

UUFaithActionNJ



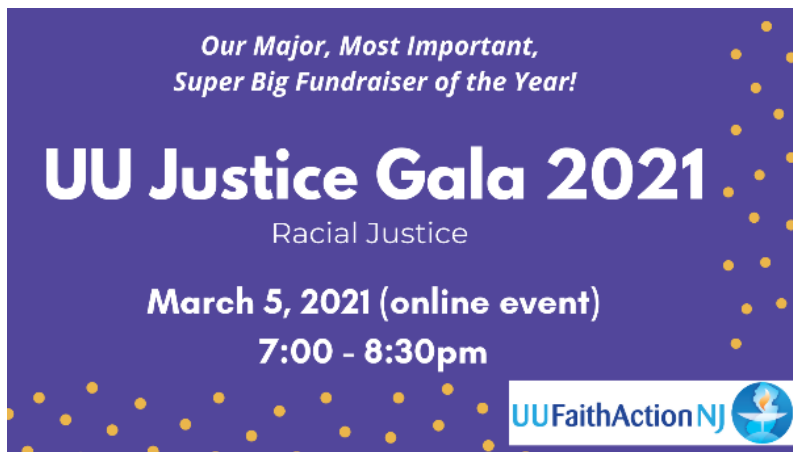
EDUCATE • ADVOCATE • MOBILIZE

# Environmental Justice Task Force Newsletter March 2021

[covering 1/26/2021 – 2/25/2021] <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.**

**REMEMBER to COME to the  
UUFANJ JUSTICE GALA!!**



The gala will have **MUSIC**, a breakout **ACTIVITY** to get people moving, and **BIDDING** (via the UUFANJ website before the event) for Task Force-themed gift and food baskets, delivered to the winners' doorsteps! There will be a drawing for a **DOOR PRIZE** from among event attendees!

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: <https://uufaithactionnj.salsalabs.org/ujusticegala2021/index.html>.

**GREAT NEWS! Fracking has been banned in the Delaware River Basin! (See article on p. 18.)**

## UU CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF SUSSEX COUNTY (UUFSC)

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sussex County (UUFSC) is actively involved in the following ongoing activities:

- **Tennessee Gas Pipeline 300 East Expansion Project**

The Environmental Assessment by the Federal Energy Regulation Commission (FERC) has now been published.

Work is now being done to determine the key technical points for oppositional comments, and will be completed in early March. These talking points will be sent to EJTF members who are encouraged to state their concerns. The public comment deadline is March 22, 2021 at FERC online (<https://ferconline.ferc.gov>) and the Docket # is CP20-493-000. To view the document visit:



[https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession\\_num=20210219-3034](https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession_num=20210219-3034)

Note: an informational virtual Town Hall was held on this project; see article on p. 18 and link to video on p. 12.

- **Pay Up NJ Climate Polluters**



The City of Annapolis, MD recently became the 25th community to sue Big Oil for their historical and deceptive role in climate change. In NJ, a resolution introduced in March 2020 (SR 57) urges Governor Murphy and Attorney General Grewal to pursue legal action against fossil fuel companies for damages caused by climate change.

For those who ordered free postcards to send to the Governor and the Attorney General, they will be mailed out soon for the Postcard Party (described at left)!

- **Sparta Mountain Logging**

Once again, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) crews will deforest a new location on Sparta Mountain. A group has formed to further study this project, which will reoccur this winter on 9.4 new acres of forest canopy.

## ***UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SOMERSET HILLS (UUCSH)***

- The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Somerset Hills (UUCSH) is hosting a presentation "**A Green Amendment in New Jersey?**" - **A Conversation with Maya Van Rossum** on Tuesday, March 30, 2021, at 7:15 p.m. on Zoom. Maya van Rossum is the award-winning Founder of "Green Amendments For the Generations," a grassroots non-profit organization inspiring a nationwide movement to secure constitutional recognition and protection of environmental rights in every state and ultimately at the federal level (for additional information see pp. 7 - 8).

## ***MORRISTOWN UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP (MUF)***

- On February 9, 2021, the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship (MUF) hosted a virtual "**En-ROADS Climate Solutions Simulator Demonstration.**" En-ROADS is a computer model that illustrates how individual climate policies will affect temperature through the end of this century.
- On Thursday, March 25, 2021, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship (MUF) is hosting **Maya van Rossum Speaking on "The Green Amendment"** via Zoom (for additional information see p. 7).

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## ***EJTF ACTIVITIES***

- **EJTF member Sally Gellert** hosted the radio show "Eco-Logic," which on February 26, 2021 dealt with the issue "Radiation and Your Health." Radiation is becoming a high priority in NJ, with the Oyster Creek Nuclear Plant decommissioning process (also see the event "In the Atomic Age, Gender Matters" on p. 6). The Eco-Logic radio show is on WBAI 99.5 fm on Fridays from 2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., and Sally is a regular host.

### **Action Needed!**

**Day of Action in NJ with Partner Organization Greenfaith  
Thursday, March 11, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

- **Write or call your NJ legislator to ask that they co-sponsor A4185, the Clean Energy Equity Act, and**
- **Write or call Governor Murphy to keep raids on the Clean Energy Fund out of this year's budget** (see below)

Governor Murphy's proposed NJ 2022 budget again raids the Clean Energy Fund in order to provide funds for NJ Transit, and does not include any new dedicated source of funds for NJ Transit. Ending the raids on the Clean Energy Fund and finding a dedicated source of funds for NJ Transit are both past promises of the administration. Two articles summarizing these issues are on p. 21. You can send an email from <https://www.nj.gov/governor/contact/all/>. If you prefer, you can call Governor Murphy's office: 1-609-292-6000.

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## **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!]***

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**DEP Cumulative Impacts EJ Bill Rulemaking Stakeholder Meeting  
for EJ/Environmental/Community Organizations  
"Environmental and Public Health Stressors"  
Thursday, March 11, 2021, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m**

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) EJ Cumulative Impacts Bill Rulemaking Stakeholder Meeting on "Environmental and Public Health Stressors" that was postponed in February is being held March 11, 2021. To facilitate in-depth and productive discussions, DEP is conducting two sessions for each topic-specific meeting: one for environmental justice and related stakeholders (i.e., this meeting), and one for business/industry and related stakeholders. All meeting recordings and presentations will continue to be posted here:

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/ej/policy.html>.

**RSVP here:** <https://www.njdepcalendar.com/calendar/events/index.php?com=detail&eID=673>  
**- registration will close on Monday, March 8, 2021.**

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**Updates on the Implementation of the Transportation & Climate Initiative Program  
Monday, March 1, 2021, 1:00 p.m. **Webinar****

EJTF and our environmental justice partners were very much in support of NJ not joining the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) at this time. This program provides updates from officials from the other participating jurisdictions, including their proposed plans for public engagement and other efforts to ensure equitable outcomes for underserved and overburdened communities, and will present details of a draft "Model Rule" for establishment of the pollution-control program.

Registration is here: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd5cIMf-ljfd9\\_iv1AuWV7VkQ2aNJa9j999oYfFQWyPbMOKMw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd5cIMf-ljfd9_iv1AuWV7VkQ2aNJa9j999oYfFQWyPbMOKMw/viewform)

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**"Fighting for Environmental and Climate Justice in NJ - Decisions Imminent" **on Zoom**  
Wednesday, March 10, 2021, 7:00 p.m.**

EmpowerNJ, Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC) and NJ Environmental Justice Alliance (NJEJA) are sponsoring this interactive public forum. EmpowerNJ leaders will present information and opportunities for public participation in the Murphy Administration's rulemaking for "Protecting Against Climate Threats" that is supposed to cut greenhouse gas emissions and plan for climate resiliency in NJ -- the proposed rules are due within 2 months. Maria Lopez-Nuñez, ICC's Deputy Director of Organizing and Advocacy will share timely information about two new polluting projects proposed in Newark, how polluters are pushing for approvals before NJ's new environmental justice law goes fully into effect, and how we can stop them. RSVP here:

<https://fwatch.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAvC-qqrDIiHNJuXQk5LaWhmoHjouqx-kJ6>

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## **Rutgers Environmental Stewards "Earth Day Every Day Webinar Series"**

This Monday evening webinar series focuses on steps everyone can take to protect the environment. "We can all do our part to take actions that make our homes more sustainable, from environmentally-friendly lawn care, to recycling, to conducting a home energy audit. These actions, more than ever, start at home." Here is a list of the next two months' webinars:

- 3/8 - Starting a Native Plant Garden
- 3/15 - Responsible Stewardship of New Jersey's Marine Resources
- 3/22 - Deer New Jersey: Let's Discuss Healthy Deer Populations
- 3/29 - What To Do When You Find Baby Animals
- 4/5 - Infusing EcoTherapy Into Your Life
- 4/12 - From Rain Gardens to Rain Barrels: Protecting Watersheds At Home
- 4/19 - Food Systems and Climate Change
- 4/26 - Trees, Wonderful Trees

More information, a registration link (registration is required), and a link to view videos of previous webinars are here: <https://envirostewards.rutgers.edu/Earth-Day.html>

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## **Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) First Quarter 2021 Business Meeting Wednesday, March 10, 2021, 10:30 a.m. via Zoom**

The March 10 Public Business Meeting will include the following: adoption of the minutes of the Commission's December 9, 2020, Business Meeting; announcement of upcoming meetings and events; a report on hydrologic conditions; reports by the Executive Director and the Commission's General Counsel; and consideration of any items for which a hearing has been completed or is not required. There will be no opportunity for additional public comment for the record at the March 10 Business Meeting on items for which a hearing was completed on February 10 or a previous date.

After all scheduled business has been completed and as time allows, the Business Meeting will also include up to one hour of Open Public Comment (prior sign-up by 5 p.m. on March 9, 2021 is required). Additional details and information for prior sign-up for the Open Public Comment portion are available here: <https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/meetings/upcoming/#4>. The meeting will also be livestreamed here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/delrivbasincomm>.

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## **NJ Clean Air Council Monthly Meeting - Virtual Wednesday, March 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: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/calendar/public.html>

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**"In the Atomic Age, Gender Matters" - Marking 10 Years since Fukushima - Webinar**  
**Thursday, March 11, 2011, 9:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.**

Join Mothers for Peace, who are sponsoring a webinar with Gender and Radiation Impact Project Director Mary Olson, to commemorate 10 years since the beginning of the TEPCO nuclear disaster in Fukushima, Japan. Mary Olson's work shows greater harm to the female body from radiation than the male body, while regulators have been guided by the health impacts on men. A current update and photos of Fukushima will also be included. To receive a link please send an email by March 10, 2011 to: [gender.radiation@gmail.com](mailto:gender.radiation@gmail.com). Include the word REGISTRATION and you will receive an email with the link.

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**"Disparate Environmental Impacts: Causes and Solutions to Environmental Injustice"**  
**Thursday, March 11, 2021, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - Webinar**

New Jersey is known as the Garden State, but few understand that the name was meant to highlight the fact the other states such as New York and Pennsylvania traditionally used New Jersey as their garden - a place to take beneficial resources for their own use and then bury their refuse, back when it was customary to bury your garbage in your backyard. But why? Why do some locations and some populations end up with most of the environmental problems and others reap most of the benefits? And what can we do about it? From economics to discrimination, this talk focuses on the various causes of environmental inequality and its effects, and on ways that these inequalities can be prevented. This webinar is presented by Maritza Jauregui, Ph.D. an Associate Professor of Sustainability at Stockton University in Galloway, NJ, where her research focuses on the social, economic and historical factors that produce environmental hazards in vulnerable communities and on sustainable solutions to promote resilience. More information and registration link are here: <https://ilove.ebpl.org/adults-teens/events/disparate-environmental-impacts-causes-and-solutions-environmental-injustice>.

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 is part 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: <https://ilove.ebpl.org/option-green>.

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**"The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind"**  
**Part of Option Green 2021: Climate Change & Community Virtual Film Festival**  
**View Tuesday, March 16, 2021, 12:15 a.m. to Wednesday, March 17, 2021, 11:45 p.m.**

This event is part of the "Resilient Communities: Libraries Respond to Climate Change" pilot program, (see information for the event listed above). This film is based on a true story about a 14-year-old boy in Malawi. A terrible drought hit his village, and inspired by a love of science, he researches in the local library ways he might save his village and sets out to build a wind turbine. This film is available



through Netflix. If you don't have an account, you can contact [programs@ebpl.org](mailto:programs@ebpl.org) for a unique link and assistance with access. To reserve your tickets, click here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/option-green-virtual-film-fesitval-the-boy-who-harnessed-the-wind-tickets-132441753851>. If you want to participate in a discussion after you watch, email [programs@ebpl.org](mailto:programs@ebpl.org) (you will need to download the "Discord" app and make a free Discord account to participate in the discussion).

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**Maya van Rossum Speaking on "The Green Amendment" via Zoom**  
**Sponsored by the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship**  
**Thursday, March 25, 2021, 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**  
**(also see 3/30/2021 event)**

**NJ Green Amendment: A New Tool for Environmental Protection & Justice**

Our current laws are designed to accomodate pollution, rather than prevent it. But NJ is leading the path to become one of the first states with a modern day Green Amendment. Join Maya van Rossum as she lays out a new agenda for environmental advocacy that can empower every American state to mobilize for constitutional change.

**Meeting ID: 985 5973 7654**  
**Passcode: 933972**

**Thursday, March 25**  
**7:30 PM**

The Morristown Unitarian Fellowship (MUF) is hosting a presentation on "The Green Amendment" by Green Amendments Founder and leader, Maya van Rossum.

Zoom information is as follows: Zoom link - <https://zoom.us/j/98559737654?pwd=VmpxTXpxMETTZTAxTXdyLoZxK2RmQTog>; Meeting ID - 985 5973 7654; Passcode - 933972.

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**"A Green Amendment in New Jersey?" - A Conversation with Maya Van Rossum**  
**Sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Somerset Hills**  
**Tuesday, March 30, 2021, 7:15 p.m. on Zoom**  
**(also see 3/25/2021 event)**

New Jersey legislators have proposed a constitutional Green Amendment that will recognize and protect the rights of all the people of the state, including future generations, to pure water, clean air, a stable climate and healthy environments. For decades, communities have relied on Federal and State laws to ensure protection of a clean environment. And for decades, while achieving some important successes in environmental protection, overall, the health of our environment for present and future

generations has continued to degrade. Currently, our laws are designed to accommodate pollution rather than to prevent it. But there is a solution for achieving better, and much needed, protection of our environment, and that is to turn to the ultimate authority—our State and Federal constitutions.

We all deserve the right to pure water, clean air, and a healthy environment. It's time to focus on how to truly secure that right for our own sake and that of future generations. What would a Green Amendment mean for the state of New Jersey? What can you do to help?

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Somerset Hills (UUCSH) is hosting a presentation by Maya K. van Rossum on Tuesday, March 30, 2021, at 7:15 p.m. on Zoom. Maya K. van Rossum is an award-winning Founder of "Green Amendments For the Generations," a grassroots non-profit organization inspiring a nationwide movement to secure constitutional recognition and protection of environmental rights in every state and ultimately at the federal level.

Registration and login information can be found on the UUCSH calendar - <https://uucsh.org/connect/calendar/>.

Questions can be directed to Nadine at [GreenSanctuary@UUCSH.org](mailto:GreenSanctuary@UUCSH.org).

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### **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 March 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 Climate Justice: A Case Study From Providence, Rhode Island" Thursday, March 4, 2021, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

This webinar is Part III of the "New Jersey Leading the Way on Climate Change Solutions Annual Conference Virtual Series." Join Leah Bamberger (Director of Sustainability) and Jazandra Baros, Jesus Holguin, and Monica Huertas (colleagues from the Racial and Environmental Justice Committee of Providence, Rhode Island) in a presentation and discussion regarding Providence's Climate Justice Action Plan. More details about the speakers and registration are here:

<https://climatesociety.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/icalrepeat.detail/2021/03/04/6337/-/webinar-advancing-climate-justice-a-case-study-from-providence-rhode-island>

#### **"EPA Environmental Justice and Systemic Racism Speaker Series: Features the Mapping Inequality Project" Thursday, March 4, 2021, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

This is the first in the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) "EJ and Systemic Racism Speaker Series," sponsored by EPA Office of Environmental Justice, which will illustrate how addressing systemic racism is highly relevant to the missions of EPA and other environmental agencies. The series will begin with a set of five sessions that examines the relationship of redlining and current environmental disparities. This webinar features "The Mapping Inequality Project,"



which "created a foundational resource for unprecedented research, education, organizing, and policy advocacy on redlining and current environmental challenges. It provides publicly accessible digitized versions of redlining maps for about 200 cities. This has already generated an explosion of trailblazing work in the area of environmental justice (EJ) and systemic racism. Two of its founders (Robert Nelson, University of Richmond and LaDale Winling, Virginia Tech.) will discuss the genesis, philosophy, methodology, and impact of this game changing project." More information is here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-mapping-inequality-project-tickets-136940963107>

[Note: this is NOT the same as EPA's "EJSCREEN: Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool," available here: <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>]

**"Scrubbing the Skies: Carbon Dioxide Removal Approaches and their Potential Role in Addressing Climate Change"**

**Friday, March 5, 2021, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

This webinar will be presented by Dr. Wil Burns, Co-Executive Director, Institute for Carbon Removal Law and Policy, American University and Visiting Professor, Environmental Policy and Culture program, Northwestern University. "In the ensuing years after the entry into force of the Paris Agreement, it has become increasingly obvious that achievement of its temperature objectives will require both aggressive emission reductions initiatives and largescale deployment of carbon dioxide removal/negative emissions technologies, sometimes also referred to as a major sub-category of climate geoengineering... These options include afforestation/reforestation, bioenergy with carbon capture and storage, enhanced mineral weathering, biochar, and ocean-based approaches, such as ocean iron fertilization. This presentation will discuss the potential benefits and risks presented by an array of carbon dioxide removal geoengineering approaches. It will also include a discussion of governance efforts to date by international treaty regimes, and other potentially pertinent regimes such as the UNFCCC/Paris Agreement and the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea, as well as the role of domestic law." Details and the link to join are here:

[https://rei.rutgers.edu/images//EPSS\\_SPRING\\_2021/2021-03-05\\_EPSS\\_Wil-Burns.pdf](https://rei.rutgers.edu/images//EPSS_SPRING_2021/2021-03-05_EPSS_Wil-Burns.pdf)

**"What Makes Climate Change Colonial?"**

**Part of the Global Studies Spring 2021 Webinar Series**

**Thursday, March 11, 2021, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

This webinar will highlight geographical perspectives on climate justice that take contemporary climate inequities to be functions of historical and ongoing systems of oppression, exploitation, and marginalization. The panel draws on field experiences in several countries including Ecuador, Mexico, Jamaica, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Guyana, and the United States to consider how enacting climate justice is necessarily anticolonial and entails struggles over whose knowledge counts. Speakers include: Tracey Osborne, UC Merced; Kevon Rhiney, Rutgers University; and Kimberley Thomas, Temple University. Registration is here:

[https://temple.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_X1eJTolaRcmz6hir35bBag](https://temple.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_X1eJTolaRcmz6hir35bBag)

**"Who Owns Wind and Sunlight? Property on the Renewable Resources Frontier"**

**Friday, 26 March 2021, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

David McDermott Hughes, professor of Anthropology at Rutgers, is presenting this webinar sponsored by the Rutgers Energy Institute. "Institutions formed around dense, compact energy may not suit the dispersed vastness of sunlight and its immediate derivatives. In Spain, for instance, private landowners and corporations have recently appropriated wind, provoking rural protest

powerful enough to slow the energy transition. In the US, the problem lies in cities, where owners of roofs and parking lots waste photons by the terawatt. Both cases present the same dilemma: how shall capitalist societies avail of renewables in a fashion that is both efficient and fair? At the necessary speed, how can we achieve environmental sustainability and energy democracy? In the presentation, I will suggest different solutions for different resources, ranging from a commons of wind to urban homesteading for sunlight. Writ-large, these policies converge on one social goal: to enfranchise people long excluded from control over energy resources and infrastructure. To depart from hydrocarbons is also – one might hope – to escape their politics." Details and the link to join are here: [https://rei.rutgers.edu/images//EPSS SPRING 2021/2021-03-26 EPSS David-Hughes.pdf](https://rei.rutgers.edu/images//EPSS%20SPRING%202021/2021-03-26%20EPSS%20David-Hughes.pdf)

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**Cornell University - Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability - Virtual  
Climate Change Seminar Series  
Multiple dates Mondays, 2:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

This university-wide seminar series provides important views on the critical issue of climate change, drawing from many perspectives and disciplines. Experts from Cornell University and beyond present an overview of the science of climate change and climate change models, the implications for agriculture, ecosystems, and food systems, and provide important economic, ethical, and policy insights on the issue. The seminar series is being organized and sponsored by the Department of Biological and Environmental Engineering and the Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability. Seminars are available as Zoom Webinars; information and the link is here: <https://www.atkinson.cornell.edu/events/ClimateChangeSem.php>. A sampling of seminars for March 2021 is listed below.

**March 15, 2021: "The Role of Social Capital in Community Resilience to Climate Change"**

Shorna Broussard Allred (Natural Resources and Environment, Cornell University) - A conservation social scientist, her research examines conservation behavior, community resilience, and environmental justice. She also holds an appointment with the Southeast Asia Program and is a Visiting Professor at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak.

**March 22, 2021: "Racial Justice and the Impacts of Climate Change Through the Lens of Media Literacy"**

Cyndy Scheibe (Ithaca College) - "How can we understand two of the most critical issues of our time - racial justice and climate change, and the connections between them - during an "infodemic" of misinformation, disinformation and news spin? Media literacy provides a powerful context for deep conversations about the messages we see, hear and read. Focusing on the impacts and protests related to Black Lives Matter and climate change, we'll use constructivist media decoding to collectively explore how we know what we know and how our own biases influence the ways in which we seek out, interpret and share information about the issues that matter most in our lives."

**March 29, 2021: "Transitioning to a Resilient Low-carbon Economy: How Addressing Climate Change is Being Integrated Into Core Business and Investing in the Private Sector"**

Maryam Golnaraghi (The Geneva Association) - "Despite over two and a half decades of coordinated international negotiations on climate change, only recently has the focus of the climate change debate moved from being mainly a scientific, environmental and social responsibility issue to one of the core drivers of socio-economic development and risk management. There is now widespread global recognition of climate change science and the associated socio-economic impacts as set out by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). To reach climate change goals as set by the Paris Agreement (United Nations 2015), and pivot away from fossil fuel dependence, policy advisors are outlining the need for dramatic changes in business models in different economic sectors and profound changes needed in everyday life impacting core and essential sectors of the world economy."

**SAVE the DATES**

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



**Register Now! - Registration is open through March 18, 2021.**

Are you passionate about food justice, global justice and climate justice? The theme for the 2021 UUA Office at the UN's Virtual Intergenerational Seminar, "All In for Climate Justice: Food Equity and Sustainability," builds off of last year's climate justice theme to focus on the connections between food and climate justice. This dynamic event will take place all online Friday, April 9, 2021 to Sunday, April 11, 2021. Programs will ground, connect, and equip participants to take action toward achieving climate justice through more equitable and sustainable food systems. Registration is open through March 18, 2021. To learn more about the seminar and fee tiers, and to register, go to <https://www.uua.org/international-justice/un/spring-seminar>.

The Intergenerational Spring Seminar aims to instill in Unitarian Universalist youth and adults a commitment to global engagement and the skills to take action locally to address global issues. The 2021 virtual Seminar is proudly co-hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth. The intergenerational seminar is an opportunity to collaborate with others while learning how to be a global activist. Through workshops, peer- and expert-led panel discussions, community building activities, and worship services, you will undergo a transformative process of learning, reflection, and growth while exploring some of the most challenging issues facing humanity today.

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### **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:  
<https://www.nj.gov/bpu/about/contact/subscribe.html>.

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## ***VIDEOS OF PAST CONFERENCES AND WEBINARS***

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### **Video of Town Hall on Tennessee Gas Pipeline (TGP) Compressor Expansion**

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 was held February 4, 2021 that described environmental devastation that residents in the vicinity will suffer if this project is approved, and how to prevent it from happening. The video of the town hall session is here:

<https://www.facebook.com/EmpowerNJNoFossilFuel/videos/337907390792199/>. You can also take immediate action by sending an email to Gov. Murphy by clicking on this link: <http://fwwat.ch/TGP>.

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### **NJ Department of Environmental Protection EJ Rulemaking Stakeholder Meeting "Geographic Points of Comparison, and Facility and Permit Definitions" Videos of Webinars**

The second in a series of stakeholder meetings held by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on the new EJ cumulative impacts law took place January 20, 2021 in two parts. The subject of the webinars was "Geographic Points of Comparison, and Facility and Permit Definitions." The first webinar was for "Business, Industry, Trade & Builders Organizations" - that video is available here: <https://youtu.be/hgomXBR9IB0>. The second webinar was for "Environmental Justice, Environmental, Community, and Related Stakeholders" - that video is available here: <https://youtu.be/pcXr14RpXMo>. Additional information on the EJ law is available here: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/ej/policy.html>.

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**NJ Department of Environmental Protection**  
**"EJ Overburdened Communities Webinar for Mayors & Municipal Government Staff"**  
**Video of Webinar**

This webinar was presented by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to provide background and information to mayors and municipal government staff about the new EJ cumulative impacts law, with emphasis on the "overburdened communities" portion of the law, and to respond to their questions. The webinar described the definitions, data and tools related to overburdened communities that DEP has developed. The video is here: <https://youtu.be/Ue2AWKdog4U>. Additional information related to overburdened communities, including links to the tools and data described in the webinar, is here: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/ej/communities.html>.

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**"Strategies for System Change - and Tackling Wicked Problems" Video of Webinar**

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," introduced a toolbox of strategies for tackling wicked sustainability problems, presenting case studies that illustrate several of these tools, along with panelists. He also discussed the challenges and opportunities of being a systems change agent, and identified resources professionals can use to build their capacities as change agents. The video is here: <https://ssfworld.org/strategies-for-system-change-and-tackling-wicked-problems/>

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**New Jersey Leading the Way on Climate Change Solutions Part III of the New Jersey Climate Change Alliance Virtual Conference Videos of Webinars**

Part III of this virtual conference took place in a number of webinars: videos of four of them are below; a fifth, to take place on March 4, 2021, is described in the "Events" section on p. 8. Check <https://njadapt.rutgers.edu/new-jersey-leading-the-way-on-climate-change-solutions-annual-conference-virtual-series-part-iii> for videos as they become available.

**"What's on the Horizon for Implementing NJ's Climate Agenda?" Video of Webinar**

On January 22, 2021, NJ Governor Phil Murphy and NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Acting Commissioner Shawn LaTourette provided the latest updates on how NJ plans to implement ambitious climate mitigation and climate resilience strategies. The video is here: [https://youtu.be/KwIqIpRg\\_3E](https://youtu.be/KwIqIpRg_3E).



## **"The Business of Climate Action: A Conversation with Lisa Jackson" **Video of Webinar****

On January 28, 2021, the New Jersey Climate Change Alliance continued with its virtual series in lieu of an in-person conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This event featured Lisa Jackson, Apple's VP for Environment, Policy and Social Initiatives in a conversation on "The Business of Climate Action." Ms. Jackson was joined by Mark Mauriello, Director of Environmental Affairs and Planning, Edgewood Properties and a former Commissioner of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). As a former EPA Administrator and DEP Commissioner, Ms. Jackson reflected on government leadership and the opportunities for intersection with business as well as communities. The video is here: <https://youtu.be/tLKjhHAvrs>.

## **"Advancing Health Equity in the Era of the Climate Crisis" **Video of Webinar****

On February 4, 2021, Surili Patel, the Director at the Center for Climate and Health Equity at the American Public Health Association, and additional speakers provided an overview of climate change impacts on health in NJ, health equity in the era of the climate crisis, and the NJ Climate Change Alliance's efforts to advance climate change and health equity. The video is here: [https://youtu.be/PjTQ\\_3zVdo4](https://youtu.be/PjTQ_3zVdo4).

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## **"How Parks Can Make Communities More Sustainable and Resilient" **Video of Webinar****

Parks and recreation systems have evolved over the past two decades from being just playgrounds and ballfields, to becoming recognized as essential green infrastructure with the potential to contribute to community resiliency and sustainability. To capitalize on this potential, the parks and recreation system planning process must evolve as well. In his book, "Parks and Recreation System Planning," landscape architect David Barth provides a new, step-by-step approach to creating parks systems that generate greater economic, social, and environmental benefits. The Security and Sustainability Forum and Island Press presented this webinar describing how to work within a community to use parks to increase sustainability and generate multiple community co-benefits. The video is here: <https://vimeo.com/505859091>.

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## **2020 Jersey Water Works Conference **Videos of Conference****

The sixth annual Jersey Water Works Conference was a multi-day virtual event that brought together state and local decision-makers, practitioners and stakeholders, providing a forum for exploring new ways to achieve "smart infrastructure, strong communities" and celebrating accomplishments and commitments to action. Questions considered at the conference included: How can we shift our water infrastructure policies and practices to ensure adequate investment so that utilities and the communities they serve are resilient? How can we ensure that everyone has access to reliable service? Summaries and videos are available here: <https://www.jerseywaterworks.org/events-2/2020-jersey-water-works-conference/>.

## **"The Business Case for Ambitious, Bipartisan Climate Action" Video of Webinar**

The Center for Climate and Energy Solutions' (C2ES) Climate Innovation 2050 initiative brings together companies from key sectors to examine challenges and solutions in decarbonizing the U.S. economy. Drawing on these discussions, C2ES has recommendations that identify top priorities to drive climate innovation, reduce emissions, strengthen climate resilience, remedy inequities, and support the post-pandemic economic recovery. In this C2ES webinar, senior executives from Bank of America, LafargeHolcim, and PSEG outlined the steps their companies are taking and why they also support ambitious, bipartisan climate action. The video is here: <https://youtu.be/PTIxbKGjCdI>.

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## **"Energy Efficiency Program Evaluation" Video of Webinar**

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 addressed 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 was 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. The video is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0oPeP5Nor3o>

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## **"Rights of Nature 101: January 2021" Video of Webinar**

Thomas Linzey, Senior Legal Counsel for the Center for Democratic and Environmental Rights (CDER), focuses on the concept of legally enforceable Rights of Nature (i.e., "recognizing human civil rights-type protection for nature"), and traces the development of Rights of Nature laws and court decisions around the world. This webinar is for groups in the U.S. interested in learning about the Rights of Nature movement, and how to implement it in their own town or city. The video is here: <https://www.centerforenvironmentalrights.org/blog-2/rights-of-nature-101-january-2021>.

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## ***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 16 and 17.

### **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 article on page 9.

### **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 talks on pages 7 and 8.)

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## ***NEWS RELATED TO EJTF ISSUES***

### **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

- **NJ to Spend \$100M on Green Energy, Environmental Justice** - In a move that combines goals of reducing pollution in environmental justice communities and addressing climate change, Gov. Murphy announced spending \$100 million in Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and Volkswagen Mitigation Trust Funds money on a number of projects (see article under "Electric Vehicles" on p. 17). He also announced establishing a new Office of Climate Action and the Green Economy to oversee the clean energy transition and climate change mitigation strategies while prioritizing economic and environmental justice. It will be tasked with creating a NJ Council on the Green Economy, which will address generating good jobs within NJ (see article on p. 20). <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/02/nj-clean-energy-environmental-justice-electric-vehicles-murphy-100m/>
- **Ironbound Activists Balk at Wastewater Energy Facility** - With the hard-fought NJ Cumulative Impacts Environmental Justice law signed this past September, activists say they're seeing companies rush to establish pollution-driving facilities in the Doremus Avenue section of the Ironbound in Newark, a highly-sought-after industrial location for its access to highways, New York City and major waterways. Maria Lopez-Nuñez, Deputy Director of Organizing and Advocacy for the Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC), said though the passage of the state law was a win for overburdened communities like hers, the rule-making process leaves many months for would-be

polluters to take up residence in places where residents have long suffered the byproducts of industry. <https://www.tapinto.net/towns/newark/sections/east-ward/articles/ironbound-activists-balk-at-wastewater-energy-facility>

- **EPA Updates EJSCREEN, Community EJ Mapping Tool** - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) just issued an update to its "EJSCREEN" environmental justice screening and mapping tool (available here: <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>). In addition to updating some of the environmental and demographic data, climate change indicators such as flood and sea level rise data have been added, as well as risk screening indicators. <https://www.fedcenter.gov/Bookmarks/index.cfm?id=36491>

## ELECTRIC VEHICLES

- **Governor Murphy Announces \$100 Million Investment in Clean Transportation Projects** - Using proceeds from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and the Volkswagen Mitigation Trust Funds, Governor Murphy announced using \$100 million for electrification programs, equitable mobility projects, and electric charging infrastructure to environmental justice communities. A list and map showing the projects (other than the charging stations) is available here: <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/vw/project.html>. A list and map of the charging stations is available here: <https://www.drivegreen.nj.gov/plugin.html>. The projects include funds for electric trucks and buses, and electrifying port, cargo handling, and other equipment that currently produces diesel and black carbon emissions in environmental justice communities. <https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/governor-murphy-announces-100-million-investment-clean-transportation-projects/>
- **NJ Earns Kudos for Efforts to Electrify Transportation Sector** - NJ was ranked 4th in the nation in the Plug in America report "Top 25 States Supporting the EV Driver" (<https://pluginamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/25-States-Supporting-the-EV-Driver.pdf>). It states "with the passage of Senate Bill 2252, the state jumped to the head of the class. New Jersey now provides both a rebate and a sales tax exemption for EVs, and allows EVs to use the HOV lanes on the New Jersey Turnpike. It provides grants for EV charging stations, including DCFC, and has a statewide program to train auto dealerships in selling EVs." A report from the American Council on an Energy Efficient Economy, "The State Transportation Electrification Scorecard" ([https://www.aceee.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/2021-ev-scorecard-executivesummary\\_2-1-21.pdf](https://www.aceee.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/2021-ev-scorecard-executivesummary_2-1-21.pdf)) ranks NJ tenth. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/02/zero-emission-vehicles-nj-electric-vehicles-10th-place-ranking-earns-fourth-slot-reports-analyses/>
- **State Agency Gives ACE Green Light on Charging Infrastructure for Electric Vehicles** - The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) approved Atlantic City Electric's proposal to spend \$20.7 million to build out the infrastructure for charging electric vehicles in its territory (see related article below). The program will include incentives and rebates to cover part of the costs of installing charging equipment in residential homes, in public charging stations, at multifamily buildings and at workplaces. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/02/atlantic-city-electric-21m-electric-vehicle-charging-infrastructure-bpu-ev>
- **PSE&G Gets Green Light to Spend \$166M on Charging Infrastructure for Electric Vehicles** - The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) approved a portion of the Public Service Electric & Gas (PSE&G) company's proposal that had included \$261 million in spending for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and \$109 million for energy storage development (see related article above). The BPU approved \$166.2 million at this time, and deferred action on the rest of the vehicle electrification aspect (that would have addressed medium- and heavy-duty trucks) and the energy storage portion. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/01/pseg-electric-vehicles-166m-charging-infrastructure-bpu-approval/>

- **"100%" = New PSEG Target for Converting Its Passenger Vehicles to Electric or Hybrid by 2030** - The Public Service Enterprise Group, Inc. (PSEG) Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) report issued in January 2021 (available here: <https://nj.pseg.com/-/media/PSEG/Corporate/Documents/newsroom/2020/ESG-Performance-Report-Jan2021>) includes a goal of converting 100% of its passenger vehicles to battery electric vehicles or plug-in hybrids by 2030, and also converting 62% of its medium-duty vehicles and 90% of heavy-duty vehicles by then. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/01/100/>
- **How to Ensure Electric Cars Aren't Just for Rich People** - This article gives a national perspective on what's being done to promote electric vehicles, and also points out that electric car ownership is only one piece of building a cleaner, more equitable transportation system that works for communities. <https://grist.org/justice/making-electric-cars-more-equitable/>

## FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Fracking Banned in 13,000 Acres of the Delaware River Basin** - The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) voted on February 25, 2021 to ban fracking on 13,539 square miles of land surrounding the Delaware River. This is a great victory for environmental groups that have long fought for such a ban. "Today's ban on fracking in the Delaware River basin is a huge deal, and a testament to the persistence and dedication of grassroots activists in a battle that has lasted over a decade," said Eric Benson, NJ Campaigns Director, Clean Water Action. The DRBC also withdrew its proposed regulations regarding exportation of water for fracking elsewhere, and the importation of fracking wastewater, and voted to issue new regulations for public comment by September of this year. <https://enviropolitics.com/fracking-banned-on-13000-acres-in-the-delaware-river-basin/>
- **Essex County Activists Rally At Pipeline Station, Appeal To Biden** - In solidarity with the national "Build Back Fossil Free" day of action, the Roseland Against the Compressor Station group held a rally and vigil outside the Williams/Transco natural gas compressor station in Roseland, NJ. The major focus of the day of action was to urge President Biden to integrate strong action on the climate crisis into the "first 100 days" plan. <https://patch.com/new-jersey/caldwells/essex-county-activists-rally-pipeline-station-appeal-biden>
- **Protecting Health and Water Are Top Concerns Surrounding Gas Compressor and Pipeline Projects** - This article summarizes issues highlighted at a virtual town hall led by EmpowerNJ on the Tennessee Gas Pipeline (TGP) expansion of a fracked gas compressor station in Wantage and the construction of a new compressor station in West Milford. (The video of the meeting is available here: <https://www.facebook.com/EmpowerNJNoFossilFuel/videos/337907390792199/>.) Experiences were shared by people living near compressor stations, and ideas were shared for how residents can get involved as the approval process moves ahead. <http://www.westmilfordmessenger.com/news/local-news/protecting-health-and-water-are-top-concerns-surrounding-gas-compressor-and-pipeline-projects-DD1511757>
- **New Jersey Natural Gas' Proposed Pipeline** - This article describes the history and status of the proposed NJ Natural Gas pipeline, and the opposition actions taken by the Pinelands Preservation Alliance. The "Southern Reliability Link" (SRL) 30-inch natural gas pipeline would cut through the Preservation Area of the Pinelands and expose the aquifer and people to risks. Information is also provided about how you can help. <https://pinelandsalliance.org/new-jersey-natural-gas/>



- **LNG Rail Tank Cars: The Few and the Unknown** - New questions have emerged about the availability, safety and risks associated with the specialized rail cars that would be the backbone of a plan to transport liquified natural gas (LNG) by rail from Wyalusing, PA., to the Gibbstown, NJ proposed LNG export terminal. The issues are described in this article; among them is the fact that the tankers specifically authorized to transport LNG, which would feature a thicker outer shell, do not now exist. <https://delawarecurrents.org/2021/02/12/lng-rail-tank-cars-the-few-and-the-unknown/>



- **Move to Allow Oil Drilling off the Jersey Shore Would Stop Under Biden Climate Change Plan** - An Executive Order signed by President Biden calls for a pause on new oil and gas leasing on federal lands and offshore water "to the extent possible" and a review of existing leasing and permitting practices "related to fossil fuel development" on the properties. Such action would reverse the direction of the previous administration, which had proposed opening the Atlantic coast to oil drilling. <https://www.nj.com/politics/2021/01/move-to-allow-oil-drilling-off-the-jersey-shore-would-stop-under-biden-climate-change-plan.html>

## LEAD REDUCTION IN HOUSEHOLDS

- **NJ Bill Would Require Replacement of All Lead Service Lines** - A bill (S3398/A5343) has been introduced in the NJ legislature that "would require each public water system (PWS) in the State to develop a service line inventory and a replacement plan for lead service lines that provides for the replacement of all lead service lines within 20 years, and would authorize an investor-owned PWS to recoup the costs of lead service line replacements by increasing the rates it charges to its customers." <https://enviropolitics.com/nj-bill-would-require-replacement-of-all-lead-service-lines/>
- **Op-Ed: Workable Solutions to the Replacement of Lead Service Lines in NJ** (by Chris Daggett, chair of the Jersey Water Works Lead in Drinking Water Task Force) - The author advocates two approaches for funding of lead service line replacement: water rate charges, and county bonding. Each of these would require a change to the existing prohibition on use of public funds to improve private property (i.e., lead service lines that are jointly owned by the water utility and the property owner). <https://www.njspolight.com/2021/02/op-ed-workable-solutions-lead-service-lines-water-replacement-newark-success-health-problems-poision-children-irreversible-damage/>

## RENEWABLE RESOURCES

- **Governor Murphy Celebrates Completion of First Community Solar Project Energized in New Jersey** - The first of the projects under Year 1 of the Community Solar Energy Pilot Program was completed in Perth Amboy, NJ. The Pilot Program requires a focus on low- and moderate-income (LMI) communities, and all of the Year 1 projects will dedicate at least 51% of their capacity to these communities. <https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/governor-murphy-celebrates-completion-first-community-solar-project-energized-new-jersey/>
- **Pascrell, Rice Lead NJ, NY Members Demanding Federal Action on Offshore Wind Energy** - It has been 2 years since the last offshore wind lease auction held by the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and final Wind Energy Areas need to be issued by BOEM. A bipartisan group of representatives from NY and NJ have sent BOEM a letter requesting that it proceed on both as quickly as possible. <https://enviropolitics.com/pascrell-rice-lead-nj-ny-members-demanding-federal-action-on-offshore-wind-development/>
- **Ocean City Council Goes Full NIMBY on Wind Project: Members Believe Ørsted Offshore Farm Would Harm Resort's Tourism** - Although the Ocean City government doesn't have a role in approving the offshore wind farm, the Ocean City Council would need to approve an ordinance allowing Ørsted to bury transmission cables from the wind farm to the shore, planned to be buried in a public right-of-way. The Council members expressed concern that tourism would be harmed, and that jobs would not be taken by locals. A local group "Go Green and Unseen" (<https://www.gogreenandunseennj.com/home>) has also been formed that advocates for the wind farm to be moved from the current location of 15 miles offshore to 35 miles offshore. <https://ocnjsentinel.com/2020/12/09/ocean-city-council-goes-full-nimby-on-wind-project/>

## CLIMATE CHANGE

- **New NJ Office for Climate Action Created by Murphy** - Gov. Murphy signed Executive Order No. 221, which creates a NJ "Office for Climate Action and the Green Economy." The office is to streamline climate initiatives among state agencies and lead NJ's interaction with federal agencies on climate issues. It will also include a Council on the Green Economy, which will be chaired by the heads of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), NJ Department of Labor (DOL), and the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU), with representatives from industry groups, environmentalists and academics among the council members. <https://www.nj.com/news/2021/02/new-nj-office-for-climate-action-created-by-murphy.html>
- **Municipalities Must Now Make Climate Change Part of Master-Plan Updates** - A new law (A2785/S2607) signed by Gov. Murphy requires that the land use plan element of municipal master plans include a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment. Some municipalities are calling it an unfunded mandate, which would be unconstitutional in NJ. The law also provides that the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) provide technical assistance if requested. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/02/nj-climate-change-global-warming-municipalities-planning-rising-seas/>

- **Murphy Calls On Feds To Address Severe Beach Erosion in Ocean Co.** - Even though the nor'easter that hit NJ in early February wasn't a major storm, it still showed the effects of climate change by carving away dropoffs of more than 12 feet along the NJ coast. Gov. Murphy has asked for Federal help to address the resulting severe erosion. <https://patch.com/new-jersey/tomsriver/murphy-calls-feds-address-severe-beach-erosion-ocean-co>



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

- **Company Kept Details on New 'Forever Chemicals' Hidden for Years, Advocacy Group Tells EPA** - The nonprofit Environmental Working Group filed a "Request for Enforcement" with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), asking that they fine Solvay Specialty Polymers of Gloucester County close to \$435 million for failing to submit key health studies (required by Federal law) within a timely manner. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/01/nj-south-jersey-chemical-solvay-west-deptford-paulsboro-gloucester-county-ewg-epa-petition-forever-chemicals-alleges-failed-report-hid-human-health-risks/>

## OTHER

- **NJ Budget 2022: Murphy Says NJ Will Spend Big** - Despite a plea from environmentalists and other advocacy groups (see article below), Gov. Murphy's budget plan again includes \$82 million to be raided from the state's Clean Energy Fund to help support spending by New Jersey Transit. In addition, the budget calls for NJ Transit to continue to use millions of dollars in capital resources to help fund its operating budget, as well as using funding from other sources. No new dedicated source of funding for NJ Transit was included. Funds were included in the budget plan for the Offshore Wind Port and for continuation of the Drinking Water and Clean Water Infrastructure Fund. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/02/nj-budget-2022-gov-phil-murphy-public-pension-contribution-schools-tax-relief-health-care-election-year/>
- **NJ Budget 2022: Competing Demands as Gov. Murphy About to Unveil Spending Plan** - In advance of Gov. Murphy's 2022 budget announcement (see article above), a coalition of 65 community, church, environmental, labor and transit advocates called on him to honor previous promises to stop raiding the Clean Energy Fund to balance the budget, and to establish a dedicated source of revenue for NJ Transit. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/02/nj-budget-2021-gov-phil-murphy-spending-plan-tuesday-demands-more-aid-public-education-nj-transit-clean-energy-undocumented-immigrants-small-businesses-property-tax/>

- **Latest Tussle Over \$300M Nuclear Subsidies Rests on Financial Viability of the Units -** The discussion of three years ago about whether or not the PSEG nuclear plants should receive subsidies is continuing. PSEG has asked that the subsidies be extended for another 3 years, but there is disagreement whether or not they are needed in order to keep the plants operating. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/02/nj-nuclear-subsidies-ratepayers-300-million-pseg-wants-continued-stefanie-brand-critics-say-unnecessary/>
- **\$3M to be Invested in New Jersey's Offshore Wind Workforce Development -** The NJ Board of Public Utilities' (BPU) "New Jersey's Clean Energy Program" will provide funding for a grant of up to \$3 million to a NJ-based academic institution or other training provider (including labor unions) to establish a Global Wind Organization (GWO) accredited Basic Safety and Sea Survival Training program and facility in NJ. Many wind turbine companies require workers to obtain certifications by completing such training, and to achieve NJ's wind energy target, it is estimated that at least 1,825 workers will need to complete the training. <https://enviropolitics.com/3m-to-be-invested-in-new-jerseys-offshore-wind-workforce-development/>
- **Incinerators Win Renewable Energy Subsidies Despite Violations in New Jersey - New Jersey Environmental Justice Groups Want the Program Shut Down -** In April 2020, the Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC) had requested that the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) "take immediate action to stop the purchase and sale of Renewable Energy Certificates ("RECs") from New Jersey waste incinerators in violation of their Clean Air Act permits or other Federal or State environmental permits (copy of the letter is here: <https://www.politico.com/states/f/?id=00000177-688d-de2d-a57f-7aado30a0000>). NJ is one of 23 states that include incinerators - which tend to be located near lower-income communities - in their renewable energy portfolio standards. After receiving the April letter, the DEP and the BPU entered into an agreement under which the DEP would notify the BPU if incinerators were out of compliance with state law, and any such facilities would be prohibited from selling renewable energy credits. <https://enviropolitics.com/incinerators-win-renewable-energy-subsidies-despite-nj-violations/>
- **Op-Ed: Reexamining the State Pension's Fossil-Fuel Investment Strategy** (by Greg Gorman, Conservation Chair, Skylands Group, NJ Sierra Club Chapter) - The author describes recent value losses in fossil fuel investments by the NJ pension fund, points out what other states have done, and notes the bills recently introduced in NJ legislature (S330/A2196) requiring that the fund divest from 200 fossil fuel companies. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/01/op-ed-nj-state-pension-investments-fossil-fuels-disastrous-divestment-argument-sen-bob-smith-assemblyman-john-mckeeon/>

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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

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### **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.**