

# **Environmental Justice Task Force Newsletter**February 2021

[covering 12/29/2020 - 1/26/2021] 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.



Save the date! UUFANJ JUSTICE VIRTUAL GALA! March 5, 2021 (see p. 9)

#### **UU CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

#### MORRISTOWN UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP (MUF)

During January 2021, some members of the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship (MUF) completed a 3-week **Drawdown Eco-Challenge** online, using the interactive, user-friendly program inspired by Paul Hawkens' book "Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming\*." Together with their teammates, they proved that everyday actions – big and small – add up to real change! As described on the Drawdown Eco-Challenge



website (<a href="https://drawdown.ecochallenge.org/">https://drawdown.ecochallenge.org/</a>), participants choose actions, complete those actions, and track and share their progress using the online platform. When they check off their completed actions, they earn points and see the real-time impact of their actions. [\*The book's description states: "For the first time ever, an international coalition of leading researchers, scientists and policymakers has come together to offer a set of realistic and bold solutions to climate change. All...economically viable...From revolutionizing how we produce and consume food to educating girls in lower-income countries...solutions which, if deployed collectively on a global scale over the next thirty years, could not just slow the earth's warming, but reach the point when greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere peak and begin to decline."]

Also see "Events" for the following upcoming Morristown Unitarian Fellowship events:

- En-ROADS Climate Solutions Simulator Demonstration via Zoom, Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 7:00 p.m. (see p. 5).
- Maya van Rossum Speaking on "The Green Amendment" via Zoom, Thursday, March 25, 2021, 7:30 p.m. 9:00 p.m. (see p. 9).

#### **UU FELLOWSHIP OF SUSSEX COUNTY (UUFSC)**

The Social Action Team of the UU Fellowship of Sussex County (UUFSC) hosted its first-ever guest speaker at its January 2021 meeting. This online event welcomed Lauren O'Brien, who is the director of Pay Up Climate Polluters NJ (PUCP). PUCP is a major project run by the Center for Climate Integrity (CCI). CCI's mission is to empower communities and elected officials with the knowledge and tools they need to hold polluters accountable for their contributions to the climate crisis. At the online event, Lauren discussed the purpose of PUCP and the progress it is making with lawsuits in our region, where communities continue to be so devastated by the effects of climate change. (Also see the "Events" section, p. 4 for the "Postcard Event: Sign Up to Hold Polluters Accountable for Damages.")



#### EJTF's GOALS FOR 2021

## 1) Reduce fossil fuel emissions, especially in EJ neighborhoods, with focus on transportation

Follow the lead of our Environmental Justice partners including the NJ Environmental Justice Alliance, the Ironbound Community Corporation, and Clean Water Action. This will have direct impact on health of residents in EJ neighborhoods. See articles on pages 13 and 14.

#### 2) Reduce lead in households, both in drinking water and lead paint

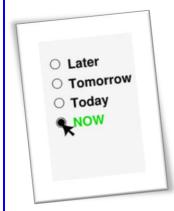
Following the lead of our EJ partners (see #1, above), help promote outreach to residents about avoiding or reducing lead in drinking water and lead paint in their households. See articles on pages 14 and 15.

#### 3) Promote the Green Amendment

Support the Green Amendment: conduct outreach, especially through UU Congregations, to build understanding and support for the NJ pending legislative resolutions (SCR30/ACR80), which promote the right to clean air, clean water and a healthy environment. Follow the lead of "Green Amendments for the Generations." The Green Amendment is supported by our EJ partners. (See upcoming Green Amendment talk on p. 9.)

#### **EJTF ACTIVITIES RELATED TO 2021 GOALS**

• UUFANJ Action Alert was issued regarding the NJ Clean Energy Equity Act - A NJ Clean Energy Equity Act will help to ensure that NJ's communities of color are included in the move to renewable energy, by establishing solar and energy efficiency programs that benefit at least 250,000 low-income families, installing 400 megawatts of storage in overburdened communities, creating workforce development programs, as well as additional programs involving overburdened communities. (See Op-Ed on p. 12.)



The NJ Clean Energy Equity Act bill (A4185) has passed the Senate, but as of 1/26/2021 it was still waiting to be considered in the Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities committee. As stated in the Action Alert, "Take Action Now" to contact the Committee Chair and members of the committee to support this bill, and to ask that it be added to the committee's agenda for a vote. A link to contact the Committee Chair, as well as committee members, is here:

https://uufaithactionnj.salsalabs.org/cosponsora4185njcleanenergyequityact/index.html

• A number of **EJTF members** are participating in the ongoing **NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Environmental Justice Law Rulemaking** process by attending Stakeholder Meetings such as those held on 1/20/2021 that focused on "Geographic Points of Comparison/Facility & Permit Definitions." Next steps will include hearings in February and March, with a final recap hearing in late Spring. All slides and recordings of the meetings will be available here: <a href="https://www.nj.gov/dep/ej/policy.html">https://www.nj.gov/dep/ej/policy.html</a>. You can subscribe to the DEP EJ Rulemaking email list here: <a href="https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/NJDEP/subscriber/new?topic">https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/NJDEP/subscriber/new?topic</a> id=NJDEP 251.

Also see the "Events" section, p. 4 for the following DEP event: "EJ Overburdened Communities" Webinar.

#### **EVENTS**

Some upcoming, and some past but viewable as videos. Note: advance registration for events is often required.

[EJTF members - also watch for email announcements of events with short lead times!]

Virtual Town Hall on Tennessee Gas Pipeline (TGP) Compressor Expansion Thursday, February 4, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

A grassroots coalition is forming in opposition to the expansion of a fracked gas compressor station in Wantage and the construction of a new compressor station in West Milford. A free, online, town hall informational session is to be held 2/4/2021 at 7:00 p.m. that will describe environmental devastation that residents in the vicinity will suffer if this project is approved, and how to prevent it from happening. Register at <a href="http://fwwat.ch/tgptownhall">http://fwwat.ch/tgptownhall</a>. You can take immediate action by sending an email to Gov. Murphy by clicking on this link: <a href="http://fwwat.ch/TGP">http://fwwat.ch/TGP</a>.

## Input to NJTPA Long-range Transportation Plan 2050 - Virtual Events North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) Multiple dates

Plan 2050 is the long-range transportation plan for North Jersey, a 30-year vision for the 13-county region's transportation future. The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) must adopt a new plan every four years so the region can receive federal transportation funds. Plan 2050 will cover a variety of topics, including: transportation, equity, quality of life, and more. The plan makes policy recommendations, envisions new programs and details transportation investments for the next 30 years. As part of this process, NJPTA is holding a series of virtual events to gain input. These are described on its website at <a href="https://njtpa-plan-2050-njtpa.hub.arcgis.com">https://njtpa-plan-2050-njtpa.hub.arcgis.com</a>, along with additional information about Plan 2050, links to the events, and links to videos of previous symposiums held by NJTPA. February's outreach events are as follows:

- "Let's Talk Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety!" Tuesday, February 2, 2021, 4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. Brief presentation and then listening session
- "Let's Talk Transportation" Tuesday, February 2, 2021, 11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. Open house, drop-in virtual listening session
- "Let's Talk Transit" Thursday, February 4, 2021, 5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. Brief presentation and then listening session
- "Let's Talk Transportation" Wednesday, February 10, 2021, 6:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m. Open house, drop-in virtual listening session

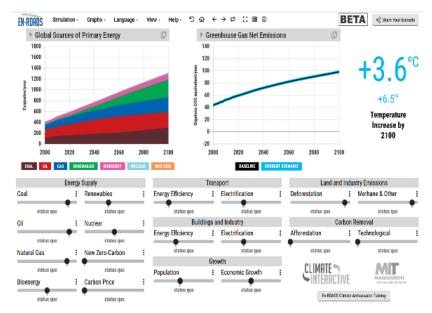
## DEP EJ Overburdened Communities Webinar Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will walk through the method used to identify overburdened communities (OBCs), and whether any part of a municipality has been designated an OBC pursuant to NJ's Environmental Justice (EJ) Law, and will answer questions from its local government partners. Additional information and the link to register are here: <a href="https://www.njdepcalendar.com/calendar/events/index.php?com=detail&eID=669">https://www.njdepcalendar.com/calendar/events/index.php?com=detail&eID=669</a>

#### Postcard Event: Sign Up to Hold Polluters Accountable for Damages Postcard Request Deadline is Wednesday, February 12, 2021

Lauren O'Brien, the NJ director of Pay Up Climate Polluters, invites all to participate in a postcard-writing effort "urging Governor Murphy and Attorney General Grewal to file a lawsuit on behalf of the state against major fossil fuel companies for lying and deceiving us about the realities of climate change for decades." This campaign asks polluters to pay their fair share of climate resilience costs that fall solely on taxpayers. Five states and 19 other communities have already filed lawsuits. Contact Lauren O'Brien at <a href="majorage-pay-agail-com">pay-agail-com</a> to receive an online order form link to fill out to receive 5 postcards mailed to your home. The request deadline is February 12, 2021. You also will receive an invitation to an online postcard party!

#### En-ROADS Climate Solutions Simulator Demonstration - via Zoom Hosted by Morristown Unitarian Fellowship (MUF) Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 7:00 p.m.



Watch the cutting-edge En-ROADS Climate Solutions Simulator in action (shown in the diagram at left). You'll be invited to propose climate solutions such as energy efficiency, carbon pricing, reducing deforestation, and carbon dioxide removal, and then will observe the results, live. Participants will be able to see the impact on global temperature and other measurements as our facilitator, En-ROADS Ambassador Dr. Ernest Dorflinger, tests various approaches. Save the link!

https://zoom.us/j/91551064895?pwd=REF1NTFIY015QWdkem1IbEFpUlU5dz09

### Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) First Quarter 2021 Public Hearing Wednesday, February 10, 2021

Additional details will be available here: https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/meetings/upcoming/.

NJ Clean Air Council Monthly Meeting - Virtual Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

This meeting will be held on Microsoft Teams; information on joining the meeting is here: <a href="https://www.nj.gov/dep/calendar/public.html">https://www.nj.gov/dep/calendar/public.html</a>

#### Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) Water Management Advisory Committee Meeting Thursday, February 26, 2021

Additional details will be available here: <a href="https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/meetings/advisory/">https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/meetings/advisory/</a>.

"How to Let Go of the World and Love All the Things Climate Can't Change"
Part of Option Green 2021: Climate Change & Community <mark>Virtual Film Festival</mark>
View Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 12:15 a.m. to Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 11:45 p.m.

In the film "How to Let Go of the World and Love All the Things Climate Can't Change," Oscarnominated director Josh Fox (GASLAND) continues in his deeply personal style, investigating climate change — the greatest threat our world has ever known. Traveling to 12 countries on 6 continents, the film acknowledges that it may be too late to stop some of the worst consequences and asks, what is it that climate change can't destroy? What is so deep within us that no calamity can take it away? To reserve your tickets, click here: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/option-green-virtual-film-fesitval-how-to-let-go-of-the-world-tickets-132441324567">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/option-green-virtual-film-fesitval-how-to-let-go-of-the-world-tickets-132441324567</a>. Links to view the film will be sent to ticketholders at the start time of the event, and will expire 48 hours later. Please be sure to view the film during that time. If you want to participate in a discussion after you watch, email <a href="mailto:programs@ebpl.org">programs@ebpl.org</a> (you will need to download the "Discord" app and make a free Discord account to participate in the discussion).

This event is sponsored by the East Brunswick Public Library and the Friends of the East Brunswick Environmental Commission, and funded by the American Library Association's, "Resilient Communities: Libraries Respond to Climate Change" pilot program, and ispart of the "Option Green" program series. Each year there are six events, ranging from lectures featuring environmentalists in various fields to documentary screenings with facilitated discussions. Additional information about Option Green events is here: <a href="https://ilove.ebpl.org/option-green">https://ilove.ebpl.org/option-green</a>.

#### Security and Sustainability Forum Webinar

Several EJTF members recommend the webinars of the Security and Sustainability Forum (SSF). The SSF "convenes global experts to address the impacts to society from climate and other disruptions to natural systems." The main SSF products are free webinars on energy, food and water security, public health, urban resilience, economic vitality, infrastructure, governance and other impacts that must be solved in meeting climate security challenges. The following webinar may be of interest:

#### "Strategies for System Change - and Tackling Wicked Problems" Thursday, February 18, 2021, 1:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Solving today's wicked sustainability challenges requires system change, but the nation is so divided that we need new strategies for leadership and can't rely on elected officials, political parties, chief executives, or others in authority to lead the systems change. Sustainability professionals must apply strategies that extend their influence beyond their organizations to drive change in the cross-sector space where business, government, and nonprofit organizations intersect and the most pressing sustainability challenges exist. In this webinar, Dr Bruce Hull, Senior Fellow at the Center for Leadership in Global Sustainability, and author of a new book titled "Leadership for Sustainability," will introduce a toolbox of strategies for tackling wicked sustainability problems, presenting case studies that illustrate several of these tools. He will also discuss the challenges and opportunities of being a systems change agent, and identify resources professionals can use to build their capacities as change agents. Panelists to be announced. Register here:

https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6843896244062825741.

#### **NJ Pinelands Commission Free Webinars**

The NJ Pinelands Commission's free, educational webinars are livestreamed on the Commission's YouTube channel, here: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBgpC8sbR3Acrjo7ppxs3Uw/videos">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBgpC8sbR3Acrjo7ppxs3Uw/videos</a>. If you miss the webinar, or want to see previous webinars, they are recorded and also available on the Commission's YouTube channel.

#### "Expanding Biodiversity - Attracting Birds to Your Jersey-Friendly Yard" Thursday, February 4, 2021, 10:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.

Learn how to create a Jersey-Friendly Yard to attract and support birds. Using an ecologically holistic approach, presenter Becky Laboy, M.Ed. Education Outreach Specialist, Ocean County Soil Conservation District, will discuss native plant species that are appropriate for yards and will point out the many ways these species provide essential services to birds. She will also introduce landscape features and practices that support birds, such as leaf litter, brush piles, dead trees, nest boxes, and water features.

## "The Pinelands Jetport and Other Pinelands Dreams" Thursday, February 11, 2021, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

In the 1950s, with air travel booming, there was a movement to add another airport to our region...and a new city with 250,000 residents. These additions would have changed the landscape of the Jersey Shore and South Jersey drastically. The Pine Barrens Conservationists opposed the idea and helped generate more opposition from the public. The proposal to construct the Pinelands Jetport can be seen as the prime motivation to preserve what is arguably the most important ecological resource between Boston and Richmond. Presenter Timothy Hart Esq., Ocean County Historian and Director of the Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission, will revisit the actual proposal through illustrations and diagrams, and will also describe some of the other historic plans for the Pinelands.

## "Birding the Pine Barrens" Thursday, February 18, 2021, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Susan Puder, author, photographer and president of the Southern Ocean Birding Group, will describe the best birding hotspots in the Pinelands, including the species that can be seen and the best locations for finding elusive songbirds, raptors and waterfowl.

#### "Moths of the Atlantic Coastal Plain Region" Thursday, February 25, 2021, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

From sugar sand to beach sand, moths are an integral part of habitats found in Pinelands oak-pine forests, the dwarf pine plains, bogs, and along the Atlantic coastline living in maritime forests, dunes, and saltwater marshes. Join presenter Ann-Marie Woods, photographer and naturalist, who will offer macro photography, gathered data, and insight to enlighten attendees about the nighttime world of moths in this ecologically diverse area.

#### Rutgers Climate Institute Listing of Virtual Climate Seminars Multiple dates

Multiple online events are listed on this site, including those from the Rutgers Climate Institute and also many climate-related events sponsored by various groups such as EPA, NOAA, and others. Listed below is a sampling of webinars taking place in February 2021. Further information about these seminars, and other seminars that have been listed to date, is here (check the site periodically for an updated list):

https://climatesociety.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/range.listevents/-

## "Advancing Health Equity in the Era of the Climate Crisis" Thursday, February 4, 2021, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Surili Patel and additional speakers will provide an overview of climate change impacts on health in New Jersey, health equity in the era of the climate crisis, and the NJ Climate Change Alliance's efforts to advance climate change and health equity. Surili Patel is director of the American Public Health Association's Center for Climate, Health and Equity and deputy director of its Center for Public Health Policy. She applies her role in both Centers to champion diversity and to advance health equity and environmental justice while promoting public health solutions. More details and registration are here:

https://rutgers.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN e7xD5F3MQNKp4OFWckPQSw

#### "Energy Efficiency Program Evaluation" Thursday, February 11, 2021, 1:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m.

Energy efficiency can be the most cost-effective means to reduce energy usage, while improving home comfort, positively impacting health and safety, and increasing energy affordability. Energy efficiency program evaluation is critical to assess whether expected reductions in energy usage are achieved, determine where opportunities exist for more effective or efficient services, and refine program design and implementation. This presentation will address methodologies for estimating the impacts of energy efficiency programs on energy usage, and key analyses to inform program improvement including disaggregation of savings results, measure-level analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis, and realization rates. This webinar is presented by Dr. Jacqueline Berger, president and cofounder of Applied Public Policy Research Institute for Study and Evaluation (APPRISE), a nonprofit research institute established in 2002 to assess and improve public programs. APPRISE focuses on: energy efficiency programs for low-income households, general residential customers, and commercial and industrial customers; and, energy affordability programs for low-income households. Additional information and Zoom link are here:

https://rei.rutgers.edu/images//EPSS SPRING 2021/2021-02-11 EPSS Jackie-Berger.pdf

#### SAVE the DATES



UUFANJ JUSTICE GALA - Virtual Friday, March 5, 2021, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

This year's Gala will be particularly special to EJTF, because OUR nominee to be honored by UUFANJ won! She's one of our EJ partners, Kim Gaddy!

Kim is the environmental justice organizer for Clean Water Action of NJ, vice chair of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's Environmental Justice Advisory Council, and coordinator of the South Ward Environmental Alliance in Newark.

Additional information about the Gala and registration/tickets/donation links are here: <a href="https://uufaithactionnj.salsalabs.org/uujusticegala2021/index.html">https://uufaithactionnj.salsalabs.org/uujusticegala2021/index.html</a>.

Maya van Rossum Speaking on "The Green Amendment" via Zoom Hosted by Morristown Unitarian Fellowship (MUF) Thursday, March 25, 2021, 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Maya van Rossum, founder of For the Generations <a href="https://forthegenerations.org">https://forthegenerations.org</a> will speak about the resolution proposed in the state legislature to add a Green Amendment to the NJ Constitution. A Green Amendment to the constitution can have the power to transform systems of environmental protection to serve the people, to focus on prevention, and to ensure clean air and clean water for generations to come.

UU@UN Spring 2021 Seminar - Virtual
"All In for Climate Justice: Food Equity and Sustainability"
April 9 - 11, 2021

Are you passionate about food justice, global justice and climate justice? Next year's UU@UN seminar builds off of last year's climate justice theme to focus on the connections between food and climate justice. More information is here: <a href="https://www.uua.org/international-justice/un/spring-seminar">https://www.uua.org/international-justice/un/spring-seminar</a>.

2021 Delaware Estuary Science and Environmental Summit - Virtual [including a one-day Forum on "Climate Change and the Delaware River Basin"] Monday, March 1, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - Wednesday, March 3, 2021, 5:00 p.m.

Since 2005, the goal of this biennial Summit has been to bring together scientists, managers, restoration practitioners, and educators from different sectors to share the latest scientific information, network, and make ecological linkages that promote a better understanding of the watershed as a whole. The central format is that of a conventional scientific meeting with abstracts,

presentations and peer review Q&A. While the focus is on the watershed of the Delaware River and Bay, presentations from other areas are included if they help to inform our understanding of this system. **Registration is \$100 for regular attendees and \$25 for students.** More information and registration are here: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-delaware-estuary-virtual-science-environmental-summit-registration-100003575386?ref=ecount.">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-delaware-estuary-virtual-science-environmental-summit-registration-100003575386?ref=ecount.</a>

The 2021 Summit will feature a one-day Forum on "Climate Change and the Delaware River Basin." This addition to the Summit's program is being hosted by the Delaware River Basin Commission's Advisory Committee on Climate Change.

#### New Jersey Clean Energy Conference: "Charting the Path to 2050" - POSTPONED

The Conference was originally scheduled for April 6-7, 2020 in Atlantic City, NJ. Register for email updates about the rescheduling of the conference here: <a href="https://www.nj.gov/bpu/about/contact/subscribe.html">https://www.nj.gov/bpu/about/contact/subscribe.html</a>.

#### VIDEOS OF PAST CONFERENCES AND WEBINARS

"Ask The Scientists: Environmental Justice Conversation for Kids" Video of Webinar
The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University in Philadelphia

The Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia organized this explainer Youth Panel on Environmental Justice by youth directed to a youth/parent audience for Philadelphia. It is about 36 minutes long and is available here:

https://www.facebook.com/18356619353/videos/862733151191164. EJTF member Michael Skelly has pointed out that it might provide an interesting model for UUFANJ to consider in partnering with NJ-based institutions and involving local youth in similar ways.

Discussion of NOVA Documentary: "Decoding the Weather Machine" - Video of Webinar with the NJ State Climatologist, Dr. David Robinson (view the film online beforehand)

The NJ State Climatologist, Dr. David A. Robinson, presented a NJ-based spin on the topics covered in the excellent PBS NOVA documentary, "Decoding the Weather Machine" (watch the movie in advance at: <a href="https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/video/decoding-the-weather-machine">https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/video/decoding-the-weather-machine</a>). PBS describes the documentary as follows: "Disastrous hurricanes. Widespread droughts and wildfires. Withering heat. Extreme rainfall. It is hard not to conclude that something's up with the weather, and many scientists agree. It's the result of the weather machine itself—our climate—changing, becoming hotter and more erratic. In this two-hour documentary, NOVA will cut through the confusion around climate change. Why do scientists overwhelmingly agree that our climate is changing, and that human activity is causing it? How and when will it affect us through the weather we experience? And what will it take to bend the trajectory of planetary warming toward more benign outcomes? Join scientists around the world on a quest to better understand the workings of the weather and climate machine we call Earth, and discover how we can be resilient—even thrive—in the face of enormous change." You can watch the video of Dr. Robinson's presentation here: <a href="https://ilove.ebpl.org/adults-teens/events/jersey-spin-decoding-weather-machine/2021-01-14-003000-2021-01-14-013000">https://ilove.ebpl.org/adults-teens/events/jersey-spin-decoding-weather-machine/2021-01-14-003000-2021-01-14-013000</a>.

## "Sixty Minutes with Ditte Juul-Jørgensen, Director General for Energy of the European Commission" - Video of Webinar

Ditte Juul-Jørgensen became Director General for Energy of the European Commission in August 2019. In this webinar, she discussed the EU's Energy Union after the adoption of the European Green Deal with the EU's goal to become climate neutral by 2050 and the contribution of the Next Generation EU recovery plan to the energy transition, as well as EU-US energy cooperation and the role of U.S. LNG in the European energy security. The video of the presentation is here: <a href="https://www.dropbox.com/498484330">https://www.dropbox.com/498484330</a>, and the slides from the presentation are available here: <a href="https://www.dropbox.com/s/20jfmeop6xj6ehw/Ditte%20Julle-Jorgensenand%20Andras%20Simonyi.pdf?dl=0">https://www.dropbox.com/s/20jfmeop6xj6ehw/Ditte%20Julle-Jorgensenand%20Andras%20Simonyi.pdf?dl=0</a>.

#### NEWS RELATED TO EJTF ISSUES

#### SUMMARIES OF NJ ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS 2020

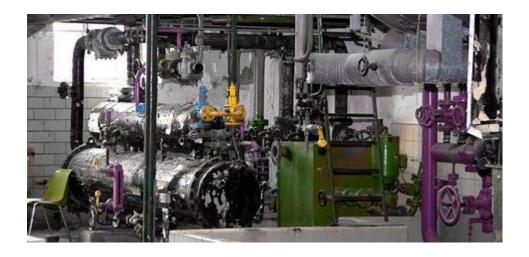
- Modest Clean-Energy Gains: NJ 2020, the Year of COVID-19 This article describes successes in 2020 (e.g., energy efficiency program, offshore wind projects and port) and potential future cutbacks that may result from addressing COVID-19, as well as major issues coming up in 2021 (e.g., subsidies for solar power and nuclear plants, and electrifying the transportation system). <a href="https://www.njspotlight.com/2020/12/2021-energy-coronavirus-cutbacks-greenhouse-gases-electrify-transportation-sector-zero-emission-cars/">https://www.njspotlight.com/2020/12/2021-energy-coronavirus-cutbacks-greenhouse-gases-electrify-transportation-sector-zero-emission-cars/</a>
- Cleanup of Our Water Continues: NJ 2020, the Year of COVID-19 This article describes successes in 2020, including Newark's replacing a large number of lead service lines, Gov. Murphy's budget including \$60 million for water-infrastructure upgrades, and NJ suing a chemical company for polluting water and soil with toxic "forever chemicals." <a href="https://www.njspotlight.com/2020/12/2021-nj-water-lead-pollution-quality-toxic-chemicals-combined-sewage-overflows-cost-to-ratepayers/">https://www.njspotlight.com/2020/12/2021-nj-water-lead-pollution-quality-toxic-chemicals-combined-sewage-overflows-cost-to-ratepayers/</a>
- **Op-Ed: NJ Environment Issues: Another Year Over, a New One to Begin** (by Jeff Tittel, Director of the NJ Sierra Club) A very thorough analysis of both the successes of 2020 and the many areas in which progress is still needed, and quickly. <a href="https://www.nj.com/opinion/2020/12/nj-environment-issues-another-year-over-a-new-one-to-begin-opinion.html">https://www.nj.com/opinion/2020/12/nj-environment-issues-another-year-over-a-new-one-to-begin-opinion.html</a>

#### STATUS OF STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

- NJ Meets First Goal in Reducing Carbon Emissions, but Still Has 'Incredible Hill to Climb' NJ achieved its goal of reducing power plant emissions by 20%, but the reduction was assisted by closure of coal-fired plants. This article describes the challenges facing achievement of the long-term goal of reducing carbon emissions by 80% by 2050, and the state's general plans to address them. <a href="https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/01/nj-meets-first-goal-in-reducing-carbon-emissions-but-still-has-incredible-hill-to-climb/">https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/01/nj-meets-first-goal-in-reducing-carbon-emissions-but-still-has-incredible-hill-to-climb/</a>
- **DEP Official Defends Land-Use Plan Against Attack by Business Group -** This article summarizes some main points (such as establishment of a new "Inundation Risk Zone") included in the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Resilient Environment and Landscapes (REAL)

"Framework of Potential Amendments to Land Resource Protection Rules," that is part of the NJ Protecting Against Climate Threats (PACT) initiative. At stakeholder meetings held 12/22/2020 and 1/15/2021 (presentations and videos of these and other PACT stakeholder meetings are accessible here: <a href="https://nj.gov/dep/njpact/">https://nj.gov/dep/njpact/</a>), a business and industry representative had criticized the plan, and this article includes a defense by DEP of the framework. <a href="https://www.njspotlight.com/2020/12/nj-land-use-plan-njbia-attack-fundamentally-flawed-sea-level-rise-flood-prone-bigger-storms-higher-seas-climate-change-risk-zones-building-permits/">https://www.njspotlight.com/2020/12/nj-land-use-plan-njbia-attack-fundamentally-flawed-sea-level-rise-flood-prone-bigger-storms-higher-seas-climate-change-risk-zones-building-permits/">https://www.njspotlight.com/2020/12/nj-land-use-plan-njbia-attack-fundamentally-flawed-sea-level-rise-flood-prone-bigger-storms-higher-seas-climate-change-risk-zones-building-permits/">https://www.njspotlight.com/2020/12/nj-land-use-plan-njbia-attack-fundamentally-flawed-sea-level-rise-flood-prone-bigger-storms-higher-seas-climate-change-risk-zones-building-permits/</a> [Note: see article below for NJ Sierra Club's criticism of the framework.]

• **DEP's Land Use PACT Does Not Protect Against Climate Threats** - The NJ Sierra Club issued this press release criticizing the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) "Framework of Potential Amendments to Land Resource Protection Rules" (described and referenced in the article above). Jeff Tittel, director of the NJ Sierra Club, states "DEP is strengthening rules and identifying the problems, but they aren't coming up with the comprehensive rules we need to address the problems. They need to have the ability to look at the coast holistically to determine where they need buyouts or elevations and where people can build. DEP needs the ability to say no to developments, but instead they are proposing a voluntary program." The press release describes a number of ways the rules would need to be changed to meet the goal of protecting against climate threats. <a href="https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/blog/2021/01/dep-s-land-use-pact-does-not-protect-against-climate-threats">https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/blog/2021/01/dep-s-land-use-pact-does-not-protect-against-climate-threats</a>



• New NJ Rules Would Crack Down on Pollution From Power Plants, Trucks, Industrial Boilers - This article summarizes the main areas included in a "rule preview" general information session presented by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) related to the Climate Pollutant Reduction (CPR), that portion of the NJ Protecting Against Climate Threats (PACT) initiative designed to "dramatically cut emissions of greenhouse gases" (the presentation and a video of this and other PACT stakeholder meetings are accessible here: <a href="https://nj.gov/dep/njpact/">https://nj.gov/dep/njpact/</a>). The major areas covered include stationary sources such as power plants and commercial boilers, and mobile sources such as medium-duty and heavy-duty trucks. Proposals for the actual rules are expected around April 2021 and will go through a public hearing and comment period.

<a href="https://www.njspotlight.com/2020/12/department-environmental-protection-dep-new-rules-trucks-t

power-plants-boilers-global-warming-pollution-california-model-critics-cost/

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

• Op-Ed: Urging Speaker Coughlin, Assembly to Pass Vital Clean-Energy Measure (by Kim Gaddy, Environmental Justice Organizer for Clean Water Action of NJ and the founder and director of the South Ward Environmental Alliance in Newark, and Leslie Elder, Mid-Atlantic regional director for the Coalition for Community Solar Access) - The authors describe the need for, and potential positive impact of, passing the NJ Clean Energy Equity Act (S2484). The Act would address environmental, financial, and public health inequities, in part by investing in community solar programs and also by legislatively codifying the Office of Clean Energy Equity. The bill has passed the NJ Senate and has been sent to the Assembly. (See "EJTF Activities" on p. 2 for support actions you can take.)

https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/01/clean-energy-bill-nj-coughlin-lawmakers-urged-clean-energy-equity-act/

#### **ELECTRIC VEHICLES**



- State OKs \$16M Program to Replace Dirty Diesel Trucks With Electric Vehicles NJ is using some of the funds raised by the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) to fund a voucher pilot program the NJ Zero Emission Incentive Program (NJ ZIP additional information available here: <a href="https://www.njeda.com/njziprelease">https://www.njeda.com/njziprelease</a>) for the purchase of medium-duty and heavy-duty electric vehicles. The vouchers, for specified vehicles, would range from \$25,000 to \$100,000, depending on class of vehicle, and one-third of the funds are to be set aside for micro and small businesses. Initially, NJ ZIP will only be available in the greater Newark and greater Camden areas, defined as the overburdened communities within or intersected by a circle with a 10-mile radius centered on Newark and Camden. <a href="https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/01/nj-vouchers-electric-trucks-replace-diesel-environmental-justice-communities/">https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/01/nj-vouchers-electric-trucks-replace-diesel-environmental-justice-communities/</a>
- Electric Vehicle Station Bill Gets Charged up in New Jersey Senate The NJ Senate passed a bill (S3223) that would facilitate development of electric vehicle charging infrastructure by defining it as "an inherently beneficial use" which allows a municipality to authorize review and approval "in the manner of a minor site plan approval, and, the review and approval of the application shall not require reference to, or approval by, the planning board or zoning board of adjustment. Additionally, under the bill electric vehicle charging infrastructure would be a permitted accessory use and permitted accessory structure in all zoning or use districts of a municipality and shall not require a use variance." It has been sent to the NJ Assembly. <a href="https://enviropolitics.com/ev-station-bill-gets-a-charge-in-new-jersey-senate/">https://enviropolitics.com/ev-station-bill-gets-a-charge-in-new-jersey-senate/</a>

#### FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE

- Food and Water Watch: NJ Transit Withdraws Permit for Fracked Gas Plant EJTF had been involved in the fight to stop a planned fracked gas power plant in Kearny, NJ for over a year and a half. Our work paid off when NJ Transit officials announced in October that that they would be shelving the plans for a gas-based design for the microgrid, and would instead move forward with a renewable energy alternative. However, until this week, they had not withdrawn the air permit application. Now, the air permit application has been revoked at the request of Gov. Murphy, who sent a letter to the state Transportation Commissioner (who is also president of the NJ Transit board), to withdraw the permit application filed for the microgrid with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). "The State fully intends to build the Project," Murphy wrote. "That said, it is imperative that consistent with the clean energy commitments that have been advanced by my administration, there must be a thorough and transparent evaluation during the procurement process in consultation with a renewable energy expert retained by NJ Transit to determine if there is clean technology available through which the Project can operate, either in whole or in part." Though the air permit has been withdrawn, NJ Transit still has work to do to ensure that their new project design procurement process utilizes as much renewable energy as technologically feasible. So we will need to remain vigilant and stay involved in the process. https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/food-water-watch-nj-transit-withdraws-permitfracked-gas-plant/
- Proposal to Build LNG Terminal on Delaware River Could Pose Early Test for the Biden
   Administration This article describes the arguments that are being made against and for the
   Gibbstown NJ Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) export terminal, and expresses hope that the Biden
   administration will step in to halt it because of President Biden's concern for his home state of Delaware,
   which is downriver from Gibbstown. <a href="https://washingtonsources.org/proposal-to-build-lng-terminal-on-delaware-river-could-pose-early-test-for-the-biden-administration/">https://washingtonsources.org/proposal-to-build-lng-terminal-on-delaware-river-could-pose-early-test-for-the-biden-administration/</a>
- N.J. Presses Supreme Court Not to Hear PennEast Pipeline Case After Feds Throw Support Behind It In 2019, the Federal Court of Appeals ruled that the PennEast Pipeline cannot use eminent domain on state-owned land, under the legal doctrine of sovereign immunity. PennEast has asked the Supreme Court to review the decision, and at the Supreme Court's request the Department of Justice under the Trump administration filed a brief stating that the court lacked jurisdiction to issue the ruling. NJ Attorney General Grewal and others filed a brief criticizing the Trump administration's opinion that the court of appeals should not have exercised its jurisdiction over the pipeline.

  https://www.nj.com/news/2021/01/nj-presses-supreme-court-not-to-hear-penneast-pipeline-case-after-feds-throw-support-behind-it.html

#### LEAD REDUCTION IN HOUSEHOLDS

• Newark Actions To Eradicate Lead From Drinking Water Go Beyond Newest EPA Guidelines - On 1/15/2020, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published "final revisions" to the Lead and Copper Rule. The revisions will go into effect 60 days after that date unless the Biden administration extends that date for additional review. However, the City of Newark's lead removal program has already surpassed several of the guidelines included in the revised rule. For example, the revised EPA Lead and Copper Rule requires systems to replace their lead service lines over a minimum 33-year period, with opportunities to extend replacements out even further. Newark is projected to finish the job of replacing all of its lead service lines by early spring, which will be near the two-year anniversary of when the project began. <a href="https://www.newarknj.gov/news/newark-actions-to-eradicate-lead-from-drinking-water-go-beyond-newest-epa-guidelines">https://www.newarknj.gov/news/newark-actions-to-eradicate-lead-from-drinking-water-go-beyond-newest-epa-guidelines</a>

• Op-Ed: Lessons from Newark's Aggressive Replacement of Lead Service Lines (by Ras J. Baraka, mayor of the City of Newark) - Mayor Baraka describes the many twists and turns along the way to the success of Newark's lead service line replacement program (see article on p. 14), stating "There are many lessons learned from this chapter in Newark history. The first is, it can't be done alone. This was an intensive, collaborative effort between our water department; our partners in county, state and federal government; our volunteers, activists and residents, all fully engaged in every aspect of restoring the quality of our water and eradicating unhealthy lead levels, once and for all."

<a href="https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/01/op-ed-lessons-from-newarks-aggressive-replacement-of-lead-service-lines/">https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/01/op-ed-lessons-from-newarks-aggressive-replacement-of-lead-service-lines/</a>

#### RENEWABLE RESOURCES



- **Giant Turbines Will Generate Power at New Jersey's First Offshore Wind Farm** The company developing the first planned wind farm off the NJ coast, Ørsted Wind, announced that they plan for it to be one of the first in the world to be powered by the biggest and most powerful turbines ever built, which are now in prototype status. (More information about the GE-built turbines, and graphics, are here: <a href="https://i1.wp.com/wattsupwiththat.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/ge-infographic-1-haliade-x.jpg?fit=1200%2C675&ssl=1">https://i1.wp.com/wattsupwiththat.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/ge-infographic-1-haliade-x.jpg?fit=1200%2C675&ssl=1</a>.) The turbines are almost as tall as the Eiffel Tower, and have a 12-megawatt capacity. <a href="https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/01/giant-turbines-will-generate-power-at-new-jerseys-first-offshore-wind-farm/">https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/01/giant-turbines-will-generate-power-at-new-jerseys-first-offshore-wind-farm/</a>
- No Fix in Sight for Dispute Over Opening NJ Farmland to Large Solar Projects This article describes the conflicting viewpoints between siting large solar projects on prime NJ farmland, in order to meet the state's goals for renewable energy, and preserving that land for agriculture. Proponents of preservation point out that ample space for solar projects should be able to be found in parking lots, on industrial rooftops, and open spaces that are not prime agricultural land. <a href="https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/01/nj-farmland-versus-large-solar-projects-stalemate-no-consensus-developers-critics-preservationists/">https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/01/nj-farmland-versus-large-solar-projects-stalemate-no-consensus-developers-critics-preservationists/</a>
- **The Top 10 Solar-Powered States** NJ ranks seventh, up from ninth place last year. https://enviropolitics.com/the-top-10-solar-powered-states/
- Six Key Energy-Related Provisions in the Federal Omnibus Budget Bill The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 ("Federal Omnibus Budget Bill") included a number of energy-related provisions, among them extending tax credits for solar and extending sunset provisions of onshore wind; enhancing research and development for renewable energy; and setting a goal for renewable energy on federal land, to be achieved by 2025. <a href="https://enviropolitics.com/six-key-energy-related-provisions-in-the-federal-omnibus-budget-bill/">https://enviropolitics.com/six-key-energy-related-provisions-in-the-federal-omnibus-budget-bill/</a>

#### **CLIMATE CHANGE**

- N.J. Weather: 2020 Was One of the State's Hottest Years on Record. Here's Where It Ranks 2020 was the second warmest year on record in NJ, one-half degree Fahrenheit behind 2012. July was the hottest of any NJ month since 1895, and 15 of NJ's 20 warmest years on record (since 1895) have all occurred during the last 20 years. <a href="https://www.nj.com/weather/2021/01/nj-weather-2020-was-one-of-the-states-hottest-years-on-record-heres-where-it-ranks.html">https://www.nj.com/weather/2021/01/nj-weather-2020-was-one-of-the-states-hottest-years-on-record-heres-where-it-ranks.html</a>
- NJ Municipalities Warned They Will Need to Take a Bigger Role in Climate Planning According to the NJ chief resilience officer, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) climate strategy document should be issued by Earth Day 2021 (April 22), and new regulations being developed under the NJ Protecting Against Climate Threats (PACT) initiative are planned to be proposed during the first quarter of 2021. It is envisioned that, while towns and cities in the state can expect assistance on science and planning from the state and the federal government, the actual adaptation and mitigation of climate-related threats will fall on local governments.

  https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/01/climate-change-planning-need-transfer-risk-local-municipalities-flood-prone-coastal-retreat-costs-criticism/
- **Biden Administration Must Mobilize 'Entire Federal Government' to Face Climate Crisis** Robert Kopp (a professor at Rutgers University—New Brunswick and director of the Rutgers Institute of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences, who works with the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) analyzes what is needed for the Biden administration to reverse the previous administration's climate-denial actions and to move forward to address the climate crisis. He emphasizes that the key to achieving results would be to use economic stimulus to implement climate policy. <a href="https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/01/trump-administration-outraged-environmentalists-with-regulation-rollbacks-biden-economic-stimulus-advice/">https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/01/trump-administration-outraged-environmentalists-with-regulation-rollbacks-biden-economic-stimulus-advice/</a>
- **Op-Ed: N.J. Needs to Hold Big Oil Accountable for Climate Damages** (by Jeff Tittel, Director of the NJ Sierra Club) NJ has suffered disproportionately from climate change, and the fossil fuel industry specifically the oil and gas companies have long known that burning fossil fuels would warm the planet. Twenty-three other states and localities have sued the oil companies to hold them responsible for climate change-related damage, and the author encourages NJ to join this list.

  <a href="https://www.nj.com/opinion/2021/01/nj-needs-to-hold-big-oil-accountable-for-climate-damages-opinion.html">https://www.nj.com/opinion/2021/01/nj-needs-to-hold-big-oil-accountable-for-climate-damages-opinion.html</a>

#### **DRINKING WATER-RELATED ISSUES (other than lead)**

• AG Grewal, DEP Announce Lawsuit Against U.S. Government over Drinking Water Contamination from Military Bases' Use of Firefighting Foam - NJ has filed a lawsuit against the federal government alleging that the routine use of aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF), a fire-suppressing substance that contains toxic per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS - also called "forever chemicals"), including perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) emanating from the federal facilities, caused the contamination of public and private drinking water sources that provide drinking water to those facilities, as well as to communities located near the military installations, where both military and civilians families live. The lawsuit seeks to recover costs associated with investigation of the contamination, as well as expenditures made by, or to be made by, NJ to remediate the contamination. The complaint also seeks a court order requiring remediation of the affected areas to levels that comply with NJ safe drinking water and water quality standards for PFOS and PFOA, medical monitoring of residents whose drinking water supplies have been contaminated in excess of those levels, and provision of alternative water supplies. <a href="https://www.njoag.gov/ag-grewal-dep-announce-lawsuit-against-u-s-government-over-drinking-water-contamination-from-military-bases-use-of-firefighting-foam/">https://www.njoag.gov/ag-grewal-dep-announce-lawsuit-against-u-s-government-over-drinking-water-contamination-from-military-bases-use-of-firefighting-foam/</a>

• N.J. Sues U.S. Military, Wants Feds to Pay for Tainted Drinking Water Cleanup - This article provides additional information about the NJ lawsuit against the U.S. government over drinking water contamination from military bases' use of firefighting foam (see article on p. 16). <a href="https://www.nj.com/news/2021/01/nj-sues-us-military-wants-feds-to-pay-for-tainted-drinking-water-cleanup.html">https://www.nj.com/news/2021/01/nj-sues-us-military-wants-feds-to-pay-for-tainted-drinking-water-cleanup.html</a>

#### **POLLUTION**

• Court Ruling Positions Biden to Bolster Clean-Air Regulations - In 2019, NJ had joined a coalition of 22 states and 7 local governments in submitting a petition to the U.S. Court of of Appeals asking for a review of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) final agency action entitled "Repeal of the Clean Power Plan; Emission Guidelines for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Existing Electric Utility Generating Units; Revisions to Emission Guidelines Implementing Regulations," seeking a determination by the Court that the rule is unlawful and must be vacated. On 1/19/2021, the Court struck down the EPA rule, stating that it "hinged on a fundamental misconstruction" of the federal Clean Air Act and remanded the issue back to EPA, which clears the way for the the new administration to possibly enact even stronger emission reductions than were included in the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan. <a href="https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/01/nj-clean-air-regulations-power-plant-fossil-fuels-court-biden-trump-obama/">https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/01/nj-clean-air-regulations-power-plant-fossil-fuels-court-biden-trump-obama/</a>



- AG Grewal Joins Federal Lawsuit Challenging EPA's Failure to Strengthen National Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter NJ joined CA, CT, DE, IL, MD, MA, MI, MN, NY, OR, PA, RI, VT, VA, WA and WI, as well as the City of New York, the CA Air Resources Board and the CA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment in suing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for its failure to strengthen national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter, an air pollutant that has been linked to serious health problems, and which poses a particular threat to environmental justice communities. <a href="https://www.njoag.gov/ag-grewal-joins-federal-lawsuit-challenging-epas-failure-to-strengthen-national-air-quality-standards-for-particulate-matter/">https://www.njoag.gov/ag-grewal-joins-federal-lawsuit-challenging-epas-failure-to-strengthen-national-air-quality-standards-for-particulate-matter/</a>
- AG Grewal: NJ Sues EPA over Its Continued Failure to Address Ozone Pollution from Upwind States NJ joined NY, CT, DE, MA, and the City of New York in a lawsuit alleging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has abdicated its duty to act on harmful ozone pollution flowing from upwind states. The EPA's failure to act threatens the health of residents in the downwind states and makes it harder for them to meet federal air quality standards. <a href="https://www.njoag.gov/ag-grewal-nj-sues-epa-over-its-continued-failure-to-address-ozone-pollution-from-upwind-states/">https://www.njoag.gov/ag-grewal-nj-sues-epa-over-its-continued-failure-to-address-ozone-pollution-from-upwind-states/</a>

#### **ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

• New Legislation Would Save Appliance-Users Money and Reduce Pollution - Bills have been introduced (\$3324 and \$45160) in the NJ legislature that would, for the first time since 2005, update efficiency standards for selected residential and commercial products, based on sources including ENERGY STAR and WaterSense specifications. The updated standards would cover 17 residential and commercial appliances, ranging from lamps and shower heads to commercial fryers and faucets. The legislation does not require consumers or businesses to buy new products, but would apply to new products sold, offered for sale, or leased (and, after a year after enactment, products installed for compensation). <a href="https://www.njlcv.org/news/new-legislation-would-save-appliance-users-money-and-reduce-pollution">https://www.njlcv.org/news/new-legislation-would-save-appliance-users-money-and-reduce-pollution</a>

#### **OTHER**

- AG Grewal: New Jersey Files Nine New Lawsuits Challenging Trump Administration's Last Minute Environmental Rollbacks NJ joined with various coalitions of states to file nine lawsuits challenging a series of environmental rollbacks rushed through during the waning days of the Trump Administration. [Note: in a previously-filed lawsuit, a federal appeals court just agreed with NJ that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) acted unlawfully in 2019 when it repealed the Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan for addressing greenhouse gas emissions from power plants see article on p. 17.] The nine lawsuits involve issues including protections for clean air, energy efficiency requirements for appliances, and measures to protect migratory birds and endangered wildlife species. <a href="https://www.njoag.gov/ag-grewal-new-jersey-files-nine-new-lawsuits-challenging-trump-administrations-last-minute-environmental-rollbacks/">https://www.njoag.gov/ag-grewal-new-jersey-files-nine-new-lawsuits-challenging-trump-administrations-last-minute-environmental-rollbacks/</a>
- AG Grewal Opposes Lame Duck Environmental Rollbacks in the Trump Administration's Final Days This press release lists and describes many of the dozens of "midnight rules" and other actions taken at the end of the Trump Administration that have been opposed by NJ and other states that have filed comments and lawsuits on them. Also described are other recent court filings by NJ that challenge the Trump Administration's failure to act consistent with its legal obligations to protect the environment. <a href="https://www.njoag.gov/ag-grewal-opposes-lame-duck-environmental-rollbacks-in-the-trump-administrations-final-days/">https://www.njoag.gov/ag-grewal-opposes-lame-duck-environmental-rollbacks-in-the-trump-administrations-final-days/</a>
- **Agency Approves PSE&G's \$700 Million Spend on Smart Meters** This article describes the approval given by the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to the Public Service Electric & Gas (PSE&G) company for installation of "smart meters" in NJ, and some ramifications related to customers and workers. <a href="https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/01/smart-meters-700-million-pseg-spend-bpu/">https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/01/smart-meters-700-million-pseg-spend-bpu/</a>
- **PSE&G Expected to Bring Smart Meters to New Jersey** This article describes the "smart meter" program proposed by Public Service Electric & Gas (PSE&G) for NJ (also see article above). https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/01/pseg-expected-to-bring-smart-meters-to-new-jersey/
- **Up for Renewal, Controversial \$300M Nuclear Subsidies Could Be Cut, State Consultant Advises** This article describes differing opinions regarding whether, and in what amount, subsidies are potentially needed to keep NJ's three nuclear power plants operating. <a href="https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/01/pseg-nuclear-subsidies-300-million-renew-cut-back-bpu-generating-plants-south-jersey/">https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/01/pseg-nuclear-subsidies-300-million-renew-cut-back-bpu-generating-plants-south-jersey/</a>

- New Nuclear Plant Could Be Built at Site of One That's Being Mothballed in New Jersey Holtec, the company that purchased the Oyster Creek nuclear plant in order to decommission it, has applied to the U.S. Department of Energy to possibly build a small modular reactor on the site, as part of that agency's Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program (see link to video of reactions to this prroposal, in the article below). <a href="https://enviropolitics.com/new-nuclear-plant-could-be-built-at-site-of-one-thats-being-mothballed-in-new-jersey/">https://enviropolitics.com/new-nuclear-plant-could-be-built-at-site-of-one-thats-being-mothballed-in-new-jersey/</a>
- Environmentalists Concerned About New Oyster Creek Plans (Video) Local officials, residents, and Jeff Tittel, Director of the NJ Sierra Club, react to the proposal for a small modular reactor being built on the site of the former Oyster Creek nuclear plant (see article above). <a href="https://www.njspotlight.com/video/environmentalists-concerned-about-new-oyster-creek-plans/">https://www.njspotlight.com/video/environmentalists-concerned-about-new-oyster-creek-plans/</a>
- Assembly Panel Clears Bill Requiring Stewardship Plans for Public Forests A bill (A4843) cleared by the Assembly Agriculture Committee and referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee "would require the preparation and implementation of a forest stewardship plan for certain lands acquired for recreation and conservation purposes by the State, local government units, or qualifying tax exempt nonprofit organizations with funding provided through the State's open space preservation program, commonly referred to as the 'Green Acres Program.'" Environmental groups (except for NJ Audubon) are in opposition to the bill, viewing it as a sell-out of the state's forests that could result in major negative impacts. <a href="https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/01/nj-measure-requiring-stewardship-plans-public-forests-controversey-storm-protest-logging-destruction-fears/">https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/01/nj-measure-requiring-stewardship-plans-public-forests-controversey-storm-protest-logging-destruction-fears/</a>
- **Jim Kennedy to Chair New Jersey's Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee** Assemblyman James J. Kennedy (D Middlesex, Somerset, Union), formerly vice chair of the NJ Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee, has been selected to be its new Chair. He succeeds former Assemblywoman Nancy Pinkin (a UU), who was elected Middlesex County Clerk in November 2020. (See article below.) <a href="https://enviropolitics.com/jim-kennedy-to-char-new-jerseys-assembly-environment-and-solid-waste-committee/">https://enviropolitics.com/jim-kennedy-to-char-new-jerseys-assembly-environment-and-solid-waste-committee/</a>
- Assembly Jim Kennedy, Excellent Choice to Chair Environment Committee Assemblyman James Kennedy will take over as chair of the Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee immediately. He was previously vice chair, succeeding Assemblywoman Pinkin who left the legislature when she was elected Middlesex County Clerk last November. The NJ Sierra Club endorsed Assemblyman Kennedy in 2019. "We believe Kennedy will be the champion that New Jersey needs for our environment," said Jeff Tittel, director of the New Jersey Sierra Club. A NJ Sierra Club press release further states that "During his time in the Legislature, Kennedy has helped spearhead efforts to address open space preservation, renewable energy, natural resource restoration, eliminating combined sewer overflows, clean air and more. Kennedy is currently working to increase access to electric vehicle charging stations and to improve recycling efforts throughout New Jersey."

  https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/blog/2021/01/assembly-jim-kennedy-excellent-choice-chair-environment-committee
- **Op-Ed: Nuclear Must Walk the Environmental Walk, Not Just Talk the Talk** (by Fred Fastiggi, principal and managing director of Shoreline Energy Advisors, LLC) "Do we turn a blind eye to nuclear accountability by our silence on its environmental challenges, while passively accepting the benefits of its carbon-free nature?" <a href="https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/01/nuclear-generation-nj-environmental-claims-dangers-core-meltdown-radioactive-leaks/">https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/01/nuclear-generation-nj-environmental-claims-dangers-core-meltdown-radioactive-leaks/</a>



MORATORIUM MONDAYS CONTINUE

Please continue to contact Gov. Murphy every Monday and urge him to declare a climate emergency moratorium on fossil fuel projects! These efforts have been successful in that a number of projects have been stopped or delayed in the past year. Either call through the EmpowerNJ number (866-586-4069) to get coaching on the topic of the week, emphasizing what is in the news, or call directly to the governor's office (609-262-6000). Over 50 environmental, citizen, faith, and progressive groups in NJ are calling on Governor Murphy to enact a moratorium on all new fossil fuel projects in New Jersey until there are rules in place to achieve 100% clean energy goals.

UU FaithAction NJ - Environmental Justice Task Force - <a href="https://uufaithaction.org/environment/">https://uufaithaction.org/environment/</a> Co-Chairs - Peggy Middaugh and Ray Nichols

Visit our website for Environmental links and resources / sign up for email alerts / join the EJTF