



Environmental Justice Task Force Newsletter

June 2021

[covering 4/27/2021 – 5/27/2021] <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.

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UU CONGREGATIONAL & EJTF ACTIVITIES

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF PRINCETON (UUCF) and EJTF

EJTF Co-Chair Ray Nichols hosted a webinar, "Introducing the Benefits of NJ's Community Solar Program," co-sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton (UUCP) Ministry for the Earth and the EJTF. The NJ Community Solar Program was especially designed for people who can't put an individual solar collection system on their property, or who are renters. It includes specific requirements to insure that a percentage of customers are from Low- or Moderate-Income (LMI) households. In the very

informative webinar, Ray provided an overview of the statewide program, which approved 45 projects during the first pilot year. A representative from one of the community solar subscriber organizations described how the program works, with emphasis on billing procedures and savings to be realized by the customers. It was emphasized that this is NOT the same as the "clean energy" businesses that many people have had experience with, and that sometimes do not live up to the savings promised on a long-term basis. Confusion about this difference is causing roadblocks in the acceptance of the Community Solar Program, which sounds like a win-win for both customers and the environment. Additional information about the program is available here:



https://www.njcleanenergy.com/files/file/CI%20Program%20Literature/FY20%20Brochures/Community%20Solar%2011_9_19%20approved.pdf.

FUTURE EVENTS

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

JUNE 2021

(with [hyperlinks](#) to details on the following pages)

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 How to Talk to Children about the Climate Crisis - 7:00 a.m.	2 Necessary but Not Sufficient: Unlocking the Impact of Electricity Access - 12:00 p.m. BPU Clean Energy Program Comments Due by 5:00 p.m.	3 Making The Rapid Switch To Net-Zero Carbon Emissions - 9:00 a.m. DEP Liberty State Park Interior Restoration and Active Recreation Updates - 6:00 p.m. The Doctrine of Discovery: Unmasking the Domination Codes - 7:00 p.m.	4 Climate Migration: International Pressures, Local Realities - 10:00 a.m. Towards the Energy System of Tomorrow - 12:00 p.m. The Green Amendment - Eco-Logic on WBAI - 2:30 p.m. BPU EV Program Comments Due by 5:00 p.m.	5 NJSOC Hooked on Fishing. Not on Drugs - 10:00 a.m.
6	7 NJSOC Dendrology and Tree Biology - 3:30 p.m.	8 Jersey Renews Summer Quarterly Meeting - 12:00 p.m. Unlocking Capital For Climate Solutions - The Benefits of a National Climate Bank - 12:00 p.m.	9 DRBC Second-Quarter Business Meeting - 10:30 a.m. The Economic Development Power of Clean Energy - 1:15 p.m.	10 EPA EJ and Systemic Racism Speaker Series - 12:00 p.m. Paul Greenberg and "The Climate Diet" - 8:00 p.m. 2021 NJ Planning & Redevelopment Conference - Multiple Sessions	11 Modernizing America's Transmission Network - 12:00 p.m. 2021 NJ Planning & Redevelopment Conference - Multiple Sessions	12 NJSOC Hiking Navigation - 9:00 a.m. NJSOC Hug a Tree - 3:30 p.m.
13	14 NJSOC Nutrients and Energy in Ecosystems - 3:30 p.m.	15	16 NJ Clean Air Council Monthly Meeting - 9:00 a.m.	17	18 Leveraging Grid Edge Integration for Resilience & Decarbonization - 12:00 p.m.	19 NJSOC Wilderness Survival and Bushwacking - 9:30 a.m.
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

“The Big Conversation: How to Talk to Children about the Climate Crisis – at Home and in Schools” - Webinar
Tuesday, June 1, 2021, 7:00 a.m.

Climate anxiety in young people is rising. This international webinar, sponsored by the international groups "We Don't Have Time" and "Our Kids Climate," will bring together psychologists, teachers, authors and climate-parent activists to talk about how to support children through a changing climate, using psychology, activism and climate education as tools to help children manage the climate crisis and climate-related anxiety. Additional information, including registration link (and a link to a video of a previous international webinar "How to Talk to Kids about Climate") are here:

<https://ourkidsclimate.org/how-to-talk-to-children-about-the-climate-crisis/>.

NJBPU REQUESTS FOR COMMENTS

Clean Up NJ Electric Vehicle Incentive Program Straw Proposal

In order to encourage adoption of electric vehicles, consistent with the Electric Vehicle Act of 2020 ("EV Act"), the BPU developed the Charge Up New Jersey electric vehicle ("EV") incentive program with the intent being to encourage the purchase or lease of new light-duty plug-in EVs. The BPU is engaging in a public process to evaluate the program, and has developed a Straw Proposal with modifications to the existing program, in order to increase its efficiency and accessibility. The Straw Proposal is available here:

<https://www.nj.gov/bpu/pdf/publicnotice/EV%20FY22%20Charge%20Up%20NJ%20Program%20Straw%20Proposal.pdf>. Comments may be submitted to Board.Secretary@bpu.nj.gov in PDF or Word format and should include the subject "In The Matter of the Fiscal Year 2022 Charge Up New Jersey Program Docket No. QO21040745" along with the last name of the author and the name of their company or organization. **Comments are due by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 2, 2021.**

NJ FY22 Clean Energy Program Budget and Program Plans

The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) is requesting comments on the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) Straw Proposal for NJ's Clean Energy Program (CEP) Comprehensive Resource Analysis (CRA) and budgets and compliance filings. Through the CRA process, the CEP funding levels for energy efficient and Class I renewable energy programs are established. Links to the straw proposal documents are available here: <https://www.njcleanenergy.com/main/njcep-policy-updates-request-comments/policy-updates-and-request-comments>. Comments may be submitted to Board.Secretary@bpu.nj.gov in PDF or Word format with the subject "FY22 CRA, Budget and Program Plans." **Comments are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 4, 2021.**

"Necessary but Not Sufficient: Unlocking the Impact of Electricity Access" - **Webinar** Wednesday, June 2, 2021, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

This webinar is part of the Dartmouth series "New Energy: Conversations with Early-Career Energy Researchers" (see link below for more information about the series).

The webinar will be presented by Dr. Nathan Williams, an Assistant Professor at the Golisano Institute for Sustainability at the Rochester Institute of Technology. "While electricity access may be necessary for development in sub-Saharan Africa, it is not by itself sufficient. For electrification programs to successfully foster development, more attention is required on the demand side of the electricity access problem. This talk presents findings from a set of studies on demand-side challenges and opportunities for electrification programs in East Africa. Dr. Williams will discuss studies examining the effect of complementary infrastructure and services on the electricity consumption of grid-connected small and medium enterprises in Kenya; the effect of appliance finance and tariff subsidy programs on electricity consumption on mini-grids in Kenya and Tanzania; and case studies from Rwanda, Uganda, and Ethiopia that use geospatial and biophysical crop modeling approaches to identify opportunities for co-investment in electrification and small-scale irrigation." Additional information and the registration link are here:

<https://irving.dartmouth.edu/engagement/new-energy-conversations-early-career-energy-researchers>.

**"Making The Rapid Switch To Net-Zero Carbon Emissions"
2021 Princeton E-affiliates Partnership Retreat - Virtual
Thursday, June 3, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

Three panel discussions, featuring speakers from industry, academia, and non-profits, will explore the application of the Rapid Switch framework to understanding opportunities and challenges to rapidly reducing global emissions to net-zero. Rapid Switch is "a solutions-focused, international research effort that aims to identify a realistic pace and pathways for decarbonizing the world, sector by sector, and region by region." The conversations will build on findings from Princeton's Net-Zero America study released in December, 2020. The goal of the event is to collaboratively engage federal and state policymakers, private industry, and non-governmental organizations on the net-zero challenge, and in doing so, to inform policy, future research initiatives worldwide, and ultimately acceleration of action to realize a future in which greenhouse gas emissions are effectively managed globally. More information, including agenda and speaker information and registration link, is available here:

<https://acee.princeton.edu/efiliates-2021-retreat/>.

**"The Doctrine of Discovery: Unmasking the Domination Codes" Film - Virtual
[Including introduction and Q&A with the film's author and co-producer]
Thursday, June 3, 2021, 7:00 p.m.**

This award-winning film is **highly recommended by EJTF member Sally Gellert**. The film, by a Dakota filmmaker and based on a book resulting from two decades of research by a Shawnee/Lenape scholar, tells the story of how Vatican documents of the fifteenth century created global patterns of domination and dehumanization of original nations and peoples. This led to law systems in the United States and Canada, and elsewhere in the world, that are still being used to this day. The film also includes traditional teachings developed over thousands of years that provide a much-needed alternative for humans and the ecological systems of the earth at this time. This free viewing is presented by the Northern New Jersey Sierra Group and the Ramapough Mountain Indians, Inc. The trailer is available here: <https://youtu.be/KNoyRzmNj7Y> and **the Zoom link is here: <https://bergen.zoom.us/j/97664180947>**.

This film was shown in conjunction with last year's UU General Assembly. UU was among the first of the faith denominations to take a formal stand against the Doctrine of Discovery, which sadly is still used in U.S. courts, and was even cited as precedent by Justice Ginsburg in a 2005 case involving the Oneida Indian Nation. The 2012 UU "Justice General Assembly" passed a Responsive Resolution publicly repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery (available here: <https://www.uua.org/action/statements/doctrine-discovery>).

On a personal note from Sally Gellert, when she attended the "Occupy National Gathering: Decolonize the 99%" in Kalamazoo in 2013, one of the workshops was led by William Underbaggage, a Lakota gentleman, who in the course of the discussion read the UU Responsive Resolution passed the year before - according to Sally, "it was really magical to have disparate strands of my life come together so serendipitously, to see a result from the vote in which I had participated the year before." Additional information about UU's involvement related to the Doctrine of Discovery and Rights of Indigenous Peoples is available here: <https://www.uua.org/racial-justice/dod>.

DEP Liberty State Park Interior Restoration and Active Recreation Updates - **Virtual**
Thursday, June 3, 2021, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is proceeding on its plans to plans to remediate and restore 234 contaminated acres in the interior of Liberty State Park. To help inform decisions regarding active recreation, the DEP had previously distributed a survey which received over 3600 responses. At this virtual public meeting, DEP will share the survey results, the remediation progress, and other updates. Register here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2721081686915724043>.

Eco-Logic on WBAI



Graphic by Donna Stein

"The Green Amendment" with Maya van Rossum
Friday, June 4, 2021, 2:30 p.m. - **Radio**

This Eco-Logic radio show on WBAI (99.5 FM) will feature Maya Van Rossum, 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. One of the regular hosts of the Eco-Logic weekly radio program is **EJTF member Sally Gellert**.

"Climate Migration: International Pressures, Local Realities" - **Webinar**
Friday, June 4, 2021, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Global migration in response to climate impacts is beginning to accelerate. In fact, according to a recent model by the New York Times and ProPublica, migration increases substantially as the climate changes. Migrants move for many reasons and our domestic and international policies have a big influence on not only how livable other countries remain in the face of climate change but how well migrants are able to join life in the United States. Join the Climate Adaptation Forum, organized by the Environmental Business Council (EBC) of New England and the University of Massachusetts Boston – Sustainable Solutions Lab., for a conversation about migration - both international and internal. Hear from municipalities that are building infrastructure to welcome new residents and from experts at the international scale who are grappling with broad issues of displacement and migration.

Additional information and registration link (**\$15 for non-EBC members**) are here:
<https://climateadaptationforum.org/event/climate-migration/>

"Modernizing the U.S. Energy System: Opportunities, Challenges, and the Path Forward"
Environmental and Energy Study Institute Briefing Series - **Webinars**
Fridays - June 4, 2021; June 11, 2021, June 18, 2021, 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) is presenting a briefing series about the climate benefits of modernizing the nation's energy system, described on the following page:

"Towards the Energy System of Tomorrow" - June 4, 2021, 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Panelists will discuss the state of play for the nation's energy system and present opportunities for improvement using real-world examples of solutions in action. Panelists will also discuss the role of Congress, the Department of Energy, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and state and local entities in creating the energy system of tomorrow.

"Modernizing America's Transmission Network" - June 11, 2021, 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Panelists will discuss what is needed to modernize the transmission network, including developing transmission infrastructure for offshore wind and increasing cooperation between states. The briefing will also cover how the transmission network can be constructed and maintained to maximize ecosystem conservation, respect Tribal lands, and increase the resilience of neighboring communities.

"Leveraging Grid Edge Integration for Resilience & Decarbonization" - June 18, 2021, 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Panelists will discuss policy opportunities such as a federal energy efficiency resource standard, state level efforts, and the nexus between buildings, transportation, energy storage, and the grid.

Additional information and the links to register and to view the webinars are here:
<https://www.eesi.org/06041821grid#RSVP>.

Jersey Renews Summer Quarterly Meeting **Virtual
Tuesday, June 8, 2021, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

Jersey Renews, a broad-based coalition of labor, faith, community, and environmental organizations of which UUFANJ is a member, focuses on environmental justice, clean renewable energy, good jobs, and protections for workers & communities. The Summer Quarterly Meeting is being held via Zoom; join the meeting here: <https://zoom.us/j/98724892291>.

**"Unlocking Capital For Climate Solutions - The Benefits of a National Climate Bank"
Tuesday, June 8, 2021, 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - **Webinar****

The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) is presenting a briefing on "how a national climate bank could deploy capital at scale to advance climate change solutions. Over 20 green banks currently exist in the United States, providing flexible and affordable financing for a wide range of clean energy projects that lower emissions and boost climate resilience. Because of their unique, mission-driven mandates to address social and environmental issues, these entities are well-positioned to provide targeted investments in rural areas, low- and moderate-income communities, and communities of color that are disproportionately affected by polluting facilities and climate change impacts and are often unable to access traditional funding sources. This briefing will explore the climate mitigation and adaptation benefits that would be unlocked by a national climate bank, building upon the experiences of successful green banks across the country. Panelists will discuss how these investments would also create jobs and make climate solutions more affordable, accessible, and equitable." The link to register and to view the webinar is here: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/060821bank>.

DRBC Second-Quarter Business Meeting via Zoom
Wednesday, June 9, 2021, 10:30 a.m.

Information about the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) second quarter business meeting, including agenda, Zoom link, and instructions for public comment, are available here:
<https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/meetings/upcoming/#2>.

Paul Greenberg and "The Climate Diet" - Webinar
Thursday, June 10, 2021, 8:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC), Paul Greenberg, author of "The Climate Diet," will present this webinar, answering the question "How can we eat better for the climate?" He will cover 13 simple steps you can take to change how you choose, cook, and manage your food. Additional information and a link to the webinar are available here:
<https://uujec.org/Portals/o/Paul%20Greenberg%20and%20The%20Climate%20Diet.pdf>.

2021 New Jersey Planning and Redevelopment Conference - Virtual
Thursday, June 10, 2021 - Friday, June 11, 2021
Multiple Sessions

Presented by New Jersey Future and the American Planning Association (APA) New Jersey, this two-day virtual conference on June 10-11, 2021 includes over 35 sessions related to restarting, recovering, and reimagining land use in a rapidly changing and post-pandemic environment. Several sessions deal with climate change, electric vehicles, and equity issues, including a Sustainable Jersey session on "Join the EVolution! Planning, Permitting, and Zoning for Electric Vehicles in 2021." The conference also includes a virtual exhibit area, and registered attendees will have access to a video on-demand library in addition to session files and resources for 2 months following the conference. Additional information, schedule, and registration (**\$250 for non-members of APA New Jersey or New Jersey Future**) are available here: <https://pheedloop.com/njprc21/site/>.

NJ Clean Air Council Monthly Meeting - Virtual
Wednesday, June 16, 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>.

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 June 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/year.listevents/2021/>.

**"The Economic Development Power of Clean Energy - Arizona Example" - Webinar
Wednesday, June 9, 2021, 1:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.**

In this Security and Sustainability Development (SSF) webinar, LightWorks at Arizona State University and SSF convene economic development officials, utility managers, and municipal leaders who highly prize their sustainability commitments to discuss how supportive renewable policy in Arizona can be a driver of local economic vitality. Topics include: how major companies can drive the local transition to a clean economy; how economic development officials can use clean energy as an economic development tool; and how the economic development community can influence state clean energy policy. Register here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/813906200795633678>.

**"EPA Environmental Justice and Systemic Racism Speaker Series: Featuring California EPA's Pollution and Prejudice Project" - Webinar
Thursday, June 10, 2021, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) EJ and Systemic Racism Speaker Series focuses on illustrating how addressing systemic racism is highly relevant to the missions of EPA and other environmental agencies. The series is currently examining the relationship of redlining and current environmental disparities. This session will focus on California EPA's (CalEPA) Pollution and Prejudice project. At CalEPA, understanding the role of government in perpetuating institutional and structural racism is essential to its work, and CalEPA's racial equity team has designed a set of tools to explore the connection between land use practices of the 1930s and the persistence of environmental injustice. Understanding how environmental conditions are informed by legacy land use practices helps CalEPA to ensure equitable access to clean air, water, and land for all people through policy development and implementation. At this webinar, learn about what you can do in your state. More information and registration are here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/california-epas-pollution-and-prejudice-project-tickets-153190217063>.

**Friends of The New Jersey School of Conservation (NJSOC) - In-Person Events
Multiple Dates**

The NJ School of Conservation (NJSOC) in Stokes State Forest, which had been in existence for over 70 years, had been forced to close in 2020 as a result of fiscal issues exacerbated by COVID-19 concerns, and had been turned over to the state, which owns the land. A temporary access agreement has been reached between the Friends of the NJSOC and the state for limited programming through the end of the year, and the Friends of NJSOC are now offering the following programs in June (more information and links to registration webpages are here: <https://www.friendsofnjsoc.org/events/>):

Saturday, June 5, 2021, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.: "Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs Youth Fishing Challenge" (NJSOC) - Free

Monday, June 7, 2021, 3:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.: "Dendrology and Tree Biology" (NJSOC) - \$5.00

Saturday, June 12, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.: "Hiking Navigation" (NJSOC) - \$20.00

Saturday, June 12, 2021, 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.: "Hug a Tree" (preventing the need for Search and Rescue) (NJSOC) - Free

(list continues on next page)

Monday, June 14, 2021, 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.: "Nutrients and Energy in Ecosystems"
(NJSOC) - \$5.00

Saturday, June 19, 2021, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.: "Wilderness Survival and Bushwacking"
(NJSOC) - \$5.00

Additional information and registration links are on the previous page.

SAVE the DATE

"Green Amendment Day: A Panel of Leading EJ Voices" - Virtual
Tuesday, July 13, 2021, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

July 13 is national Green Amendment Day! Join a presentation and panel of leading environmental justice voices from across the nation, united in ending environmental racism and restoring environmental justice through constitutional empowerment. This panel will launch the inaugural Green Amendment Day, to be held every July 13. Panelists will include EJTF's partner and UUFANJ award recipient Kim Gaddy, and Founder of the Green Amendment movement Maya van Rossum, among others. Register here:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_guJKsiUTRsamjU8B-C82Q



GREEN AMENDMENT DAY
A PANEL OF LEADING EJ VOICES
JULY 13, 7:00PM EDT Moderated by Maria Payan

KIM GADDY	DR. SACOBY WILSON
KERRI EVELYN HARRIS	TERRY SLOAN
SENATOR SEDILLO LOPEZ	MAYA VAN ROSSUM

Register: bit.ly/GreenAmendmentDayPanel2021

ENDING ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM & RESTORING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE THROUGH CONSTITUTIONAL EMPOWERMENT

VIDEOS+ OF PAST EVENTS

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

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) held a series of stakeholder meetings on the new EJ cumulative impacts law. Each session was 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>.

"Managing Deer to Restore Forests and Sequester Carbon" - Video of Webinar

Effective management of deer populations in New Jersey is essential to reversing forest degradation and is potentially a vital piece in achieving state climate goals that depend upon protecting and

enhancing carbon stored in our forests. Through the recently published results of an 18-year deer management research study, Duke Farms in Hillsborough, NJ has provided an “example of the resiliency natural systems can exhibit upon removal of persistent negative human impact.” This research shows that effective deer management can reverse severe forest degradation. Additionally, research at Duke Farms is being conducted to better understand how land management impacts carbon levels within the soils and vegetation on-site. This webinar, by Duke Farms and NJ Conservation Foundation, presented the results of the research, the implications for carbon stock management, and discusses what steps are needed to effectively manage deer populations to restore NJ forests. View the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvhL4ormfPA>. Also see the news article on p. 19.

"Lessons from Colonial: Risks to America's Energy System" - Podcast Audio

In this edition of the Columbia University/SIPA Center on Global Energy Policy's "Columbia Energy Exchange" podcast, host Jason Bordoff, along with Bob McNally and Adam Segal, leading experts on energy and cybersecurity, respectively, examine what happened with the Colonial Pipeline system and what lessons should be drawn about the vulnerability and resilience of critical energy infrastructure. The point is made that the time is now to insure that adequate storage and distribution security are built into renewable energy systems as the transition is made to a more electrified future. Listen to the podcast here: <https://www.energypolicy.columbia.edu/lessons-colonial-risks-america-s-energy-system>. Additional "Columbia Energy Exchange" podcasts are also available.

Sustainable Jersey Sustainability Summit - Videos of Sessions

Sustainable Jersey is a network and movement of municipalities, schools and school districts working collectively to bring about a sustainable NJ. Acting with state agencies, non-profit organizations, foundations, academia and industry, Sustainable Jersey researches best practices for what communities could and should do to contribute to a sustainable future. This year's Summit included virtual educational sessions, social “happy hours”, short expert talks, coaching sessions, and activities for municipalities and schools. The Virtual Sustainability Summit substantive sessions are listed below. Links to videos of all events are available here:

<https://www.sustainablejersey.com/events/2021-sustainability-summit/>.

- "Look at Where We Are and the Road Ahead"
- "Get the Lead Out!"
- "Education for Climate Change: A Nonpartisan Primer"
- "Challenging Implicit Bias: Exploring the Way Forward"
- "Enhance Community Water Resources Through Water Gold"
- Green Biz Speed Networking: Green Products & Services
- "Building a Sustainable Workplace Culture"
- "The Complete & Green Streets Doctor is 'in'"
- "Climate Interpreter: Best Practices for Talking about Climate Change"
- "Join the EVolution!"
- "Show Me the Data!"
- "Want a Healthier Community? Go for the Gold!"
- Sustainable Movie Night: "Kiss the Ground"
- Sustainable Jersey for Schools Goes Digital
- "Reducing the Energy Burden: Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for All"

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 pp. 12 - 14.

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

Following the lead of our EJ partners (see #1, above), help promote outreach to residents about avoiding or reducing lead in drinking water and lead paint in their households. See articles on pp. 16 - 17. **GOOD NEWS! Gov. Murphy signed a law requiring notification of elevated lead levels in drinking water (see p. 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. **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>.

NEWS RELATED TO EJTF ISSUES

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

STATEWIDE

NJ CLEAN ENERGY EQUITY ACT BILL UPDATE - ACTION STILL NEEDED:

The NJ Clean Energy Equity Act bill (A4185) passed the NJ Senate 11/16/2020, but as of 5/27/2021 it was still waiting to be considered in the Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee. Our partner "NJ Shines" issued a video describing how environmental justice and low-income New Jersey families stand to benefit the most from lower monthly electric bills, local jobs and a more resilient community that would result from passage of the bill. View the video here:

<https://vimeo.com/537797375>. You can send a message to your Assembly representatives here, telling them to support the Clean Energy Equity Act: <https://www.NJShines.org/Take-Action/>.

- **Attorney General Grewal, DEP Acting Commissioner LaTourette Announce Nine New Environmental Enforcement Actions, Seven in Environmental Justice Communities - NJ**
Attorney General Grewal and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) have filed nine new environmental enforcement actions, including seven to hold polluters accountable for contamination in environmentally overburdened communities. Those seven address pollution in Camden, Trenton, Kearny, Secaucus, Edison, Bridgeton and Egg Harbor City. This brings the number of environmental justice cases they have filed since 2018 to 39 (see article below).
<https://www.njoag.gov/attorney-general-grewal-dep-acting-commission-latourette-announce-nine-new-environmental-enforcement-actions-seven-in-environmental-justice-communities/>
- **39 Environmental Justice Enforcement Cases Filed by Murphy Administration since 2018**
- The 39 environmental justice lawsuits filed by NJ Attorney General Grewal and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) have yielded nearly \$20 million in judgments and many of them have resulted in court orders requiring responsible parties to perform cleanup activities to protect human health and the environment. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/05/environmental-justice-enforcement-actions-murphy-administration-tally/>
- **New Jersey Solar, Gas Power Plans Spotlight Environmental Justice Concerns** - This article highlights two separate energy projects that point up different ways the environmental justice movement is being impacted in NJ: a gas-fired backup power plant proposed for a sewage treatment facility in Newark; and a solar farm on a closed landfill in Delanco that will provide more than half its electricity to low and moderate-income residents (see article on p. 17).
<https://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/green/new-jersey-solar-gas-power-plans-spotlight-environmental-justice-concerns/2813571/>

LOCAL

- **“This Is Slow Murder.” I love my city. I love my neighborhood. It may be killing me.** - This "Slate" article by staff writer Aymann Ismail, a resident of the Ironbound neighborhood in Newark, describes life there and quotes EJTF's environmental justice partners Melissa Miles and Maria Lopez-Núñez, among others. <https://slate.com/business/2021/05/newark-poop-plan-pollution-history.html>
- **Newark Environmental Commission Approves Inaugural Environmental Resource Inventory With Focus On Environmental Justice** - The City of Newark has issued its Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI), which is modeled on Natural Resource Inventories, but "the ERI approach goes beyond the natural world to connect environmental conditions and the built-environment to human outcomes—with a special emphasis on “Communities with Environmental Justice (EJ) concerns,” which shoulder the highest burdens. One central goal of the Newark ERI is to create a clear and useful resource for Newarkers to develop a better understanding of the inequitable distribution of environmental “goods” (parks, gardens, and other green spaces) and “bads” (pollution emissions sites and contaminated areas) across the City." The report reflects the City's commitment to environmental justice, following on Newark's Environmental Justice and Cumulative Impacts Ordinance (EJCIO), which was the first of its kind in the U.S. when it was enacted in 2016. The report can be downloaded here: <https://data-newgin.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/newark-nj-2021-environmental-resources-inventory>. The table on the next page shows a list of maps included in the report, which will be able to be viewed online. <https://www.newjerseystage.com/articles/2021/05/12/newark-environmental-commission-approves-inaugural-environmental-resource-inventory-with-focus-on-environmental-justice/>

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xii NEWARK ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

OPINION

- Opinion: Delaware River Pollution Should Be a National Concern (particularly as related to environmental justice communities)** (by: Tim Dillingham, executive director of the American Littoral Society; Andrew Kricun, a member of the New Jersey Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NJEAC) and chair of its water committee; and Don Baugh, President of the Upstream Alliance) - "Perhaps nowhere in the nation are the issues of environmental, social and economic inequities and injustice more evident than in a 27-mile stretch of the Delaware River valley bordered by the cities of Camden, Chester, Philadelphia and Wilmington." <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/05/op-ed-delaware-river-pollution-should-be-a-national-concern/>

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

- **Murphy Administration Picks up Speed Getting Electric Trucks on the Road** - The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) held a public hearing on its proposed Climate Pollution Reduction rule entitled "Advanced Clean Trucks Program and Fleet Reporting Requirements," which is part of the NJ PACT (Protecting Against Climate Threats) targeted regulatory reform effort. The proposed rule has two components, as follows: "First, the Advanced Clean Trucks Program will require manufacturers of vehicles over 8,500 pounds gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) to participate in a credit/deficit program intended to increase the percentage of zero-emission vehicles sold in New Jersey...Second, the Fleet Reporting Requirement imposes a one-time reporting requirement intended to obtain information about the in-State operation of fleets of vehicles over 8,500 pounds GVWR that will inform future decisions concerning further emission reductions from the transportation sector." At the public hearing, there was little criticism of the rule; however, Nicky Sheats of the NJ Environmental Justice Alliance (NJEJA) advocated for it to be amended to include mandatory emissions reductions in overburdened communities. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/05/electric-trucks-zero-emission-delivery-vans-dirty-diesel-department-of-environmental-protection/>
- **Bill to Encourage Hydrogen Fuel Cell Use Now Law in New Jersey** - Gov. Murphy signed a bill (A740) that "a State agency that seeks to purchase an item requiring the use of a power source, including but not limited to, motor vehicles, material and cargo-handling equipment such as forklifts, harbor craft, generators, power systems, portable floodlights, microgrids, and telecommunications equipment, is to include in the request for proposals, provisions that allow for the consideration of items that are powered by fuel cells, as that term is defined in the bill." <https://enviropolitics.com/bill-to-stimulate-state-commercial-use-of-hydrogen-fuel-cells-now-law-in-new-jersey/>

FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Sierra Club: FERC Grants 2-Year Extension for NESE – Shameful** - Despite overwhelming opposition from multiple groups, over 1,400 comments, and denials of water permits from both NJ and NY, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has granted Williams Transco's petition for an additional two years to construct the Northeast Supply Enhancement Pipeline (NESE). <https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/sierra-club-ferc-grants-2-year-extension-nese-shameful/>
- **Appeals Court Rejects Environmentalists' Call to Halt Pinelands Pipeline** - The NJ Sierra Club and the Pinelands Preservation Alliance had filed an appeal with the NJ Appellate Court, stating that the Pinelands Commission should not have approved the Southern Reliability Link natural gas pipeline in 2017. The court did not find evidence that the project would adversely affect groundwater quality or endangered species, and asserted that it was not in conflict with management of the Pinelands preserve. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/04/pinelands-pipeline-approval-state-appeals-court-finds-for-pipeline-advocates-unimpressed-with-environmentalists-arguments/>
- **PennEast Will Scrap Pipeline If It Loses U.S. Supreme Court Appeal** - The State of NJ argued before the Supreme Court that the PennEast Pipeline Co.'s (PennEast) taking of state land is unconstitutional, as was upheld by the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals; PennEast argued that it was acting under the auspices of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which approved its plans. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/04/penn-east-pipeline-give-up-nj-pipeline-loses-in-supreme-court>

- **Newark Residents, 40+ Groups Call on Gov. Murphy and PVSC to Stop Fracked Gas Power Plant Proposed in Ironbound, Shift to Renewable Energy Plan** - Over 40 environmental, faith and social justice groups, including several of EJTF's partner organizations, called in to the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission's Zoom board meeting asking the agency to stop their plans for a new fracked-gas power plant at the sewage processing facility in Newark's Ironbound community. This is just one of the proposals that is attempting to receive approval before the NJ Cumulative Impacts Law (EJ Law) goes into effect. <https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/newark-residents-40-groups-call-gov-murphy-pvsc-stop-fracked-gas-power-plant-proposed-ironbound-shift-renewable-energy-plan/>



- **Passaic County Prodding NJ Gov. Murphy to Block Gas Pipeline Project in Highlands** - This article summarizes the status of local objections to the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company's plan to build a new compressor station near the Monksville Reservoir in the Highlands Region. <https://enviropolitics.com/passaic-county-prodding-nj-gov-murphy-to-block-gas-pipeline-project-in-highlands/>

LEAD REDUCTION IN HOUSEHOLDS

STATEWIDE

NEW NJ LAW REQUIRING DRINKING WATER LEAD NOTIFICATION PASSED!

Gov. Murphy signed legislation (S968/A2836) requiring public water systems to provide notice of elevated lead levels in drinking water to customers and local officials and require landlords to notify tenants of elevated lead levels. Written notice of elevated lead levels in drinking water must be provided no later than 10 days after it is determined that they are above the lead action level. The notice must give details of the lead action level, health effects of lead in drinking water, and steps to take to reduce risk. Landlords must deliver the notice to tenants within three days of receiving the notice from the public water system (see articles below).

- **Landlords Must Tell Tenants about Lead in Their Water under New N.J. Law** - <https://www.nj.com/news/2021/05/landlords-must-tell-tenants-about-lead-in-their-water-under-new-nj-law.html>
- **Governor Murphy Signs Legislation Improving Notification of Elevated Lead Levels in Drinking Water (Governor's office press release)** - <https://www.state.nj.us/governor/news/news/562021/approved/20210511d.shtml>

LOCAL

[Note: the following four links are from the Jersey Water Works monthly newsletter: view past issues and/or sign up to receive it monthly here: <https://www.jerseywaterworks.org/our-work/>]

- **Federal Funding Allows for Replacement of Aging Water Lines in Bloomfield** (news video) - Funds from the federal "American Rescue Plan" is being used by Bloomfield to replace aging lead water lines. <https://bronx.news12.com/federal-funding-allows-for-replacement-of-aging-water-lines-in-bloomfield>
- **Bloomfield Announces Plans For \$26M in COVID Recovery Funds** - Plans include funds for addressing lead in water pipes. <https://patch.com/new-jersey/bloomfield/bloomfield-announces-plans-26m-covid-recovery-funds>



- **Newark Finishing Lead Water Pipe Replacement Years Ahead of Schedule** (news video - interviews with officials and worker) - Replacement of Newark's lead-contaminated water pipes was projected to take 10 years, but it is close to being completed after two years. <https://abc7ny.com/newark-lead-water-pipe-replacement/10532020/>
- **City of Newark Nears Completion on Project to Replace All Lead Water Service Lines** (news video - interviews with residents) - Newark expects to replace all 18,500 lead lines by the end of the summer. <https://bronx.news12.com/city-of-newark-nears-completion-on-project-to-replace-all-lead-water-service-lines>

GREEN AMENDMENT

- **On Earth Day 2021, Two States Joined the National Green Amendment Movement: Delaware and Iowa!** - Two states (PA and MT) already have Green Amendments. Thirteen others (DE, HI, IA, KY, ME, MD, NJ, NM, NY, OR, VT, WA, and WV) have some form of Green Amendment proposed in their state. New York's is to be on the state ballot in November; New Jersey's (ACR80/SCR30) was introduced in both houses of the legislature on 1/14/2020, but has not been voted on by either of them (see "EJTF Goal #3" on p. 11 for steps you can take). <http://go.pardot.com/webmail/176172/248558613/78be9a5482238e67b9ca4f5eed785d78182756b558of4a35c441947b025be191>

RENEWABLE RESOURCES

STATEWIDE

- **As Solar Power Grows, a Roadblock Remains in Place** - Connecting new solar projects to the electrical grid, which is near capacity in places, may impede NJ's meeting its clean energy goals. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/05/interconnection-delays-big-problem-impeding-solar-growth-new-jersey-state-wants-fix/>
- **NJ Undecided On How to Move Forward on Aggressive Solar Goals** - The NJ Senate Environment and Energy Committee approved a bill (S2605) that would establish an "SREC-II" (solar renewable energy certificates) program in the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU). The SREC-II program would serve as a successor program to the SREC program, and would: (1) distribute solar renewable energy certificates (SRECs) to solar power facilities that qualify; and (2) include a competitive solicitation process for certain large solar power facilities (grid-scale projects). Representatives of many different groups had many different objections to it. An identical bill in the NJ Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee has not come to a vote. A straw proposal by the BPU for the SREC successor program has been undergoing public review and comment (see articles below). <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/05/nj-heated-debate-grid-scale-solar-projects-legislation-fuels-doubts-over-clean-energy-targets-developers-conservationists-consumer-advocates-much-criticism-incentives-sen-bob-smith/>
- **Solar-Incentive Proposal Under Fire** - This article describes concerns related to the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) straw proposal for the SREC (solar renewable energy certificates) successor program (see articles above and below) that has been undergoing public review and comment, and summarizes the specific concerns of solar developers that the proposed incentives are too low. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/04/solar-energy-incentives-murphy-green-agenda-incentives-too-low-not-enough-money/>
- **Can NJ Entice Solar Developers While Reining in Costs? Latest Round of Arguments** - This article describes the NJ Board of Public Utilities' (BPU) straw proposal for the SREC (solar renewable energy certificates) successor program (see articles above) that has been undergoing public review and comment, and summarizes the concerns of the NJ Division of Rate Counsel about potential large rate increases. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/05/can-nj-entice-solar-developers-while-reining-in-costs-latest-round-of-arguments-growing-concerns-almost-1-million-behind-on-utility-bills/>

LOCAL

- **Delanco Solar Farm Will Provide Clean Energy to Hundreds in South Jersey** - A ribbon-cutting-ceremony took place on the first community solar project in NJ to be completed on a former landfill site. <https://www.burlingtoncountytimes.com/story/news/2021/05/13/delanco-solar-farm-help-low-and-moderate-income-residents/4895468001/>
- **Somerville Working to Develop 25-Acre Solar Farm at Former Landfill** - The Somerville Borough Council introduced an ordinance at a recent meeting that would create a lease agreement with a solar developer to begin discussions for a 25-acre solar farm at the site of a former landfill. <https://www.tapinto.net/towns/somerville/sections/green/articles/somerville-working-to-develop-25-acre-solar-farm-at-former-landfill>

- **Grassroots Clean Energy Campaigns Ramp Up in Five Towns** - Food & Water Watch is launching petition campaigns in Woodbridge, North Brunswick, Cherry Hill, Teaneck and Long Branch to help create community choice aggregation programs, which allow residents to buy electricity in bulk to save money on their energy bills. This approach is being used elsewhere in NJ and nationwide by communities to increase renewable energy use, when possible. <https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/grassroots-clean-energy-campaigns-ramp-five-towns/>



- **Solar Farm Jeopardizes Warren Co.'s Agricultural Heritage, Quality of Life, Residents Say** - The NJ Highlands Coalition and two local residents have filed suit against the township that has approved a 600-acre industrial solar project and electrical substation, stating that it would adversely impact soil for agriculture, diminish property values and destroy quality of life. <https://www.lehighvalleylive.com/warren-county/2021/05/solar-farm-jeopardizes-warren-cos-agricultural-heritage-quality-of-life-residents-say.html>

OPINION

- **Opinion: Solar, the Farmer's Best Friend** (by Tim Daniels, cofounder of Dakota Power Partners, a utility-scale solar development company that has committed to investing \$1 billion in solar farms in New Jersey) - The author promotes the premise that large-scale solar is a "powerful tool for farmland preservation" for several reasons. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/05/solar-farms-farmland-farmland-preservation-crop-yields-additional-income-soil-enhancement-bees-wild-pollinators/>

CLIMATE CHANGE

STATEWIDE

- **EPA Relaunches Climate Indicators Website Showing How Climate Change is Impacting Peoples' Health and Environment** - After four years of its being offline, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is relaunching its "Climate Change Indicators in the United States" public website (available here: <https://www.epa.gov/climate-indicators>). It presents evidence of changes to climate reflected in rising temperatures, ocean acidity, sea level rise, river flooding, droughts, heat waves, and wildfires, among other indicators, and provides interactive graphs, maps, and figures, along with descriptions of how climate change can affect human health and the environment. It addresses the following general topics: greenhouse gases, weather and climate, oceans, snow and ice, human consequences, and adaptation and resilience. Of particular relevance to NJ are sections on coastal flooding and land loss along the Atlantic coast. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-relaunches-climate-indicators-website-showing-how-climate-change-impacting-peoples>

- **Climate Change Added \$8 Billion to Sandy's Damages, Study Says** - A new report, prepared by researchers from Climate Central based in Princeton, Stevens Institute, and Rutgers University, (available here: https://d1ung6i9j8i9xc.cloudfront.net/wp-content/blogs.dir/123/files/2021/05/EMBARGO_Climate-Central-Media-Alert_Hurricane-Sandy-Attribution-Study_5-18-2021.pdf) estimates a sea level rise of 4 inches in the NY/NJ area between 1900 and 2012, specifically caused by human-caused climate change. [.https://www.nj.com/news/2021/05/climate-change-added-8-billion-to-sandys-damages-study-says.html](https://www.nj.com/news/2021/05/climate-change-added-8-billion-to-sandys-damages-study-says.html)
- **Cost of NJ's Green-Energy Plan Remains Unknown** - NJ's Energy Master Plan, issued in 2019, did not include the promised cost analysis, which was delayed due to COVID-19 economic issues. The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) is proceeding on a contract for a cost analysis, but it is not planned to be completed for 18 months. In the meantime, decisions are being made that will impact ratepayers and costs for energy projects. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/05/clean-energy-consultant-prices-18-month-timeframe-costs-to-come-after-project-approval/>
- **Chatham Supervisor, Student Discuss NJ Public Schools Climate Change Curriculum on NPR** (with link to radio interview) - Last year, NJ became the first U.S. state to require that climate change be fully integrated in the K-12 public school curriculum across every subject area. The Chatham High School science supervisor, along with a high school senior, were interviewed on National Public Radio's (NPR) "Here & Now" program, to discuss how Chatham integrated climate change into its curriculum. <https://patch.com/new-jersey/chatham/chatham-supervisor-student-discuss-climate-change-npr>



- **Regenerating Native Forests to Fight Climate Change** - Deer overpopulation in NJ is eliminating new generations of saplings and seedlings needed to regenerate native forests, giving way to non-native invasive weeds and vines, which in addition to preventing growth of trees to replace mature trees, do not support native wildlife. Duke Farms undertook a 20-year program of improving habitat by minimizing deer presence, and it has successfully regenerated the forest and prevented invasion by non-native species. (The past webinar "Managing Deer to Restore Forests and Sequester Carbon" on p. 9 above, describes the program in detail.) The result has been restoration of a forest that will increase carbon sequestration and habitat for diverse wildlife. https://www.southjerseylocalnews.com/medford_central_record/regenerating-native-forests-to-fight-climate-change/article_a66523d0-b1a7-11eb-8193-ffcdfcd2c02.html

LOCAL

- **Hoboken Breaks Ground on \$230 Million Climate Change Resiliency Project** - As a response to Hurricane Sandy, in 2014 Hoboken was selected for a storm resiliency grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The city was awarded \$230 million for a proposal that came to include four components: Resist, Delay, Store and Discharge, each named for the function they will perform. [Additional information, along with site plan map, graphic of water flow, and renderings of the planned project, are available here: <https://jerseydigs.com/ground-broken-on-230-million-rebuild-by-design-flood-mitigation-project/>.] A press conference was held announcing the beginning of construction. <https://www.nj.com/hudson/2021/05/hoboken-breaks-ground-on-230-million-climate-change-resiliency-project.html>
- **Jersey City's New Climate and Energy Action Plan Is a Win-Win, Officials Say** - Jersey City's first Climate and Energy Action Plan was approved by the City Council on 5/13/2021. The plan consists of more than 50 actions for reducing the city's carbon footprint, including a new community solar program specifically for renters and low-income homeowners, and energy and emission requirements for new and municipal buildings citywide to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. <https://www.nj.com/hudson/2021/05/jersey-citys-new-climate-and-energy-action-plan-is-a-win-win-officials-say.html>

POLLUTION

- **51 Weeks (and Counting): Deadline for NJ's Ban on Single-Use Plastic Bags, Foam Food Containers** - NJ's ban on single-use carryout bags and polystyrene-foam food containers will go into effect starting 5/4/2022. This article describes the ban and provides links to websites for further information. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/05/51-weeks-and-counting/>



- **Delaware River May Be Dumping More Plastic Into Ocean Than Any Other U.S. Waterway** - A study funded by "The Ocean Cleanup" used a probabilistic modeled of river basins worldwide and concluded that 80% of plastic pollution in the ocean comes from 1,656 rivers. The Delaware River came out near the bottom of the worldwide list, but at the top of U.S. rivers. Population density, topography, and number of landfills in the region are factors contributing to the estimated 283,000 pounds of plastics contributed by the river yearly. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/05/delaware-river-plastic-oceans-pollution-largest-polluter-u-s/>

DRINKING WATER-RELATED ISSUES (other than lead)

- **Solvay Says No More to Replacements for ‘Forever Chemicals’ at South Jersey Plant** - Solvay, a chemical company in West Deptford, had previously been using PFAS "forever chemicals" in their processing, but had substituted unregulated replacements without describing what they were, citing "confidential business information." NJ has sued them regarding both the PFAS and the replacement chemicals. Solvay now says they will stop using the replacements by the end of June, by implementing new technologies. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/05/solvay-forever-chemicals-toxic-pfas-birth-defects-cancers-health-problems>
- **South Jersey Residents Sue Chemical Companies Over ‘Public Health Catastrophe’** - A number of lawsuits against DuPont, Chemours, Solvay, Arkema, and 3M have been filed in Federal court by families claiming illnesses from environmental contamination. More lawsuits are expected to be filed shortly. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/05/south-jersey-dozens-lawsuits-federal-court-pfas-heavy-metals-salem-gloucester-counties-witches-brew-dupont-chemours-solvay-arkema-3m-carneys-point/>

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- **The \$1.6 Billion Effort to Cut Your Energy Bills** - This article summarizes ways NJ's various utilities are implementing programs, using things like assessments, rebates, and other incentives, to influence customers to increase energy efficiency. The costs for the programs, which have been approved by the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU), will be passed along to customers, but in some cases they will receive savings for participating in the programs. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/05/nj-energy-electric-gas-utility-efficiency-bills-cut-green-utilities-1-6-billion-energy-efficiency-measures/>

OTHER

STATEWIDE

- **Murphy Administration Highlights Infrastructure Investments Aimed at Addressing Climate Change and Economic Development During National Infrastructure Week** - During National Infrastructure Week, the Murphy Administration hosted events highlighting infrastructure investments to address climate change and economic development: 1) ribbon cutting for the launch of Soltage's 3.1MW community solar project in Delanco, the first community solar project in NJ to be completed on a landfill (see article on p. 17 and see video here: <https://www.njspotlight.com/video/new-community-solar-farm-built-on-closed-delanco-landfill/>); 2) NJ First Lady Tammy Murphy hosted a Green Economy conversation with Donnel Baird, member of the New Jersey Council on the Green Economy and founder of BlocPower, a climate technology company that partners with governments, utilities, building owners, and community members to generate energy bill savings, reduce carbon emissions and improve public health (see video here: <https://www.facebook.com/FirstLadyNJ/videos/807485520198221>); and 3) the Governor's Office of Climate Action and the Green Economy, in partnership with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development and the Board of Public Utilities, hosted a virtual roundtable discussion, "Developing a Clean Energy Workforce" (see video here: <https://www.facebook.com/njbpu/videos/2966661810285599/>). A description of all events is here: <https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/murphy-administration-highlight-infrastructure-investments-aimed-addressing-climate-change-economic-development-national-infrastructure-week/>

- **NJ Nuke Plants Get Another Round of \$300m Annual Subsidies** - Based on Public Service Enterprise Group's (PSEG) statements that their nuclear power plants in NJ would not be profitable without an extension of the \$300 million annual subsidies and would have to close, the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) extended the subsidies for another three years. The NJ Division of Rate Counsel Director is not in agreement (see article below). <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/04/nj-nuke-plants-300m-annual-ratepayer-subsidies-bpu/>
- **Do NJ's Nuke Plants Need That \$300m Subsidy?** - The latest quarterly report issued by the Independent Market Monitor (IMM) for the regional transmission organization PJM Interconnection shows that Public Service Enterprise Group's (PSEG) NJ nuclear plants would have a surplus in 2021. PSEG had maintained that they would experience a loss and would have to close if they did not receive the \$300 million annual subsidy recently extended by the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) (see article above). PSEG maintains that IMM only has access to public information and cannot accurately estimate the total costs. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/05/pseg-nuclear-subsidy-300m-unnecessary-pjm-interconnection-market-monitor-bpu-rate-counsel/>



- **Eight NJ Counties Get an ‘F’ for Air Quality** - In the American Lung Association's annual air quality assessment, eight counties (Bergen, Camden, Gloucester, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, and Ocean) received an “F” grade, based on the high number of days violating the national air quality standard for ground-level ozone. Interestingly, six counties (Burlington, Cape May, Salem, Somerset, Sussex, and Union) had no monitor collecting this data in the county. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/04/american-lung-association-air-quality-report-gives-eight-new-jersey-counties-f-ground-level-ozone/>

LOCAL

- **Warren County Commissioners Unanimously Oppose Proposed Forestry Stewardship Bills** - As was described on p. 20 of the EJTF May 2021 newsletter (available here: <https://www.uufaithaction.org/blog/>) there is a suite of bills in the NJ legislature that mandate municipalities to develop forest management plans, mandate burning, take away forest oversight including tree ordinances from municipalities, and pass costs to municipalities as unfunded mandates. Warren has passed a resolution describing more than a dozen negative consequences and reasons for their opposition to the bills. <https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/warren-county-commissioners-unanimously-oppose-proposed-forestry-stewardship-bills/>

OPINION

- **Opinion: Let's Get New Jerseyans Back to Work with Natural Infrastructure Investment** (by Collin O'Mara, president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation, and Eric Stiles, president and CEO of New Jersey Audubon) - The authors describe benefits to the Delaware River Basin of the proposed "American Jobs Plan" and benefits already occurring from the "Delaware Basin Restoration Program." <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/05/op-ed-lets-get-new-jerseyans-back-to-work-with-natural-infrastructure-investment/>
- **Opinion: Moving From Fossil Fuels Will Kill Jobs. but We Can Create Even More Green Jobs That Pay Better** (by Kathleen Biggins, founder and president of C-Change Conversations, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving understanding about the science and effects of climate change) - The author provides a number of reasons why transitioning from fossil fuels to green jobs will actually create more jobs and protect the overall economy. <https://www.nj.com/opinion/2021/05/moving-from-fossil-fuels-will-kill-jobs-but-we-can-create-even-more-green-jobs-that-pay-better-opinion.html>



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 (609-292-6000). Over 50 environmental, citizen, faith, and progressive groups in NJ are calling on Governor Murphy to enact a moratorium on all new fossil fuel projects in New Jersey until there are rules in place to achieve 100% clean energy goals.

UU FaithAction NJ - Environmental Justice Task Force - <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