



# Environmental Justice Task Force Newsletter

## August 2021

[covering 6/27/2021 – 7/27/2021] <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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### NOTABLE NJ LAWS RECENTLY SIGNED BY GOV. MURPHY

- **A5343 - Requires public community water systems to inventory and replace lead service lines within 10 years;** provides for recoupment of costs by investor-owned public water systems (see p. 15).
- **S1147 - Requires lead paint inspection on certain residential rental property,** including upon tenant turnover; establishes lead-based paint hazard education program; appropriates \$3,900,000 (see p. 15).
- **A5407 - Removes restrictions on special assessments and bond issuances for replacement of residential lead service lines;** revises budgetary requirements for operators of certain water systems (see p. 15).
- **S3223 - Establishes numerical requirements and zoning standards for installation of electric vehicle supply equipment and Make-Ready parking spaces** (see p. 18).
- **A1653 - Encourages development of zero-emission vehicle fueling and charging infrastructure** in redevelopment projects (see p. 18).
- **A4554 - Establishes successor program to solar renewable energy certificate (SREC) program,** including solicitation process for certain solar power generation facilities (see p. 18).
- **A5434 - Establishes dual-use solar project pilot program for unpreserved farmland;** allows land used for dual-use solar project to be eligible for farmland assessment under certain conditions (see p. 18).
- **S3926 - Authorizes certain offshore wind projects to construct power lines and obtain real property interests;** grants NJ authority to supersede certain local governmental powers upon petition from offshore wind project (see p. 16).

## ***EJTF ACTIVITIES***

- **UUFANJ/EJTF provided written comments on the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) proposed rules implementing the EJ Cumulative Impacts Law.** EJTF's comments dealt with three areas: Geographic Units of Comparison; Stressors; and Compelling Public Interest. The comments are included on pp. 23 - 25. A video of the last DEP EJ rulemaking stakeholder meeting that provided a Comprehensive Review of previous stakeholder meetings, and described potential processes and the potential direction for the rulemaking based on input received, is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LaAhGU4qmk>.
- **EJTF member Christine Dunbar** has joined the staff of the Foodshed Alliance (a grassroots, non-profit devoted to promoting sustainable farming and locally grown, fresh, healthy food in northern NJ) to serve as Paulins Kill Watershed Coordinator. The Paulins Kill watershed covers an area of 176.85 square miles through Warren and Sussex Counties. Christine is pictured below sharing information on the ecology and protection of the watershed at Blairstown NJ's July 4th festival.



- **EJTF member Christine Dunbar** also continues to be involved in the campaign to halt the expansion of the Tennessee Gas Pipeline 300 East through the Northwestern section of NJ which consists of modifying two existing compressor stations and constructing one new compressor station. In response to comments received on its initial environmental assessment (EA), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) decided to do a more comprehensive environmental impact statement (EIS) before issuing any approval for the project. That EIS has now been issued in draft. In the draft EIS, the FERC states "With the exception of climate change impacts, the FERC staff concludes that approval of the proposed project, with the mitigation measures recommended in this EIS, would not result in significant environmental impacts. FERC staff continues to be unable to determine significance with regards to climate change impacts." The draft EIS also discloses downstream greenhouse gas emissions for the project. **Comments on the draft EIS are due August 23, 2021;** instructions for submitting comments are included in the draft EIS document, available here: [https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession\\_num=20210702-3023](https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession_num=20210702-3023).

## **FUTURE EVENTS - Virtual and In-Person**

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

### AUGUST 2021

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

Sun.	Mon.	Tues..	Wed	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <a href="#">DRBC Advisory Committee on Climate Change</a> - 2:00 p.m.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <a href="#">Peace Gathering to Commemorate 76th Anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki</a> - 9:00 a.m.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <a href="#">iNaturalist: A Tool for Exploration and Citizen Science. The Field Edition!</a> (NJSOC) - 10:00 a.m.
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <a href="#">Application Deadline for Volunteers for UU@UN 2022 Intergenerational Spring Seminar</a>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <a href="#">DRBC Third Quarter Public Hearing</a>  <a href="#">The Climate Activist Toolkit - Summer Workshop Series (#2 of 3)</a> - 6:00 p.m.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <a href="#">Good Heavens! Astronomy Night at NJSOC</a> - 7:30 p.m.	<b>14</b> <a href="#">Newark Tree Pruning: West Side Park</a> - 9:00 a.m.  <a href="#">Wild Edibles Information Walk (NJSOC)</a> - 10:30 a.m.
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <a href="#">Clean Energy Attracts Business</a> - 1:00 p.m.	<b>18</b> <a href="#">Teaching Climate Change in Non-Science Classrooms, Grades 6-12 (NJSOC)</a> - 10:00 a.m.	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <a href="#">DEP Greenhouse Gas Proposed Rule Comments Due</a>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <a href="#">The Climate Activist Toolkit - Summer Workshop Series (#3 of 3)</a> - 6:00 p.m.	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

### **Delaware River Basin Commission Advisory Committee on Climate Change Meeting Tuesday, August 3, 2021, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Virtual**

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) Advisory Committee on Climate Change will meet via Zoom. Links to information about DRBC meetings, including Zoom link and draft agenda are available here: <https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/meetings/>.

### **Volunteer for UU@UN 2022 Intergenerational Spring Seminar (Apply by August 9, 2021) [Seminar will be April 22-24, 2022]**

The Unitarian Universalist Office at the United Nations (UU@UN) is looking forward to the 2022 Intergenerational Spring Seminar, expected to take place in New York City (with opportunities for online participation) April 22-24, 2022. Applications for several volunteer positions are being accepted until August 9, 2021. Additional information and links to applications are here: <https://www.uua.org/international-justice/un/spring-seminar/volunteer>.

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**Peace Gathering to Commemorate 76th Anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki - **Virtual****  
**Thursday, August 5, 9:00 a.m.**

EJTF member Sally Gellert has pointed out the strong connection between so-called zero-emission nuclear energy and the military. This global online event will commemorate the 76th Anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Speakers will include youth activists from Hiroshima and Nagasaki; 1st, 2nd, and 3rd generation atomic bomb survivors; a Fukushima evacuee; and representatives of peace groups in the United States. There will also be music and songs. Additional information and registration are here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqd-ugrDgtHdOv9WIyoNwioXp-Gsv9f5Pc>.

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**Delaware River Basin Commission Third Quarter Public Hearing**  
**Wednesday, August 11, 2021**

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)'s third-quarter public hearing will be held on Wednesday, August 11, 2021. Links to updates and additional information will be available here: <https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/meetings/>.

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**"TreeKeeper's Workshop 2021 - Newark Tree Pruning" - **In-Person****  
**New Jersey Tree Foundation**  
**West Side Park, Newark, NJ**  
**Saturday, August 14, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

The TreeKeeper's Workshop teaches attendees all about tree identification, environmental benefits of trees, and proper pruning and mulching techniques. This year's workshop consists of three online sessions held in July (see videos here: <https://vimeo.com/user144262687>) and two in-person events to give participants hands-on experience pruning young trees (one was in July and one is in August). Additional information is here: <https://njtrees.org/treekeepers-workshop-2021/>. Register for the remaining in-person pruning event in Newark, NJ here: <https://form.jotform.com/211655753843158>.

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

This three-session series (the first session was July 28, 2021), 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.**

## DEP and BPU REQUESTS FOR COMMENTS/NOTICE of PUBLIC MEETINGS

### DEP Greenhouse Gas Monitoring and Reporting Proposed Rule

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is requesting comments on its proposed "Greenhouse Gas Monitoring and Reporting" Rule. 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. A copy of the proposed rule is available at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/proposals/20210621a.pdf>. **Written comments are due by 8/20/2021** and may be submitted electronically at [www.nj.gov/dep/rules/comments](http://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/comments).

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### BPU New Jersey Electric Vehicles Infrastructure Ecosystem 2021 –Medium And Heavy Duty Straw Proposal

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) is continuing to work to build out an equitable, reliable electric vehicle (EV) Ecosystem infrastructure. In 2020, the Board established minimum filing requirements (MFR) for light-duty publicly accessible charging. The utility programs that will result from those MFRs will increase access to EV charging in community locations, workplaces, and Multi-Unit Dwellings, address obstacles to adoption, and provide valuable data on residential and commercial use. BPU staff acknowledges that light-duty and personal-use vehicles are only one part of the transportation sector. The BPU has developed a Straw Proposal that will address larger light-duty fleet charging, as well as the charging of Medium and Heavy Duty (MHD) vehicles, as the energy needs and uses are closely aligned. A copy of the Straw Proposal, with additional information about the public input process, is available here: <https://www.bpu.state.nj.us/bpu/pdf/publicnotice/Notice%20Medium%20Heavy%20Duty%20EV%20Straw%20Proposal.pdf>. Seven online technical conference-format public stakeholder meetings are scheduled for August and September, with specific topics for each session (see schedule here: <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/public/>). There will be selected panelists, but also an opportunity for questions and public statements from the audience, time permitting. **The deadline for public comments on each topic will be two (2) weeks after the meeting on that topic**, and may be submitted electronically at <https://publicaccess.bpu.state.nj.us>.

### Rutgers Climate Institute Listing of **Virtual** Climate Seminars

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 on the next page is a sampling of webinars taking place in August 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/>.

**"Clean Energy Attracts Business" - Webinar**  
**Tuesday, August 17, 2021, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

In this webinar, sponsored by the Security and Sustainability Forum, energy policy officials from several states will discuss how they use state clean energy goals and requirements to support a pro-clean air, pro-growth economy to attract new businesses and investments in their states. The panelists (to be announced) will describe how their organizations' journeys to clean energy policies can chart a path for legislators, business leaders, and consultants. More information and the registration link are here: <https://climatesociety.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/icalrepeat.detail/2021/08/17/6616/-/webinar-clean-energy-attracts-business>.



**UU Project Drawdown Initiative's 2021 EcoChallenge - Online**  
**Ongoing - extended through December 31, 2021**

UUs are collectively lowering carbon footprints through participation in the Drawdown EcoChallenge. The online EcoChallenge is focused on collective action to reduce carbon in the atmosphere, and is a fun and social way to take measurable action on the top solutions to global warming. Participants in teams choose actions, and track and share their progress. The UU Drawdown team is currently #2 of all participating organizations in the EcoChallenge, earning 71,000 points as of mid-July, and bring all of us 6500 actions closer to the point of atmospheric Drawdown ("Drawdown" is the future point in time when levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere stop climbing and start to steadily decline).

Join 277 UUs and friends applying science-based Drawdown solutions and getting measurable results. Additional information and instructions for joining are here: <https://www.uumfe.org/campaigns/project-drawdown-uu-initiative/>.

**"iNaturalist: A Tool for Exploration and Citizen Science. The Field Edition!" - In-Person**  
**Friends of The New Jersey School of Conservation (NJSOC)**  
**Merrill Creek Reservoir, 34 Merrill Creek Road, Washington, NJ**  
**Saturday, August 7, 2021, 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

"Spend the day exploring Merrill Creek Reservoir 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 Merrill Creek Reservoir. Educators will learn valuable tips for taking students outdoors and will work together to complete team challenges." Registration is required and Eventbrite tickets will be collected at the gate for entrance to this family event. There is no registration fee for children under 5 years old. **Registration is limited; register for this session by August 6, 2021; \$20.00.** Register here: <https://friendsofnjsoc.org/event/inaturalist-a-tool-for-exploration-and-citizen-science-the-field-edition-2/>.

**Good Heavens! Astronomy Night at NJSOC - In-Person**  
**Friends of The New Jersey School of Conservation (NJSOC)**  
**NJ School of Conservation, 1 Wapalanne Road, Sandyston, NJ**  
**Friday, August 13, 2021, 7:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. (if rain or heavy cloud cover, event will occur on Saturday, August 14, 2021)**

Join the Friends of The New Jersey School of Conservation (NJSOC) for a magical night of stargazing as the 2021 Perseids Meteor Shower peaks in the skies above NJSOC.

Stokes State Forest and the NJSOC are home to some of New Jersey's darkest night skies. The low level of light pollution makes it possible to see astronomical features not visible in other parts of the state. Join Rob Teeter, of Pearl Observatory, to observe the wonders of the universe through his BIG telescope. **Registration is limited; register for this session by August 12, 2021; \$12.00.** Register here: <https://friendsofnjsoc.org/event/good-heavens-astronomy-night-at-njsoc/>.

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**Wild Edibles Information Walk - In-Person**  
**Friends of The New Jersey School of Conservation (NJSOC)**  
**NJ School of Conservation, 1 Wapalanne Road, Sandyston, NJ**  
**Saturday, August 14, 2021, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

Jumpstart a foraging habit for your soups, stews, salads, pestos and fritters. The program leader will lead you on a hike to discuss and take photos of whatever is available in woods and meadow-like areas. Although this is not an eating event, lots of follow-up information will be available including an email with photos and descriptions of items covered on the walk. There will be references to dichotomous keys, books, nutrition, safety, ethics, gastronomy, survival and fun science.

This program is for older teens (age 16 and up) and adults. Heavy rain will postpone the event to October 2. **Registration is limited; register for this session by August 13, 2021; \$5.00.** Register here: <https://friendsofnjsoc.org/event/wild-edibles-information-walk/>.

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**"Teaching Climate Change in Non-Science Classrooms, Grades 6-12" - In-Person**  
**Friends of The New Jersey School of Conservation (NJSOC)**  
**NJ School of Conservation, 1 Wapalanne Road, Sandyston, NJ**  
**Wednesday, August 18, 2021, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

"Ready to teach climate change? This program is designed to support non-science teachers in grades 6-12 in incorporating the new climate change standards into your already-tight curricula. 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 take place 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 August 6, 2021; \$45.00.** Register here: <https://friendsofnjsoc.org/event/ready-or-not-here-it-comes-teaching-climate-change-in-non-science-classr/>.

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## **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 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." The last meeting provided a Comprehensive Review of previous stakeholder meetings, describing potential processes and the potential direction for the rulemaking based on input received. A video of that stakeholder meeting webinar, is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LaAhGU4qmk>. The presentation slides are available here: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/ej/docs/ej-pres-20210624.pdf>. EJTF provided written comments, which are included on pp.23 - 25. Links to videos of all previous stakeholder meeting webinars are available here: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/ej/policy.html>.

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### **"July 13th: National Green Amendment Day" - Videos of Interviews**

July 13, 2021 was the inaugural national Green Amendment Day. Throughout Green Amendment Day, Green Amendments For The Generations released exclusive 10- to 20-minute interviews with legislators from four different states (New York, Maine, Washington, and Hawaii) who have championed the Green Amendment Movement in this past year. Videos of the four interviews are available here: <https://forthe generations.org/events/green-amendment-day-2021/>.

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### **"Green Amendment Day: A Panel of Leading EJ Voices" - Video of Panel Presentation**

Green Amendments For The Generations partnered with environmental justice leaders across the nation to launch the inaugural Green Amendment Day on July 13th, 2021. 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. A presentation and panel was held, including leading environmental justice voices from across the nation. The video of the panel presentation is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5bnACH4zRE>.

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### **"bp Statistical Review of World Energy 2021" - Video of Webinar**

Presented by the Columbia|SIPA Center for Global Energy Policy, this webinar examined 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 the video, are here:

<https://www.energypolicy.columbia.edu/events-calendar/bp-statistical-review-world-energy-2021>.

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## **"TreeKeeper's Workshop 2021" - Videos of Webinars** **New Jersey Tree Foundation**

The TreeKeeper's Workshop teaches attendees all about tree identification, environmental benefits of trees, and proper pruning and mulching techniques. This year's workshop included three online sessions and two in-person pruning events. Videos of the online sessions are here:

Session #1 - "Tree Identification and Hazards" - <https://vimeo.com/569875454>;

Session #2 - "Environmental Benefits of Trees" - <https://vimeo.com/577581779>;

Session #3 - "Tree Planting and Maintenance" - <https://vimeo.com/577585688>.

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### **"Society's Global Appetite for Technology Accelerates Climate Change and E-Waste" - Video of Webinar**

"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, addressed how sustainable purchasing practices can accelerate the technology industry's pathway to net zero energy and planet-friendlier products and waste management practices. The video is available here: <https://ssfworld.org/societys-global-appetite-for-technology-accelerates-climate-change-and-e-wastes/>.

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### **"CO2 Recycling: Technology Limits, Opportunities, and Policies for a Circular Carbon Economy" - Video of Webinar**

Presented by the Columbia|SIPA Center for Global Energy Policy, this webinar provided a discussion of CO2 recycling in the context of a circular carbon economy, looking at different technologies, their energy and infrastructure needs, and their ability to reduce and remove greenhouse gases. Additional information about the webinar, the panelists, and a link to the video, are here:

<https://www.energypolicy.columbia.edu/events-calendar/co2-recycling-technology-limits-opportunities-and-policies-circular-carbon-economy>.

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

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 talks on the circular economy. It explores ideas that have the potential to benefit people and the planet, and build green economies locally and globally. It brings together experts on the circular economy, who give examples of projects applying these principles in real life, and who challenge preconceived notions of what is and isn't waste. This first episode focused on CO2, 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. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IvMI3YwCU3I>.

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**"NJ Green Hydrogen Forum 2021" - Videos of Webinars**  
**The Economic, Environmental and Energy Potential of Green Hydrogen Production, Distribution and Use in New Jersey**

This forum, presented by the New Jersey Clean Cities Coalition, consisted of three panels: "Panel 1: The Big Picture;" "Panel 2: Green Hydrogen Production and Distribution;" and "Panel 3: Green Hydrogen Use in NJ and Beyond." Videos of the panel sessions, as well as a Powerpoint presentation, are available here: <https://njcleancities.org/green-hydrogen>.

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**"2021 Congressional Clean Energy EXPO and Policy Forum" - Videos of Webinar**

The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) and the House and Senate Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (REEE) Caucuses presented 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 shared findings and innovations on the impacts those are having on mitigating climate change, improving the economy, building resilience, and protecting our security interests.

The EXPO consisted of the following: Welcome/Overview; "What does climate change mean for national security and resilience?"; and "What does climate change mean for jobs and economic development?" Videos are available here: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/expo2021>.

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**"The Cost of Climate Change" - Video of Webinar**

How much did climate change contribute to the damage inflicted by Superstorm Sandy? According to a study by researchers from Climate Central, Rutgers University, and Stevens Institute of Technology, the answer is approximately 13% (\$8.1 billion) of the \$62.7 billion in losses incurred by New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. In this webinar, Dr. Daniel Gilford, Climate Scientist at Climate Central, Inc.; Dr. Robert Kopp, Professor and Director, Rutgers Institute of Earth, Ocean & Atmospheric Sciences; and Mr. Robert Freudenberg, Vice President, Energy & Environment, Regional Plan Association, discussed how they arrived at this answer and the relationship between human-caused warming and losses during Superstorm Sandy. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GLTwun2v1u0&t=4s>.

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**"All Sides of Energy Resilience – What Professionals Need to Know" - Video of Webinar**

"For both companies and communities, resilience has become essential in an increasingly turbulent global economy. In particular, energy resilience is a complex arena, demanding new strategies for strengthening supply chains, decarbonizing buildings, developing intelligent technologies, adopting electric vehicles, and working in dynamic energy markets. Designing resilient, sustainable energy systems is critical for organizations to thrive as the world accelerates toward a net-zero carbon emissions economy. Understanding how energy systems are evolving is equally essential for today's professionals to become better leaders, energy advisors, decision-makers, investors, regulators, and educators. The Security and Sustainability Forum presented this webinar featuring George Washington University Energy Resilience Certificate instructors, introducing their program and describing how

energy systems are changing to meet climate resilience and energy security challenges. The video is available here: <https://ssfworld.org/all-sides-of-energy-resilience-what-professionals-need-to-know/>.

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### **"Designing Net-Zero Emissions Energy Systems to Address Environmental and Societal Objectives" - Video of Webinar**

This webinar was presented as part of the Princeton University Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment "New Light: Rising Stars in Energy and the Environment" summer seminar series. "Abstract: Achieving economy-wide net-zero emissions will entail transformational changes in engineered systems across sectors. As part of this, future energy and industrial infrastructure systems will need to be designed to balance the often-conflicting objectives of multiple actors. Macro-energy system models are increasingly used to plan systems and typically adopt least-cost objectives to select optimal technoeconomic pathways to achieve climate goals. In contrast, non-cost objectives, related to pollution or jobs, for example, that may influence decision and design processes are often treated as outcomes rather than explicit objectives."

This presentation reviewed potential technological scenarios for infrastructure deployment to achieve net-zero emissions by mid-century. An approach for operationalizing non-cost objectives associated with air quality, labor, and land use in macro-energy system models was presented. This approach was demonstrated through case studies of coal electric power retirements, natural gas supply chain development, and utility-scale solar siting." The video is available here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pig\\_Ke32wmw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pig_Ke32wmw).

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### **"Social Accelerants and Decelerants of Climate Action" - Video of Webinar**

This webinar was presented as part of the Princeton University Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment "New Light: Rising Stars in Energy and the Environment" summer seminar series. "Abstract: The scale and pace of carbon-intensive development has driven climate change and biodiversity loss, with unequal social impacts. However, despite the transformative change needed across our social and economic systems to address these issues, and the technological ability to do so on many fronts, there is continued political resistance to passing new legislation or changing the status quo. Against this backdrop, recent opinion pieces have highlighted the potential for local shifts in social norms and values to trigger widespread social change and collective climate action from the "bottom-up". Critically, the success of these movements depends on how climate change maps onto group identities, such as political affiliation."

This presentation focused on recent and ongoing studies that use repeated surveys, virtual lab experiments, and pre-existing datasets to shed light on the role of social factors and experience of extreme events in shaping perceptions and values, policy preferences and coordinated action. Results were presented from a study showing how polarization or strong in and out-group identities can facilitate coordination on existing norms but also stifle the emergence of new collectively beneficial norms. This work suggests that social norm interventions aimed at increasing sustainable behaviors or values will need to grapple with existing partisan or group divisions. Results were also presented from an ongoing study that shows how experience of extreme events such as Covid-19 or extreme weather can start to close the partisan gap on risk perceptions, trust in social institutions and policy preferences. The video is available here: <https://youtu.be/EIOYtmz9G7s>.

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## ***EJTF's GOALS FOR 2021***

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

Follow the lead of our Environmental Justice partners including the NJ Environmental Justice Alliance, the Ironbound Community Corporation, and Clean Water Action. This will have direct impact on health of residents in EJ neighborhoods. See articles on pp.13 - 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 p. 15.

### **3) Promote the Green Amendment**

Support the Green Amendment: conduct outreach, especially through UU Congregations, to build understanding and support for the NJ pending legislative resolutions (SCR30/ACR80), which promote the right to clean air, clean water and a healthy environment. Follow the lead of "Green Amendments for the Generations." The Green Amendment is supported by our EJ partners. See article on p. 16.

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

### **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

- **Use Billions from Infrastructure Deal, COVID-19 Aid to Fix Water Problems in Poor Communities, Advocates Urge** - Jersey Water Works (JWW), the nonprofit collaborative (of which UUFANJ is a member) that focuses on NJ water infrastructure issues, has two new co-chairs who are pushing for the infrastructure-related federal funds coming to NJ from the Biden administration go to the communities that need it most. JWW has estimated that NJ needs \$25 billion over 20 years to fix the state's water infrastructure. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/07/federal-billions-infrastructure-funds-covid-19-aid-water-problems-underserved-communities/>
- **Community Energy Plan Grant Program on Hold Until Re-launch in Fiscal Year 2022** - The NJ Board of Public Utilities' (BPU) Community Energy Plan Grant Program provides support to local governments to develop climate action plans at the local level based on their assessment of which NJ Energy Master Plan (EMP) strategies are most applicable in their respective communities. The BPU has determined that the Office of Clean Energy Equity within BPU's Division of Clean Energy should evaluate this grant program and redesign it to prioritize low- and moderate-income and overburdened communities by removing barriers to participation and providing more financial and technical support to those communities that are most in need of these grants. To this end, the Community Energy Plan Grant Program will be put on hold and, pending approval by the BPU, will relaunch in Fiscal Year 2022. <https://www.njcleanenergy.com/CEP>.

- **Opinion: Our Vulnerable Communities Are Key Building Blocks of a Cleaner, Healthier and Wealthier NJ** (by Patrice Lenowitz, a community advocate and a marketing manager at the PosiGensolar power company that focuses on low-income communities) - The author touts the NJ Clean Energy Equity Act, which has passed the NJ Senate but is still awaiting a hearing in the NJ Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee; the author calls for the committee to be reconvened to consider the Act. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/07/op-ed-our-vulnerable-communities-are-key-building-blocks-of-a-cleaner-healthier-and-wealthier-nj/>

## ELECTRIC VEHICLES

- **NJBPU Launches Year 2 of Popular Charge Up New Jersey Electric Vehicle Rebate Program** - On 7/6/2021, the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) opened Year 2 of its Charge Up New Jersey electric vehicle (EV) incentive program. Charge Up New Jersey provides a rebate of up to \$5,000 toward a new EV purchased or leased in NJ. The incentive is available exclusively as a “point-of-sale” rebate applied during the purchase or leasing process at dealerships and requires a valid NJ driver’s license to get started. Only EVs registered and purchased in NJ are eligible. More than 7,000 drivers utilized the incentive in Year 1. <https://www.bpu.state.nj.us/bpu/newsroom/2021/approved/20210706.html>
- **To Get More Electric Vehicles, NJ Wants More Charging Stations** - In order to address changes needed to transition from diesel to electric trucks, the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) has issued a straw proposal for charging stations. In addition, there is a pending NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) rule that would adopt a California rule requiring a certain percentage of trucks sold zero-emission vehicles rather than those fueled by fossil fuels (see article below). **Hearings will be held in August and September (see p. 5).** <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/07/nj-electric-vehicles-more-charging-stations-new-rule/>



- **New Jersey: The California of the East Coast?** - In 2017, Gov. Murphy stated that NJ could become "the California of the East Coast." Now, NJ is following CA's lead with an aggressive approach toward electrifying commercial trucks. The two states' approaches are compared in this article (also see the article above). <https://enviropolitics.com/new-jersey-the-california-of-the-east-coast/>
- **Opinion: Improving Health Outcomes through Climate-Change Action** (by David Henry, who has 38 years of experience in local public health in NJ, and George T. DiFerdinando Jr., MD, MPH, FACP, a board-certified general internist who has worked in public health for more than 30 years and is co-chair of the NJ Climate Change Alliance Public Health Workgroup) - The NJ Climate Change Alliance prepared a “rapid Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of the NJ's proposed Advanced Clean Trucks Program and

Fleet Reporting Requirements rule-making (see the two articles on p. 13). The HIA found considerable positive health outcomes from the proposed rule, with a strong emphasis on positive impacts for marginalized populations that suffer the most from health disparities; the HIA results are described in this opinion piece. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/07/clean-trucks-program-electric-vehicles-health-impacts-ev-communities-of-color-low-income-neighborhoods/>

## FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE

- **US Supreme Court Clears Way for Pipeline** - In the PennEast Pipeline Co.'s (PennEast) case before the Supreme Court, NJ had argued that PennEast's 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. The Supreme Court, in a 5-4 decision (available here: [https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/20pdf/19-1039\\_8n5a.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/20pdf/19-1039_8n5a.pdf)), overturned the Court of Appeals decision, stating "Although nonconsenting States are generally immune from suit, they surrendered their immunity from the exercise of the federal eminent domain power when they ratified the Constitution. That power carries with it the ability to condemn property in court. Because the Natural Gas Act [of 1938] delegates the federal eminent domain power to private parties, those parties can initiate condemnation proceedings, including against state-owned property." In order to proceed with the pipeline, however, PennEast needs additional permits, and Gov. Murphy has stated that available avenues will be pursued. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/06/us-supreme-court-ruling-controversial-penneast-pipeline-state-of-nj-environmentalists-disappointed/>
- **PennEast Pipeline Still Faces Long Road Despite Court Decision** (news video) - This short news video highlights the Supreme Court decision on eminent domain related to the PennEast Pipeline, and provides reactions from people with different viewpoints. <https://www.njspotlight.com/video/penneast-pipeline-still-faces-long-road-despite-court-decision/>
- **With Continuing Opposition to PennEast Eminent Domain Potential, County Commissioners to Urge Federal Government to Amend 1938 Law** - The 6/29/2021 U.S. Supreme Court decision in the PennEast Pipeline Company vs. New Jersey case (see the two articles above) refers to the Natural Gas Act of 1938, which "delegates the federal eminent domain power to private parties," who can, as stated in the Court's decision, "initiate condemnation proceedings, including against state-owned property." The Hunterdon County, NJ Board of Commissioners issued a resolution (available here: <https://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/pdf/press/2021/July09-Hunt-Co-Pipeline-Resoulution.pdf>) supporting the "Fairness for Landowners Facing Eminent Domain Act," reintroduced by U.S. Congressman Malinowski of NJ, which would amend the Natural Gas Act . <https://www.tapinto.net/towns/flemington-slash-raritan/sections/hunterdon-county-news/articles/with-continuing-opposition-to-penneast-eminent-domain-potential-county-commissioners-to-urge-federal-government-to-amend-1938-law>
- **Hoboken Opposes Newark Power Plant** - On 7/7/2021, the Hoboken City Council passed a resolution asking the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) to use alternative energy for their proposed 34 MW gas fired power plant that would be located in the Ironbound community of Newark. Hoboken is the first city to have passed such a resolution. Similarly, the Newark Environmental Commission has voted to present such a resolution to the Newark Municipal Council, which meets next on 8/3/2021. In June, PVSC announced that it plans to reevaluate its current proposal for the plant after community members and environmental activists from across the region opposed the plan. <https://hudsonreporter.com/2021/07/14/hoboken-opposes-newark-power-plant/>

## LEAD REDUCTION IN HOUSEHOLDS

- **N.J. Takes ‘Significant Step’ to Ending Exposure to Lead under Laws Murphy Just Signed-** Gov. Murphy signed a trio of bills that target lead contamination in NJ, including one measure (A5343) that gives community water systems 10 years to inventory and replace all lead water service lines. A separate measure (S1147) requires inspections of rental properties for lead paint, with fines possible for landlords who fail to remediate any problem found, and also establishes a lead-based paint hazard education program. Another separate measure (A5407) alters some bonding and budgetary restrictions so towns and water companies have more options to pay for the pipe replacements. Additional information is included in the Governor's press release, available here: <https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562021/approved/20210722a.shtml>. (Also see the news video below.) **[It is of note that, while the lead service line replacement bill is a very good bill, it allows an investor-owned private water utility company to seek "recoupment" of the full cost of lead pipe replacements at the next rate hearing in front of NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU). The bill does not guarantee the recoupment will be granted; however, it creates the high likelihood that it will, which would result in charges for the replacements being included in water customers' bills with no chance for discussion or appeal. The Public Advocate and Rate Counsel (<https://www.nj.gov/rpa/>) regarding opposing these rate applications on behalf of water bill payers.]** <https://www.nj.com/news/2021/07/nj-takes-significant-step-to-ending-exposure-to-lead-under-laws-murphy-just-signed.html>
- **NJ Plans to Replace All Lead Water Lines Within 10 Years** (news video) - Gov. Murphy signed into law three bills that will require mandatory inventory of lead service lines, remove restrictions so towns and water companies have more options to pay for the pipe replacements, enforce regular inspections and remediations for lead in rental properties, and establish a new education program on lead-based paint hazards for both tenants and landlords. This makes NJ the first state to put a “hard target” on eliminating the lead pipes.(Also see article above.) <https://www.njspotlight.com/video/nj-plans-to-replace-all-lead-water-lines-within-10-years/>



- **Newark Lead Levels Fall below Federal Benchmark Levels for Third Straight Reporting Period** - The average lead levels in Newark water fell well below the federal benchmark for acceptable levels for the third straight reporting period, as Newark continues to abate and eliminate all lead from its drinking water. With this latest report of lead traces falling below federal levels, the City has effectively ended the legal action brought against Newark and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) by the National Resources Defense Council and the Newark Education Workers Caucus in June of 2018. Under the settlement agreement of December 2020, the agreement would expire on June 30, 2021 if the City continued to show trace lead levels below federal standards. <https://www.newarknj.gov/news/newark-lead-levels-fall-below-federal-benchmark-levels-for-third-straight-reporting-period>

## GREEN AMENDMENT

- **The NJ Green Amendment Gains Momentum** - The NJ Green Amendment (SCR30/ACR80), which promotes the right to clean air, clean water and a healthy environment for every person in the state, is gaining ground in the NJ legislature. The Senate resolution now has 19 sponsors, and the Assembly resolution has 43 sponsors. In the Senate, 24 votes are needed, and in the Assembly, 48 votes are needed in order for the resolutions to pass. Passage would be needed prior to August 2, 2021 in order for the Green Amendment to be considered by NJ voters in this year's General Election.  
<https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/nj-green-amendment-gains-momentum/>

## RENEWABLE RESOURCES

- **NJ's Offshore-Energy Powerline Law Blows NIMBY Objectors Out of the Water - Bill Would Preempt Local Say Over Offshore Wind Projects** - Gov. Murphy signed a bill (S3926) that authorizes those 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. This bill followed on discussions that have taken place in some NJ shore municipalities regarding whether they could refuse to approve ordinances allowing wind projects to bury transmission cables. <https://enviropolitics.com/nj-offshore-energy-powerline-law-blows-nimby-objectors-out-of-the-water/>



- **Two Companies Tapped to Build Second Massive Offshore-Wind Farm** - Awards made in NJ's second offshore-wind project solicitation went to Ørsted (its second project) and Atlantic Shores (see article on p. 17). These projects will triple the capacity of the previous award. Additional details are in Gov. Murphy's press release, available here: <https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562021/approved/20210630b.shtml>. Each project also includes a commitment to build an assembly facility at the NJ Wind Port. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/07/offshore-wind-second-project-largest-wind-farm-in-u-s-murphy-offshore-wind-goals/>



- **Wind Power Developer Bets Big on Jersey Coast** - This article describes the plans of the wind power developer Atlantic Shores, which was just approved for an offshore wind farm project between Atlantic City and Barnegat Light (see article on p. 16), and has plans for obtaining approvals for more projects in future solicitations. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/07/atlantic-shores-offshore-wind-nj-plans-to-double-power-output-from-jersey-coast-turbines/>
- **Wind Advocates Say Offshore Turbines Will Help NJ Avoid Climate ‘Catastrophe’** - As a response to those who object to the offshore wind industry, a group of over 100 NJ elected officials have issued a letter in support of the industry. This article describes their points in favor of the industry as well as those of the groups opposed to it. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/07/offshore-wind-100-elected-officials-nj-elected-officials-to-protect-america-opponents-rally-protect-our-coast-new-jersey/>
- **Another Boost to Promote Solar Power, Now with Larger Cost Caps** - This article describes a bill (A4554), which establishes a new program for solar renewable energy certificates (SRECs) under the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU), and describes its pros and cons as seen by different constituencies. Note: the bill was signed by Gov. Murphy on 7/9/2021. In addition to the items described in the article, the bill also includes a requirement for the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to establish standards for the use of pollinator-friendly native plant species and seed mixes in grid supply solar facilities, and provide native perennial vegetation and foraging habitat beneficial to gamebirds, songbirds, and pollinators. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/07/another-boost-to-promote-solar-power-now-with-larger-cost-caps/>
- **Opinion: Large-Scale Solar Projects Threaten New Jersey’s Shrinking Farmland** (by Jeff Tober, farm manager at Rancocas Creek Farm, a sustainable farm run by the Pinelands Preservation Alliance) - The author cautions against using prime NJ farmland for large-scale solar projects, stating that the "dual-use" potential is limited and long-term impacts need further study; rather, such projects should be directed to disturbed and marginalized lands. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/07/large-scale-solar-projects-threaten-nj-shrinking-farming-some-crops-might-flourish-but-major-limits/>

## CLIMATE CHANGE

### NJ ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATES FILE PETITION FOR DEP RULEMAKING

**"Cut Greenhouse Gases Now, Groups Tell Murphy"** - EmpowerNJ (a coalition of which UUFANJ is a member) and a number of other environmental advocate groups filed a formal Petition for Rulemaking by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The petition is for DEP to adopt rules that: 1) set a 50% greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction target for NJ by 2030 from 2005 levels; 2) specifically map out and implement how that reduction is to be achieved; and 3) restrict the issuance of operating permits for new fossil fuel infrastructure projects. Under the NJ Administrative Procedures Act, DEP is legally required to publish this petition, hold a formal public comment process on the petition, and publish as to how and why it will or will not act on the petition’s call for rulemaking. (The 23-page petition, which provides extensive background and documentation, is available here:

<https://www.cleanwateraction.org/sites/default/files/Final%20petition%2007-21-21.pdf>) A press conference was held to announce the filing of the petition (the video is available here:

<https://www.facebook.com/EmpowerNJNoFossilFuel/videos/347979436817001/>), and also officially to launch a campaign to push Gov. Murphy "to catch up to the Biden Administration and at least a dozen states, all of whom have made stronger commitments than New Jersey in terms of cutting GHG emissions by 2030 to address the climate crisis." <https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/advocates-file-legal-petition-demanding-murphy-administration-produce-real-plan-meet-obligations-reduce-greenhouse-gas-emissions/>

- **NJ Makes \$200 Million Investment in Climate Future** - The NJ pension fund proposes an investment up to \$200 million in the TPG Rise Climate private-equity fund. This would follow on last year's commitment of \$100 million to the Stonepeak Renewables private-equity fund. Although these are first steps into renewable energy and climate-related investments, environmental advocates - notably the DivestNJ Coalition - want the pension fund to divest from investments in all companies that have links to the fossil-fuel industry. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/07/public-employee-pension-200m-climate-fund-divest-fossil-fuel-holdings/>
- **Murphy Signs Laws to Spur Solar Energy, Electric Vehicles in N.J.'s Climate Change Fight** - On 7/9/2021, Gov. Murphy signed four bills related to clean energy and climate change, aimed at advancing New Jersey's transition to a clean energy future to further the Administration's goal of reaching 100 percent clean energy by 2050. The legislation will increase solar development and facilitate installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure throughout the state. Additional information is available in the press release, here: <https://www.state.nj.us/governor/news/news/562021/approved/20210709a.shtml>. The bills are: S3484, which establishes a "dual-use" solar project pilot program for unpreserved farmland; S2605, which establishes a new program for solar renewable energy certificates(SRECs) under the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU); S3223, which establishes requirements and zoning standards for the installation of electric vehicle supply equipment and parking spaces; and A1653, which encourages the development of zero-emission vehicle fueling and charging infrastructure in redevelopment projects. <https://www.nj.com/politics/2021/07/murphy-signs-laws-to-spur-solar-energy-electric-vehicles-in-njs-climate-change-fight.html>



- **Rising Seas, Stronger Storms Mean Even More Flooding for the Shore, Report Says** - The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recently released its annual nuisance flooding/annual outlook report. (A link to the NOAA report, and an interactive map of high tide flooding trends, are available here: [https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/HighTideFlooding\\_AnnualOutlook.html](https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/HighTideFlooding_AnnualOutlook.html).) The report shows that nuisance (high tide) flooding has doubled in the past 20 years, and next year's predictions for the Northeast are the highest in the nation. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/07/nuisance-flooding-noaa-stockton-university-coastal-research-center-back-bays-tides-beach-haven-long-beach-township-brigantine-avalon-stone-harbor/>
- **How Climate Change Is Fueling More Extreme Heat in Summer** (3-minute video) - As part of the NJ Spotlight News "Peril and Promise: The Challenge of Climate Change" series, Anthony Broccoli, co-director of Rutgers Climate Institute, speaks on the growing body of scientific research that shows that climate change is making heat waves longer, hotter and more dangerous. <https://www.njspotlight.com/video/how-climate-change-is-fueling-more-extreme-heat-in-summer/>

- **NJ's Largest Energy Company Sets New Climate Goal** - Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) has advanced its previous net-zero emissions goal by 20 years, to 2030. It is in the process of divesting all non-nuclear sources of power generation, and also has a target of obtaining offshore-wind capacity. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/06/pseg-biggest-nj-energy-company-pseg-new-ambitious-net-zero-clean-energy-target-2030/>
- **Industry Group Says Green Energy Means Businesses Will Pay More** - In the absence of cost assessments from the state, which were committed to be provided by 1/2020 but now are not expected until 2022, the Chemistry Council of NJ has done an analysis of costs for the NJ nuclear power plant subsidies and for offshore wind. They predict large increases for their member manufacturing firms. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/07/industry-group-says-green-energy-means-businesses-will-pay-more>
- **MLB Umps Subject To Climate Change, According To Monmouth Study** - A recent study published by Monmouth University's Urban Coast Institute, found that Major League Baseball (MLB) umpires are more likely to make bad pitch calls in hotter weather, "making it possible that America's pastime could be affected by climate change, as the warming temperatures and more frequent heat waves threaten to cause further decline in officiating." <https://patch.com/new-jersey/longbranch/mlb-umps-subject-climate-change-according-monmouth-study>

## POLLUTION

### "ReThink Disposable" Program: Next Steps for Zero Waste State Policies

"ReThink Disposable" is a program for preventing waste before it starts, by working with local governments, businesses, institutions, and consumers to minimize single use disposable packaging in food service, to conserve resources and prevent waste and ocean litter pollution. Disposable food and beverage packaging makes up 67% of litter in commercial streets. More information is available here: <https://www.cleanwateraction.org/rethink-disposable-nj>.

Clean Water Action has launched a "ReThink Disposable" Blog Series focused on "Zero Waste in the Garden State." Part I: "Zero Waste at Home & In Your Community" is available here: <https://cleanwater.org/2021/02/02/rethink-disposable-blog-series-part-i-zero-waste-home-your-community>. Part II: "Next Steps for Local Zero Waste Policies" is available here: <https://cleanwater.org/2021/02/22/rethink-disposable-blog-series-part-ii-next-steps-local-zero-waste-policies>. Part III: "Next Steps for Statewide Zero Waste Policies" is available here: <https://www.cleanwateraction.org/2021/06/11/rethink-disposable-blog-series-part-iii-next-steps-statewide-zero-waste-policies?>.

This would be an excellent program for congregational involvement!

- **Covanta Discloses Emissions Data for All NJ Waste-to-Energy Plants** - Covanta has begun publishing emissions data (beginning 7/5/2021) for its NJ waste-to-energy plants. "This is the same data used by operators on-site at each of the three Covanta facilities in the state to monitor operational performance." Daily data is provided within 24 hours for CO, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> and stack Opacity by unit, along with permit limits, (click on the map here: <https://www.covanta.com/facilities>) for links to data for the following NJ plants: Essex, in Newark; Union in North Rahway; and Camden. <https://enviropolitics.com/covanta-discloses-emissions-data-for-all-nj-waste-to-energy-plants/>



- **Opinion: Don't Believe the Hype about 'Advanced Recycling'** (by Judith Enck, former Regional Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 2, former Deputy Secretary for the Environment in the NY governor's office, and founder and president of Beyond Plastics) - The author describes the issues with the "advanced recycling" (also called "chemical recycling") process that aims to break down plastics into molecular components for reuse. Issues include that it is unproven, expensive, and a major source of air pollution and greenhouse gases. There is currently a bill in the NJ legislature (A5803) that would provide an incentive for "advanced recycling" facilities in NJ, by exempting them from certain laws. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/07/arguing-against-advanced-recycling-not-solution-to-plastic-pollution/>

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

- **NJ Towns Sue Makers of 'Forever Chemicals,' Saying Companies Must Pay For Cleanup** - Several NJ towns have filed lawsuits against a number of chemical companies stating that they are responsible for the presence of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances - "forever chemicals") in NJ water. Although PFAS are not nationally regulated, NJ has instituted standards that municipalities must meet, which result in the municipalities incurring costs related to meeting these standards. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/07/forever-chemicals-lawsuit-contamination-drinking-water>
- **EPA-Approved Fracking Chemicals Include Substances Known as Forever Chemicals** - A study by the Physicians for Social Responsibility ("Fracking with 'Forever Chemicals,'" available here: <https://www.psr.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/fracking-with-forever-chemicals.pdf>) describes evidence that oil and gas companies including ExxonMobil and Chevron have used per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS - "forever chemicals"), or substances that can degrade into PFAS, in hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") for oil and gas in more than 1,200 wells in six U.S. states between 2012 and 2020. Although direct evidence was not found that PFAS were used in Pennsylvania wells (i.e., possibly in the Delaware River Basin watershed), companies that have fracking operations in Pennsylvania used the chemicals elsewhere. The PFAS can be found in wastewater from the wells; it should be noted that the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC), while it recently banned fracking in the basin, has yet to ban the importation of fracking wastewater; a resolution has been approved to start a rulemaking process regarding this, as well as the exportation of water for fracking elsewhere. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/07/evidence-pfas-forever-chemicals-used-in-fracking-serious-health-issues-natural-gas-drilling/>

## Bay Head NJ Transit Electrical Substation Construction Issues

In a recent Asbury Park Press column, "**Save Barnegat Bay' Puts NJ Transit Back on Track,**" (available here:

<https://www.facebook.com/SaveBarnegatBay/photos/a.304758956279472/4195896177165711/>),

Britta Forsberg of the non-profit group "Save Barnegat Bay" details the major continuing issues related to NJ Transit's construction of a new electrical substation in the wetlands of Twilight Lake in Bay Head, NJ, which is tidal to Barnegat Bay, a Category 1 Waterway. The project was approved without the undertaking of any environmental impact studies and without regard for the wetlands that provide the natural habitat for the endangered and protected Black-crowned Night Heron, American Bald Eagle, and Osprey, among other fish and wildlife. Disruption from construction activities has already led to an osprey pair's abandoning this year's hatchlings, at a platform that was built for them at Twilight Lake. "Save Raritan Bay," in a lawsuit filed on 6/24/2021, states that the project lacks wetlands permits and has disturbed the nesting ospreys and other wildlife. However, in Ocean County Superior Court on 7/20/2021, they failed to win a temporary stop-work order. The matter next comes up in August. Additional details about the project are available here:

<https://www.savebarnegatbay.org/initiatives/bay-head-nj-transit/>.

## OTHER

- **Friends of New Jersey School of Conservation Celebrate State Funding to Support Restoration of School** - The NJ FY 2022 budget includes \$1 million to keep the New Jersey School of Conservation (NJSOC) open and operating. This funding, for educational programming, teachers, supplies, operations, and maintenance, will provide an opportunity to relaunch the NJSOC and leverage its leadership in environmental education. The Friends of NJSOC, which had previously negotiated an agreement with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for limited access, states that next steps are to meet to discuss resuming school programming and summer camps, and to determine a schedule to address critical infrastructure needs. <https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/friends-new-jersey-school-conservation-celebrate-state-funding-support-restoration-school/>
- **New Jersey LCV and Partners Call State Budget "Mixed Bag" for Environmental Priorities** - The NJ League of Conservation Voters (LCV) analyzed the NJ FY 2022 budget and found environmental successes in the funding for the NJ School of Conservation (NJSOC - see article above) and full funding of the Delaware River Basin Commission (see article on p. 22) and several additional areas. However, the continued raiding of the Clean Energy Fund specifically for NJ Transit support, and the lack of a dedicated source of revenue for NJ Transit, were disappointments. <https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/new-jersey-lcv-partners-call-state-budget-mixed-bag-environmental-priorities/>
- **High Court Says 'No' to Nuclear Subsidy Appeal** - The NJ Division of Rate Counsel had filed a petition with the NJ Supreme Court asking it to overturn the appellate court's decision upholding the award of \$300 million in subsidies to NJ nuclear power plants. However, the NJ Supreme Court declined to hear the appeal, so the subsidies will go forward. Nuclear power is included in NJ's Energy Master Plan; a request for renewal of the subsidies is possible every three years. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/07/nuclear-subsidy-300m-1b-nj-supreme-court-declines-hear-appeal-pseg-exelon/>
- **Those Slimy, Green - and Harmful - Algal Blooms Are Back. Will They Stay?** - Although exacerbated by climate change, harmful algal blooms (HABs) can be addressed by reducing the flow of nutrients into lakes. This article describes ways different levels of NJ government, and residents, can assist in this reduction. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/06/green-slime-nj-harmful-algal-blooms-back-in-nj-dep-investigates-warns-toxins-irritative-allergenic/>

- **NJ Legislation Challenging Harmful Algal Blooms Heads to Governor** - A bill (S3618/A5778), which is awaiting Gov. Murphy's signature, would provide \$10 million for grants for the management and maintenance of lakes for recreation and conservation purposes. Priority would be given to lakes with public access, and would include projects to control nutrient levels in lakes in order to prevent future harmful algal blooms. <https://patch.com/new-jersey/hopatcong-sparta/nj-legislation-challenging-harmful-algal-blooms-heads-governor>



- **Falling Short for Years, NJ Now Pays Delaware River Commission Its Full Share** - For the first time in eight years, NJ has committed to pay its share of the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) funding. Other DRBC entities that have not been paying their share are NY, PA and the federal government. This article gives a good history of the DRBC and describes some possible federal funding solutions. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/07/delaware-river-basin-commission-drbc-nj-share-893000-state-budget-paid-in-full/>
- **NJ Changes Course On Opting Out of Regional Power Grid** - In December 2019, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a ruling that the nation's biggest electric grid operator, PJM, must include electricity from state-subsidized renewable sources in its "capacity market," a move designed to bring the price of clean power in line with that generated by fossil fuels. The change was seen as a threat to NJ's meeting its clean energy goals. In light of that ruling, the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) had been considering several approaches to address this, including leaving the PJM regional power grid. However, because of the change in federal administrations to one more amenable to clean energy, a report issued by the BPU ("Alternative Resource Adequacy Structures for New Jersey," available here: [https://nj.gov/bpu/pdf/reports/NJ%20BPU%20RA%20Investigation%20\(Final\).pdf](https://nj.gov/bpu/pdf/reports/NJ%20BPU%20RA%20Investigation%20(Final).pdf)) finds that leaving the PJM regional market would be premature, although other alternatives will continue to be studied. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/07/nj-changes-course-on-opting-out-of-regional-power-grid/>

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

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

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### **MORATORIUM MONDAYS CONTINUE**

**Please continue to contact Gov. Murphy every Monday and urge him to declare a climate emergency moratorium on fossil fuel projects! These efforts have been successful in that a number of projects have been stopped or delayed in the past year. Either call through the EmpowerNJ number (866-586-4069) to get coaching on the topic of the week, emphasizing what is in the news, or call directly to the governor's office (609-292-6000). 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.**

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## **Environmental Justice Task Force Comments on NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Rules for EJ Cumulative Impacts Law**

### **Introduction**

Unitarian Universalist FaithAction NJ is a faith-based nonprofit that envisions a just New Jersey free from systemic oppression and greed, full of engaged people committed to each other, to our communities, and to the earth. Our comments reflect this vision along with the Unitarian Universalist principles of the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity and compassion in human relations; and respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

We would first like to thank the DEP for their careful attention to the issues and the needs of overburdened communities in New Jersey and the hard work they have put into drafting the rules. We support most of the proposed rules. However, we believe that additional stressors should be considered and that compelling public interest needs to be more strictly defined.

We comment on three areas below:

1. Geographic Units of Comparison
2. Stressors
3. Compelling Public Interest

### **Geographic Units of Comparison**

The EJ Law protects designated overburdened communities from "adverse cumulative environmental or public health stressors in the overburdened community that are higher than those borne by other communities within the State, county, or other geographic unit of analysis." The rulemaking has asked, what is the appropriate geographic unit of analysis? The state? The county? Or just the non-overburdened areas of the state or county?

## [Environmental Justice Task Force Comments on NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Rules for EJ Cumulative Impacts Law - continued]

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While comparing to only a county might mean comparing to an area that is comparatively overburdened relative to the entire state, counties that are better off than the state as a whole also have overburdened communities. The more local comparison would provide a more accurate assessment of the situation of these communities.

We strongly support the current proposal from the DEP to use the more protective standard of the two, whether county or state. In other words, if the level of a stressor in the overburdened community is higher than that of the county, use the county, and if the level is higher than that of the state, use the state.

We also believe that the unit of comparison should be chosen independently for each stressor, because the sources of stress will vary widely by community. Thus if the unit of comparison is that state for some stressors, it could still be the county for others.

### **Stressors**

#### **Health Stressors**

While the list of stressors includes most of the areas of concern, we are disturbed that no health indicators are included as stressors. It is important not to just use data because it is available and to ignore other data that is harder to get. This is like the drunk searching for his keys under the lamp post, not because he lost them there, but because that's where the light is.

The single most important goal of this law is to protect the health and quality of life of the local population, and measuring non-health stressors is at best an indirect indicator of health outcomes and at worst unrelated to health outcomes.<sup>1</sup>

Instead, we believe the department should make every effort to get health data in the following areas:

- \* mortality
- \* hospital visits
- \* emergency department visits

from

- \* all causes, excluding accidents and consequences of violence (self-harm or violent crime)
- \* asthma
- \* cancer
- \* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- \* heart disease
- \* lung cancer

These are all known to be related to ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub> and if the risk of these diseases is already high in a community, there can be no excuse for locating a facility there that would increase the risk.

If the numbers are so small that privacy might be violated by revealing them, it should be acceptable to use 0 when doing comparisons.

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<sup>1</sup> The NATA Diesel Cancer Risk is the closest to a health indicator, but that's simply a model of the likely risk from known air toxics. It doesn't give the actual health outcomes.



**[Environmental Justice Task Force Comments on NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Rules for EJ Cumulative Impacts Law - continued]**

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**Trees**

We were pleased to see that included under Health and Environmental Stressors is stressor #24, “lack of tree canopy”. We would like to reinforce its inclusion with the following information. A recent analysis by American Forests produced a “tree equity score” which shows that overburdened communities nationwide have significantly less tree canopy than more wealthy and white communities, and they feel the negative impacts as a result. A New York Times article Since When Have Trees Existed Only for Rich Americans? (Sunday July 4th ), reports on the Tree Equity Evaluation as follows: “Communities with too few trees are feeling the consequences this summer, as a heat wave has swept through much the Pacific Northwest. The average temperature can vary up to 10 degrees between places with trees and those without. And where there is more heat, there is more death: Heat Kills more people in the United States than any other kind of extreme weather. We can expect up to a tenfold increase in heat-related deaths in the Eastern United states by the latter half of the 2050s and at least a 70 percent increase in the largest cities nationwide by 2050.

Yet the trees we do have prevent approximately 1,200 heat-related deaths annually in American cities.

There is an emerging body of research from the US Forest Service and others that has found a direct relationship between tree canopy today and discriminatory policies of the past.”

Trees provide many other benefits, some particularly significant in overburdened communities. They clean the air, filter and reduce stormwater runoff, and provide wildlife habitat. But some of the most compelling evidence of community benefit is the relationship of trees to stress reduction, increase of student test scores, positive health outcomes of patients recovering in hospitals, and reduction of some types of crime.

We applaud DEP for your recognition of the critical importance of tree canopy and green space to the quality of life for people living in overburdened communities.

**Cumulative Stressor Total**

Finally, the technique proposed by the department for determining whether the total level of stress is too high - the Combined Stressor Total - is confusing, unnecessary, and unjustifiable. It requires adding incomparable things and weighting them all equally. Furthermore, it ignores the actual level of each stressor - one stressor may be far higher than average, while another is only barely above, and yet they are weighted equally.

The CST method is not only unreasonable and unjustifiable, in adding unlike things, and treating them all as equally stressful regardless of their individual levels, but it is nearly incomprehensible. Because of that, any DEP decision based on this method will be inappropriate, will lack credibility, and will promote confusion.

We propose instead that stressors that would be impacted by the addition of the proposed facility be considered, and if any one of them would be increased by the facility, the resulting level of the stressor should be compared to that of the geographic point of comparison. If it's higher, the permit should not be granted.

**Compelling Public Interest**

The DEP proposal for modeling compelling public interest after the rules for the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act is quite good, but we believe that should be one additional condition to address the purpose of the EJ Law, which is that there is no other reasonable location for the facility.