



Environmental Justice Task Force Newsletter

April 2021

[covering 2/26/2021 – 3/26/2021] <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.

Remember, EARTH DAY is April 22, 2021! See events on pages 2 and 3.



DEP Cumulative Impacts EJ Bill Rulemaking Stakeholder Meeting for EJ/Environmental/Community Organizations "Compelling Public Need & Renewal Conditions" Wednesday, April 7, 2021, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Implementation of the NJ EJ Cumulative Impacts Bill is a key focus of the environmental justice community. The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is holding a Rulemaking Stakeholder Meeting on "Compelling Public Need & Renewal Conditions" on April 7, 2021. **RSVP here (registration will close on Monday, April 5, 2021):**

<https://www.njdepcalendar.com/calendar/events/index.php?com=detail&eID=675>.

All meeting recordings and presentations will continue to be posted here:

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

→ GREAT OPPORTUNITY!! ←

David Pringle, legislative strategist for Clean Water Action with over 30 years of experience advocating on environmental issues with the NJ Legislature, will join the EJTF monthly Zoom meeting on Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.*

* See <https://www.uufaithaction.org/event/ejtf-2021-04-01/> for contact information for the meeting.

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, 14 and 15.

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 15 and 16.

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 article on page 16. **Note: To be considered for a vote in this year's General Election, the deadline for the legislature to act on the Green Amendment is before August 2, 2021. You can easily send a message to your state legislators here: <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/protect-environmental-rights-for-the-people-of-new-jersey>.**

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!]

Earth Day Week - Three Days of Climate Action April 20, 21, and 22, 2021, various times - **Virtual**

Among other Earth Day celebrations, there will be three separate parallel virtual climate action summits co-organized by EarthDay.org on April 20 and 21 ahead of the Biden Administration's global leaders' climate summit. The parallel summits will focus on climate literacy, environmental justice, and a broad range of youth-led climate-focused issues. On Earth Day, April 22, 2021, global activists, international leaders, and influencers will come together for the second-annual multi-hour Earth Day Live. Additional information is available here: <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2021/>

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 April webinars:

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>

"Spring for Change"

Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth (UUMFE) - Virtual
A series of activities and webinars - April activities are shown below

More information is available here: <https://www.uumfe.org/resources/spring-for-change-2021/>. Note: some activities require advance registration.

March 20-May 7 – Write Here! Write Now! – Letter-writing U.S. Congressional Advocacy Campaign – UU Ministry for Earth (UUMFE), Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ) and UUs for Just Economic Community (UUJEC) are partnering for a letter-writing advocacy campaign that will culminate in virtual meetings with U.S. Capitol Hill staffers during the weeks of April 26-30, 2021.

April – UU Project Drawdown Initiative's 2021 EcoChallenge – UUs are collectively lowering carbon footprints through a variety of advocacy and engagement that aligns with UU programs and strategies to Create Climate Justice AND Project Drawdown / Drawdown Review. "It's Game ON – NOT Game OVER!"

April 9-11 – Intergenerational VIRTUAL Spring Seminar "All in for Climate Justice: Food Equity and Sustainability" hosted by the UU Office at the United Nations in partnership with UU Ministry for Earth.

April 16-25 – PowerShift Network Youth Climate Convergence – UU Young Adults for Climate Justice cohort at the convergence!

April 18 or 25 – Earth Sunday – UUMFE is creating a full, pre-recorded Earth Sunday worship service that will be available for use (in whole or in part) by congregations. All resources will be published by April 8, 2021, 11:59 p.m.

April 22 – BIPOC Caucus on Climate Justice: Session 3 – 8:00 p.m.

**"Systemic Racism: Environmental Justice, Race and Class"
Monday, April 12, 2021, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. - Virtual**

Social Justice Matters of Scotch Plains invites you to join them for the next program in their Systemic Racism series: Environmental Justice, Race, and Class. COVID-19 has affected Black communities and communities of color disproportionately. Environmental factors like toxic dumping, proximity to power plants and factories, and higher exposures to emissions have a lot to do with health outcomes and the reality of environmental racism in New Jersey and nationwide. Melissa Miles, Executive Director of the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance, and **EJTF member Nancy Griffeth**, member of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Environmental Justice Advisory Council, will speak about their work and advocacy efforts and answer questions. They will provide updates on issues close to home and describe ways you can get involved and make a difference. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/systemic-racism-environmental-justice-race-and-class-registration-147684224491>.

**Clean Water Action's 35th Annual Conference
Saturday, April 17, 2021, 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
and multiple evening workshops through May 4, 2021 - Via Zoom**



Clean Water Action's 35th annual conference, "Upholding Democracy and a Healthy Environment," will focus on uplifting the people-power of our democracy to protect our health and environment. A healthy democracy of, by, and for the people is necessary for a healthy environment. This has always been at the core of Clean Water Action's work. Additional information and registration (free, with a suggested donation) are here: <https://cleanwateraction.org/conference2021>.

Keynote: Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman - Saturday, April 17, 2021, 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Evening Workshops (7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.):

"Zero Waste & Democracy" - Monday, April 19, 2021

Moderator: Maura Toomey, NJ Zero Waste Organizer, Clean Water Action

"A Healthy Environment is a Human Right" - Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Moderator: Kim Gaddy, Environmental Justice Director, Clean Water Action

Speaker: Maya K. van Rossum, Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of Delaware Riverkeeper Network

"We All Live Downstream" - Monday, April 26, 2021

Moderator: Amy Goldsmith, NJ State Director, Clean Water Action

Speaker: Fred Stine, Citizen Action Coordinator, Delaware Riverkeeper Network

"Punching Above Our Weight: How NJ and Other States Are Winning Climate Victories" - Wednesday, April 28, 2021

"World Asthma Day Town Hall" - Tuesday, May 4, 2021, 7:00 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. EST

Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) Water Quality Advisory Committee
Thursday, April 15, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - Via Zoom

This meeting will be held via Zoom; information on joining the meeting is here:
<https://nj.gov/drbc/meetings/advisory/>.

NJ Clean Air Council Monthly Meeting - Virtual
Wednesday, April 21, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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

"The Path to Net-Zero" Webinar
Wednesday, April 7, 2021, 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

The Princeton G. S. Beckwith Gilbert '63 Lecture Series will present "The Path to Net-Zero" featuring William Bohnett, chair of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center and a member of Princeton's Class of 1970, in discussion with Chris Greig, a senior research scientist in Princeton's Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment and co-author of the recent Princeton Net-Zero America study (available here: <https://environmenthalfcentury.princeton.edu/research/2020/big-affordable-effort-needed-america-reach-net-zero-emissions-2050-princeton-study>). The event is co-sponsored by Princeton's High Meadows Environmental Institute (HMEI) and will be live-streamed here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcBYSgQTxc126-lj_gdrO8Q.

Urban Waters Federal Partnership "Brownfields and EJ Communities of Practice"
Webinars

This virtual Brownfields and Environmental Justice (EJ) Communities of Practice series provides information on environmental justice policies, presents Brownfield project updates in the Urban Waters cities including Camden, NJ, and focuses on community activities related to environmental justice. Register here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HxmlgXvaRPewL7fN9Ym4BQ

"Urban Waters City Brownfields Updates"
Thursday, April 1, 2021, 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Topics include: Philadelphia Updates from Delaware River Waterfront Corporation (South Wetlands Park, Graffiti Pier Park); Camden Updates from New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (Phoenix Park); and Wilmington Updates from Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and Brightfields, Inc (South Wilmington Wetlands).

"Environmental Justice Community Initiatives"
Thursday, April 8, 2021, 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Topics include: Port of Wilmington Expansion / DuPont Edgemoor Brownfield Property – Delaware Community Benefits Agreement Coalition; Equitability of Access for Oysters – Delaware Sea Grant and Ocean Food Systems, University of New England; John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge; Environmental Justice on the Elizabeth River; and Reconnecting Camden Residents to Their Historic Waterfront.

"The End of Ice" with Dahr Jamail - UUJEC Webinar
Thursday, April 8, 2021, 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

The Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC) April webinar features Dahr Jamail, author of "The End of Ice: Bearing Witness and Finding Meaning in the Path of Climate Disruption." The Earth is now experiencing human-caused climate disruption at an ever-accelerating pace. At present, even the best-case mitigation strategies will not stave off catastrophic changes that are already heated into the biosphere. How, then, shall we live? The talk will give a brief overview of how far along we are with climate disruption, then shift into spending the majority of time addressing how we find meaning, and purpose, during such a time. "The End of Ice" is one of Smithsonian Magazine's 10 Best Science Books of 2019, and was a finalist for the PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award in 2020. Join the webinar on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/uujec> or email UUJEC at uujec@uujec.org for the Zoom link and passcode.

"Fire and Flood: Queer Resilience in the Era of Climate Change"
Part of Option Green 2021: Climate Change & Community Virtual Film Festival
View Tuesday, April 20, 2021, 12:15 a.m. to Wednesday, April 21, 2021, 11:45 p.m.

This event is part of the "Resilient Communities: Libraries Respond to Climate Change" pilot program. "Fire and Flood: Queer Resilience in the Era of Climate Change" tells the story of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and the fires in Santa Rosa, California, two-near simultaneous climate-related disasters in the fall of 2017, through the voices of LGBTQ people who lived through them and were part of the community response. The film explores the vulnerability of LGBTQ communities to climate disasters and lifts up queer and trans strategies for resilience, transition, and survival. Reserve tickets here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/option-green-virtual-film-festival-fire-flood-queer-resilience-tickets-132442092865>. 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 programs@ebpl.org (you will need to download the "Discord" app and make a free Discord account to participate in the discussion). [Note: this film is in production and is not yet rated. It contains some heavy themes and occasional mature language; 102 minutes long.]

"Purchasing Power: How Government Can Lead the Way to a Low-Carbon Economy"
April 22, 2021, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Webinar

This webinar, hosted by the Security and Sustainability Forum, will address the following question: Does the public sector hold the key to a low-carbon and sustainable, planet-healthy economy? U.S. government purchases account for nearly one-quarter of the U.S. GDP. State and local governments account for billions of dollars more. By favoring low-carbon and sustainable choices in buildings, vehicles, energy, and other purchases, the public sector can lead the way to achieving a more sustainable economy and our Paris Climate Agreement goals. Through sheer volume, governments have the power to radically expand the market for climate-friendly purchases, shift supply chain decisions, and shape consumer markets for a sustainable economy. What can you do to contribute? This webinar will: 1) describe the current state of sustainable public purchasing; identify barriers and facilitators to sustainable purchasing; consider future opportunities to expand sustainable purchasing; and offer strategies you can use to boost the sustainability of purchases in your agency or office. Register here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1514875646307884046>.

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 April 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/>.

"Carbon Sequestration in Agricultural Soils: What Works?" Friday, April 2, 2021, 2:30 p.m.

As part of the Rutgers Department of Environmental Science Seminar Series, Sara Via, Professor and Climate Extension Specialist at the University of Maryland, will present a webinar titled "Increasing Soil Health and Sequestering Carbon in Agricultural Soils: A Natural Climate Solution," in which she will discuss evidence-based recommendations for agricultural management practices that will sequester carbon in the soil and help to curb climate change. These practices will also rebuild soil health, increase agricultural productivity, help the environment, and benefit farmers economically. Information to join via Zoom is here: <http://envsci.rutgers.edu/seminars/online.php>.

NJ Department of Environmental Protection "Global Warming Response Act 80X50 Report Public Webinar" Thursday, April 8, 2021, 11:00 a.m.

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) released the "Global Warming Response Act 80x50 Report" in October 2020. The report was written in response to the mandate in the Global Warming Response Act, to reduce NJ's greenhouse gas emissions by 80% from their 2006 levels by 2050 (i.e., "80x50"). It builds on the State's previous efforts to address and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and serves as the third element of a comprehensive plan that evaluates NJ's GHG emissions from both energy and non-energy systems, providing guidance, policies, and regulatory and legislative recommendations to meet the State's GHG emission reduction goals. Join the DEP in a public webinar to learn more about how New Jersey will reach this ambitious goal. More information is here: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/climatechange/> and the link to join is here: <https://tinyurl.com/gwra80x50>.

"Impacts of Climate Change on Coastal Forests" Friday, April 9, 2021, 12:00 p.m.

Climate change will have a significant impact on the coastal forests of the Northeastern U.S. Join Dr. Richard Lathrop and Rachael Sacatelli (Rutgers University) along with Glen Carleton (USGS) as they present the latest information on how coastal forests regionally and in NJ are responding to rising seas and storm intensity. They will then share how this information can be used in decision-making and potential management approaches. This webinar is part of the Rutgers NJ Climate Change Resource Center Spring Climate Academy. Register here:

https://rutgers.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NMsKEIwQ_6nXxuHRiizNg.

"NJ Coastal Ecological Restoration & Adaptation Plan Stakeholder Workshop"
Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

This is the kickoff webinar for the NJ "Coastal Ecological Restoration and Adaptation Plan" (CERAP) process. The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has awarded a grant to a team of researchers for production of this plan, which will be based on a nomination process utilizing local knowledge to identify and map areas with the greatest potential for net carbon sequestration, ecosystem health, and community resilience in NJ. It will include past, present, and potential future projects focusing on environmental restoration, enhancement or preservation. Public participation is encouraged; attend this webinar, sponsored by the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve, to learn about the CERAP and how you can get involved. Register here: https://rutgers.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJModu6urzovGdxAc8CZs8hqCgPpPoV_Qdre.

"Climate Conversations: the Cost of Carbon"
Thursday, April 15, 2021, 3:00 p.m.

This webinar, sponsored by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, will feature Richard Newell of Resources for the Future discussing the social cost of carbon (SCC), which is a metric used for incorporating the economic impacts of carbon emissions into federal decision-making. The discussion will address the importance of SCC for addressing the climate change challenge, and considerations for how SCC can advance just and economically sound policies. A second panelist with expertise in environmental justice, and a moderator, will be announced soon. The conversation will also touch on the social cost of other greenhouse gases. Additional information is here: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/04-15-2021/climate-conversations-the-cost-of-carbon>.

"Climate Change and Health: Converging Threats, Cascading Health Risks: Climate Change, Food Security, and Migration"
Thursday, April 15, 2021, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Join the UCSF School of Medicine Office of Population Health and Health Equity and the UCSF Center for Climate, Health, and Equity for this webinar, part of a series on Climate Change and Health chaired by Sheri Weiser, MD, MPH. Climate change is anticipated to unleash unprecedented threats to global food security and to drive the largest wave of human migration in history. This webinar will evaluate the intersection of climate change with the social determinants of health, emphasizing the compounding connections between a warming climate, food and water security, and migration. Register here: https://ucsf.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_esqE7gMrSN6S3Lb99bQMwg.

“Equitable Community Solar: Policy and Program Design for Inclusive Solar Deployment”

Friday, April 23, 2021, 11:00 a.m.

This webinar, part of the Rutgers Energy Institute Energy Policy Seminar Series, will be presented by Gabriel Chan, University of Minnesota. More information is available here:

<https://ruei.rutgers.edu/event-calendar-mainmenu-28/energy-policy-seminar-series>.

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 April 2021 is listed below.

April 5, 2021: "Wildfires and Global Climate Change"

James Randerson (University of California, Irvine) - James Randerson studies the global carbon cycle and the role of fires in the Earth System. In his work, he combines satellite observations with climate models to explore changes in the biosphere.

April 12, 2021: "Reducing Agricultural Methane From Livestock While Farmers Thrive: Thoughts From Experience in New Zealand"

Suzi Kerr (Environmental Defense Fund) - Suzi Kerr is the Chief Economist at Environmental Defense Fund. She was, until May 2019, a Senior Fellow, and from 1998 - 2009 Founding Director, at Motu Research in New Zealand. Her research work focuses on domestic and international climate-change mitigation policy with special emphasis on emissions pricing and land use.

April 19, 2021: "How Combination and Sequence of Weather Events Shape Mexico-U.S. Migration Flows"

Filiz Garip (Princeton University) - "Existing work presents mixed findings on the impact of weather events on international mobility. Relying on fine-grained data over a long time span (1980-2019) in the Mexico-U.S. setting, we turn to machine learning (ML) tools to first determine if weather events can predict migration choices of 150,000+ individuals."

VIDEOS OF PAST CONFERENCES AND WEBINARS

"Fighting for Environmental and Climate Justice in NJ - Decisions Imminent" Video of Webinar

EmpowerNJ, Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC) and NJ Environmental Justice Alliance (NJEJA) sponsored this interactive public forum. EmpowerNJ leaders presented 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, shared 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. The video is available here:

<https://business.facebook.com/FoodandWaterWatchNJ/videos/vb.156070884432429/138690108141518/>.

"Advancing Climate Justice: A Case Study From Providence, Rhode Island" Video of Webinar

This webinar is Part III of the "New Jersey Leading the Way on Climate Change Solutions Annual Conference Virtual Series." Leah Bamberger (Director of Sustainability for the town) and Jazandra Baros, Jesus Holguin, and Monica Huertas (colleagues from the Racial and Environmental Justice Committee of Providence, Rhode Island) joined in a presentation and discussion regarding Providence's Climate Justice Action Plan. A video of this webinar and four other webinars that comprised this virtual conference, are here: <https://njadapt.rutgers.edu/new-jersey-leading-the-way-on-climate-change-solutions-annual-conference-virtual-series-part-iii>

2021 Delaware Estuary Science and Environmental Summit - Videos of Sessions [including a one-day Forum on "Climate Change and the Delaware River Basin"]

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 was that of a conventional scientific meeting with abstracts, presentations and peer review Q&A. While the focus was on the watershed of the Delaware River and Bay, presentations from other areas were included if they helped to inform our understanding of this system. The 2021 Summit featured a one-day Forum on "Climate Change and the Delaware River Basin," hosted by the Delaware River Basin Commission's Advisory Committee on Climate Change. Videos of the sessions are available here: <https://www.delawareestuary.org/news-and-events/delaware-estuary-science-and-environmental-summit/>.

"Scrubbing the Skies: Carbon Dioxide Removal Approaches and their Potential Role in Addressing Climate Change" - Video of Webinar

This webinar was 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." In this presentation he discussed the potential benefits and risks presented by an array of carbon dioxide removal geoengineering approaches. The presentation also included 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." The video of the webinar is here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzmZosQj8BU>

NJ Department of Environmental Protection EJ Rulemaking Stakeholder Meetings Videos of Webinars

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is in the process of holding a series of stakeholder meetings on the new EJ cumulative impacts law. Each session is being held in two parts: one for "Business, Industry, Trade & Builders Organizations" and one for "Environmental Justice, Environmental, Community, and Related Stakeholders." Links to videos of previous webinars are available here: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/ej/policy.html>.

"Disparate Environmental Impacts: Causes and Solutions to Environmental Injustice" Video of 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 focused on the various causes of environmental inequality and its effects, and on ways that these inequalities can be prevented. This webinar was 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. The video can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46u4qXOSSLw>.

Rutgers NJ Climate Change Resource Center Spring Climate Academy 2021
Videos of Webinars

"Reducing the Climate Footprint of New Jersey Residences"

The reduction of greenhouse gases begins at home. In this webinar, Kerri Ann Lombardi and Michele Calabrese, Outreach Account Managers for NJ's Clean Energy Program, shared more detailed information on how residents can save energy, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Along with the benefits of conserving energy, Ms. Lombardi and Mr. Calabrese also discussed the financial benefits available through NJ's Clean Energy Program. The video can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OAqLpK7mr8c>.

"Changing Landscape of New Jersey's Clean Energy Program"

In this webinar, Christine Sadovy, Chief of Staff of the NJ Board of Public Utilities, discussed energy policy in NJ, including how this policy has evolved over time, along with ongoing efforts to achieve the state's greenhouse gas emissions reductions goals. An overview of programs, including those to support the most vulnerable and underserved communities in improving energy efficiency, were highlighted. The video can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tTymOxfhwI>.

"Carbon Pricing in the Real World" Video of Webinar

This seminar and panel discussion on carbon pricing policy was hosted by Princeton University's Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment, in partnership with the Niskanen Center, and was co-sponsored by the Environmental Defense Fund and Princeton University's Center for Policy Research in Energy and the Environment. Putting a price on carbon dioxide emissions is widely considered a powerful climate policy tool that can harness market forces to drive innovation, the adoption of clean energy technologies, and other actions that reduce planet-warming emissions. But the politics of creating and maintaining carbon pricing policies can constrain implementation of carbon pricing, including direct carbon taxes and systems that cap and gradually reduce emissions and allow regulated entities to trade allowances to emit under that cap. Danny Cullenward and David Victor, authors of "Making Climate Policy Work" (Polity Press), explained the critique of carbon pricing policy and why they found carbon prices to be ineffective nearly everywhere they have been applied. Afterwards, Cullenward and Victor discussed the topic with carbon pricing proponents Joseph Majkut, director of climate policy at the Niskanen Center and Suzi Kerr, chief economist at the Environmental Defense Fund, who took a fresh look at the promise and peril of carbon pricing and how it can help inform more effective policy decisions. The video can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vOMkoBY7Gow>.

NEWS RELATED TO EJTF ISSUES

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- **A New Report from Environmental Groups Re-Ignites a Long-Standing Debate over the Future of Solid Waste Incinerators** - A report, "New Jersey's Dirty Secret - The Injustice of Incinerators and Trash Energy in New Jersey's Frontline Communities" (available here: https://earthjustice.org/sites/default/files/files/nj-incinerator-report_earthjustice-2021-02.pdf), has just been issued by Earthjustice and the Vermont Law School Environmental Advocacy Clinic, in partnership with EJTF's partners, the Ironbound Community Corporation and the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance. The report provides in-depth information about NJ's four operating incinerators and one recently-closed incinerator, including emissions, violations, impacts on overburdened communities, and subsidies. It also provides policy recommendations. <https://enviropolitics.com/47837-2/>
- **'It's a Slow Murder' for Communities of Color: NJ Moves on Environmental Justice** - This article gives a great description of environmental justice issues in NJ, some actions being taken in NJ and federally to begin to address them, and what still needs to be addressed. Maria Lopez-Nuñez from EJTF's partner Ironbound Community Corporation, is quoted extensively. <https://todayuknews.com/news/health/its-a-slow-murder-for-communities-of-color-nj-moves-on-environmental-justice/> (or <https://www.app.com/story/news/local/land-environment/2021/03/03/nj-environmental-justice-movement/6005802002/> -the same article, but subscriber-only content, with more photos)



- **Cutting Nitrogen Flows into Delaware River Would Boost Economy, Report Says** - A new study by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and the ecological-economics consultant Key-Log Economics (available here: <https://www.delawareriverkeeper.org/sites/default/files/DRN%20Keylog%20-%20Economic%20Value%20of%20DO%20Restoration%20in%20the%20DE%20%282020-12%29.pdf>) assesses what would be the quantitative and qualitative effects on environmental justice communities of decreasing the nitrogen inputs into the Delaware Estuary, along with the resulting improved dissolved oxygen levels. Analysis of the economic distribution of benefits focuses on the population residing within two miles of the Delaware River and the lower tidal Schuylkill River, with a specific focus on the cities of Chester, Camden, Wilmington, and Philadelphia. The study estimates that dissolved oxygen improvements under a "Moderate Restoration" scenario could stimulate "ecosystem service benefits" (i.e., the effects on human well-being of the flow of benefits from ecosystems to people over given extents of space and time) totaling \$44 million to \$62 million annually. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/03/delaware-river-basin-commission-riverkeeper-network-study-restoration-dissolved-oxygen-cutting-nitrogen-slow-six-wastewater-plants-camden-wilmington/>

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

- **Ditch Diesel for Electric School Buses? NJ Advocates Say That Would Pay Off in the Long Run** - In a new report ("Accelerating the Transition to Electric School Buses" - available here: https://d1ung6i9j8i9xc.cloudfront.net/wp-content/blogs.dir/123/files/2021/03/NJ_EL-buses-2021-print.pdf), Environment New Jersey and the New Jersey Public Interest Research Group (NJPIRG) analyze what is needed to surmount the issue of large up-front costs for electric school buses. With coordination between school districts, lawmakers, and utility companies, it would be possible for these buses to result in savings, and even earn money by sending stored energy back into the grid. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/03/arguing-electric-school-buses-nj-save-money-long-run-supply-power-grid-when-idle-clean-energy-get-rid-diesel/>



- **NJ Senate Committee Advances Bill Plugging E-charging Stations into Redevelopment Sites** - A bill (S-2142/A-1653) that would encourage municipalities to identify appropriate locations for the development of publicly-available infrastructure for fueling or charging zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) when adopting redevelopment plans has been passed by the Assembly, and was reported out of the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee with amendments. <https://enviropolitics.com/nj-bill-plugging-e-charging-stations-into-redevelopment-sites-advances/>
- **Op-Ed: Why Electric Trucks Are Next Step for N.J.'s Roads** (by Hayley Berliner, the clean energy associate at Environment New Jersey) - The author gives a comprehensive description of the role of diesel pollution from trucks in polluting NJ's air, its impacts on environmental justice communities, and what actions are needed to accelerate the transition to electric vehicles. <https://www.roy-nj.com/2021/03/09/opinion/op-ed/why-electric-trucks-are-next-step-for-n-j-s-roads/>

FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Foes of South Jersey LNG Plan Say New Frack Ban Might Help Their Cause** - The NJ, NY, PA, and DE members of the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) voted in February 2021 to ban fracking in the Delaware River Basin. In December 2020, the NJ, PA, DE and Federal members of the DRBC had voted to approve a liquid natural gas (LNG) export port at Gibbstown, NJ. Gov. Murphy has stated that he is in favor of NJ expanding its port facilities, but that he would work to prevent the transportation of PA-produced fracked LNG at the port. The Delaware River Basin fracking ban may help to provide support to a stance against transporting LNG from the port. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/03/opponents-gibbstown-gloucester-county-lng-terminal-export-want-gov-phil-murphy-follow-delaware-river-basin-fracking-ban-stop-project/>

- West Milford Officials Decline to Oppose Gas Compressor Project, Say Own Resolution Flawed** - After postponing a final vote, the West Milford Township Council took up the resolution opposing Tennessee Gas Pipeline's proposed compressor station and other upgrades to the "300 Line," and voted against the resolution unanimously. Council members stated that there were factual flaws in the resolution, and also did not accept parts of the public's criticism of the project. There has been strong local opposition, with the exception of local union members who support the project. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is expected to make a determination on the project by May. **EJTF member Christine Dunbar** continues to be involved in the campaign to halt the expansion of the Tennessee Gas Pipeline 300 East through the Northwestern section of NJ. Matthew Smith, Food and Water Watch and Food and Water Action, stated that "We're working to pass municipal resolutions opposing the project, specifically in the communities where the compressors would be located, the twelve towns along the pipeline route, and the dozens of towns who source their drinking water from the Monksville Reservoir. These resolutions will help us build a strong political coalition to pressure Governor Murphy to reject the key state permits needed for the project." <https://www.northjersey.com/story/news/passaic/west-milford/2021/03/25/west-milford-nj-pipeline-compressor-unchallenged-despite-pressure/7002149002/>
- Biden Administration Backs PennEast Pipeline after Supreme Court Takes the Case** - In 2019, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit ruled against the PennEast Company in their case related to the PennEast pipeline using eminent domain on State lands. PennEast asked for review by the U.S. Supreme Court, and despite the NJ Attorney General's request that they not hear the appeal, they decided to hear it. The Biden administration has filed a brief arguing that provisions in the National Gas Act enable the construction of the pipeline, and that the Third Circuit lacked jurisdiction in the eminent domain case. <https://www.nj.com/news/2021/03/biden-administration-backs-penneast-pipeline-after-supreme-court-takes-the-case.html>

LEAD REDUCTION IN HOUSEHOLDS

- From Lead Lines to Bacteria Treatment, New Website Shows Public How NJ Water Utilities Are Doing** - Jersey Water Works, a collaborative of over 600 organizations and individuals with the common purpose of transforming NJ's water infrastructure, has developed a "Jersey Water Check" website (available here: <https://www.njwatercheck.com>) that enables consumers to access information about water and wastewater utilities in their communities. It is hoped that, by understanding status of the infrastructure and how well requirements and standards are being met, consumers will gain an understanding of the need for infrastructure investment. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/03/new-website-nj-water-utility-data-performance-lead-bacteria-maintenance-jersey-water-works-best-practices-needed-repairs-upgrades/>
- Does Your Drinking Water Contain Unhealthy Levels of Lead?** - Legislation (S2863/S968) requiring public water systems to provide notice of elevated lead levels in drinking water to customers and local officials, and also requiring landlords to notify tenants of elevated lead levels, has passed in the Senate. A floor amendment to revise some timeframes and distribution requirements has passed in the Assembly. <https://enviropolitics.com/does-your-drinking-water-contain-unhealthy-levels-of-lead/>

- **NJ Lawmakers Offer Bills to Help Get the Lead out of Drinking Water** - Legislation (S3398/A5343) that would require public community water systems to inventory and replace lead service lines within 10 years, and provide for recoupment of costs of lead service line replacements by investor-owned public water systems, has been reported out of committee (with amendments - available here: https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2020/Bills/A9999/5343_R1.PDF) in the Assembly and has been introduced in the Senate. <https://enviropolitics.com/nj-lawmakers-offer-bills-to-help-get-the-lead-out-of-drinking-water/>

GREEN AMENDMENT

- **NJ Sierra Club Endorses NJ Green Amendment** - The Sierra Club NJ Chapter passed a resolution endorsing that the NJ Constitution be changed to include a Green Amendment. “This resolution from Sierra Club’s New Jersey Chapter sends a powerful message to the NJ Legislature to support and pass this amendment, allowing the people of New Jersey to make the ultimate decision of whether their right to a healthy environment should be constitutionally protected,” said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and founder of the organization Green Amendment For The Generations. <https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/nj-sierra-club-endorses-nj-green-amendment/>

RENEWABLE RESOURCES

- **Two Big Steps Made in Push for NJ Offshore-Wind Industry** - The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) approved using \$13.2 million from the Societal Benefits Charge for preparation work for the NJ Wind Port, and also approved the purchase by a subsidiary of the Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) of a 25% interest in the Ørsted Ocean Wind offshore-wind farm. NJ hopes to become a hub for the offshore wind industry all along the Atlantic coast (see article below). <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/03/new-jersey-bpu-orsted-pseg-offshore-wind-farm-wind-port-delaware-bay-development-millions/>



- **Murphy Wants to Spend \$200M on New Wind Port as Race Heats Up over Offshore Industry** - This article describes the competition between states, particularly NY and NJ, to become hubs in the growing offshore wind industry. It also describes planned uses of the \$200 million for the wind port, included in Gov. Murphy's recently-released proposed FY2022 budget. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/03/gov-phil-murphy-wants-budget-200-million-new-offshore-wind-port-south-jersey-grab-share-jobs-tax-revenue-eastern-seaboard-competition-heats/>

- **It's Time to 'Go Big' on Offshore Wind, Boosters Say** - According to a new report ("Offshore Wind for America" - available here: <https://d1ung6i9j8i9xc.cloudfront.net/wp-content/blogs.dir/123/files/2021/03/NJ-Offshore-Wind-Web.pdf>) by Environment New Jersey Research & Policy Center and Frontier Group, NJ ranks seventh of Atlantic coastal states for its technical potential for total offshore wind power, but first for current projects in the pipeline. The report further states that offshore wind has the technical capacity to power the entire U.S., although it does not recommend developing this full capacity. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/03/offshore-wind-invest-potential-capacity-wind-farms-nj-coast-eastern-seaboard/>
- **NJ Utility Customers to Subsidize Out-of-State Solar Developers? Debate Heats Up** - NJ could be at a crossroads regarding the direction solar energy will take in the future, either related to more reliance on out-of-state developers of large grid-scale projects, or more support of the in-state industry. Arguments for out-of-state projects include lower cost to consumers and quicker progress toward the state's solar goals, but these would come at the cost of in-state jobs and economic benefits. **EJTF member Lyle Rawlings**, a founder of Advanced Solar Products, has stated that reliance on out-of-state projects "will mean the annihilation of the solar industry in New Jersey." <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/03/heated-debate-nj-utility-customers-proposal-subsidize-out-of-state-solar-developers-conflict-jobs-versus/>
- **Offshore Wind Critics Say Farms Will Damage Shore Economies and Ruin Ocean Views** - Critics of planned South Jersey offshore wind farms are concerned about impacts on tourism, fisheries, birds, and ecosystem health (see contrasting view in the Op-Ed below). They favor more research and environmental studies to be completed prior to proceeding. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/03/nj-offshore-wind-farms-critics-predict-economic-damage-ruined-views-harm-wildlife-fisheries>
- **Op-Ed: Offshore Wind Supports NJ Coastal Economies** (by Kris Ohleth, "a 15-year veteran of the offshore wind industry, a proud lifelong NJ resident, and currently the Executive Director of the Special Initiative on Offshore Wind" - an independent project at the University of Delaware's College of Earth, Ocean and Environment that supports the advancement of offshore wind) - As a counterpoint to the article above, the author cites data from places with offshore wind farms where tourism has increased, and describes other ways NJ shore towns would benefit. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/03/offshore-wind-tourism-jersey-shore-increase-revenue-and-visitors-local-green-economy>
- **Editorial: Ocean City Should Back Clean Wind Energy — and Soon** (by The Press of Atlantic City) - There is talk in Ocean City about their ability to make it difficult for the offshore wind farm to proceed, based on feelings that it might create "visual pollution" and affect the tourist industry. This editorial strongly rejects this view and puts forth reasons why wind energy is a positive development for NJ. https://pressofatlanticcity.com/opinion/editorial/ocean-city-should-back-clean-wind-energy-and-soon/article_19ee8566-8173-5dab-994b-2c4ae2d712aa.html
- **Op-Ed: Why What Happened in Texas Shouldn't Happen in NJ** (by Barbara Blumenthal, research director with the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, which advocates for cost-effective clean energy policies to achieve deep decarbonization) - The author enumerates three essential types of resources needed for a clean-energy transition that keeps costs low and maintains a reliable electric grid, with reserves available for emergencies. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/03/op-ed-why-what-happened-in-texas-shouldnt-happen-in-nj/>

CLIMATE CHANGE

- **Climate, Not Just Weather, Takes Center Stage at Science Summit** - The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary held its biennial science and environmental summit, which this year included a presentation by the Delaware river Basin Commission's (DRBC) Advisory Committee on Climate Change. (Videos of the sessions are available here: <https://www.delawareestuary.org/news-and-events/delaware-estuary-science-and-environmental-summit/>.) They stressed the need for communicating impacts of changing climate in ways people can easily understand. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/03/delaware-river-basin-commission-advisory-committee-climate-change-glenn-hurricane-schwartz-jersey-shore-superstorm-sandy-climate-change-extreme-weather-abandons-long-term-forecasting/>
- **Rep. Frank Pallone Details Ambitious Plan to Tackle Climate Change (Video)** - U. S. Representative Frank Pallone describes the expanded version of last year's CLEAN Future Act that he has introduced in Congress. It takes an industry-by-industry approach, and goals include reaching net-zero emissions by 2050. <https://www.njspotlight.com/video/rep-frank-pallone-details-ambitious-plan-to-tackle-climate-change/>
- **Pennington Council Pledges to Become Carbon Neutral in All Operations by 2035** - The Pennington Council unanimously approved a resolution pledging that the borough will become carbon neutral in all operations by 2035. As part of this process, the mayor proposed committing to buying and using only renewable electricity for the municipality; officials will look at what is achievable and economically responsible. <https://centraljersey.com/2021/03/03/pennington-council-approves-pledge-to-become-carbon-neutral-in-all-operations-by-2035/>
- **Princeton Schools, Municipality Unite to Reduce Fossil Fuel Use** - Princeton Public Schools and the Municipality of Princeton recently received a \$10,000 Sustainable Jersey grant to be used to transition away from fossil fuel-powered landscaping equipment, and also toward more sustainable landscaping. Students will be involved in analyzing impacts of the changes. <https://patch.com/new-jersey/princeton/princeton-schools-municipality-unite-reduce-fossil-fuel-use>



- **Rutgers to Drop Fossil Fuel Investments in Battle against Climate Change** - Rutgers University has adopted a policy to divest the university from existing investments in the fossil fuel industry, and to prohibit any future investments in that industry. This article describes the timeline and the investments affected. <https://www.nj.com/news/2021/03/rutgers-to-drop-fossil-fuel-investments-in-battle-against-climate-change.html>

- **NJ Pension Fund Must End All Investment in Fossil Fuels, Climate Activists Contend** - Although the NJ Division of Investment has recently instituted some policies to begin taking "sustainable investing" into account, for now the Division has indicated that it will maintain its management of public worker pension-fund investments that involves balancing strict fiduciary responsibilities with the increasing concerns about climate change. In a NJ State Investment Council virtual meeting, climate advocacy speakers from the public cited Rutgers University's recent announcement to drop fossil fuel investments (see article above) and urged the State to do the same. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/03/nj-pension-fund-divest-fossil-fuels-greenhouse-gases-climate-change-green-investment/>
- **'Bottom-up' Plan Underway to Catalogue NJ's Vulnerable Coastal Communities** - The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has awarded a grant to a team of researchers for production of a "Coastal Ecological Restoration and Adaptation Plan." This initiative will be based on a nomination process utilizing local knowledge to identify and map areas with the greatest potential for net carbon sequestration, ecosystem health, and community resilience. It will include past, present, and potential future projects focusing on environmental restoration, enhancement or preservation. Public participation is encouraged; a kickoff webinar is planned for April 14, 2021 (see information under "Events" on p. 8). <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/03/new-jersey-coastal-zone-1800-miles-climate-change-vulnerabilities-ecological-restoration-preservation-tidal-back-bays-delaware-bay/>

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- **Bill Would Reduce How Much Energy, Water Household Devices Use** - Legislation (S3324/A5160) that would establish minimum water- and energy-efficiency standards for a number of commercial and household products has passed committees in both the Senate and the Assembly. Proponents cite the energy and cost savings, but some opponents state that some items may become unavailable for sale in the state if the law passes. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/03/energy-consumption-water-consumption-household-appliances-devices-energy-star/>

POLLUTION

- **'Staggering Amount of Microplastics' Found in Delaware Estuary Waterways** - In 2020, microplastics (i.e., plastic that is five millimeters or smaller) were found in every waterway of the Delaware Estuary that was sampled. Other studies are researching concentrations, transport, and biological consumption and accumulation. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/03/staggering-amount-of-microplastics-found-in-delaware-estuary-waterways/>
- **What to Do with All Those Half-Empty Paint Cans? a New Recycling Program for NJ, Maybe** - Legislation (S2679/A1979) that requires paint companies to be responsible for reuse, recycling, and disposal of unused "architectural paint" (sold in containers of five gallons or less) unanimously passed committees in both the Senate and the Assembly. Environmental advocates and manufacturers are both in favor of the legislation. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/03/what-to-do-with-all-those-half-empty-paint-cans-a-new-recycling-program-for-nj-gets-broad-support/>
- **Legislation Encouraging the Use of Recycled Products and Material Starting to Move in NJ** - Legislation (S1671/A2783) has been reported out of committee in the Assembly, and introduced in the Senate, that would require the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to develop guidelines for use by State and local agencies when entering into purchase contracts, to encourage the maximum purchase of goods made with the highest percentage of recycled material. These guidelines may be based upon, or incorporate by reference, guidelines developed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Additional legislation (S2515/A4676) has been reported

out of committee in the Senate (as a substitute bill), and introduced in the Assembly, that would: 1) establish postconsumer recycled content requirements for rigid plastic containers, glass containers, paper and plastic carryout bags, and plastic trash bags; and 2) prohibit the sale of polystyrene loose fill packaging. <https://enviropolitics.com/legislation-encouraging-the-use-of-recycled-products-and-material-starting-to-move-in-nj/>

OTHER

- **Omnipresent Environmental Lobbyist, Known for Pressing Friends and Foes, Retires -** Jeff Tittel, director of the NJ Sierra Club, is retiring in May after 23 years leading this influential environmental organization. Details about his career and his statement are available here: <https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/blog/2021/03/sc-director-jeff-tittel-announces-his-retirement>. Feedback from officials and a partial list of his involvements is available here: <https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/blog/2021/03/jeff-tittel-tireless-advocate-for-new-jersey-environmental-causes-retire>. He plans to remain active, however. "I can't see myself not being an activist," Tittel said in an interview with NJ Spotlight News (describing himself as "Tittel Unchained"). "Now that I don't have an organization to answer to, I can say anything I want." <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/03/jeff-tittel-retire-nj-sierra-club-long-time-environmental-activist-highlands-act-fracking-ban/>



- **New Jersey Landfill Is Preserving Capacity through Landfill Mining -** At a 300-acre landfill in Manchester, NJ, the Ocean County Landfill Corp. is utilizing landfill mining to create an additional estimated 6 million cubic yards of new capacity, allow placement of waste in the existing landfill cross section with modern landfill techniques and compaction, and recover approximately 2 million cubic yards of cover soil. Although expensive, this approach should result in extending the lifespan of the facility for at least an additional ten years. <https://enviropolitics.com/48273-2/>
- **NJ Entices Developers with Loans, Tax Credits to Remake Brownfield Sites -** The NJ Economic Development Authority (EDA) is adding two programs to assist in "transformation of contaminated brownfields into vibrant community assets." The programs are the Brownfields Redevelopment Initiative that will provide tax credits to support brownfields remediation projects, and the Brownfields Loan Program that will make low-interest loans of up to \$5 million available to brownfield redevelopment projects for all aspects revitalization, including assessment, investigation, and demolition. These programs fit with the EDA Community Revitalization suite of solutions designed to support development that transforms underutilized and contaminated spaces into community assets, including ensuring that residents living in communities that have historically suffered from disinvestment, environmental contamination, and health disparities benefit from brownfields redevelopment. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/02/new-low-interest-loans-tax-credits-cleanup-nj-brownfield-sites-industrial-contaminants-assessment-investigation-remediation/>

- **Plan to Cut DEP Rules Won't Harm Environment, Agency Chief Says** - In the speech presenting his proposed FY2022 budget, Gov. Murphy vowed to do away with antiquated permitting rules at the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and other agencies. This raised concerns among some environmental advocates. The DEP Acting Commissioner stated that environmental standards would not be compromised, and that the DEP will continue to focus on dealing with lead-based exposure risks and its major priority of developing regulations to implement the EJ Cumulative Impacts Law. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/02/permitting-antiquated-regulations-red-tape-shawn-latourette-simplify/>
- **Board Was Right to Allow \$300M Nuclear Subsidy, Appeals Court Rules** - Over a year ago, the NJ Division of Rate Counsel and a number of business trade groups had asked an appellate court to overturn an order by the state to award subsidies to three nuclear plants, in a decision that was at variance with the state's staff, its consultant, and an expert from the regional power grid. The court has ruled to reject the request to overturn the state's decision, clearing the way for the subsidies to be renewed. A decision on whether and for how much they may be renewed is expected by the end of April. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/03/pseg-big-win-court-upholds-bpu-300-million-big-subsidy-utility-customers-pay-three-nuclear-plants-south-jersey/>
- **PSEG Says without \$300M Ratepayer Nuclear Subsidy, It Will Close South Jersey Plants** - This article describes the discussions at a recent hearing at which the Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) told the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) that it needed to retain the full \$300 million subsidy it had received in 2019, in order to keep its three nuclear plants operating in South Jersey. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/03/pseg-says-without-300m-ratepayer-nuclear-subsidy-it-will-close-south-jersey-plants>
- **Op-Ed: Facing the Facts — Nuclear Subsidies or a Huge Spike in Greenhouse Gases** (by **EJTF member R. William Potter**, who is a partner in the Potter and Dickson law firm) - This opinion provides multiple arguments supporting the case that "We will need Hope Creek and the two Salem units for several years to continue operating safely if we are to have a chance at avoiding the worst consequences of global warming. And if that means paying a little more for electricity for this zero-emission source, that is a small price to pay for the sake of humanity." <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/03/climate-change-nuclear-subsidies-making-world-safe-for-tomorrow-fossil-fuels-zero-emission-certificates-zecs/>
- **Op-Ed: Ratepayers Held Up Their Side of Nuclear Deal. PSEG Must Do the Same** (by Steven S. Goldenberg, Chair of Giordano, Halleran & Ciesla P.C.'s Energy, Climate Change and Public Utilities Practice Group; he represents the New Jersey Large Energy Users Coalition) - The author cites previously enacted and negotiated laws and orders in arguing that the Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) should not be authorized "a subsidy that, directly or indirectly, would require ratepayers to again be responsible for the costs and risks associated with the deregulated nuclear plants and establish ratepayers as guarantors of their profits." <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/03/nj-board-public-utilities-must-decide-massive-nuclear-subsidies-pseg-drumbeat-no-justification-responsibility-costs-risks/>

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



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.