



Environmental Justice Task Force Newsletter

October 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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Come to the UUFANJ Fall Issues Conference! - Virtual
Saturday, October 16, 2021 (see p. 10)



BIG NEWS!! NJDEP issued an Administrative Order to implement a number of the EJ Law requirements NOW, before regulations are finalized! See details on pp. 16 - 17.

UU CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

CENTRAL UNITARIAN CHURCH (CUC)



It's time for the Fall harvest at the Central Unitarian Church of Paramus (CUC) "Bountiful Harvest Garden!" This organic garden on church property raises hundreds of pounds of vegetables and salad-makings for the Center for Food Action (CFA), a nonprofit organization that works to prevent hunger and homelessness and to improve the lives of individuals and families living in poverty in northeastern NJ. CFA provides food packages and homeless prevention services to the working poor, senior citizens and disabled individuals on fixed incomes, and the unemployed experiencing temporary financial hardship.



EJTF ACTIVITIES

- On 9/23/2021, as advocated **by EJTF**, UUFANJ co-sponsored a virtual Clean Energy Equity Town Hall Meeting presented by the NJ Shines coalition (of which UUFANJ is a member). It provided an opportunity for legislators and constituents to discuss clean energy and energy justice opportunities in the Garden State that benefit overburdened communities, specifically the Clean Energy Equity Act, an energy justice bill championed by the coalition (see information in the box below). Members of the NJ legislature, advocates, and participants in equity programs participated. The goal was to give the legislative champions a platform to connect with their constituents as the Clean Energy Equity Act bill heads into the legislature's lame duck session, after passing the Senate last November, to equip them with the momentum to get it across the finish line, and to create opportunities to champion this urgent cause for legislators not yet supporting the bill by demonstrating widespread support.

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 9/26/2021 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 telling them to support the Clean Energy Equity Act, or place a call directly to Assembly member DeAngelo, the chair of the Telecommunications and Utilities Committee, here: <https://www.NJShines.org/Take-Action/>.

- **EJTF member Christine Dunbar** has continued her involvement in actions related to the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company's (TGP) proposed expansion of the Wantage compressor station and a new West Milford compressor station. The expansion of fossil fuel pipelines in NJ is highly contrary to the Governor's plan for 100% Clean Energy by 2050. This particular expansion would deliver fracked gas to NY while delivering pollution risks to NJ water resources and overall health. The effort to halt the expansion of fracked gas through NJ's northern neighborhoods continues. At the Sussex Commissioner's meeting on 9/8/2021, there was a huge union turnout for the presentation given by TGP. The Sussex Commissioners did not take any stance in support of the several towns within the county who had passed their own resolutions in opposition to the expansion. The Passaic Commissioners may be more inclined to pass a resolution, however. If possible, please speak at the next Passaic Commissioners meeting on 10/26/2021, or write to the commission members to encourage them to pass a strong resolution in opposition to the project. Information about providing input in-person or electronically is on page 1 of this document: <https://www.passaiccountynj.org/Departments/Freeholders/Meetings/2021%20Agendas/Event516Post2.pdf>. Please also consider signing the petition at this website: www.stopthecompressor.org/home, especially if you are a healthcare professional and aware of the health hazards associated with pipelines; the petition will be delivered to the Governor timed with a press release.

24 [Calendar continued from p. 3]	25 RU Wildlife Wise: Successfully Navigating the Urban Wild - 6:30 p.m.	26	27 Andlinger Annual Meeting: Corporations and Industry in the Race to Net-Zero Emissions - 9:00 a.m. Equity Impacts of Markets for Clean Air - 12:00 p.m.	28	29	30 Tree Planting - 9:00 a.m.
31						

**Plant Trees with NJ Tree Foundation's
"Urban Airshed Reforestation and Renaissance Trees Programs" - In-person
Multiple dates and locations**

The NJ Tree Foundation's Fall 2021 tree planting dates are here! Tree planting events are rain or shine; tools and gloves will be provided. The NJ Tree Foundation is capping volunteers for each event; volunteer groups will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

Urban Airshed Reforestation Program (all in Camden, NJ) - Interested volunteers can contact Meredith at 856-287-4488 or email mbrown@njtreefoundation.org. You can also sign up online using the UARP Volunteer RSVP Form, available here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1El2jQZWWAcEgNr7hDv_-aDjl8OG2sjgGUPAsbuYtPOs/viewform.

Saturday, October 2, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - South 32nd Street
Saturday, October 23, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - South 4th Street
Saturday, October 30, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Harvest Fest North Camden
Saturday, November 6, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Monmouth St, Gloucester City
Saturday, November 13, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Princess and Kenwood Avenues

Renaissance Trees Program (various locations: see below) - Interested volunteers can contact Crystal Wessel at cwessel@njtreefoundation.org, or call 609-439-1755. You can also sign up online using the RTP Volunteer Sign-up Form, available here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdqKXso2Oh5xdmeKqZRRIpbcCa9Y7b1N3ZaEZDtZjJYP1wcAw/viewform>.

Friday, October 1, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Fairmount Ave., Newark
Saturday, October 16, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - 10/16 - Sanford Place, Newark
Wednesday, October 20, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Branch Brook Park, Newark
Saturday, November 6, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Monmouth Street, Gloucester City
Additional Dates To Be Determined: Norwood Street, Newark, Martin Luther King School, Trenton, and Central High School, Newark

Rutgers Environmental Stewards "Earth Day Every Day Webinar Series" Various Dates

Rutgers' Earth Day, Every Day webinar series (E2D2) features experts from Rutgers Cooperative Extension, and focuses on steps everyone can take to protect the environment. We can all do our part to take actions that make our homes more sustainable, from environmentally-friendly lawn care, to recycling, to conducting a home energy audit. New this fall are webinars on "E2D2 in the City" sessions that will focus on specific issues affecting cities and urban communities. Learn about safe practices for urban soil, combined sewer overflows, and urban wildlife.

Monday, October 4, 2021, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - "YOU Can Be a Citizen Scientist!"

Tuesday, October 12, 2021, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - E2D2 In The City! "Safe Soils for Urban Gardening"

Monday, October 18, 2021, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - E2D2 In The City! "The Past, Present, and Future of Combined Sewers in New Jersey"

Monday, October 25, 2021, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - E2D2 In The City! "RU Wildlife Wise: Successfully Navigating the Urban Wild"

Monday, November 1, 2021, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - E2D2 in the City! "Let's Stop As-Salt-ing Our Streams: The Impacts of Road Salt on Freshwater"

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

An Electric Evening at the Princeton Shopping Center - In-person Friday, October 1, 2021, 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. 301 N Harrison St., Princeton, NJ 08540

Come out and test drive the latest models of electric vehicles, motorcycles, and bicycles and learn all you need to know about charging and owning an EV. "Developed in partnership with NRG Energy Inc, this year's event will be even better with more exciting electric vehicles options. So far, Volvo, Polestar, Volkswagen, and Hyundai are all planning to join this event! In addition, Trius Inc. will be bringing a Max-EV 4 Low-Speed Vehicle for test rides. Sourland Cycles and Princeton E-bikes will be bringing a range of e-bikes and Mt. Holly Motorsports will bring a Zero Motorcycle. At the same time, we are arranging for current EV owners to be on-hand to show off their electric vehicles and share their personal ownership experiences." Additional information and the registration link is here: <https://www.sustainableprinceton.org/event/an-electric-evening/>

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 p. 6 is a sampling of webinars taking place in October 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/>.

"Climate Bridge: Challenges of Climate Change for Spatial and Environmental Planning – An International Dialogue" - Hybrid (In-person/Online)

Thursday, October 14, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday, October 15, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. (plus Closing Reception)

In-person is at 84 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854

This two-day hybrid conference is a collaboration between the Rutgers Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability and the Rutgers Climate Institute, supported by the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany New York. "Climate change is creating new challenges for spatial and environmental planning on both sides of the Atlantic. While seeking to moderate the impacts of climate change from rising temperatures, extreme precipitation and sea level rise, the context of planning and policy must also address growing awareness of social equity and environmental justice. New Jersey's underserved communities are similarly exposed to environmental challenges as their counterparts in the German Ruhr Region; settlement patterns and brownfield issues also show similarities ... The conference Climate Bridge will foster a collaborative dialogue among planners, designers, scholars, public administrators, and decision makers from both sides of the Atlantic. Scholars from different universities in Germany and the United States will contribute papers and discussions that highlight interdisciplinary approaches to addressing the environmental, economic, political, and social dimensions of planning considering climate change."

Links to additional information, agenda, and registration are available here:

<https://climatesociety.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/icalrepeat.detail/2021/10/14/6710/-/climate-bridge-challenges-of-climate-change-for-spatial-and-environmental-planning-an-international-dialogue>

"How Best to Utilize Existing Energy Infrastructure in A Net-Zero Future"

Monday, October 4, 2021, 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Webinar

Presented by the Columbia|SIPA Center for Global Energy Policy, this webinar will examine energy infrastructure both within and outside the United States to identify niches around the globe where existing energy systems can be utilized to facilitate a net-zero future. For example, in the same way that the electric grid allows for increasingly low-carbon electrons to be transported, it may be possible for the natural gas grid to enable increasingly low-carbon molecules to be transported. Additional information and the registration link are here:

<https://www.energypolicy.columbia.edu/events-calendar/how-best-utilize-existing-energy-infrastructure-net-zero-future>.

"Benchmarking Progress Towards Social Equity-Focused Climate Adaptation Planning in U.S. Cities" - Webinar

Monday, October 11, 2021, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Presented by Dr. Eric Chu of the University of California, Davis Climate Adaptation Research Center, an IPCC Working Group Lead Author, this webinar addresses the need to benchmark climate adaptation progress being made in large U.S. cities in order to assess whether climate adaptation plans that are currently being designed or implemented actually lead to more sustainable, resilient, or socially just outcomes. Additional information and the registration link are here:

<https://climateadaptation.ucdavis.edu/events/benchmarking-progress-towards-social-equity-focused-climate-adaptation-planning-us-cities>.

"Putting Culture into Practice: The Role of Social Science in Building Resilient and Adaptive Food Systems" - Webinar
Tuesday, October 12, 2021, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

This the third webinar in a series presented by the U.S. Global Change Research Program, building on the report "Climate Change, Global Food Security, and the U.S. Food System." The series highlights the role of culture in understanding climate impacts on a variety of food systems as well as its potential for effectively building resilience and adaptive management. This webinar will specifically consider how culture informs resilient and adaptive food systems in the face of the complex disasters we face. The focus is on the most critical areas of inquiry and practical solution-building, both what is happening now and what will be necessary in the future, for these culturally-grounded, resilient, adaptive food systems. Speakers include: Suzan Erem, Sustainable Iowa Land Trust; Lauren Gentile, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Natalia Pinzón Jiménez, University of California, Davis; and James Rattling Leaf, Rattling Leaf Consulting. Additional information and the registration link are here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScQ6zz3qnISaMKILfyYDL08ghYQN89OoLzwDBSQa2MLF5d-Gw/viewform>.

"Electric School Buses: The Opportunity for New Jersey" - Webinar
Wednesday, October 13, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

The World Resources Institute and the Electrification Coalition are presenting a roundtable discussion on the wide-ranging benefits of electric school buses and NJ's window of opportunity to accelerate their deployment. NJ First Lady Tammy Murphy will deliver opening remarks, and the roundtable will include experts from government and industry, advocates, and representatives of school districts. School bus electrification will improve health and academic outcomes for young people, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and expand the green economy. These benefits are especially important for high-pollution corridors, and Black, Hispanic and low-income households, which are disproportionately exposed to health risks. The registration link is here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_KrIDpkJMqM2h5BD77OvhSg.

"Meeting with Decision-Makers" League of Women Voters of NJ Training - Virtual
Thursday, October 14, 2021, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

This training is part of the League of Women Voters of NJ (LWVNJ) Activist Training Program, a program "designed to equip members and volunteers with the knowledge and skills needed to carry out dynamic organizing strategies that can effectively influence public policy and the state of democracy in New Jersey ... This training will go into detail about crafting lobbying materials, talking points, and thinking through potential strategies for gaining support on policy issues. You will learn the process for scheduling meetings with decision-makers, how to coordinate with LWVNJ staff, and how to prepare yourself for these important meetings. Folks that complete this training will be eligible to meet with their own representatives about certain LWVNJ policy issues through the Lobby Corps and under the direction of LWVNJ staff." Additional information about this and other LWVNJ training sessions, and registration links, are here: <https://www.lwvnj.org/training>.

**Greenfaith's "Faiths 4 Climate Justice: A Global, Multi-Religious Action"
Sunday, October 17 and Monday, October 18, 2021 - Some in-person, some online
Various times and venues**

Greenfaith International is sponsoring two days of global multi-religious action two weeks before global climate negotiations begin. The message they will send is "destroying the planet is against our religions." A map of events (some in-person, some virtual) and multiple toolkits for you - and your congregation - to get involved, are available here: <https://greenfaith.controlshift.app/home>. The types of events suggested are as follows:

Sunday, October 17, 2021 - "At temples, mosques, and churches around the globe, we'll call for climate justice and care for the vulnerable by ringing our bells, singing, praying, meditating, calling the Azan, sounding the shofar – whatever is true to our tradition. We'll also unfurl banners on our sacred buildings that make it clear: the time to act is now."

Monday, October 18, 2021 - "Dressed in religious garb, we'll take our faiths into the streets and to our leaders' doorsteps. We'll deliver our demands to political and financial leaders, hold prayer or meditation vigils outside government and bank offices, sing hymns about the climate, or take action rooted in our deepest values."

**"NJ Decides '21 - NJ Spotlight News Election Conversations" - Online
Wednesday, October 6, 2021, 12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. and
Thursday, October 7, 2021, 12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.**

In advance of the NJ gubernatorial election, NJ Spotlight News will host a series of virtual conversations covering issues of importance around the state. Viewers will be encouraged to provide input on topics the candidates should focus on and to suggest what the outcome of the gubernatorial election will mean to NJ citizens, businesses, and institutions. Panelists will include NJ Spotlight News journalists and subject experts, and each event will be followed by a Q&A chatroom with the panelists. The sessions in October are as follows:

"Social Justice & Immigration" - Wednesday, October 6, 2021, 12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Speakers include: Monika Williams Shealey, Ph.D., Senior Vice President, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Rowan University; Monsy Alvarado, Correspondent, NJ Spotlight News; and Michael Hill, Host, Morning Edition, WNYC, with additional speakers to be announced.

"Climate Change & Clean Energy" - Thursday, October 7, 2021, 12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Speakers include: Ken Lacovara, Ph.D., Dean, School of Earth & Environment, Rowan University; Jon Hurdle, Correspondent, NJ Spotlight News; and Tom Johnson, Energy/Environment Writer, NJ Spotlight News, with additional speakers to be announced.

Additional information about the above sessions and previous sessions, along with the registration link, are here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nj-decides-2021-nj-spotlight-news-election-conversations-tickets-168475172777>.

"What Congress Needs to Know in the Lead-up to COP26: Briefing Series on the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Glasgow"
Environmental and Energy Study Institute Briefing Series - Webinars
Multiple dates

As a lead-up to COP26 (taking place in Glasgow 10/31/2021 - 11/12/2021), the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) is presenting a briefing series to explore cross-cutting challenges—climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation, and pollution—facing the U.S. and countries around the world, and how policymakers are finding and implementing solutions to these challenges. The individual webinars and a link for additional information and to register are below.

"Creating Policies, Coalitions, and Actions for Global Sustainable Development" - Friday, October 8, 2021, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Sir Robert Watson, lead author of the U.N. Environment Programme's report "Making Peace with Nature: A scientific blueprint to tackle the climate, biodiversity, and pollution emergencies," will discuss the current and projected changes in climate and biodiversity, and share the range of solutions that emerge when these issues are considered together in policy design and implementation. In addition, former U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres will discuss the opportunity presented by the upcoming U.N. climate change conference (COP26), and ways governments and leaders can take meaningful action on climate change globally.

"Momentum on Climate Adaptation" - Friday, October 15, 2021, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Climate adaptation is one of the priority work areas for COP26. This briefing will focus on the initiatives launched or scaled up in recent years that underpin the momentum on adaptation and resilience, and that will inform conversations at COP26. Speakers will discuss national adaptation plans, country dialogues on adaptation, early-warning systems, and locally-led adaptation.

"The Role of International Climate Finance" - Wednesday, October 20, 2021, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

International climate finance is a critical tool to increase access to climate mitigation and adaptation resources to address the growing threat of climate change. In this briefing, panelists will discuss the current state of international climate finance, the role and status of the Green Climate Fund and other funding mechanisms, and Congress's role in meeting U.S. climate finance commitments.

"The Negotiations: What's on the Table" - Friday, October 22, 2021, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

COP26 is set to cover a wide range of topics, from negotiations on carbon markets to discussions on loss and damage, climate finance, and updated emission reduction goals in countries' nationally determined contributions (NDCs). This briefing will bring together experts to explain the key areas of negotiation expected, review possible outcomes, and explore what it means for Congress.

Additional information and the links to register and to view the webinars are here:

<https://www.eesi.org/1021cop26>.

"Health Gold: New Actions to Reduce Exposure to Lead" - Webinar
Thursday, October 7, 2021, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

This event, sponsored by Sustainable Jersey, will provide guidance for municipalities to support healthy, lead-safe homes and a healthy, lead-safe and equitable environment for their residents.

This webinar will present Sustainable Jersey's "new suite of actions that guide municipalities to implement practical strategies to reduce and eventually eliminate the scourge of lead poisoning from their communities." Additional information and the registration link are here:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5234842346399695374>.

"Do Environmental Markets Cause Environmental Injustice? Evidence from California's Carbon Market" - Webinar
Wednesday, October 13, 2021, 12:00 p.m.

The webinar, part of the Dartmouth series "New Energy: Conversations with Early-Career Energy Researchers," is presented by Dr. Danae Hernández-Cortés, Assistant Professor at the School for the Future of Innovation in Society and School of Sustainability at Arizona State University. She will present recent research that analyzes some of the sources of environmental inequality and the distributional consequences of environmental policy, specifically related to California's carbon market. The research found that "while EJ gaps across criteria air pollutants were widening prior to 2013, they have since fallen as a consequence of the carbon market." Additional information about the series and the webinar, and the registration link, are here: <https://irving.dartmouth.edu/engagement/new-energy-conversations-early-career-energy-researchers>.

"From Vikings to Wind Turbines - Denmark's Journey Toward Sustainability" - Webinar
Friday, October 15, 2021, 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

In this webinar, sponsored by the Security and Sustainability Forum, Danish Minister of Climate, Energy and Utilities Dan Jørgensen will be interviewed by Atlantic Council Senior Fellow Ambassador András Simonyi. Topics include: the European Commission 2021 "Fit for 55" legal framework to achieve climate goals; Denmark's pioneering role in energy transition; transatlantic climate and energy cooperation; and preparation for COP26. The registration link is here:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1241716280508065039>.

UUFANJ Fall Issues Conference - Virtual

Saturday, October 16, 2021, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (coffee hour at 9:00)

Keynote Speaker - Loretta Weinberg, NJ Senate Majority Leader

The Fall Issues Conferences is when UUFANJ Task Forces decide issues to focus on for the next year, so it is a very important event to attend. This is the time for UUs and our allies from across the state to collaborate, strategize and prepare for the lame duck session as well as the next legislative session. "We need folks from every NJ UU congregation to come, find out what issues we will be tackling, identify how to make an impact, and take that information back to their congregations." Additional information and the registration link are here:

<https://uufaithactionnj.salsalabs.org/2021-issues-conference/index.html>.



ANJEC 2021 Environmental Congress - Virtual
Tuesday, October 19, 2021, 7:00 p.m. - Friday, October 22, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

The Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) is presenting their 48th annual Environmental Congress in an all-virtual format. While geared toward municipalities' environmental commissions, several of the sessions, particularly the session on "NJ Legislative Updates," may be of special interest to EJTF members. The dates are as follows: **Tuesday, October 19, 2021, 7:00 p.m.; Wednesday, October 20, 2021, 12:00 noon; Thursday, October 21, 2021, 12:00 noon; Friday, October 22, 2021, 12:00 noon.**

Here is a listing of the workshop sessions:

Environmental Justice Advances: Tools and Resources for Community Involvement
Stormwater Management: Challenges & Solutions
New Jersey Legislative Updates
Tools for Local Climate Action
Moving Forward with Electric Vehicles
New Jersey's Clean Energy Initiatives

Registration is \$35 for non-ANJEC members; additional information including a detailed agenda and the registration link are available here: <https://anjec.org/anjec-2021-environmental-congress/>.

NJ Clean Air Council Monthly Meeting - Virtual
Wednesday, October 20, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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

Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)
Water Management Advisory Committee Meeting - Virtual
Thursday, October 21, 2021, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Additional details will be available here: <https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/meetings/advisory/>.

"Decarbonize with Big Data" - Webinar
Thursday, October 21, 2021, 1:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

In this webinar, sponsored by the Security and Sustainability Forum (SSF), experts from Arizona State University's "Lightworks" project (encompassing solar-electric energy, sustainable fuels and products, and energy and society) and SSF will discuss data, trust, and reducing industry's carbon footprint by exploring the concepts of why government and industry want your data for smart systems, what you get by giving it to them, and how to bridge the data integrity/trust divide and protect private data from misuse and harmful outcomes. Additional information and the registration link are here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3480094357408259344>.

"Equity Impacts of Markets for Clean Air" Webinar
Wednesday, October 27, 2021, 12:00 p.m.

The webinar, part of the Dartmouth series "New Energy: Conversations with Early-Career Energy Researchers," is presented by Dr. Paige Weber, Assistant Professor in the Economics Department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, with an adjunct appointment in the Environment, Ecology, and Energy Program. She will present a study of which communities benefit from several federal markets for clean air instituted by the EPA's NOx Budget Program and the Clean Air Interstate Rule. Additional information about the series and the webinar, and the registration link, are here:
<https://irving.dartmouth.edu/engagement/new-energy-conversations-early-career-energy-researchers>.

Princeton University Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment
2021 Annual Meeting - "Corporations and Industry in the Race to Net-Zero Emissions"
Wednesday, October 27, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. - In-person and Virtual
In-person is at 92 Olden Street, Princeton, NJ 08544

This Annual Meeting "catalyzes dynamic discussions on the global transition to net-zero emissions. Speakers from the financial, energy services, oil and gas, and renewables sectors will share their experiences, and offer insights on the opportunities and the challenges as they navigate the transition." Panels include: "Traditional Heavy Weights in the Hydrocarbon Business;" "Disrupters and Emerging Technologies in Clean Energy;" and "Enablers – Project Delivery, Capital Allocators, and Business Services." Additional information and the registration link are here:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/andlinger-center-for-energy-and-the-environment-2021-annual-meeting-registration-169372061395>. Registration for regular-category attendees is **\$50 for virtual, \$195 for in-person.**



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. In mid-July, the UU Drawdown team was #2 of all participating organizations in the EcoChallenge, earning 71,000 points as of then. Join in to 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/>.

VIDEOS OF PAST EVENTS

Rutgers Environmental Stewards "Earth Day Every Day" **Video of Webinar "RU Ready for NJ's New Plastic Pollution Reduction Law?"**

Starting November 2021, NJ's new plastics law goes into effect to help reduce the amount of single-use plastics and protect our natural environment. Plastics from generation to disposal are creating a human health and environmental crisis. Right now, New Jerseyans use over 4 billion single-use plastic carryout bags annually. Nandini Checko, Project Director with the Association of NJ Environmental Commissions, presented this webinar about implementing NJ's plastic pollution law - the nation's strongest - including how you can get started on it right now. The video is available here:

<https://rutgers.zoom.us/rec/play/JlGsj6BitM6RMBwJhJ4HxbM1JSM-eQYHTiptuXmA5SoBCAKTB8H6VegISgo2lwTLEGh21jMKFwTlG2kX.U1eJLe5u1k5nVSmp>.

"Women of Color Leading the Energy Justice Transition" - **Video of Webinar**

This September, the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) launched its webinar series, "Climate Equity In Action." The series provides an accessible platform for engaging climate change, environmental justice, and climate equity leaders across the globe in conversations around the important work of developing a better future shaped and shared by all. The first conversation, "Women of Color Leading the Energy Justice Transition," featured ISC's CEO and President, Deeohn Ferris, moderating a panel with Biden-Harris Administration Appointees about energy democracy, environmental justice, and Just Transition. They discussed what a just energy transition looks like from the perspective of the Biden Administration, as well as at the community level, and what is needed to ensure that communities and equity stay at the center in the push to meet climate objectives. The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WUpMgZVZu2E>.

Lead-Free NJ July 2021 Membership Meeting - **Video of Meeting**

Lead-Free NJ is "an inclusive and equitable collaborative focused on removing lead from New Jersey's environment ... The collaborative seeks to eliminate racial and economic inequities by focusing on legacy lead hazards in low-income communities and/or communities of color, while also creating the conditions for children to be free from lead poisoning statewide by advocating for changes to state and local policy." This membership meeting included:

- A spotlight on Lead-Free NJ policy work;
- A panel discussion with experts about community organizing around lead issues; and
- Updates from Lead-Free NJ committees.

The video is available here: <https://www.leadfreenj.org/event/lead-free-nj-july-2021-membership-meeting/>.

"Clean Energy Attracts Business" - Video of Webinar

In this webinar, sponsored by the Security and Sustainability Forum, energy policy officials from several states discussed 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 described how their organizations' journeys to clean energy policies can chart a path for legislators, business leaders, and consultants. The video is available here: <https://ssfworld.org/clean-energy-attracts-business/>.

"Biochar and Carbon Trading" - Video of Webinar

In this webinar (sponsored by the US Biochar Initiative, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Southern Regional Extension Forestry), Dr. Melissa Kreye, Assistant Professor of Forest Resource Management in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management at Penn State, and Calvin Norman, Forestry and Wildlife Extension Educator for Cambria and Blair Counties with Penn State, discussed Biochar and Carbon Trading. Biochar was among the IPCC's short-list of Negative Emission Technologies (NETs) that could provide a significant carbon sequestration impact, and it has been listed on several voluntary carbon marketplaces. A link to register to view the video is here: https://forestrywebinars.net/webinars/copy_of_forest-soil-health-and-biochar/.

"Circularity and the Race to Zero - Exponential Climate Action Summit III" Video of Webinar

This six-hour webinar, presented by "We Don't Have Time," included international speakers who focused on the challenges, opportunities, and creative solutions regarding circularity and resource efficiency. The presenters included "transformers, disruptors, and enablers" from around the world, who explored "how a circular economy can contribute to lowering emissions while also addressing human needs." The agenda, with times shown for each segment, and a link to the video, are available here: <https://www.wedonthavetime.org/events/circularity>.

"Renewable Energy Public Opinion & Strategies for Effective Communication" Video of Webinar

The webinar, part of the Dartmouth series "New Energy: Conversations with Early-Career Energy Researchers," was presented by Dr. Abel Gustafson, an Assistant Professor of public relations and environmental communication at the University of Cincinnati. He presented recent research showing what Americans think about renewable energy, and how public opinion has changed over time, and discussed research that examines the best (and worst) strategies for communicating about renewable energy to various population segments. The video is available here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mq8Y-3-CUME&list=PLXnV377qgwcfm_NhVIjX9A8ZPbuSpn1-&index=25.

BPU New Jersey Electric Vehicles Infrastructure Ecosystem 2021 –Medium And Heavy Duty "Straw Proposal" Public Stakeholder Meetings
Videos of Public Stakeholder Meetings

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 their 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>. **Links to videos of the public stakeholder meetings are available here <https://www.bpu.state.nj.us/bpu/newsroom/public/>.** The meetings were on the following topics:

August 24, 2021 - "Medium and Heavy Duty Ecosystem"

August 26, 2021 - "Medium and Heavy Duty Impact on Overburdened Communities"

September 13, 2021 - "Understanding What MHD Vehicle Use Looks Like and How Charging Will Occur"

September 15, 2021 - "How to Determine Rates"

September 17, 2021 - "Determining Areas of Last Resort and Utility Ownership Model"

September 21, 2021 - "Renewables, Storage, and Charging"

September 24, 2021 - "Open Meeting" - for public comments

The deadline for public comments is 5:00 p.m. on October 5, 2021, and may be submitted electronically for "Docket No. QO21060946" at <https://publicaccess.bpu.state.nj.us>.

"Personal & Congregational Socially Responsible Investing" - Video Webinar

Sponsored by Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC), this webinar is presented by Julie Skye, who has vast experience with values-based investing and currently works with the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility through her appointment to the Unitarian Universalist Association's Socially Responsible Investment Committee. She was a part of the team that led to the UUA's divestment from fossil fuels at the 2014 General Assembly. The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EfQ52GS5Sm8>.

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. 18-19.

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

Following the lead of our EJ partners (see #1, above), help promote outreach to residents about avoiding or reducing lead in drinking water and lead paint in their households. See article on p. 19.

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 information and articles on p. 19.

NEWS RELATED TO EJTF ISSUES

[covering 8/28/2021 – 9/26/2021]

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- **New Jersey Is No Longer Waiting to Implement Environmental Justice Requirements Following Surprise Action by the DEP** - This article describes the surprise move by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to implement portions of the EJ Cumulative Impacts Law prior to regulations being finalized (see the box on p. 17). <https://enviropolitics.com/new-jersey-is-no-longer-waiting-to-implement-environmental-justice-requirements-following-surprise-action-by-the-dep/>

DEP ISSUES ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER TO IMPLEMENT PARTS OF EJ LAW NOW

NJ's groundbreaking Cumulative Impacts Environmental Justice (EJ) law can't go into effect until regulations are promulgated. That probably won't take place until late in 2022, because the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is utilizing a very thorough and inclusive process to develop the regulations (**EJTF has taken part in this process**), which is commendable. However, a number of facilities have been trying to receive permits/permit extensions during the window of time before the regulations are in place. On 9/20/2021, DEP issued an Administrative Order (AO - available here: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/ej/docs/njdep-ao-2021-25-environmental-justice.pdf>) that implements a number of the requirements of the law immediately, unless prohibited by other rules. It applies to all facilities that would be subject to the EJ law and that are seeking covered permits in overburdened communities as mapped by DEP (map available here: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/ej/communities.html>). It requires enhanced public participation, and requires the facility to respond to address concerns raised. Where permits or approvals may be issued, it authorizes DEP to "apply such special conditions as may be necessary to avoid or minimize environmental or public health stressors upon the overburdened community to the maximum extent allowable by law."

Law firms are raising questions about the scope, applicability, and impact of actions included in the AO (see <http://riker.com/blog/environmental-law/environmental-justice-comes-early-to-new-jersey> and <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=68e2d5d8-029f-4c7f-817f-697580302794>).

- **Booker, EPA Administrator Regan, NJ DEP Commissioner LaTourette, Mayor Baraka, and Advocates Survey and Discuss Environmental Justice Issues Affecting Newark Residents** - On 8/26/2021, U.S. Senator Cory Booker, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Michael Regan, NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Shawn LaTourette, Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, and **EJTF partners** NJ Environmental Justice Alliance (NJEJA) Board Members Dr. Nicky Sheats and Dr. Ana Baptista, Ironbound Community Corporation's (ICC) Christian Rodriguez, and Kim Gaddy of the South Ward Environmental Alliance met for an environmental justice tour of the Ironbound neighborhood in Newark. The tour was followed by a roundtable discussion on federal policies to address issues affecting environmental justice communities. <https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/booker-epa-administrator-regan-nj-dep-commissioner-latourette-mayor-baraka-advocates-survey-discuss-environmental-justice-issues-affecting-newark-residents/>
- **Ida's Damage Shows Climate-Change Disparity** - Even though there were deaths, hundreds of rescues, and millions of dollars of damage in the urban areas of Union, Essex, and Hudson counties, none of them were initially declared major disaster areas by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which would have made residents and businesses eligible for federal disaster relief. Urban areas in the counties that weren't designated include environmental-justice communities that are most vulnerable to climate change effects. The counties were later designated: as of 9/26/2021, NJ designated counties include: Bergen, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Union, and Warren. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/09/hurricane-ida-urban-areas-fema-federal-disaster-declaration-elizabeth-newark-jersey-city-environmental-justice-communities/>

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

- **Drivers Rush Electric Car Incentive Deal** - Three months into its second year, the Charge Up NJ program that provides incentives for purchase or lease of electric vehicles was shut down because the allotted \$30 million is running out (see article below). <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/09/nj-ev-electric-car-incentive-so-popular-paused-so-enough-cash-for-those-already-applied/>
- **Successful NJBPU Charge Up New Jersey Electric Vehicle Incentive Program Expenditures Ahead of Schedule, Moving State Closer to Electric Vehicle Goal** - This press release from Gov. Murphy touts the spending of all funds allotted this fiscal year (7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022) for the Charge Up NJ electric vehicle incentive program after only three months as an indication of its success. The possibility of reopening this program by providing additional funding this fiscal year will be evaluated. <https://www.state.nj.us/governor/news/news/562021/approved/20210914b.shtml>



- **Murphy Administration Charges Toward an Electric Vehicle Future, Including New Effort to Encourage EV Charging Infrastructure in Every New Jersey Municipality** - As a result of the legislation (A1653) approved by Gov. Murphy 7/9/2021, a statewide municipal ordinance has been promulgated that "makes it easier for people to drive electric by streamlining the local approval process for installing convenient and cost-effective charging infrastructure." <https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562021/20210908b.shtml>
- **Opinion: Need for Clean-Truck Rule Is Immediate** (by Renée Pollard, Sierra Club NJ environmental and social justice chair, and Bill Beren, Sierra Club NJ transportation chair) - A coalition of environmental, business, public health, and environmental justice advocates have joined to urge Gov. Murphy to quickly adopt the California Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) rule. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/09/advanced-clean-trucks-rule-would-mandate-delivery-of-zero-emission-trucks-in-nj-starting-2025/>

FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE

- **PennEast Shelves Plan to Build Pipeline on Public Lands in New Jersey** - The NJ Attorney General informed the U.S. Court of Appeals that the PennEast Pipeline Co. (PennEast) and the State of NJ "have agreed in principle to a stipulated voluntary dismissal" of the cases brought by NJ related to eminent domain claims on 42 parcels of public land. According to Jeff Tittel, former NJ Sierra Club director, PennEast will have extreme difficulty in finding private land for the pipeline. "This is important news. It either means they are going to try to reroute it, or it's going to go away. If you can slow it down, you can eventually stop it. This is one more step towards it not happening." <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/09/nj-penneast-pipeline-plan-dropped-sctus-murphy-clean-energy/>

- **Opinion: We Can Immediately Retire NJ's Last Two Coal Power Plants** (by Jim Gordon, president of Energy Management, Inc.) - The author endorses a plan proposed by Starwood, the owner of NJ's last two coal plants, to retire them by the end of 2021, and asks citizens to urge the contractual purchaser of electric output from the plants (Atlantic City Electric Co./Exelon) to accept the proposal. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/09/coal-power-plant-close-4-million-tons-co2-emissions/>

LEAD REDUCTION IN HOUSEHOLDS

- **Lead Exposure: Learning From East Trenton Residents** - A Listen and Learn session regarding lead exposure took place between a group of East Trenton residents and presenters from Isles, Inc. and NJ Future. Feedback from residents will be used as input for work affecting state laws and policies, including work by the collaborative group Lead-Free NJ. <https://www.jerseywaterworks.org/latest-news/lead-exposure-learning-from-east-trenton-residents/>

GREEN AMENDMENT

NJ Green Amendment Update

Green Amendments For The Generations is a national movement to pursue and secure constitutional protection of environmental rights in states across the nation. According to Maya K. Van Rossum, leader of the movement, a “Constitutional right would provide appropriate access to the courts in those situations when our governmental decision makers are not honoring the inalienable right of all people to a healthy environment, including when our current ... environmental laws are allowing damaging levels of pollution and degradation to pass unchallenged.” Additional information is available here: <https://njgreenamendment.org/> and here: <https://www.facebook.com/GreenAmendmentsForTheGenerations/events>.

As a result of tireless advocacy by a large coalition of partners (including UUFANJ and several of NJ UU congregations), NJ Green Amendment bills ACR80/SCR30 in the state legislature have garnered 43 sponsors in the Assembly and 19 sponsors in the Senate. The legislature will be concentrating on bills they consider “urgent” to pass before the November election, so we don’t expect much action for the Green Amendment until the NJ legislature reconvenes in January. Meanwhile, you can check to see if YOUR legislator has become a sponsor at <https://njgreenamendment.org/overview/new-jersey-sponsors/>, and join our effort once again in 2022.

RENEWABLE RESOURCES

- **Firms Look To Bring Power Ashore from Offshore Wind Farms** - Transmission of power from offshore wind projects to shore is a critical area that is beginning to be addressed; at least two firms have submitted bids to operate the regional grid. This article explains the two approaches. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/09/offshore-wind-farm-electricity-customers-homes-businesses-ashore-pjm-bpu/>
- **Offshore Wind Nears Halfway Mark in NJ** - This article summarizes the current state of NJ's offshore wind projects - to date, projects totaling 3,758 megawatts (MW) have been awarded, which is more than half of the 7,500 MW goal targeted by 2035 - and describes the future timetable. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/09/nj-offshore-wind-project-leader-clean-energy/>

- **A Site Once Earmarked for Nuclear Power Will Now Assemble Wind Turbines** - The NJ Economic Development Authority (EDA) signed a lease with PSEG on a site planned for the NJ Wind Port. The site is one of few East Coast sites that is not encumbered by bridges, power lines, or other barriers to production and shipping of the massive wind turbines (also see article below). <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/09/nj-wind-power-pseg-salem-county-nuclear-power-lease-turbines-port/>



- **Massive Wind Port Said to Curb Climate Change, Boost Jobs** - Gov. Murphy joined U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Marty Walsh, NJ elected officials, and union, environmental, and private sector leaders to break ground on the NJ Wind Port (also see article above). [Gov. Murphy's press release is here: <https://www.state.nj.us/governor/news/news/562021/approved/20210909a.shtml>] Gov. Murphy emphasized that the project refutes the argument that job creation and environmental protection can't coexist - the port is projected to create 1,500 permanent jobs, and hundreds more in the construction phase. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/09/massive-wind-port-groundbreaking-salem-county-nj-clean-energy-union-jobs/>
- **Biden's Solar Plan Meets Same Questions as NJ's Effort** - Meeting solar energy goals is possible, but only if federal funding is provided to modernize the electric grid. In addition, according to **EJTF member Lyle Rawlings**, founder of Advanced Solar Products in Flemington, who has been working with lobbyists in Washington on the budget bill that would include such funding, investment also is needed to address the intermittent nature of solar and wind power. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/09/nj-solar-plan-biden-murphy-clean-energy-advocates-federal-funding/>
- **Opinion: Let's 'Build Back' the Right Way for Working People** (by Debra Coyle McFadden, executive director of the New Jersey Work Environment Council, a coalition of 70 labor, community and environmental organizations) - The author describes how "This [investment in renewable energy nationwide] is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to redefine the kinds of work people do and, in the process, reshape our economy and restore our communities." <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/09/oped-clean-energy-jobs-middle-class-wind-power-offshore-biden-murphy/>

CLIMATE CHANGE

- **Storm's Damage Might Boost Support for More Aggressive Climate Policy, Experts Hope** - This article summarizes current NJ and federal plans to address climate issues, with environmental experts expressing hope that impacts of Hurricane Ida will result in acceleration of their implementation as people realize the link between these storms and climate change. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/09/hurricane-ida-devastation-record-rain-will-it-accelerate-nj-climate-preparations-teachable-moment-fossil-fuels-flood-zones>

- **‘This Is Everybody’s Crisis’: Biden Highlights Climate Change as He Tours Hurricane Ida Damage in NY, NJ** - "President Joe Biden used a trip to storm-ravaged areas of New York and New Jersey ... to declare climate change a 'code red' for the world, calling the devastation caused by Hurricane Ida the latest example of the 'existential threat' extreme weather poses."
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2021/09/07/biden-talk-climate-change-ny-nj-tour-hurricane-ida-damage/5751911001/>
- **Will Ida’s Death Count Be a Warning?** - This article describes the devastation of Hurricane Ida in NJ, undoubtedly exacerbated by climate change. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/09/nj-tropical-storm-ida-record-death-toll-flash-floods/>
- **Lessons from Irene and Sandy Helped PSE&G during Ida** - This article describes climate-change adaptations already made by Public Service Electric & Gas (PSE&G), and plans for additional steps to be taken in the future. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/09/nj-pseg-electric-gas-utility-ida-sandy-infrastructure-resiliency/>



- **No Shortage of Resiliency Plans in NJ, Just Funding** (5-minute news video) - Officials and NJ environmental advocates describe problems highlighted by Hurricane Ida and other climate change-fueled events, and describe needs and the limitations related to addressing them, primarily related to funding (see article below). <https://www.njspotlight.com/video/no-shortage-of-resiliency-plans-in-nj-just-funding/>
- **In Wake of Ida, DEP Looks to Buy More Flood-Prone Properties** - NJ's Blue Acres program, intended to buy people out of flood-prone areas, has been suffering from a lack of funds (see video in article above). Additional funding has become available, and with increased interest from homeowners after Hurricane Ida, the program is expected to expand. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/09/nj-dep-blue-acres-flood-climate-change-buy-property/>
- **DEP Commissioner: Climate Change Must Be Fought on Several Fronts** (4-minute news video) - NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner LaTourette describes the role of the DEP in mitigating the effects of climate change, as well as the roles of municipalities and other entities in the state, requiring a network of solutions addressing a variety of aspects of the problem, including those related to development activities. <https://www.njspotlight.com/video/dep-commissioner-climate-change-must-be-fought-on-several-fronts/>

- **Governor Murphy Signs Legislation Establishing the Garden State C-PACE Program** - Gov. Murphy signed legislation (A-2374) establishing the Garden State Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) Program. This program will facilitate the funding of clean and renewable energy infrastructure at commercial properties, helping businesses, non-profits and multi-family residential developers or property owners overcome the financial hurdles of implementing energy efficiency, renewable energy and climate resiliency measures. <https://www.state.nj.us/governor/news/news/562021/approved/20210824c.shtml>
- **Murphy Administration to Restore 10,000 Acres of Atlantic White Cedar Forests, Enhancing State's Resilience to Climate Change** - In this very detailed press release, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) describes the history, impact, and methodology for restoring 10,000 acres of globally threatened Atlantic white cedar to the Pinelands region. This will reestablish the Atlantic white cedar, which has been adversely impacted by climate change, at higher elevations less vulnerable to rising seas and saltwater intrusion, providing habitat for globally rare plants and wildlife while aiding NJ's climate change mitigation by capturing and storing carbon and absorbing floodwaters. https://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2021/21_0029.htm
- **Opinion: NJ Politicians Want to Talk about 'Climate Change', While Not Revising Land Use** (by Max Pizarro, Editor-in-Chief and Co-Founder, *InsiderNJ*) - The author inveighs against the politicians who don't tackle the difficult question of land-use and development while they purport to be addressing climate change issues. <https://www.insidernj.com/nj-politicians-want-talk-about-climate-change-not-revising-land-use/>

POLLUTION

- **Trenton Transfers Two Vacant Lots to TerraCycle for Expansion of the Company's Recycling Operations** - TerraCycle, a Trenton-based recycling company that specializes in recycling typically hard-to-recycle waste which is not processed by local municipalities, and has become a global leader in recycling hard-to-recycle materials, is expanding. Trenton transferred two vacant, underutilized lots to the company. <https://enviropolitics.com/trenton-transfers-two-vacant-lots-to-terracycle-for-expansion/>

OTHER

- **New Jersey LCV 2021 Legislative Scorecard Highlights Legislative Commitment to the Environment Even During COVID-19** - The NJ League of Conservation Voters (LCV) unveiled their 2021 Legislative Scorecard, which showed the recent legislative session to be one of the most environmentally productive, in spite of the challenges faced from COVID-19. The Scorecard grades each member of the NJ legislature on their voting record, tracking how they voted on key legislation affecting air and water quality, open space, environmental justice, democracy and voting rights, and climate change. <https://www.njlc.org/news/new-jersey-lcv-2021-legislative-scorecard-highlights-legislative-commitment-environment-even>
- **After Fighting for NJ's Consumers, Advocate Retires** - Stefanie Brand, the director of the NJ Division of Rate Counsel for the past 14 years, retired in August. She kept a strong focus on ratepayer costs, opposing the \$300 million in subsidies to the nuclear plants, and advocating lower incentives for the solar sector, among other areas. Sen. Bob Smith, chairman of the NJ Senate Environment and Energy Committee is currently working on a bill to restructure the Division of Rate Counsel; **this area will warrant attention by EJTF.** <https://www.njspolight.com/2021/08/stefanie-brand-nj-ratepayer-advocate-rate-counsel-retires-green-energy/>

- **New Federal Money Kick-Starts Water Trail on Camden Rivers** - "Upstream Alliance," a nonprofit organization dedicated to connecting people to nature, received a \$500,000 grant that will speed completion of a water trail in Camden. A goal of the trail is to address the environmental injustice that has kept the mostly Black and Hispanic community from being able to benefit from having access to, and use of, the river's natural environment. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/09/federal-funding-500000-camden-water-trail-recreational-access-environmental-justice/>
- **Law Signed Today Provides \$10 Million to Help Maintain NJ Lakes and Curb Harmful Algal Blooms** - On 9/24/2021, Gov. Murphy signed bill S3618 into law; the bill provides \$10 million for grants for the management and maintenance of lakes for recreation and conservation purposes. It requires the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to give priority for grants to projects improving water quality and increasing recreational access, including efforts to control nutrient levels in lakes to prevent harmful algal blooms. <https://enviropolitics.com/law-signed-today-provides-10-million-to-help-maintain-nj-lakes-and-curb-harmful-algal-blooms/>
- **Three Veterans to Lead Environmental Advocacy Group** - The NJ Conservation Foundation, which is a primary advocate for preserving open space and farmland in NJ and safeguarding the Pinelands and the Highlands, has named three in-house staff members to jointly lead the group when Michele Byers, who has directed the group for 22 years, retires at the end of the year. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/09/nj-conservation-foundation-michele-byers-to-retire-new-trio-takes-over-land-preservation-highlands-pinelands>
- **Governor Murphy and Department of Education Announce Grants Addressing School Safety and Lead Remediation in Schools** - Gov. Murphy and the NJ Department of Education (DOE) announced \$1 million in Preschool Facilities Lead Remediation Grants for public preschools. <https://www.state.nj.us/governor/news/news/562021/approved/20210901b.shtml>
- **Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed Celebrates \$11.5 Million in Grants to Improve the Health of the Delaware River Watershed** - The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced 41 grants to clean up and restore polluted waters, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and increase access to nature throughout the Delaware River watershed. Grantee organizations have committed more than \$13.5 million in match, for a total conservation impact of about \$25 million. Funded projects will contribute to long-term outcomes for equitable access to nature, resiliency, healthy habitat, and a thriving outdoor economy. Thirty-two grants were awarded through the Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund (DWCF); a list of those grants is here: <https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/NFWF-DWCF-20200916-GS.pdf>. This year's grants include projects that address disparities in access to nature by putting equity, justice and cultural competency at the core of their work. <http://www.delriverwatershed.org/news>
- **Op-Ed: Customers and Climate Need Competitive Electricity Markets to Truly Win** (by Ed Potosnak, executive director, NJ League of Conservation Voters) - The author describes how the competitive electricity market in NJ, which "holds producers accountable to consumer needs and preferences and carefully balances the way electricity is produced, transported and consumed in our state and region" is essential for transformation to a carbon-free electric grid. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/09/nj-competitive-electricity-market-essential-cost-effective-clean-energy/>

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.