community perspectives on damages litigation as a means to shift some of the burden from taxpayers to polluters. Panel members will include Bob Kopp, director of the Rutgers University Institute of Earth, Ocean & Atmospheric Sciences; Brenda Ekwurzel, director of climate science with the Union of Concerned Scientists Climate & Energy Program; and Jonathan Abady, a partner with Emery Celli Brinckerhoff & Abady LLP. The discussion will be moderated by Randall Abate, Monmouth University's Rechnitz Family/Urban Coast Institute. The event is free and a reception will follow. Registration is required - go to <https://www.monmouth.edu/events/event/accountability-for-climate-change-harms-in-new-jersey-scientific-legal-and-policy-perspectives/> for tickets and more information.

31st Annual Pinelands Short Course

Saturday, March 14, 2020, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Stockton University, 101 Vera King Farris Drive, Galloway, NJ 08205

The Pinelands Short Course is a daylong event at Stockton University featuring educational presentations that explore the ecology, culture and history of the Pinelands (<https://pinelandsalliance.org/event/31st-annual-pinelands-short-course/>). This event is sponsored by the state Pinelands Commission and Stockton University. Topics include Paddling and Camping in Wharton State Forest, Pinelands Frogs and Toads, a virtual tour of the Pinelands, Pinelands Weather and Climate and much more. Field trips include fire ecology and a visit to pygmy pine plains, and a Ghosts of the Wading River bus tour. You can choose from a number of various different available workshops (indicate preferences when you register). A detailed brochure, including registration instructions, is available at: <https://www.stockton.edu/continuing-studies/pinelandsshortcourse.html>. Cost is: Adult - \$50; Senior (65+) - \$45. Coupon code SAVEPINE; Student: \$45 Coupon Code SAVEPINE.

"Earth Day at 50: How Can We Avoid Climate Catastrophe?"

Saturday, March 21, 2020, 7:30 p.m.
Marc's Place Coffeehouse: Reformed Church of Highland Park
19-21 S. 2nd Ave., Highland Park

Speakers: Ted Glick, National and state climate crisis organizer since 2003; Fred Murphy, a DSA climate activist, and leads study groups on ecosocialism at NYC's Marxist Education Project. Music: Sharleen Leahey, singer-songwriter/guitarist and founder songs4peace. Accompanied by Linda Philips on percussion. Admission free, but donations gratefully accepted. Free parking, accessible from municipal lot at rear of the church. Enter from Magnolia St. between S. 2nd and 3rd Avenues. Sponsored by Central Jersey Coalition Against Endless War. For more information, contact: noendlesswar@gmail.com

Film Screening: “The Condor and the Eagle”

Sunday, March 22, 2020, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Unitarian Universalist Church at Washington Crossing (UUCWC)
268 Washington Crossing-Pennington Road, Titusville NJ 08560**

UUCWC’s Earth Ministry and Faith Action Ministry is presenting a free film screening of the award-winning documentary “The Condor and the Eagle.” Synopsis: Four Indigenous environmental leaders embark on an extraordinary trans-continental adventure from the Canadian plains to deep into the heart of the Amazonian jungle to unite the peoples of North and South America and deepen the meaning of “Climate Justice.” Produced by the UU Ministry for Earth. Screenings at UU congregations around the country are raising money for the Create Climate Justice campaign, and to help bring the filmmakers and indigenous partners to General Assembly this June. The screening is free, but donations will be accepted for the UU Create Climate Justice Campaign. There will be a potluck in the Crossings Room starting at 5:00 p.m., with the film to follow. RSVP on the [Facebook event page](#), or email fam@uucwc.org.

Clean Water Action Annual Conference “Resetting the Climate Clock: Leading Through Action in the New Decade”

Saturday, April 4th, 2020, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Wardlaw+Hartridge School, 1295 Inman Avenue, Edison, NJ 08820

Clean Water Action’s 34th annual statewide conference, “Resetting the Climate Clock: Leading Through Action in the New Decade” focuses on “empowering our community to make voting and civic participation a cultural responsibility and tradition in order to promote greater environmental, social and economic justice.” Register here: <https://cleanwater.salsalabs.org/conference-registration-2020/index.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&Id=e9ac570e-cbd6-44b7-9a7c-of560e45ea67> Early bird (before March 20) is \$30 per person; regular (after March 20 and at the door) is \$35 per person.

New Jersey Clean Energy Conference: Charting the Path to 2050

April 6-7, 2020

Harrah's Conference Center, Atlantic City, NJ

This conference, presented by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPUB) and its Division of Clean Energy, will include industry experts, state and federal leaders, and advocates providing information about how your home, town, and business can benefit from clean energy; provide a closer look at the state's innovative Energy Master Plan (EMP); delineate incentive programs that will help move the public and private sectors toward the EMP goals; provide information on how solar, offshore wind, electric vehicles, and energy efficiency can benefit your community, particularly environmental justice and low- and moderate-income communities; and include conversations about how we can move together toward a clean energy economy and future that works for everyone. The conference is geared toward anyone who cares about how New Jersey can be part of the Clean Energy Future, including industry experts, policy makers, environmental advocates, community leaders, and government employees. Early registration fee (on or before March 4, 2020) is \$175; regular registration fee (March 5, 2020 - March 30, 2020) is \$200; and walk-ins registration fee is \$250. More information is available here: <http://www.cpe.rutgers.edu/CleanEnergy/>



Two GREEN AMENDMENT Talks at UU Congregations

by Maya van Rossum

Sunday, March 22, 2020, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

**Beacon (Unitarian Universalist
Congregation in Summit)
4 Waldron Ave, Summit, NJ 07901**

The veteran environmentalist and original petitioner and leader of the Green Amendment movement will speak on her book, “The Green Amendment: Securing Our Right to a Healthy Environment,” followed by Q&A and signing. Come out and meet Maya, pick up a copy of the book, and learn about the future of environmental advocacy! Sponsored by Green Earth Ministry and UU FaithAction NJ.

Sunday, April 5, 2020, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

**Unitarian Universalist Ocean County
Congregation (UUOCC)
Cone House at Murray Grove
431 Highway 9 at Church Lane
Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734-0246**

Maya will lead UUOCC’s service and speak about the Green Amendment, which would enshrine environmental rights in the state constitution, to give the people of New Jersey the right to clean water and air, to a stable climate, to be able to live in environments free of dangerous toxins, and to be able to provide the many health, economic and quality of life benefits of healthy environments. For more information, call 609-693-5558

Intergenerational Spring Seminar – “All In For Climate Justice: People, Power, Planet”

April 16 – 18, 2020, Various locations in New York City

The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO) 2020 Intergenerational Spring Seminar, “All In For Climate Justice: People, Power, Planet,” will take place in New York City April 16 - 18, 2020 (with programming for youth and Sponsors starting April 15). The UU-UNO’s Intergenerational Spring Seminar is an annual opportunity for a multi-generational community experience to collaborate with others while learning how to be a global activist through workshops, peer and expert-led panel discussions, skills-building, small-group work, community-building activities, and worship services. Registration (Feb. 4 – Mar. 2) -\$425.

<https://www.uua.org/international-justice/un/spring-seminar>

*Earth Day 50th
Anniversary
April 22, 2020*

Watch this space for Earth Day activities, including details about events related to a three-day general strike that has been called for April 22 – 24, 2020 by the global youth-led Climate Strike movement. Information is available at: <https://www.uumfe.org/act/global-climate-strike/> To sign up to host a strike, or receive updates, check out strikewithus.org.



UUFANJ Annual Meeting (formerly known as Plenary)

Saturday, April 25, 2020, 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
UU Church of Cherry Hill
401 N Kings Highway, Cherry Hill, New Jersey
08034



The UU FaithAction NJ Annual Meeting (formerly known as Plenary) will be held at the UU Church in Cherry Hill. More information to follow at a later date!

Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth (UUMFE)
“Spring for Change – A Season of Sacred Activism”

See www.uumfe.org/resources/spring-for-change-2020/whwn/ for a number of events and activities, related to “Spring for Change – A Season of Sacred Activism,” including:

- World Water Day – March 22, 2020
 - Intergenerational Spring Seminar – April 16 – 18, 2020 (see above)
 - Letter-writing National Advocacy Campaign on climate change - March-May
 - Earth Day – April 22, 2020
 - Biodiversity Sunday – May 17, 2020.
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EJTF's GOALS FOR 2020

1) Mandatory emissions reductions in EJ communities, along with transitioning to electric vehicles, especially buses and trucks (This is a re-focusing of our goal to get off fossil fuels, now that the Energy Master Plan is complete - we need to focus on the most important sources of emissions in EJ communities.)

2) Mitigating lead in the New Jersey water supply (This affects much more than just Newark.) Report on drinking water: <https://www.jerseywaterworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/JWW-Lead-Report.pdf>

NEWS RELATED TO EJTF ISSUES

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

- **NJ Launches \$5,000 Rebate for Purchase of Electric Vehicles** – The NJ legislation, greatly supported by EJTF, that includes rebates for purchase of electric vehicles, has gone into effect! NJ electric cars purchased or leased since 1/17/2020 are eligible for a rebate of up to \$5,000, depending on price and range. Retail price must be below \$55,000, and the amount of the rebate depends on the electric range, providing \$25 for each mile run on electric power rather than gas, up to \$5,000. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2020/02/nj-launches-5000-rebate-for-purchase-of-electric-vehicles/>

LEAD IN DRINKING WATER

- **Senate Panel Advances Bills on Lead Service Lines, Water Infrastructure Upgrades** – Five bills related to lead in drinking water and/or water infrastructure passed out of Senate Committees to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee. Among them are: S253, which requires public water systems to develop lead service line inventories, and schedule the replacement of lead service lines in their distribution systems; S320, which requires the property condition disclosure statement to include questions concerning lead plumbing and lead service lines, and requires lead service lines to be replaced as a condition of sale of residential property; S968, which requires public water systems to provide notice of elevated lead levels in drinking water to customers and local officials, and requires landlords to notify tenants of these elevated lead levels (note: this bill passed in the Senate on 2/10/2020). <https://www.njspotlight.com/2020/01/senate-panel-advances-bills-on-lead-service-lines-water-infrastructure-upgrades/>

ENERGY MASTER PLAN

- **With EMP, Related Proposals, Murphy Signals Full Speed Ahead for Clean Energy NJ** - Gov. Murphy unveiled the final NJ Energy Management Plan (EMP) and Executive Order 100, which directs the promulgation of PACT (“Protecting Against Climate Threats”) regulations. The EMP includes a more detailed implementation plan than the draft EMP, and also incorporates the findings of a consultant’s Integrated Energy Plan. It doesn’t include a moratorium on fossil fuel infrastructure, and doesn’t include a timetable for eliminating nuclear plants. The business community is concerned about potential impact on project approvals, land-use rules, and emissions rules of the future regulations required by the Executive Order. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2020/01/with-emp-related-proposals-murphy-signals-full-speed-ahead-for-clean-energy-nj/>

- **Explainer: The Plan to Dramatically Reduce NJ’s Reliance on Fossil Fuels** – A summary of the major transformations in NJ’s energy mix, based on the Energy Management Plan (EMP). <https://www.njspotlight.com/2020/02/explainer-the-plan-to-dramatically-reduce-njs-reliance-on-fossil-fuels/>
- **Business Leaders Fear Climate-Change Regulations Will Add to Costs, Stunt Growth** – The NJ Energy Management Plan (EMP) and Executive Order 100, which directs the promulgation of PACT (“Protecting Against Climate Threats”) regulations, have been termed by Gov. Murphy’s office the “most sweeping set of climate reforms in the nation.” This is causing business leaders in the state to fear that the regulations will put undue burdens on them. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2020/02/business-leaders-fear-climate-change-regulations-will-add-to-costs-stunt-growth/>
- **Governor Murphy Unveils Energy Master Plan and Signs Executive Order Directing Sweeping Regulatory Reform to Reduce Emissions and Adapt to Climate Change** - According to the press release from Gov. Murphy’s office, the final Energy Management Plan (EMP) and accompanying Executive Order 100 released 1/27/2020 are the “most sweeping set of climate change reforms in the nation.” The press release is available here: <https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562020/approved/20200127a.shtml>.

KEY DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE EMP AND EXECUTIVE ORDER 100:

Energy Master Plan: The EMP includes the following seven key Strategies (as well as an implementation plan): 1) Reducing Energy Consumption and Emissions from the Transportation Sector; 2) Accelerating Deployment of Renewable Energy and Distributed Energy Resources; 3) Maximizing Energy Efficiency and Conservation, and Reducing Peak Demand; 4) Reducing Energy Consumption and Emissions from the Building Sector; 5) Decarbonizing and Modernizing New Jersey’s Energy System; 6) Supporting Community Energy Planning and Action in Underserved Communities; and 7) Expand the Clean Energy Innovation Economy. EMP document: https://www.nj.gov/emp/docs/pdf/2020_NJBPU_EMP.pdf

Executive Order 100: To support the strategies identified in the Energy Master Plan, Executive Order No. 100 directs the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to adopt, within two years, regulatory reforms to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change. Known as PACT (“Protecting Against Climate Threats”), the sweeping suite of climate change regulations include: establishing a greenhouse gas monitoring and reporting program; adopting new regulations under the Air Pollution Control Act establishing criteria to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and short-lived climate pollutants; and reforming environmental land use regulations to incorporate climate change considerations into permitting decisions. Executive Order 100 document: <https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-100.pdf>

DEP Administrative Order 2020-01: To implement Executive Order 100, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) issued Administrative Order 2020-01 detailing the PACT reforms and setting deadlines for DEP to adopt these climate rules within the next two years or sooner. DEP Administrative Order 2020-01 document: <https://nj.gov/dep/njpact/docs/dep-ao-2020-01.pdf>. Summary of the PACT: <https://nj.gov/dep/njpact/docs/njpact-summary.pdf>. Chart of PACT regulatory actions with estimated timeline and goals: <https://nj.gov/dep/njpact/docs/njpact->

[regulation-chart.pdf](#). Presentation from a NJ PACT Stakeholder Meeting, summarizing key points related to periodic monitoring and reporting of NJ greenhouse gas emissions :
<https://www.nj.gov/dep/workgroups/docs/njpact-air-ghg-20200221-pres.pdf>

FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE

- **NYC Mayor Announces Ban on All New Fossil Fuel Projects Within and Serving NYC** – In his 2/6/2020 State of the City Address, NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio announced the City’s intention to stop all new fossil fuel projects within and serving the city, which is the largest such municipal ban announcement anywhere in the world. He signed an initial executive order (No. 52: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/home/downloads/pdf/executive-orders/2020/eo-52.pdf>), which directs city staff and local agencies to oppose new fossil fuel infrastructure with all the tools available to them. Staff will be directed to identify changes to regulations and building codes and possibly legislation to fully implement the ban. In light of EJTF’s support of a moratorium on new fossil fuel infrastructure in NJ, we will keep an eye on this. The press release detailing the State of the City Address states, "Stop New Fossil Fuel Infrastructure: We’re not just divesting billions from coal and oil companies – we will stop any new infrastructure, such as power plant expansions, pipelines, or terminals that expands the supply of fossil fuels in our city. " A related press release from 350.org is here: <https://350.org/press-release/nyc-fossil-fuel-project-ban-2020/>; a statement from “Stop the Williams Pipeline Coalition” is here: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5bc942dbb10f255d8dde1e5c/t/5e3c5e6b83e07e2c1c8da502/1581014635830/%5BStatement%5D+On+Mayor+DeBlasio%27s+ban+on+fossil+fuel+infrastructure.pdf>; and, the press release from the Mayor’s office, with a video of the speech, is here: <https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/064-20/state-the-city-2020-mayor-de-blasio-blueprint-save-our-city>



- **PennEast Makes Clear It’s Digging In Despite Roadblocks to Controversial Pipeline** – PennEast is employing a number of tactics to win ultimate approval for its controversial 120-mile natural gas pipeline through PA and NJ, including withdrawing a permit application and amending the original plan to divide it into two phases (also see article below).
<https://www.njspotlight.com/2020/02/penneast-makes-clear-its-digging-in-despite-roadblocks-to-controversial-pipeline/>

- **Federal Regulator Supports Gas Pipeline Builder in Appeal to SCOTUS** – Last September, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit ruled that PennEast could not use eminent domain related to state-owned lands, because private companies do not have the authority to condemn state-owned lands under the 11th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Under the doctrine of sovereign immunity, a state cannot be sued by a private company without its consent. PennEast has plans to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS), and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) just issued a “declaratory order” stating that the appeals court ruling would impede construction of interstate natural gas pipelines, citing the Natural Gas Act as a basis for the decision. PennEast also has revealed plans to build the pipeline in two phases, one entirely in PA to be completed next year and one in PA and NJ to be completed in 2023. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2020/01/federal-regulator-supports-gas-pipeline-builder-in-appeal-to-scotus/>

RENEWABLE RESOURCES

- **Will New Solar Farm on Former Garbage Dump Show Potential of Energy Storage Batteries?** – On “National Battery Day” (2/18/2020 – note: National Battery Day commemorates the anniversary of Alessandro Volta’s birth on 2/17/1745), PSE&G and Highland Park, NJ placed into service a solar storage system built on the borough’s former municipal landfill. It combines solar panels and batteries, with the solar panels expected to provide enough electricity to power about 100 homes annually and also charge the batteries, which are used to reduce voltage fluctuations inherent to grid-connected solar systems, due primarily to issues like intermittent cloud cover. In addition, according to PSE&G, “The information we gather from the Highland Park Solar Storage System also will enable better integration of renewable energy onto the electric grid in the future, allowing for even more solar energy projects in New Jersey.” The firm PSE&G hired to act as turnkey engineering, procurement and construction contractor for the Highland Park Solar Storage System was “Advanced Solar Products,” of which **EJTF’s Lyle Rawlings** is the president and CEO. He stated “Inevitably, it’s the wave of the future. We don’t get to 50 percent (clean energy) by 2030, let alone the governor’s goal of 100 percent by 2050 without energy storage.” <https://www.njspotlight.com/2020/02/will-new-solar-farm-on-former-garbage-dump-show-potential-of-energy-storage-batteries/>

DRINKING WATER-RELATED ISSUES (other than lead)

- **EPA Makes Long-Awaited Start to Setting Health Limits for Two PFAS Chemicals** – PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are termed “forever chemicals” because they do not biodegrade; they are the chemicals that figure in the movie “Dark Waters”. Two of the most common PFAS are PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid) and PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has had only health advisory levels for them in drinking water (that many say are too high) but has not established regulations for them. EPA has finally begun the procedure for regulating them. As part of this process, the EPA publishes preliminary regulatory determinations for public comment and considers those comments prior to making final regulatory determinations. If the EPA makes a positive regulatory determination for any contaminant, it will begin the process to establish a national primary drinking water regulation for that contaminant. The EPA news release related to PFAS is here: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-proposed-decision-regulate-pfoa-and-pfos-drinking-water>. This process could take years, however; in the meantime, the NJ is considering health limits that are much stricter than the current EPA health advisory level. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2020/02/epa-makes-long-awaited-start-to-setting-health-limits-for-two-pfas-chemicals/>

POLLUTION



- **Once Again, Lawmakers Take Up Elusive Ban on Single-Use Plastics** – In the new NJ legislative session, one of the first orders of business for the Senate Environment and Energy Committee was to introduce a bill (S864) to prohibit provision or sale of single-use plastic carryout bags, single-use paper carryout bags, and polystyrene foam food service products; limit provision of single-use plastic straws; and appropriate moneys from the Clean Communities Program Fund for public education. A description of the views of various stakeholders, and a video of some of their testimony at the legislative hearing, is available here: <https://www.njspotlight.com/2020/01/once-again-lawmakers-take-up-elusive-ban-on-single-use-plastics/>

PROGRESS ON LEGISLATION BANNING SINGLE-USE PLASTICS, ETC., IN NJ - as of 2/27/2020

- In last year's legislative session, a bill prohibiting use of plastic carryout bags, expanded polystyrene, and single-use plastic straws was passed by the Senate, but not by the Assembly, at the end of the legislative session. That bill was reintroduced in the new legislative session on 1/14/2020 (A1978) and referred to the Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee but has not seen action there since then.
- On 1/31/2020, the Senate introduced a bill (S864) that includes provisions of last year's, adds a prohibition on provision or sale of single-use paper carryout bags, and limits rather than prohibits provision of single-use plastic straws; it also appropriates moneys from Clean Communities Program Fund for public education. There are a number of exceptions, to the prohibitions they're described in the statement from the Senate here: https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2020/Bills/S1000/864_S1.HTM.
- The Senate bill was approved by the Environment and Energy Committee and has been sent to the Senate floor.
- The Assembly doesn't have a companion bill that includes the prohibition on paper bags. This news story includes the opinion that Assembly leaders, as well as Gov. Murphy, want to take the plastic and paper bag bans in stages, with the plastic bag ban being put in place first: <https://www.nj.com/politics/2020/01/debate-over-banning-plastic-and-paper-bags-in-nj-heats-up-again.html>

- **Officials across State Struggle with Loss of Recycling Markets** – This article and NJTV video describe the current recycling problems in NJ, how we got here, and what some municipalities and the Federal government are doing to try to address the issue. <https://www.njtvonline.org/news/video/officials-across-state-struggle-with-loss-of-recycling-markets/>

OTHER

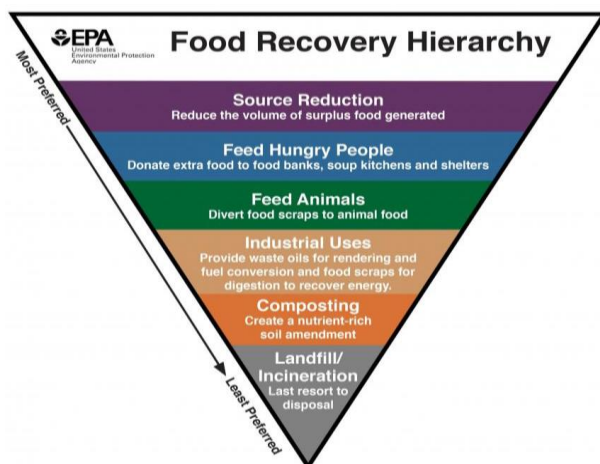
- **Smart Meters Come to NJ, a Key to Achieving Complete Clean Energy by 2050** – This article describes the benefits of “smart meters” and advanced metering infrastructure, which the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) has not allowed previously except for a pilot program. According to Jeff Tittel, director of the New Jersey Sierra Club, “It will help smooth out the grid, but more importantly, it can be used to integrate renewable energy into the power grid.” The recently-issued NJ Energy Master Plan includes a goal to “(e)valuate a strategic and coordinated rollout of Advanced Metering Infrastructure.” <https://www.njspotlight.com/2020/02/smart-meters-come-to-nj-a-key-to-achieving-complete-clean-energy-by-2050/>
- **BPU Plan Would Reimburse Utilities for Sales Lost to Energy Efficiency Programs** – The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) issued a draft plan “Energy Efficiency Transition Application of Utility Targets” to address the issue of utilities’ reduced income related to customers implementing energy efficiency measures. The draft plan (available here: https://www.bpu.state.nj.us/bpu/pdf/Draft%20Utility%20Targets%20Pre-Mtg%20Proposal_1.30.pdf) includes “partial decoupling” of utility profits from energy sales. The partial decoupling approach is supported by the NJ Rate Counsel director, but in the opinion of some utilities and environmental organizations, it still relies too much on the existing utilities’ business model of relying increased energy sales. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2020/02/bpu-plan-would-reimburse-utilities-for-sales-lost-to-energy-efficiency-programs/>
- **Rate Counsel Still Gunning for Nuclear Subsidies, This Time in Appellate Court** - NJ Division of Rate Counsel has filed with the appellate court to overturn a previous state order to award \$300 million in annual subsidies to nuclear plants in NJ (based on a law establishing a zero-emission certificate (ZEC) program, which was opposed by EJTF). In light of the fact that the recently-issued NJ Energy Management Plan (EMP) states that there still may be nuclear plants operating in NJ in 2050, this subsidy - which is paid by ratepayers - could continue for decades. The subsidy is supposed to be based on the fact that the nuclear plants cannot continue to operate without it, but analysis by BPU staff, its consultant, and an independent monitor all found that the plants are profitable without it. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2020/01/rate-counsel-still-gunning-for-nuclear-subsidies-this-time-in-appellate-court/>
- **Dems Blast FERC Renewables Order, Saying It Would Curb States’ Rights, Drive Up Prices** - Thirty-six House Democrats, including Bonnie Watson Coleman of NJ's 12th Congressional District, sent a letter (available here: <https://pjm.com/-/media/documents/ferc/filings/2020/20200121-el16-49-000-er18-1314-000-el18-178-000.ashx>) to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) expressing deep concern about its decision last December that requires PJM (the regional transmission organization that coordinates the movement of wholesale electricity in NJ and all or parts of 12 other states and the District of Columbia) basically to

raise prices of wind and solar power to be in line with the cost of fossil fuels. The projected effects range from negative impacts on NJ's push for clean energy, to higher energy bills for consumers. Previously, the NJ Board of Utilities (BPU) and the NJ Division of Rate Counsel both filed briefs asking FERC to clarify and reconsider its decision. In addition, PJM filed a request (available here:

https://beyer.house.gov/uploadedfiles/final_member_letter_re_ferc_12.19.19_pjm_mopr.pdf) for rehearing and clarification of the decision, citing numerous issues.

<https://www.njspotlight.com/2020/01/dems-blast-ferc-renewables-order-saying-it-would-curb-states-rights-drive-up-prices/>

- **Federal Suit Pushes EPA to Address Out-of-State Pollution Impacting NJ, Other States** – A lawsuit filed against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by the Sierra Club and four other environmental groups addresses the fact that EPA is not putting in place requirements to accomplish the provisions of the “Good Neighbor provision” of the Clean Air Act that requires states to control interstate air pollution. Using only pollution controls within the state, states like NJ could never achieve the ozone air quality standard because, as the lawsuit states, in the eastern U.S. “on average 77 percent of each state’s ground-level ozone is produced by precursor emissions from upwind states.” <https://www.njspotlight.com/2020/02/federal-suit-pushes-epa-to-address-out-of-state-pollution-impacting-nj-other-states/>
- **Senate Takes Pass on Bill Keeping Food Waste Out of Landfills, Incinerators** - The bill (S865) described in this article was the subject of a 2/10/2020 UU FaithAction NJ Action Alert to “call your Senator” to urge a “Yes” vote, but the Senate did not act on it. As the article states, “Americans throw out up to 40% of their food every year by some estimates, most of that going to landfills and incinerators. Under the bill, large generators of food waste would have to separate food waste from other trash and either send it to composting facilities or to food-to-waste facilities, including anaerobic digesters.” Most of NJ’s food waste is dumped in landfills and incinerators, and this bill aims to address this. The bill requires large food waste generators to separate and recycle food waste and amends definition of “Class I renewable energy” to include “electric energy produced from methane gas from a biomass facility, provided that the biomass is cultivated and harvested in a sustainable manner, or methane gas from a composting or anaerobic or aerobic digestion facility that converts food waste or other organic waste to energy.” <https://www.njspotlight.com/2020/02/senate-takes-pass-on-bill-keeping-food-waste-out-of-landfills-incinerators/>



This bill will effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution in overburdened communities by diverting waste that would otherwise be burned or buried to more sustainable mechanisms like composting. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), anyone managing wasted food should reference the EPA Food Recovery Hierarchy (at left) which suggests that when higher levels of the hierarchy (which create the most benefits for the environment, society and the economy) are not feasible, then the food waste left over should be put to beneficial use such as composted or sent to be broken down through anaerobic digestion.

**REMEMBER - Make a quick phone call on “*MORATORIUM MONDAYS*”
to Stop New Fossil Fuel Development!**



UU FaithAction NJ - Environmental Justice Task Force - <https://uufaithaction.org/environment/>
Co-Chairs – Peggy Middaugh and Ray Nichols
Visit our website for Environmental links and resources / sign up for email alerts / join the EJTF