



Environmental Justice Task Force Newsletter

July 2021

[covering 5/28/2021 – 6/26/2021] <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.

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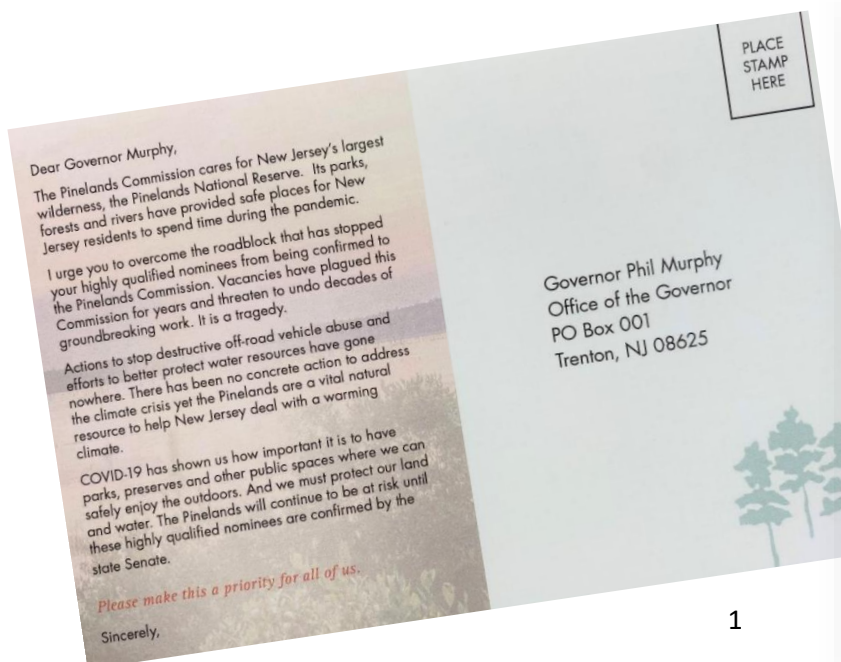
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UU CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST OCEAN COUNTY CONGREGATION (UUOCC)

The Pinelands are threatened by unwise development projects such as the SRL pipeline and the unwillingness of the state to protect the Pinelands from these incursions. The Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation (UUOCC) led an effort to send dozens of postcards (shown below left) to Governor Murphy to support the Pinelands Commission and to urge him to get his nominees confirmed by the State Senate. The candidates that he nominated two

years ago to the Pinelands Commission are still waiting for confirmation. These vacancies severely weaken the Commission and result in risky development projects not having proper oversight. UUOCC congregants Barbara Diamantopoulos (UUOCC President) and Bonney Parker are shown in the photo below with their signed postcards to Governor Murphy.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF SUSSEX COUNTY (UUFSC)

Members of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sussex County (UUFSC) have been active in advocating against the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Expansion across northern NJ. Federal approval for the project was expected to be granted late last month, but instead the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has decided to do a more comprehensive environmental review before issuing any approval for this project! FERC originally did a weak Environmental Assessment (EA) which hundreds of environmental advocates, including EJTF members, commented on. Thanks to those comments, FERC has decided to do a more comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which has the potential to be a much more thorough report and gives us more time to organize and stop this proposal (see article and link on p. 16). Though we must continue to call on Governor Murphy to protect NJ and stop this project, this is an important sign that the federal government has concluded there are real and significant risks associated with this project. We expect the draft EIS to be published later this summer and will once again need to submit comments, so please stay tuned for updates.

The coalition of advocates is making progress, though! So far Wantage, Ringwood, Hamburg, Montague, Bloomfield, Alpine, the Somerset County Commissioners, and the Ramapo College Student Government Association have all passed resolutions against the project, and over 1,000 people have signed a petition to the Governor. But there's still work to be done - if you are able to take a resolution to your municipal council, please email sdifalco@fwwatch.org to coordinate. And if you are part of an organization that would like to sign onto the coalition's letter to the governor and join the coalition, please sign on here: <https://forms.gle/KFbRADSf7ZWY6Rtd9>.

Most recently, efforts to stop this project focused on a Sussex County Commissioners meeting at which Sussex County residents asked the Commissioners to sign a resolution in opposition to the expansion project. Though the Sussex County Commissioners do not have the authority to approve or deny the project, they can urge the Governor to order the NJ



Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to reject the required permits. Several UU's from UUFSC were present to speak at the public session.

The photo at left shows UUFSC members Sally Sattin, Barbara Kelly, Christine Dunbar, Lauren Jones-Rabbitt and Abigail Rabbitt in front of the Sussex County Community College (SCCC) Performing Arts Center, where Commissioner meetings are held. The photo at right shows UUFSC President Barbara Kelly speaking at the session.



Also, UUFSC and **EJTF member Christine Dunbar**, who is active in the Pay Up NJ Climate Polluters group, has provided an update from them that Atlantic City recently passed a resolution in favor of urging the State of NJ to file a lawsuit against Big Oil "to hold fossil fuel companies accountable for climate change resilience costs."

MORRISTOWN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP (MUUF)

During the month of July, the Morristown Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's (MUUF) Green Earth Ministry kicked off a challenge to celebrate freedom from plastics. The 31-day global challenge is a partnership between [ecochallenge.org](https://plasticfree.ecochallenge.org) and the Columbus Zoo/Aquarium, and was designed to create awareness about the impact of single-use plastics on wildlife, and also inspire behavior change on behalf of humans.

You can join them!

Go to <https://plasticfree.ecochallenge.org>, provide your contact information, and create a team at your UU congregation. After a short video, you will be invited to select specific actions from a host of categories such as food, personal care, community and pets, to name a few. For example, if you choose food, you might commit to giving up plastic straws or using reusable containers.

Let's put down those Solo cups and raise up a reusable bottle instead. Cheers!

EJTF ACTIVITIES

EJTF member Sally Gellert continues to be a regular co-host of the "Eco-Logic" radio show on WBAI (99.5 fm radio and streaming at www.wbai.org) on Fridays from 2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Eco-Logic regularly airs shows that are very pertinent to EJTF's areas of interest. The following are some of the shows that aired in the past two months:

- **"The Green Amendment"** with Maya van Rossum, founder of "Green Amendments For the Generations"
- **"Environmental Justice & Juneteenth"** with Larry Hamm, chair of the People's Organization for Progress; Rev Dr Gregory Simpson, co-founder of the Hudson Valley Environmental Justice Coalition and Board member of Hudson River Sloop Clearwater; and Taylor Morton, WE ACT Director of Environmental Health & Education -- Environmental Health & Justice Leadership Training
- **"Green Roofs And Solar Panels!"** with experts from leafisland.org, whose mission is to regenerate cities to function as natural ecosystems through green technology
- **"Making Your World Greener!"** with the visionary speaker Bob Nagy

Information about future Eco-Logic programs, and a link to be notified of future programs by email, are available here: <http://www.comicbookradioshow.com/eco-logic.html>.

FUTURE EVENTS - *Virtual and In-Person*

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

JULY 2021						
(with hyperlinks to details on the following pages)						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues..	Wed	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
			[June 30] Tree Identification & Hazards - 12:00 p.m.	1 A Proper Carbon Price - A Key to Higher Climate Action? - 9:00 a.m. On-Farm Renewable Energy in Northern NJ - 11:30 a.m.	2	3
4	5	6 Environmental Benefits of Trees - 12:00 p.m.	7	8 Society's Global Appetite for Technology Accelerates Climate Change and E-Waste - 1:15 p.m.	9	10
11	12 bp Statistical Review of World Energy 2021 - 12:00 p.m.	13 July 13th: National Green Amendment Day - All Day Green Amendment Day: A Panel of Leading EJ Voices - 7:00 p.m.	14 Circle Round for Global Justice and Solidarity! - 7:00 p.m. Moths of the World - National Moth Week - 7:00 p.m.	15	16	17
18	19	20 Tree Planting & Maintenance - 12:00 p.m.	21 NJ Clean Air Council Monthly Meeting - 9:00 a.m.	22 Green Amendments: Vehicles for Environmental Justice? - 12:00 p.m. NJDEP Public Hearing: "Greenhouse Gas Monitoring and Reporting" Rule - 1:00 p.m.	23	24 Camden Tree Pruning: Cooper Poynt Park - 9:00 a.m.
25	26 2021 Congressional Clean Energy EXPO and Policy Forum - 2:00 p.m.	27	28 Teaching Climate Change in K-5 Classrooms (NJSOC) - 10:00 a.m. Jersey Water Works 2021 Membership Meeting: "Different Perspectives, New Opportunities, Win-Win Solutions" - 1:00 p.m. The Climate Activist Toolkit - Summer Workshop Series (#1 of 3) - 6:00 p.m.	29	30	31 iNaturalist: A Tool for Exploration and Citizen Science. The Field Edition! (NJSOC) - 10:00 a.m.

"TreeKeeper's Workshop 2021" - Virtual and In-Person
New Jersey Tree Foundation
Multiple Dates

The TreeKeeper's Workshop teaches attendees all about tree identification, environmental benefits of trees, and proper pruning and mulching techniques. This year's workshop will be a combination of in-person and virtual sessions. Three Zoom sessions will each cover a different topic, and following this will be in-person events where participants will get hands-on experience pruning young trees. One CEU credit will be awarded for each session that is attended live, as well as for the pruning events. Additional information is here: <https://njtrees.org/treekeepers-workshop-2021/>. The schedule, and links to register for each session, are below:

TreeKeeper's Workshop Zoom Session #1: "Tree Identification & Hazards"

Wednesday, June 30, 2021, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Register here: <https://form.jotform.com/211654541819155>.

TreeKeeper's Workshop Zoom Session #2: "Environmental Benefits of Trees"

Tuesday, July 6, 2021, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Register here: <https://form.jotform.com/211655704520146>.

TreeKeeper's Workshop Zoom Session #3: "Tree Planting & Maintenance"

Tuesday, July 20, 2021, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Register here: <https://form.jotform.com/211655281297157>

TreeKeeper's Workshop In-Person "Camden Tree Pruning: Cooper Poynt Park"

Saturday, July 24, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Register here: <https://form.jotform.com/211655873080154>.

TreeKeeper's Workshop In-Person "Newark Tree Pruning: West Side Park"

Saturday, August 14, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Register here: <https://form.jotform.com/211655753843158>.

**"A Proper Carbon Price - A Key to Higher Climate Action?" (Circular Table Talk #1) -
Webinar**

Thursday, July 1, 2021, 9:00 a.m.

This webinar, presented by "We Don't Have Time" and Ragn-Sells (a Swedish family business, with operations in a total of four countries, that specializes in developing and providing solutions that support recycling and the circular economy) is the first episode in a series of six in-depth table talks on the circular economy. The series will explore ideas that have the potential to benefit people and the planet, and build green economies locally and globally. It will bring together experts on the circular economy, showing examples of projects applying these principles in real life, and challenging preconceived notions of what is and isn't waste. This first episode will focus on CO₂, the main greenhouse gas, looking at whether a circular economy transforms it from a problem to a useful resource, what role carbon pricing plays in enabling this shift, and presenting real world examples.

Register here: <https://www.wedonthavetime.org/events/circulartabletalks>.

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 July 2021. The site includes updated information over time; **check the site periodically for an updated list:**
<https://climatesociety.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/year.listevents/2021/>.

"On-Farm Renewable Energy in Northern NJ" - Webinar Thursday, July 1, 2021, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

The last few years have seen many advances in the small scale renewable energy field. Photovoltaic systems and wind turbines are becoming less expensive and less intrusive. The cost for renewable energy systems such as photovoltaic solar panels and wind microturbines has come down significantly in recent years. In addition, there are many new ways to deploy solar and wind projects on farms and small businesses which can actually enhance regular operations. For many local farms and small businesses, these technologies have the potential to deliver long-term energy independence and a sizable return on investment. In this webinar, experts will discuss integration of small-scale renewable energy into farms and rural small businesses. More information and the registration link are available here: <https://climatesociety.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/icalrepeat.detail/2021/07/01/6593/-/webinar-on-farm-renewable-energy-in-northern-nj>

This webinar is sponsored by North Jersey RC&D (Resource Conservation and Development) non-profit organization. RC&D areas were established in the Agriculture Act of 1962 to provide a program that empowers local citizens to develop and carry out an action-oriented plan for the social, economic and environmental enrichment of their communities. North Jersey RC&D is dedicated to meeting community needs through conservation, focusing on agricultural sustainability, water resource protection, and community development, in Sussex, Warren, Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset & Union counties.

"Society's Global Appetite for Technology Accelerates Climate Change and E-Waste" - Webinar Thursday, July 8, 2021, 1:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

"Technology is an essential and valued aspect of our lives, yet it comes at a price. The carbon footprint of our devices, the internet and the systems supporting them account for about 3.7% of global greenhouse emissions, about as much as produced by the airline industry. Moreover, technology products continue to consume unsustainable amounts of materials and natural resources, be a source of hazardous substances, add to the largest growing waste stream in the world, e-waste, in addition to negative climate impacts." This webinar, sponsored by the Security and Sustainability Forum and the Global Electronics Council, addresses how sustainable purchasing practices can accelerate the technology industry's pathway to net zero energy and planet-friendlier products and waste management practices. Additional information and the registration link are here:
<https://climatesociety.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/icalrepeat.detail/2021/07/08/6569/-/webinar-society-s-global-appetite-for-technology-accelerates-climate-change-and-e-wastes-leveraging-the-power-of-sustainable-and-circular-procurement>.

**"bp Statistical Review of World Energy 2021" - Virtual
Monday, July 12, 2021, 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

Presented by the Columbia|SIPA Center for Global Energy Policy, this webinar will examine 2020, one of the most tumultuous years for global energy in modern history. What actually happened? How surprising was it? What did we learn about the functioning of the energy system and what messages does it contain for the energy transition and the path to net zero? Additional information about the webinar, the panelists, and a link to register, are here: <https://www.energypolicy.columbia.edu/events-calendar/bp-statistical-review-world-energy-2021>.

**"July 13th: National Green Amendment Day" - Virtual
Tuesday, July 13, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**GREEN AMENDMENT DAY
JULY 13
ENDING ENVIRONMENTAL
RACISM & RESTORING
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
THROUGH CONSTITUTIONAL
EMPOWERMENT**

Green Amendments For The Generations is partnering with environmental justice leaders across the nation to launch the inaugural Green Amendment Day on July 13th. Green Amendment Day is dedicated to educating and engaging civil rights, environmental, environmental justice and Indigenous leaders and community members across the nation around the power of Green Amendments for ending environmental racism and restoring environmental justice through constitutional empowerment.

Check here for actions you can take on Green Amendment Day (also see "Green Amendment Day: A Panel of Leading EJ Voices," below): <https://forthegenerations.org/events/green-amendment-day-2021/>.

**"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. Learn more about the power of Bill of Rights protection for strengthening environmental justice. NJ is one of several states on the cusp of adding a Green Amendment to our state Constitution. Many of us are already actively urging our elected officials to support the resolution so the bill can be put to a public vote. Register for the panel presentation 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**

"Circle Round for Global Justice and Solidarity!" - UUA **Virtual Reception**
Wednesday, July 14, 2021, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

The Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA) International Office is holding a virtual reception with speakers who will speak about what the International Office (including the Holdeen India Program and Office at the United Nations) has been working on in the last year. You are invited, to meet others who are passionate about global Unitarian Universalist work towards justice and solidarity. Additional details and registration link are here: <https://www.uua.org/international-justice/events/international-reception>.

"Moths of the World - National Moth Week" - **Webinar**
Wednesday, July 14, 2021, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the East Brunswick Public Library in partnership with the Friends of the East Brunswick Environmental Commission, Michael Sarill of "Project Noah" will present a program about that popular online global community of nature enthusiasts and its collaboration with National Moth Week, which starts July 17. Michael will lead aspiring citizen scientists through Project Noah's "Moths of the World" mission. Project Noah is an award-winning software platform for both amateurs and professionals to upload and publish photos, create a personal nature journal, collect ecological data, help to preserve global biodiversity, and learn about the natural world on projectnoah.org. Michael will also highlight a new video created by Project Noah Nature School on how to go mothing. National Moth Week, in its tenth year, shines a light on often unheralded moths, calling attention to their beauty, extraordinary diversity and essential role in the natural world as pollinators and a food source for other creatures. More information and registration link are here: <https://ilove.ebpl.org/adults-kids-teens/events/tween/moths-world-national-moth-week/2021-07-14-230000-2021-07-15-000000>.

NJ Clean Air Council Monthly Meeting - **Virtual**
Wednesday, July 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>.

NJDEP Public Hearing on "Greenhouse Gas Monitoring and Reporting" Rule - **Virtual**
Thursday, July 22, 2021, 1:00 p.m.

This proposed rulemaking is part of a comprehensive strategy to address greenhouse gas emissions statewide, and has three major components to require sources to monitor and report their emissions of methane and halogenated gases. First, facilities that emit 100 tons or greater per year of methane will be required to report their methane emissions. Second, facilities that use 50 pounds or more of high global warming potential (GWP) refrigerants will be required to register and report their equipment and use of refrigerants. Third, natural gas public utilities with local distribution lines in NJ will be required to report information regarding their lines, advanced leak detection, and blowdown events. The proposed rules also include penalty provisions. An advance copy of the proposed rule is available at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/notices.html>. Written comments are due by 8/20/2021. Further information and the link to join the meeting are here: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/notices/20210621a.html>.

"Green Amendments: Vehicles for Environmental Justice?" - Webinar
Thursday, July 22, 2021, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The Environmental Law Institute (ELI) and Green Amendments For The Generations are co-sponsoring this webinar of leading panelists from across the country, who will explore the potential for Green Amendments to secure the constitutional recognition and protection of the right to a healthy environment and to provide a new path to help secure true Environmental Justice for all. The panel will include, among others, Kim Gaddy of Clean Water Action and Maya K. van Rossum, founder of the National Green Amendment movement. Panelists will discuss: Can Green Amendments help secure stronger environmental protection? Do they provide additional strength for the environmental justice movement? What are the practical opportunities and challenges states are likely to face in advancing, implementing and enforcing these amendments? **This event is free and open to the public; registration, and setting up a free non-member ELI account, are required. Register here by July 20, 2021:** <https://www.eli.org/events/green-amendments-vehicles-environmental-justice>.

"2021 Congressional Clean Energy EXPO and Policy Forum" - Webinar
Monday, July 26, 2021, 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) and the House and Senate Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (REEE) Caucuses present this year's Virtual Congressional Clean Energy EXPO, showcasing technology and policy solutions to today's climate and energy use challenges. Making presentations before Congress and the public, top-level speakers will share findings and innovations on the impacts those are having on mitigating climate change, improving the economy, building resilience, and protecting our security interests.

The schedule is as follows: 2:00 p.m. - Welcome/Overview; 2:10 p.m. - "What does climate change mean for national security and resilience?"; and 3:45 p.m. - "What does climate change mean for jobs and economic development?"

Additional information and RSVP link are available here:
<https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/expo2021#all-speakers>.

Jersey Water Works 2021 Membership Meeting: "Different Perspectives, New Opportunities, Win-Win Solutions" - Virtual
Wednesday, July 28, 2021, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Jersey Water Works is having its annual membership meeting virtually, and all are invited. "This is a pivotal moment for water infrastructure. Come see how Jersey Water Works (JWW) can serve as a platform to foster new opportunities, connections, and win-win solutions to New Jersey's toughest water challenges. New Jersey's potential share of federal funds can propel the state's water infrastructure into a resilient, innovative, and effective water future." The meeting will include: State leaders' perspectives on different challenges within the water sector; opportunities for JWW's members in advocating for water infrastructure solutions; hot-off-the-press member updates; and top highlights from JWW working committees. Register here:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctcOqrrT8rHdKJIuyGyuMqmG3oRoojA3ge>.

**"Teaching Climate Change in K-5 Classrooms" - In-Person
Friends of The New Jersey School of Conservation (NJSOC)
Monday, July 28, 2021, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

"Ready to teach climate change? This program is designed to support K-5 teachers in incorporating the new climate change standards into your already-tight curricula. Additional sessions will be held in August and October related to Grades 6-12. We will model an interdisciplinary and participatory approach that reflects the pedagogies of inclusion and equity in formal and informal learning environments. This workshop will help you understand the basic science of how climate change occurs and the way it affects society differently. The causes and effects of climate change will be explored through art, literature, and other media, as well as an easy nature hike. Workshop activities will include climate change modeling, an interpretive hike, water quality assessment (by land and/or canoe), and analyzing and interpreting data. We will be working both indoors and outdoors (rain or shine) on the beautiful campus of the New Jersey School of Conservation. Whether you teach in a classroom or in an informal setting, you will gain skills and strategies to enable you to address this important issue. Follow up support will be provided!" **Registration is limited; register by July 16, 2021; \$45.00.** Register here: <https://friendsofnjsoc.org/event/teaching-climate-change-k-5-classrooms/>.

**"The Climate Activist Toolkit - Summer Workshop Series" - Webinars
Wednesdays, July 28, 2021, August 11, 2021, and August 25, 2021, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

This three-session series, offered by the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth's (UUMFE) partner organization Elders Climate Action, is designed to build our strengths as climate advocates. These facilitated workshops will cover a range of topics including "Tools for Meeting with Elected Officials," "The Power of Personal Stories," and "Communicating for Climate Action," providing helpful skills, tools and strategies relevant to climate advocates working at local, state, and federal levels. Participants will engage in small-group work (via Zoom breakout rooms) to discuss personal strategies and ideas, practice skills through role play, and plan how to engage in actions. Anyone who registers will also receive the recordings. Additional information and the registration link are here: <https://www.eldersclimateaction.org/summerseries/>. **The workshops are free, with a suggested donation of \$25.00 for the series.**

**"iNaturalist: A Tool for Exploration and Citizen Science. The Field Edition!" - In-Person
Friends of The New Jersey School of Conservation (NJSOC)
Saturday, July 31, 2021, 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

"Spend the day exploring the NJ School of Conservation with like-minded educators!

Get out into the field with other educators who are excited to use iNaturalist! Workshops will be held around the forests, meadows and streams at the NJ School of Conservation (in July) and Merrill Creek Reservoir (in August). Educators will learn valuable tips for taking students outdoors and will work together to complete team challenges. Sign up for just one or join us for both!" **Registration is limited; register for this session by July 30, 2021; \$20.00.** Register here: <https://friendsofnjsoc.org/event/inaturalist-a-tool-for-exploration-and-citizen-science-the-field-edition/>.

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>.

"Offshore Wind in NJ: Meeting the State's Clean Energy and Economic Goals" - Video of NJ Spotlight News Roundtable

Offshore wind is emerging as a significant source of power in NJ, and NJ could become a hub of the fast-growing offshore wind industry along the Eastern Seaboard. NJ Spotlight News held a virtual roundtable that brought together clean-energy advocates, policymakers, offshore-wind developers, and marine biologists. Video of the roundtable, as well as a summary of the remarks, are available here:

<https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/06/rapid-development-offshore-wind-transmission-backbone-next-steps-goals/>.

" 'Clean' Energy Proposals and Real Climate Solutions" - Video of Webinar

"There's been a lot of debate recently about President Biden's climate agenda, especially something called a Clean Electricity Standard. Sounds great, right? It's not quite as simple as it sounds, and it all depends on your definition of 'clean'." Speakers from Food & Water Watch, Indigenous Environmental Network, Center for Biological Diversity, NAACP, and Kyle Whyte, a member of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Commission, participated in this webinar on the nuances of these climate policies and how we can fight for meaningful solutions to the climate crisis. View the video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FjXY9_TYzDY.

"Building for Tomorrow: Jobs, Climate, and Resilient Infrastructure" - Video of Webinar

In this webinar presented by C2ES (Center for Climate and Energy Solutions), experts discussed opportunities to strengthen the resilience of our infrastructure and criteria to guide resilient infrastructure legislation and projects. "President Biden's American Jobs Plan would invest more than \$2 trillion over eight years to modernize the nation's infrastructure, and with Congress shifting focus to infrastructure legislation, there is renewed interest in the need to upgrade the nation's transportation, waterway, power, broadband, and industrial infrastructure. The increasing frequency of extreme weather events highlights the importance of climate-resilient infrastructure that extends project lifespans, avoids future damages and loss of life, and ensures that communities and businesses can rely on modern infrastructure for economic growth." View the video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tj4lWtzUCVc>.

"Catalyzing Investment with a National Climate Bank: Lessons from Subnational Green Banks" - Video of Webinar

Between 2011 and 2020, green banks in the United States invested approximately \$1.9 billion and leveraged \$5.1 billion in private capital investment, for a total investment of \$7 billion. These banks have driven down emissions, created jobs, and increased accessibility to clean energy solutions - critical achievements that must be quickly scaled to address the climate crisis. The Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES) presented a webinar with a discussion of the Center's forthcoming "Closer Look" report, which examines lessons learned from established subnational green banks and provides recommendations for these banks, as well as insights for how subnational experiences can inform the establishment of a new national climate bank.

This webinar provided an overview of the report and perspective from key leaders at subnational green banks at the forefront of catalyzing the investment needed for the clean energy transition. View the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7FVDD6GbjI>.

"The Economic Development Power of Clean Energy - Arizona Example" - Video of Webinar

In this Security and Sustainability Development (SSF) webinar, LightWorks at Arizona State University and SSF convened 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 included: 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. View the video here: <https://ssfworld.org/the-economic-development-power-of-clean-energy-arizona-example/>.

"Unlocking Capital for Climate Solutions - The Benefits of a National Climate Bank" - Video of Webinar

The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) presented 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 explored 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 discussed how these investments would also create jobs and make climate solutions more affordable, accessible, and equitable. View the video here: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/o60821bank>.

"Necessary but Not Sufficient: Unlocking the Impact of Electricity Access" - Video of Webinar

The webinar, part of the Dartmouth series "New Energy: Conversations with Early-Career Energy Researchers," was 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 presented findings from a set of studies on demand-side challenges and opportunities for electrification programs in East Africa. Dr. Williams discussed 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. View the video here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8_dZNLaeSg&list=PLXnV377qgwcfm_NhVIjX9A8ZPbuSpnl1-&index=1.

"Modernizing the U.S. Energy System: Opportunities, Challenges, and the Path Forward" Environmental and Energy Study Institute Briefing Series - Videos of Briefings

The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) presented a three-briefing series about the climate benefits of modernizing the nation's energy system:

"Towards the Energy System of Tomorrow"

Panelists discussed the state of play for the nation's energy system and presented opportunities for improvement using real-world examples of solutions in action. Panelists also discussed 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. Video of the briefing, MP3 audio file, summary of the briefing and Q&A, and presentation slides are available here:

<https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/060421grid>.

"Modernizing America's Transmission Network"

Panelists discussed what is needed to modernize the transmission network, including developing transmission infrastructure for offshore wind and increasing cooperation between states. The briefing also covered how the transmission network can be constructed and maintained to maximize ecosystem conservation, respect Tribal lands, and increase the resilience of neighboring communities. Video of the briefing, MP3 audio file, and presentation slides are available here:

<https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/061121grid>.

"Leveraging Grid Edge Integration for Resilience & Decarbonization"

Panelists discussed policy opportunities related to the grid edge (i.e., the interface between the intelligent grid and smart buildings) such as a federal energy efficiency resource standard, state level efforts, and the nexus between buildings, transportation, energy storage, and the grid. Video of the briefing and the additional materials are available here:

<https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/062521grid>.

“The Big Conversation: How to Talk to Children about the Climate Crisis – at Home and in Schools”

Climate anxiety in young people is rising. This international webinar, sponsored by the international groups "We Don't Have Time" and "Our Kids Climate," brought 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. View the video, download a PDF guide, and link to a video of a previous international webinar "How to Talk to Kids about Climate" here: <https://ourkidsclimate.org/how-to-talk-to-children-about-the-climate-crisis/>.

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 article on p. 16.

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. 17 - 18.

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

- **Tracking Progress on Environmental Justice** [from the "New Jersey Future" organization's blog] - A summary is provided of the EJ Law, and details are given of the spending of NJ's proceeds from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), which NJ has pledged will be used to take actions to address climate change, with an emphasis on projects benefiting environmental justice communities. There now is a New Jersey RGGI Climate Investments Dashboard (available here: <https://njdep.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/71e62ee3de2d4a6585bf4766881406c6>), which provides information about projects that have been funded, including whether they are characterized as benefiting environmental justice communities. <https://www.njfuture.org/2021/06/15/tracking-progress-on-environmental-justice/>

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

The NJ Clean Energy Equity Act bill (A4185/S2484) passed the NJ Senate 11/16/2020, but as of 6/26/2021 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/>.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

- **NJ Transit Scores Federal Grant for More Electric Buses** - NJ Transit was awarded a \$5.15 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) "Low- or No-Emission (Low-No)" vehicle grant program. The project, which will be matched by \$2.2 million from the NJ Transportation Trust Fund, will enable NJ Transit to purchase four new articulated battery-electric buses to replace older diesel transit buses on a route between Newark and Irvington, to expand service in environmental justice communities without adversely impacting air quality in densely populated Northern NJ. <https://www.nj.com/news/2021/06/nj-transit-scores-federal-grant-for-more-electric-buses.html>
- **Clean-Car Rebate Program Gets Second Shot** - This article summarizes the first year of the "Charge Up New Jersey" program of rebates for buying or leasing electric vehicles, and describes proposals for the second year, which may begin after the next state budget is in effect, after July 1. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/06/clean-car-incentives-charge-up-new-jersey-so-popular-ran-out-money-2020-state-looks-re-up-rebate-program-modified/>
- **N.J. Wants to Pay You to Buy an Electric Vehicle. But It Hasn't Said When It Will Resume Doing So.** - This article summarizes the NJ electric vehicle rebate program, and describes timing issues with providing charging stations throughout the state. <https://www.nj.com/news/2021/06/nj-wants-to-pay-you-to-buy-an-electric-vehicle-but-it-hasnt-said-when-it-will-resume-doing-so.html>



- **NJ Transit Lays Out Road Map to Green Future** - This article summarizes the roadmap issued by NJ Transit (see press release below) that outlines how it plans to transition to having a 100% zero-emissions bus fleet by 2040. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/05/nj-transit-road-map-zero-emission-bus-fleet-clean-energy-cut-greenhouse-gases-murphy-goals/>
- **NJ Transit Commits to Achieving Full Transition to 100% Zero-Emissions Bus Fleet by 2040; Proposals Sought for Modernizing Garages; Applies for Federal Funds for Additional Electric Buses** - This NJ Transit press release provides details on the phases it plans to follow in order to achieve the goal of having a 100% zero-emissions bus fleet by 2040. In addition to acquiring the buses, a garage modernization project will completely renovate and transform existing bus garages to handle future zero-emissions buses. <https://www.njtransit.com/press-releases/nj-transit-unveils-roadmap-100-zero-emissions-bus-fleet>
- **Opinion: Pick Up the Pace of Electric Vehicle Rollouts** (by Pam Frank, vice president of Gabel Associates, an energy, environment and public utility consulting firm, and CEO of the ChargeEVC electric vehicle advocacy coalition) - In April 2021, ChargeEVC issued "A Roadmap for Vehicle Electrification in New Jersey 2.0" (available here: <http://www.chargevc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/ChargeEVC-NJ-Roadmap-2.0.pdf>), which is summarized in this article, along with the steps NJ has already taken to facilitate electric vehicle (EV) adoption. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/06/electric-vehicle-ev-president-joe-biden-cars-light-heavy-duty-trucks-clean-air-goals/>

FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Federal Government Orders Further Environmental Review of Tennessee Gas Project** - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) announced that its initial review of the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company's pending East 300 Upgrade project found that it would result in a significant environmental impact, and ordered the company to complete a more comprehensive environmental impact statement (EIS). The FERC order stated that the EIS "will assist the Commission in its consideration of the Project's contribution to climate change and its decision-making process to determine whether Tennessee's proposed Project is in the public convenience and necessity." This project includes two new fracked gas compressor stations in NJ: one in Wantage Township and one in West Milford at the site of a former quarry adjacent to the Monksville Reservoir. In addition to federal permits, the company still needs several approvals from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). <https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/2021/05/28/federal-government-orders-further-environmental-review-of-tennessee-gas-project/>

- **Passaic County Scraps Resolution to Oppose Gas Pipeline Project in West Milford** - The Passaic County Board of Commissioners had been expected to pass a resolution opposing the natural gas compressor station in West Milford (the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company's pending East 300 Upgrade Project), but did not pass it, following in the footsteps of West Milford, which had also been expected to pass a resolution but did not. However, there was some good news for those opposing the project - the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) named the East 300 Upgrade one of five pipeline projects that will require an environmental impact statement on top of a standard environmental assessment (see article on p. 16). The environmental impact statement is expected to be issued by 9/24/2021, and a final decision to approve or deny the project could come by 12/23/2021. <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/passaic-county-scraps-resolution-to-oppose-gas-pipeline-project-in-west-milford/ar-AAKS8M>
- **Sewage Agency Taking Another Look At Newark Plant Proposal** - Over 40 environmental, faith and social justice groups, including several of EJTF's partner organizations, called in to the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission's (PVSC) board meeting in May, 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 plant is just one of the proposals that is attempting to receive approval before the NJ Cumulative Impacts Law (EJ Law) goes into effect. On 6/10/2021, the PVSC issued a "Statement on the Construction of the Standby Power Generation Facility" (available here: <https://nj.gov/pvsc/news/press/2021/pdf/20210610A.pdf>) that includes some revisions to the plan and schedule, a commitment to take another look at renewable energy options, and inclusion of additional opportunities for public input, including two public stakeholder meetings and a public "Alternative Proposals Day" on approximately August 17, 2021. <https://patch.com/new-jersey/newarknj/sewage-agency-taking-another-look-newark-plant-proposal>
- **An End to Coal for PSEG Power** - Effective 5/31/2021, PSEG Power retired its last coal-fired power plant, in Bridgeport, CT; it had closed its two NJ coal-fired plants four years ago. This is part of the company's strategy toward net-zero carbon emissions. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/06/pseg-shuts-down-last-coal-burning-plant-bridgeport-cleaner-sources-of-energy/>

LEAD REDUCTION IN HOUSEHOLDS

- **Will Lead Water Lines Get Replaced?** - A bill (A5343), that has been passed in both houses of the NJ legislature, would require an inventory of lead service lines and subsequent replacement of 10% of the lines each year, with all lines replaced within 10 years. The bill includes mechanisms by which customers would ultimately pay for the replacement of the lines. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/06/nj-lead-service-lines-leaching-contamination-poisoning-in-children-irreversible-damage-brain-nervous-system-kidneys-how-much-will-customers-pay/>
- **Ten Communities Selected for EPA Roundtable Discussions on Lead in Drinking Water** - On 1/15/2021, the previous administration published revisions to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Act's Lead and Copper Rule (LCRR), that were to go into effect on 3/16/2021. Consistent with Presidential directives issued to heads of Federal agencies on 1/20/2021 to review certain regulations, including the LCRR, the EPA is reviewing the LCRR and has extended the effective date. The purpose of this delay is "to enable EPA to take additional public comment so that EPA can undertake its review of the rule in a deliberate and thorough manner consistent with the public health purposes of the Safe Drinking Water Act and the terms and objectives of recent Presidential directives and in consultation with affected stakeholders." To this end, EPA has selected ten communities that are at risk of exposure to lead in drinking water, including Newark NJ. A video of the livestream of Newark's roundtable event is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2fpS8ucpZY0>. It was coordinated by Amy Goldsmith and Kim Gaddy of Clean Water Action, and included community-based organizations, local residents, utility contractors, state and municipal government, and philanthropic organizations. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/ten-communities-selected-epa-roundtable-discussions-lead-drinking-water>

- **New Jersey Future and Partners Launch Lead-Free NJ** [from the "New Jersey Future" organization's blog] - New Jersey Future, along with partners including policy advocates and community members and organizations, have launched the "Lead-Free NJ" collaborative. Its goal is to "to mitigate the prevalence and impact of lead contamination across the state by pursuing an action-oriented advocacy agenda." Focus will be on elimination of childhood lead hazards within 10 years; adoption of proactive, equitable state and local lead-related policies; and building the capacity and power of grassroots groups and affected communities. <https://www.njfuture.org/2021/06/15/new-jersey-future-and-partners-launch-lead-free-nj/>



- **Opinion: America's Infrastructure Challenge** (by Ras J. Baraka, Mayor of the City of Newark) - Newark Mayor Baraka describes infrastructure problems, especially related to public water systems, and outlines how Newark addressed them. He also advocates for President Biden's American Jobs plan. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/06/ras-j-baraka-investment-public-infrastructure-biden-plan-clean-water-cities-lead-service-lines/>

RENEWABLE RESOURCES

- **New Warehouses in NJ Would Be Required to Have Solar-Ready Roofs** - A bill (A3352) that has passed both the NJ Senate and Assembly and is currently awaiting Gov. Murphy's signature, would require warehouses of at least 100,000 square feet, that have not had construction permits declared complete by 7/1/2022, to have at least 40% of the usable roof area designated and reserved for the future installation of a solar photovoltaic or solar thermal system. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/06/nj-warehouses-new-law-would-require-solar-ready-roofs-clean-energy-sprawl-boom-awaiting-gov-murphy/>
- **NJ Drops in State Rankings for Solar Production** - Over the past three years, NJ has been falling in the state rankings for number of new solar power systems. For the first three months of 2021, NJ ranks seventeenth, down from ninth in 2019. As NJ restructures the financial incentives for the industry, in order to decrease costs borne by utility customers, some expect that numbers will continue to decrease (see video interview with Lyle Rawlings, below). <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/06/nj-once-among-solar-production-leaders-no-longer-incentives-changes-blamed/>
- **NJ Regulators Are Approaching a Decision That Will Determine the Future Cost of Solar Energy. Installers Are Sweating It Out.** (25-minute video interview by Enviropolitics editor Frank Brill with **EJTF member Lyle Rawlings**, President/CEO/Founder of Advanced Solar Products Inc., and President of Mid-Atlantic Solar & Storage Industries Association) - "Solar energy expert Lyle

Rawlings says New Jersey needs to encourage growth in large solar farms in order to meet Gov. Phil Murphy's clean energy goals. He fears that state regulators may not be on the same page with solar developers as a crucial decision approaches." <https://enviropolitics.com/nj-regulators-are-approaching-a-decision-that-will-determine-the-future-cost-of-solar-energy-installers-are-waiting-and-sweating/>

- **Biden-Harris Administration Proposes Competitive Lease Sale for Offshore Wind Development for New York and New Jersey** - This U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) press release describes a proposed lease sale for offshore wind development on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) in the New York Bight, the area of shallow waters between Long Island and the NJ coast. "The proposed lease areas have the potential to unlock over 7 gigawatts of offshore wind energy, powering more than 2.6 million homes and supporting thousands of new jobs." Innovative proposed lease stipulations for would prioritize union jobs and include stakeholder and ocean user engagement. <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/biden-harris-administration-proposes-competitive-lease-sale-offshore-wind-development>
- **Group Wants Approved Boundaries for Offshore Wind Turbines Shifted to Protect Scallop Fisheries** - The Fisheries Survival Fund (FSF) is requesting that the offshore wind lease plans for the New York Bight (see article above) be shifted to protect important sea scallop areas (the FSF press release is available here: <https://atlanticscallops.org/fisheries-survival-fund-change-wind-energy-areas-to-protect-scallops/>). According to the FSF, "Atlantic sea scallops are, in fact, the nation's most valuable federally managed fishery." <https://enviropolitics.com/group-wants-projected-boundaries-for-offshore-wind-turbines-shifted-to-protect-scallop-fisheries/>



- **Bill Would Preempt Local Say Over Offshore Wind Projects** - A bill (S3926/A5894) that has been reported out of committees in the NJ Senate and Assembly would authorize offshore wind projects or open access offshore wind transmission facilities approved by the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to locate, build, use and maintain wires and associated land-based infrastructure, as long as they run underground on public property including streets (unless the BPU determined that above-ground installation was necessary). Easements on public land would also be permitted; if land preserved for recreation and conservation purposes is involved, the wind project would be required to acquire three times the area of the easement within the same county, and convey it to an approved entity for recreation and conservation purposes. https://pressofatlanticcity.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/bill-would-preempt-local-say-over-offshore-wind-projects/article_7e1a1f7e-ce27-11eb-8603-1f629e8a4c20.html
- **Rutgers, Offshore Wind Firm to Study Impact on Clams Off NJ Coast** - Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind, LLC (a partnership between Shell New Energies US LLC, and EDF Renewables North America that plans to develop more than 183,000 acres located 10 to 20 miles off the NJ coast between Atlantic City and Barnegat Light) is funding a \$500,000 study of how NJ's clam industry might be

impacted by offshore wind farms over the next 30 years. The study is in partnership with Rutgers University and the NJ clam industry. https://pressofatlanticcity.com/news/local/rutgers-offshore-wind-firm-to-study-impact-on-clams-off-nj/article_f44f1f1f-7453-5d63-82e8-bcdeab146bba.html

- **250+ Bergen, Hudson County Homes to be Powered by Community Solar** - The NJ solar developer Solar Landscape announced that one of its community solar projects is energized and delivering clean energy to Bergen and Hudson County residents. The project, located on Catherine Road in Teterboro, is generating more than 1.9 kilowatt hours of electricity annually, powering 260 homes and preventing more than 1,300 metric tons of carbon dioxide from entering the local atmosphere every year. The company also announced the completion of construction on three additional projects located in North Bergen, Wood Ridge and Edison. Collectively, across all four projects, 51% of the electricity generated will be sold to low- and moderate-income households. All of the projects are part of Year 1 of the NJ Board of Public Utilities' (BPU) Community Solar Pilot Program. <https://patch.com/new-jersey/hasbrouckheights/bizposts/local-update/235711/250-bergen-hudson-county-homes-to-be-powered-by-community-solar>
- **Opinion: Keep Solar Energy Growing at New Jersey's Schools** (by Lawrence S. Feinsod, Ed.D., executive director of the New Jersey School Boards Association) - In the author's opinion, the Solar Successor Incentive Program proposal now under consideration by the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) will reduce incentives for the kind of on-site solar projects that have been utilized by school districts, and "will thwart the efforts of school districts to reduce their operating costs to the benefit of local property taxpayers." The article describes several problems the author sees with the proposal. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/06/op-ed-lawrence-s-feinsod-need-keep-nj-solar-growing-rethink-proposed-incentive-changes/>

CLIMATE CHANGE

- **Towns Tasked with Fighting Climate-Change Impact** - A law (S2607) that was passed in 2/2021 requires that the land-use plan element of municipal master plans include a climate change-related hazard vulnerability assessment. The law also provides that the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will make available technical assistance if requested. The DEP has launched an online toolkit to help communities in this effort (see articles below). However, municipalities maintain that additional funding is needed for them to comply with the law, calling it an unfunded state mandate. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/06/toolkit-climate-change-sea-level-rise-towns-state-funds/>
- **NJDEP Launches Online Toolkit to Help Communities Integrate Climate Resilience & Adaptation into Local Land-Use Planning** - This NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) press release describes the recently-issued "Resilient NJ: Local Planning for Climate Change Toolkit" (available here: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/9daab51c2f5542969d50437522e012c4>). The toolkit has been developed as part of Resilient NJ, DEP's local government resilience planning assistance program. The toolkit guides municipalities through the process of creating a climate change-related vulnerability assessment and developing local climate resilience strategies as required by changes to NJ's Municipal Land Use Law signed into law by Governor Murphy in February 2021. To address equity and justice issues related to climate adaptation efforts, the toolkit contains worksheets to help communities integrate equity considerations into their local climate resilience planning and meet the needs of the entire community.(see articles above and on p. 21). https://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2021/21_0020.htm

- **'Toolkit' to Help NJ Municipalities Prepare for Climate Change** (news video) - In this 4-minute NJ Spotlight News "Peril & Promise" series video, Jon Hurdle provides a summary of the recently-issued NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) "Resilient NJ: Local Planning for Climate Change Toolkit" (see articles on p. 20). <https://www.njspotlight.com/video/toolkit-to-help-nj-municipalities-prepare-for-climate-change/>

POLLUTION

NJDEP "What's in My Community" Air Pollutants Mapping Resource

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has developed a resource that shows, on community-level maps, every facility with an air permit registered with the DEP's Division of Air Quality. This includes major sources as well as minor sources such as schools, hospitals, and emergency services including police and fire departments, gas stations, and others. It is available here:

<https://njdep.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=76194937cbb46b1ab9a9ec37c7d709b>

- **N.J. Ranks High in Number of Pollution-Related Deaths, Study Says** - A study published in Environmental Research Letters, "Mortality-Based Damages per Ton Due to the On-Road Mobile Sector in the Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic U.S. by Region, Vehicle Class and Precursor," found that NJ, NY and PA had the highest death tolls related to motor vehicle emissions. <https://www.nj.com/news/2021/06/nj-ranks-high-in-number-of-pollution-related-deaths-study-says.html>



- **As Storm Season Begins, Report Details Potential Damage to Polluted Sites** - A report, "A Perfect Storm: When Tropical Storms Meet Toxic Waste," (available here: <https://uspirgedfund.org/reports/usf/perfect-storm>) by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group Education Fund and Environment America, describes the ways increasing intensity of storms can impact Superfund sites, with NJ at risk due to sea-level rise, increasing storm intensity, and the presence of the most Superfund sites in the U.S. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/06/hurricanes-superfund-sites-pollution-contamination-spread-toxic-communities-of-color/>

- Chemical Recycling Bill Sets Stage for Industry's Battle with Environmentalists** - Two bills related to recycling are under consideration in the NJ legislature. The first (S2515/A4676) "establishes postconsumer recycled content requirements for rigid plastic containers, glass containers, paper and plastic carryout bags, and plastic trash bags, and prohibits sale of polystyrene loose fill packaging." It would be one of the strictest in the country regarding recycled content. The second (A5803) "exempts plastic material processed at advanced plastic processing facilities from State laws regulating solid waste disposal and recycling," which would provide an incentive for such a facility to be located in NJ. Environmental advocates view this process as going in the wrong direction by encouraging more plastics use rather than focusing on reducing it. A Greenpeace report, "Deception by the Numbers," (available here: https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/GP_Deception-by-the-Numbers.pdf) found that many of the investments are going into waste-to-fuel projects that is not recycling but rather is a conversion of plastics to hydrocarbons, and that the projects do not show promise of being economically viable. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/06/chemical-recycling-bill-sets-stage-for-industrys-battle-with-environmentalists/>
- Opinion: Advanced Recycling Puts More Plastic Back in Service for Cleaner Future** (by Dennis Hart, executive director of the Chemistry Council of New Jersey) - The author describes "advanced recycling," which uses manufacturing technologies to break down plastic into its original components, converting plastic that cannot be recycled through traditional mechanical recycling methods into building blocks for new products. A bill in the NJ legislature (A5803) "exempts plastic material processed at advanced plastic processing facilities from State laws regulating solid waste disposal and recycling," which would provide an incentive for a facility to be located in NJ. [Note: see article above for reactions to the bill by environmental advocates.] <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/06/advanced-recycling-plastics-products-mechanical-recycling-unable-to-recycle/>

DRINKING WATER-RELATED ISSUES (other than lead)

- Murphy Administration Invests \$386M in Water Infrastructure, Creating 4,600+ Construction Jobs; Projects Supported by Zero-Interest NJDEP Loans and NJ Infrastructure Bank Sale of \$122.5M in Green Bonds** - This NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) press release describes the sale of bonds which will mature through 2050 that will support a number of specific infrastructure projects. The projects include green infrastructure, improvements in sewer system collection and treatment, drinking water treatment and distribution system enhancements, and reduction or elimination of combined sewer overflows in environmental justice communities. The projects are expected to create 4,630 jobs across the state. https://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2021/21_0019.htm
- Investigation into Paulsboro Contamination and Illness Is About to Start** - In late 2019, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) awarded eight grants of \$1 million each, for a multi-site health study to investigate the relationship between drinking water contaminated with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS - "forever chemicals") and health outcomes. In NJ, Gloucester County was chosen, and the Rutgers University School of Public Health is now seeking 1,000 adults and 300 children from Paulsboro and West Deptford to begin the study. High levels of PFAS had previously been found in area drinking water wells, but filters are now used to remove the chemicals. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/06/forever-chemicals-investigation-pfas-drinking-water-public-health-paulsboro-gloucester-county-new-jersey-possible-cancer-links-cancer/>

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- **Camden Gets Federal Grant to Develop New Energy-Efficient Housing** (news video) - Camden has received a \$35 million grant to replace a nearly 80-year-old apartment complex with 350 new, energy-efficient units including nearly two dozen apartments set aside for low-income residents. The grant is provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Choice Neighborhoods program. <https://www.njspotlight.com/video/camden-gets-federal-grant-to-develop-new-energy-efficient-housing>

OTHER

- **Will School of Conservation Get a Lifeline?** - A coalition of conservationists had been pushing the NJ legislature to include \$3 million in the FY2022 budget to enable year-round programs to take place at the New Jersey School of Conservation; several lawmakers agreed to sponsor a budget resolution to that effect. While the \$3 million was not included in the budget that was passed by the legislature, the budget does set aside \$1 million in funding for the School of Conservation's educational programming, teachers, supplies, operations, and maintenance. This will provide an opportunity to relaunch the School and leverage its leadership in environmental education. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/06/nj-school-of-conservation-3m-funding-year-round-programs-coalition/>
- **'Absolutely Mind-Blowing' NJ Transit Funding Not Boosted in New State Budget, Top Dem Says** - Despite NJ's having a \$10.1 billion surplus, the FY2022 budget passed by the legislature does not provide for a dedicated revenue stream for NJ Transit, which gets most of its revenue from fares, which aren't enough to cover all operating expenses. For decades, NJ Transit has transferred money out of its capital budget for construction to pay for operating expenses, plus redirecting funds meant for clean energy projects. NJ Senate majority leader Loretta Weinberg, who has been pushing to change that situation for years, was incensed by the omission in the budget. <https://www.nj.com/politics/2021/06/absolutely-mind-blowing-nj-transit-funding-not-boosted-in-new-state-budget-top-dem-says.html>
- **EPA to Revise Trump Rule Limiting State Authority to Block Pipelines** - In June of 2020, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under the previous administration, adopted a rule that scaled back the scope of state and tribal review of permits under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act related to state certification of water quality compliance for federal permits or licenses for discharges into U.S. waters. CWA Section 401 has been used by states to block proposed energy projects like new natural-gas pipelines and other fossil-fuel projects. For example, both NY and NJ cited it in their denial of the NESE project. Among other things, the rule adopted by the previous administration precluded states from blocking projects because they would contribute to climate change. Now the EPA has announced that it will revise that rule, stating that the previous rule "erodes state and Tribal authority." As part of the process to put a new rule in place of the previous one, EPA "will provide opportunity for public and stakeholder input to inform the development of a proposed regulation, and will include sustained dialogue with state and tribal co-regulator partners and local governments around these issues." Written feedback may be provided until 8/2/2021 (information is available here: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2021-05/documents/10023-97-ow_401_noi_admin_pre-publication_version.pdf), and several stakeholder listening sessions have already been held. <https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/555789-epa-to-revise-trump-rule-limiting-state-authority-to-block>
- **First Power Auction in Three Years Yields Boon for Consumers** - Because of a significant drop in capacity auction prices, which affect the price of standby power supplied to the grid, customers may see lower electric prices starting next summer. Of note is the fact that the amount of renewable resources that "cleared" the capacity market clearing point price increased while coal generators decreased, showing that coal is too expensive. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/06/nj-electric-consumers-price-drop-starting-mid-2022-pjm-capacity-auction-trimmed-price-suppliers-standby-pseg/>

- **After Six Decades Saving Space in NJ, Green Acres Program Recalibrates** - "New Jersey's biggest land-preservation program has permanently protected 15% of the state's land in the last 60 years, state officials say, and it is now emphasizing climate resilience and environmental justice when it acquires new properties." <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/06/nj-green-acres-land-preservation-added-focus-climate-change-environmental-justice-60th-anniversary-development-threat/>
- **Harmful Algal Blooms Close Swimming Area at NJ State Park for 2021 Summer Season** (news video) - Spruce Run Reservoir's state park swimming area is already closed due to harmful algal blooms (HABs) and testing is showing them in other NJ water bodies also. <https://www.njspotlight.com/video/harmful-algal-blooms-close-swimming-area-at-nj-state-park-for-2021-summer-season/>



- **6 NJ Lakes or Ponds Where Harmful Algal Blooms Have Been Reported** - A list is provided of the NJ lakes where harmful algal blooms (HABs) have been found, and provides a link to the NJ online HAB dashboard. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/06/harmful-algal-blooms-excessive-cyanobacteria-growth-several-nj-lakes-2021/>
- **NJ Senate Floats \$10M to Support Suffering Lakes** - A bill (S3618/A5778) has passed the NJ Senate and has been reported out of committee, with amendments, in the Assembly. The bill would provide \$10 million for grants for the management and maintenance of lakes for recreation and conservation purposes, giving priority to lakes with public access. The amendment (summary available here: https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2020/Bills/S4000/3618_S2.PDF) changes the priorities that were described in this article. <https://enviropolitics.com/nj-senate-floats-10m-to-support-suffering-lakes/>

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 (609-292-6000). 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.