



**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.**

## UU CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation (UUOCC)

In 2013, the Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation (UUOCC) partnered with Berkeley Township to create the Wrangle Brook Community Garden, a social justice project of UUOCC that turned a half acre of vacant land into a garden for vegetables, flowers and fun along the banks of the Wrangle Brook. It supports over 40 community gardeners, and has one section, "The

Pantry Garden," where food is grown specifically for area food pantries. This year, 2,058 pounds of organically grown vegetables have been delivered, with more to come (squashes and pumpkins). Since its first harvest in 2015, the Garden has delivered about 14,000 pounds of produce. It has around 70 members, and is located in Berkeley Township. A brook runs through it - the Wrangle Brook! On October 9, 2021, the Garden held a "Harvest Hayhem" (a play on "mayhem!") fundraising festival, attended by 75-80 people. The festival was lots of fun, with costumes, music, and kids' games - all with

social distancing. The festive spirit is epitomized by the Garden Coordinator Bonney Parker, seen dressed as a cucumber (with her friend Casey, the strawberry) in the photo at left!

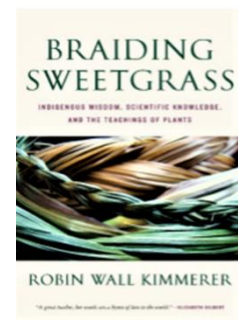


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## ***Morristown Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (MUUF)***

On Monday, November 29, 2021 at 7:30 p.m., the Green Earth Ministry of the Morristown Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (MUUF) will present a community book discussion of "Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants" by Robin Wall Kimmerer. The discussion will be on Zoom, and will be facilitated by **EJTF member Jo Sippie-Gora**. [See p. 16](#) for additional details and the registration link.



## ***Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Summit (Beacon)***



On November 30, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., the Beacon UU Green Earth Ministry is presenting a webinar on Habitat Gardening for Birds, Butterflies, and Wildlife. Learn the importance of supporting our native wildlife within our gardens with Dr. Randi Eckel of Toadshade Wildflower Farm. Learn about some of the creatures that rely upon specific plants, and discuss the complexities of attracting wildlife to our gardens. [See p. 16](#) for additional details and the registration link.

## ***Unitarian Universalists at the People vs Fossil Fuels Week of Action in D.C.***

New Jersey UUs joined clergy and lay leaders from at least 14 UU congregations from Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, New York, Wisconsin, and the District of Columbia, as well as UUs for Social Justice and UU Ministry for Earth, in participating in "People vs. Fossil Fuels," a week of peaceful civil disobedience (October 11-15, 2021). Together, they demanded that Pres. Biden stop ALL fossil fuel projects and declare a climate emergency. Shown in these photos, from left to right, are: Rev. Rosemarie Newberry of Middletown, NJ (UU Congregation of Queens) protesting at the fence at the White House; Rev. Seth Fisher (First UU Fellowship of Hunterdon County) and Doris Marlin from D.C.; and Revs. Robin Tanner (Beacon UU Congregation in Summit), Rosemarie Newberry, and Peggy Clark (Community Church of NY - UU) getting ready to march.



## ***EJTF ACTIVITIES***

### **UU FaithAction NJ Issues Conference Recap**

The Environmental Justice Task Force (EJTF) led two workshops at the UU Faith Action NJ Issues Conference held on October 23, 2021. We had a great turnout – 20 new people attended! EJTF members gave presentations about our five most pressing issues of 2021. They were:

Nancy Griffeth – rulemaking meetings to determine regulations as the result of the passage of the Environmental Justice law in 2020;  
Christine Dunbar – the impact of fossil fuel pipelines and compressor stations on the environment and status of attempts to stop those projects;  
Judy Stevens – importance of reducing emissions in the transportation sector, especially medium and heavy duty trucks which have such negative health impacts on EJ communities;  
Eileen Bird – positive news about new legislation that will replace lead drinking water pipes; and  
Jo Sippie Gora – our efforts to continue to support an amendment to the NJ constitution known as the Green Amendment.

We also gave overviews of the three items EJTF will be pushing in the 2021 Lame Duck Legislative session. Those items are: the Clean Energy Equity Act (presented by Nancy Griffeth), the Liberty State Park Protection Act (presented by EJTF Co-Chair Peggy Middaugh), and expected legislation to reform the NJ Division of Rate Counsel (presented by EJTF Co-Chair Ray Nichols).

**Many thanks to all of our presenters!**

### **Here are some actions YOU can take NOW**

- **CLEAN ENERGY EQUITY ACT:** send a message to your Assembly representatives here: <https://www.NJShines.org/Take-Action/>, 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, at (609) 631-7501, telling him to bring it to the committee for consideration.
- **LIBERTY STATE PARK PROTECTION ACT:** sign the petition at <https://www.change.org/p/phil-murphy-protect-liberty-state-park-as-public-green-space-for-the-people> to urge Governor Phil Murphy and State Legislators to pass the Act, which would once and for all preserve this priceless public park for all people to enjoy without privatization. Also call your State Senator/Assembly Representatives to voice your support for the Act, which is still in committee in both houses.
- **GREEN AMENDMENT:** attempt to get resolutions in support of the Green Amendment at your municipal and county level governments, or wherever it seems feasible; EJTF members would be happy to provide assistance in walking you through the process.
- **STOP THE COMPRESSORS:** sign the petition at <https://www.stopthecompressor.org/>. asking Gov. Murphy to instruct the NJDEP to reject the permit for the TGP gas pipeline project.
- **“BIRDDOG” your local officials** when they are in your neighborhood, especially during this campaign season, to make your concerns heard and hear their positions on issues.

- **EJTF member Judy Stevens** submitted extensive comments to the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) on the "Impact on Overburdened Communities" related to its Medium and Heavy Duty EV Ecosystem Straw Proposal. The comments emphasized that we must minimize pollution in heavily populated areas and overburdened communities. This requires not only electrifying vehicles but also minimizing their presence in these communities because they have a direct impact on the people's social, economic and environmental welfare. In sum, we believe the following are crucial in making decisions while building the infrastructure for a zero emissions transit fleet at all possible speed:
  - Consider all associated impacts on overburdened communities - health, air quality, economic - especially unintended but collateral consequences;
  - Ensure that building out increased electricity demand and supplying charging for Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) does no further harm to overburdened communities - that all decisions mitigate existing damage;
  - Prioritize funding, with school buses and public transit in overburdened communities being the first to benefit from conversion to ZEVs; and
  - Incentivize acquisition and innovation in the private as well as the public sector to maximize benefits.

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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 [p. 21](#).

##### **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 [pp. 23 & 24](#).

##### **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 on [p. 24](#).

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

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

### NOVEMBER 2021

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

Sun.	Mon.	Tues..	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
	<p><b>1</b> <a href="#">Reforestation as a Natural Climate Solution</a> - 12:15 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p><a href="#">Let's Stop As-Salt-ing Our Streams</a> - 6:30 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p><a href="#">The Sacrifice Zone' Screening &amp; Panel Discussion</a> - 7:00 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p><a href="#">COP26 Backdoor</a></p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b> <a href="#">NJ WasteWise Business Network Meeting</a> - 10:00 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p><a href="#">Lead Awareness Curriculum Train-the-Trainer</a> - 1:00 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p><a href="#">DRBC Water Management Advisory Committee Meeting</a> 1:00 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p><a href="#">Can We Have It All?</a> - 2:15 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p><a href="#">Watershed Conference "Collaborating for Change"</a></p>	<p><b>4</b> <a href="#">Engaging State-Owned Power Companies in Climate Action</a> - 10:00 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p><a href="#">Electrify Everything: The Future of Farming</a> - 1:15 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p><a href="#">Watershed Conference "Collaborating for Change"</a></p>	<p><b>5</b> <a href="#">Watershed Conference "Collaborating for Change"</a></p>	<p><b>6</b> <a href="#">Tree Planting</a> - 9:00 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p><a href="#">A Scientific Approach to Global Warming and Climate Change</a> - 10:00 a.m.</p>
7	<p><b>8</b> <a href="#">Energy Law and Policy: A View from the Bench</a> - 4:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>9</b> <a href="#">Lead Awareness Curriculum Train-the-Trainer</a> - 3:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>10</b> <a href="#">Envisioning the Future of Sharing in Electrical Energy Systems</a> - 12:00 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p><a href="#">Beyond Lithium-Ion</a> - 12:00 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p><a href="#">DRBC 4th Quarter Public Hearing</a> - 1:00 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p><a href="#">Tribal &amp; Indigenous Climate Adaptation Series - Session 2</a> - 2:00 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p><a href="#">March for Clean Air: Stop Dumping on Newark</a> - 3:30 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p><a href="#">The Need for Clean Trucks in New Jersey</a> - 6:00 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p><a href="#">Debunking Wildfire Myths in NJ</a> - 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>11</b> <a href="#">How Much is Enough?</a> - 8:00 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p><a href="#">The Future of Electric Cars</a> - 12:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>12</b> <a href="#">LWVNJ "Meeting with Decision-Makers" Training</a> - 2:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">[Calendar continues on p. 6]</p>

<b>14</b> [Calendar continued from p. 5]  <u>Tree Planting</u> - 9:00 a.m.	<b>15</b> <u>Caring for the Earth: Opportunities for Religious Institutions</u> - 7:00 p.m.	<b>16</b> <u>NJBPU Stakeholder Meeting - Grid Modernization</u> - 9:00 a.m.  <u>Doubling Down on (Agricultural) Data</u> - 1:15 p.m.	<b>17</b> <u>NJ Clean Air Council Monthly Meeting</u> - 9:00 a.m.  <u>Tribal &amp; Indigenous Climate Adaptation Series - Session 3</u> - 2:00 p.m.	<b>18</b> <u>Recap of COP26</u> - 10:30 a.m.	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <u>"Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and The Teachings of Plants" Book Discussion</u> - 7:30 p.m.	<b>30</b> <u>Habitat Gardening for Birds, Butterflies, and Wildlife</u> - 7:00 p.m.				

**"The Sacrifice Zone' Screening & Panel Discussion" - Virtual  
Monday, November 1, 2021, 7:00 p.m.**

Sustainable Jersey is sponsoring an online viewing of the award-winning 30-minute documentary "The Sacrifice Zone," which focuses on the community activists leading the fight for environmental justice in the Ironbound neighborhood of Newark, NJ, one of the most toxic communities in the country. The film features **EJTF partner** Maria Lopez-Nuñez, the deputy director for organizing and advocacy at the Ironbound Community Corporation. Following the screening, there will be a one-hour virtual panel discussion to discuss the racial and environmental justice issues plaguing poorer urban communities across the country, and how the surrounding suburbs can help reduce the toxic burden on these neighborhoods. Panelists include: Ana Baptista, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Professional Practice and Associate Director of the Tishman Environment and Design Center at the New School; and Melanie McDermott, Ph.D., Senior Researcher at Sustainable Jersey. The discussion will be moderated by Julie Winokur, Director of "The Sacrifice Zone" and Executive Director of Talking Eyes Media. Attendees will watch the documentary together via Zoom; a link to join will be provided upon registration. Register here: <https://tcnj.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUtcuuhqTorHNNXvmsN28E61oUHd1woNSgp>.

**We Don't Have Time "COP26 Backdoor" - Broadcast  
Monday, November 1, 2021 - Wednesday, November 12, 2021, various times**

"The future is at stake, and we are running out of time. This is why the UN Climate Summit COP26 is the most crucial climate conference of this decade."

"We Don't Have Time," the Swedish corporation dedicated "to implement the Paris agreement, to put pressure on governments, on companies, and to change our own way of living — to lead by example — to solve the climate crisis," is presenting 12 days of live broadcasts, including 250 speakers and the latest updates on the main events of COP26 and the negotiations occurring there. Registration for the COP26 Backdoor, will afford a unique opportunity to follow daily broadcasts from inside the diplomatic

zone in Glasgow, and from local hubs in Nairobi, Washington DC, Stockholm, and Helsinki. Additional information and the registration link are here: <https://www.wedonthavetime.org/event/cop26>.

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**"Reforestation as a Natural Climate Solution" - Webinar**  
**Monday, November 1, 2021, 12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.**

This webinar, to be presented by Dr. Susan Cook-Patton, a Senior Forest Restoration Scientist on the Natural Climate Solutions Science Team at The Nature Conservancy, will consider how restoring forest cover represents a promising tool for removing carbon from the atmosphere, with ways to use this tool wisely or poorly. Dr. Cook-Patton will describe her efforts to improve our scientific understanding of reforestation as a climate solution, as well as develop tools to help decision makers determine where and how to optimize the use of this natural climate solution. This webinar is sponsored by the Princeton University Center for Policy Research on Energy and the Environment. Additional information and the registration link are here:

<https://cpree.princeton.edu/events/2021/reforestation-natural-climate-solution>.

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**U.S. EPA: "Lead Awareness Curriculum Train-the-Trainer" - Webinars**  
**Wednesday, November 3, 2021, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**  
**Tuesday, November 9, 2021, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency invites community leaders (educators, public health advocates, environmental justice advocates, outreach specialists, environmental staff, social workers, community health workers, youth leaders, local government officials) and other interested community members to join them for a 2-hour train-the-trainer webinar to learn how to use and modify the Lead Awareness Curriculum for your community. The training will be given twice.

The Lead Awareness Curriculum is a robust set of educational tools designed to be used by community leaders to raise awareness about childhood lead exposure; expand the understanding of lead's potential impacts on children's health; and encourage actions that can be taken to reduce and/or prevent childhood lead exposure. This webinar will provide an in-depth overview of the materials to show community leaders how to use the curriculum; facilitate their own customized sessions; modify materials; and to think about the strategies they can use to teach information and increase attendance. The Curriculum was built with and for tribes and designed to be adaptable for all communities across the U.S. Additional information and links to register for each session are accessible from this webpage: <https://www.epa.gov/lead/local-training-and-outreach>.

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**NJ WasteWise Business Network Meeting - Virtual**  
**Wednesday, November 3, 2021, 10:00 a.m. - 11:35 a.m.**

The New Jersey WasteWise Business Network is a free educational program designed to help businesses and other organizations learn how waste reduction, recycling, and recycled product procurement not only help the environment, but also their bottom line. At this webinar/meeting, the following topics will be presented: "Innovative Glass Recycling Technology" (presented by Theresa Andrejack Loux, Technical Director, Aero Aggregates of North America, LLC); "School Recycling Inspection and Education Program" (presented by Liz Sweedy, Morris County Recycling Coordinator, Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority); "Overcoming Disaster – Marcal Update and Paper Recycling Discussion" (presented by Bill Schlenger, Director of Purchasing, Marcal Company); and

"Taking Strides Down the True Platinum Zero Waste Road" (presented by Dr. Nadereh Afsharmanesh, Vice President of Sustainability and Education). Register here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/422134116705736972>.

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**"A Scientific Approach to Global Warming and Climate Change" - In-Person**  
**Saturday, November 6, 2021, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**  
**Cape May Convention Hall, 714 Beach Avenue, Cape May, NJ 08204**

Hosted by the Rutgers Environmental Stewards, this **free** event will bring together local leaders and climate advocates to discuss NJ's changing climate, resiliency challenges, and where we can go from here at the local level. Additional information is available here:

<https://www.sustainablejersey.com/fileadmin/media/ScientificApproach.pdf> and the registration link is here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-scientific-approach-to-to-global-warming-and-climate-change-tickets-186155404827>.

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**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. The remaining dates are below:

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**Urban Airshed Reforestation Program (all in Camden, NJ)** - Interested volunteers can contact Meredith at 856-287-4488 or email [mbrown@njtreefoundation.org](mailto:mbrown@njtreefoundation.org). You can also sign up online using the UARP Volunteer RSVP Form, available here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1El2jQZWWAcEgNr7hDv-aDj18OG2sjgGUPAsbuYtPOs/viewform>.

**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

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**Renaissance Trees Program (Gloucester City)** - Interested volunteers can contact Crystal Wessel at [cwessel@njtreefoundation.org](mailto: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>.

**Saturday, November 6, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** - Monmouth Street, Gloucester City

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**Rutgers Environmental Stewards "Earth Day Every Day Webinar Series"**  
**Monday, November 1, 2021, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

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 The remaining webinar is shown below.

**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>.

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**Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)  
Water Management Advisory Committee Meeting - Virtual  
Wednesday, November 3, 2021, 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

The Zoom link is available here: <https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/meetings/advisory/>.

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**The Watershed Institute 5th Annual Watershed Conference  
"Collaborating for Change" - Hybrid: In-Person and/or Virtual  
Wednesday, November 3, 2021 through Friday, November 5, 2021  
In-Person at 31 Titus Mill Road Pennington, NJ 08534**

The non-profit Watershed Institute is hosting its 5th Annual Watershed Conference in a hybrid format with participants selecting socially distanced, in-person sessions at the Watershed Center and Reserve or choosing to attend virtually if they prefer, or a mix of both. Sessions will be held from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. with a keynote address at 9:45 a.m. on November 3, 2021. The conference features an array of speakers who will cover topics including climate change, stormwater management, harmful algal blooms, dam removals, water quality issues, recent court rulings, watershed health, water quality, flooding, green infrastructure, environmental justice, and other subjects. Stuart A. Clarke, the Program Director of Watershed Protection at the William Penn Foundation, is the keynote speaker. For in-person attendees, there will be trips around the Watershed Reserve and an after-party for relaxing and networking. There are a number of registration options, including all-virtual, all-in-person, or a combination, with various prices; the all-virtual option is \$25. **[Note: In-Person registration is available through 10/29/2021; virtual registration is available through 11/5/2021.]** Additional information, agenda, and the registration link are available here: <https://thewatershed.org/fifth-annual-watershed-conference/>.

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**"Can We Have It All? Considering the Trade-Offs in Achieving Both Human and Planetary Health" - Webinar  
Wednesday, November 3, 2021, 2:15 p.m.**

In this webinar, sponsored by the Rutgers Department of Nutritional Sciences, food policy expert Dr. Jessica Fanzo will explore issues related to re-orienting global food systems to ensure they can produce enough food that nourishes the world while at the same time decreasing the pressure on biodiversity

loss, conserving land and water resources, minimizing air and water pollution, and lowering greenhouse gas emissions. Additional information and the registration link are available here: <https://climatesociety.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/icalrepeat.detail/2021/11/03/6805/-/webinar-can-we-have-it-all-considering-the-trade-offs-in-achieving-both-human-and-planetary-health>.

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**"Engaging State-Owned Power Companies in Climate Action" - Webinar**  
**Wednesday, November 4, 2021, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

Presented by the Columbia|SIPA Center for Global Energy Policy, this webinar will address the following: "State-owned power companies (SPCs) are major drivers of greenhouse gas emissions. SPCs emit over 6.2 GtCO<sub>2</sub> per year, a figure which is more than any country other than China and constitutes nearly 45% of total global power sector emissions. At the same time, SPCs are large providers of low-carbon power alternatives. SPCs are particularly dominant in many emerging economies, such as China, India, Mexico and South Africa, and are also major producers in many OECD countries. As a consequence, the successful transition of the power sector to a low-carbon future, both at a global level and for many countries, will require engaging SPCs in low-carbon action.

In large part because of their government ownership structure, SPCs may operate under governance structures and incentives that are quite different from those facing their private investor-owned counterparts. Unfortunately, to date, SPCs and their specificities have largely been overlooked in the international climate discourse, with much of the focus on private investor-owned companies.

In order to improve the contribution of SPCs to the climate effort, and to raise the profile of how to engage these important players in the decarbonization effort, Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy is organizing a panel on this topic." Panelists' information and the registration link are here: [www.energypolicy.columbia.edu/events-calendar/engaging-state-owned-power-companies-climate-action](http://www.energypolicy.columbia.edu/events-calendar/engaging-state-owned-power-companies-climate-action).

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**"Electrify Everything: The Future of Farming" - Webinar**  
**Thursday, November 4, 2021, 1:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.**

Arizona State University's School of Sustainability (SOS) and The Sustainability Consortium (TSC) are presenting a 90-minute discussion of opportunities and challenges to the intelligent, electrified farm of the future. Farms consume energy directly in gasoline, diesel, electricity, and natural gas and indirectly in energy-intensive inputs such as fertilizer and pesticides. In addition, some farms produce renewable energy or lease out land for wind turbines, oil, or gas development. Roughly 9 percent of the United States' greenhouse gas emissions come from the agriculture sector. Electrification opportunities for farms span the range of farming activities and are driven by technological advances, including real-time crop monitoring by drones, robotic milking and weeding machines, and autonomous tractors. In addition, electrification of farm equipment will aid in advancing precision agriculture. However, scaling that energy transition is not challenge-free; some of the barriers will be discussed. The registration link is here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/9209667042288100364>.

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**"Energy Law and Policy: A View from the Bench with Judge Thomas B. Griffith" -  
Webinar**

**Monday, November 8, 2021, 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

Join the Columbia|SIPA Center on Global Energy Policy for their next episode of "Columbia Energy Straight Talk," a discussion series hosted by David Hill and Cheryl LaFleur, CGEP Adjunct Senior Research Scholars. In this episode, David and Cheryl will host Judge Thomas B. Griffith, recently retired from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

"The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit is regarded as the second most powerful court in the United States, after the U.S. Supreme Court. Virtually all of the most significant Federal Power Act, Natural Gas Act and Clean Air Act cases are decided by that court. It decides the legal validity of the most important decisions and rulemakings of both FERC and the EPA. It is not a stretch to say that the fate of many policies of any independent agency and any president, including President Biden, lies in the hands of this court.

Judge Griffith will speak with Cheryl and David about some of his most important energy- and environment-related decisions while he served as a judge, what makes agencies and advocates successful—or unsuccessful—before his former court, and what this all could mean for energy and environmental law and policy in the United States. Judge Griffith served as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit for 15 years before he retired in 2020. Before joining the court, he had a distinguished career in both the public and private sectors. This will be a rare opportunity to hear from a former D.C. Circuit judge on some of the most important energy and legal issues of our time." The registration link is here: <https://www.energypolicy.columbia.edu/events-calendar/columbia-energy-straight-talk-cheryl-lafleur-and-david-hill-energy-law-and-policy-view-bench-judge>.

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**March for Clean Air: Stop Dumping on Newark - In-Person**  
**Wednesday, November 10, 2021, 3:30 p.m.**  
**Sharpe James/Kenneth A. Gibson Recreation & Aquatic Center**  
**226 Rome St, Newark, NJ 07105**

Despite Gov. Murphy's environmental justice goals and clean energy commitments, there are two new major polluting projects proposed in the Ironbound section of Newark: the PVSC power plant and the Aires sludge plant. March with **EJTF's partners**, the Ironbound Community Corporation, Empower NJ, and others on November 10, 2021 to demand clean air! After a short rally, we'll march together from the Sharpe James/Kenneth A. Gibson Recreation & Aquatic Center to the site of the proposed fracked gas power plant that the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission has proposed to build at their wastewater treatment plant. Additional information and a link to send an RSVP are available here: <https://actionnetwork.org/events/march-for-clean-air-stop-dumping-on-newark-2>.

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**Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)**  
**4th Quarter Public Hearing - Virtual**  
**Wednesday, November 10, 2021, 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

Additional information will be available here:

<https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/meetings/upcoming/index.html> and procedures for participating in public hearings are here: [https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/library/documents/procedures\\_public-hearings050317.pdf](https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/library/documents/procedures_public-hearings050317.pdf).

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**"The Need for Clean Trucks in New Jersey" - Virtual  
Wednesday, November 10, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**

The Sierra Club New Jersey Chapter is sponsoring a virtual discussion about the clean truck policies that are moving forward in NJ, why they are vitally important for the health and wellbeing of our communities, and what we need to do next. Community groups and community members will speak about the impacts of diesel pollution in New Jersey cities like Camden and Newark, and information will be presented the clean truck policies and their vital importance. Information and registration can be accessed from the calendar available here: <https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/calendar>.

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**"Envisioning the Future of Sharing in Electrical Energy Systems: Opportunities and Risks for Resilience, Sustainability & Equity" - Webinar  
Wednesday, November 10, 2021, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

The webinar, part of the Dartmouth series "New Energy: Conversations with Early-Career Energy Researchers," is presented by Dr. Liz Allen, who serves as a research development officer at Northeastern University. Energy systems around the world are undergoing a transformation toward more distributed, renewable-based configurations where new mechanisms for "sharing" are evolving. This talk will introduce a framework for conceptualizing emergent types of electricity sharing considering the interconnectedness of technological innovations and social innovations. Future energy systems are likely to integrate a regionally appropriate mix of renewable electricity generation that is dispatched, stored and distributed through platforms that enable sharing at multiple scales. Register here: [https://dartmouth.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_MgOeom8YQWC4SV73lm-w3Q](https://dartmouth.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MgOeom8YQWC4SV73lm-w3Q).

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**Columbia Energy Tech Revolution Forum -- "Beyond Lithium-Ion: What Can We Expect from New Battery Tech?" - Webinar  
Wednesday, November 10, 2021, 12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.**

Presented by the Columbia|SIPA Center for Global Energy Policy, this webinar will feature two leaders of large efforts to develop new battery chemistries that are beyond current Lithium-Ion technologies. Dr. Esther Takeuchi, Chair of the Interdisciplinary Science Department at Brookhaven National Laboratory and Dr. George Crabtree, Argonne National Laboratory Senior Scientist, will discuss the state of new potential battery chemistries that could significantly perform better than lithium-ion, and at lower costs. They will review specific chemistry possibilities for different applications, and discuss the Energy Storage Grand Challenge targets and policies that could accelerate a 60-80% improvement over Li-Ion performance. Additional information and the registration link are here: <https://www.energypolicy.columbia.edu/events-calendar/columbia-energy-tech-revolution-forum-beyond-lithium-ion-what-can-we-expect-new-battery-tech>.

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**"Debunking Wildfire Myths in NJ" - Webinar  
Wednesday, November 10, 2021, 7:00 p.m.**

One of the arguments being made to support logging of NJ's northern forests is that they are accumulating "too much carbon" and that they need to be thinned in order to prevent catastrophic California-style forest fires. In order to mitigate this threat some are arguing for using "active management" and "forest thinning." New Jersey Forest Watch and NJ Highlands Coalition are arguing for ecological restoration and Proforestation approaches that will keep forests intact, not open up the canopy and not cut down our most mature trees to reduce carbon. Forest "thinning" has had devastating effects in parts of the country more prone to forest fires. Intact forests have had less problems from forest fires than those that have been "managed." New Jersey Forest Watch is sponsoring a webinar in which Forest expert Dr. Chad Hanson, a research ecologist and the director of the John Muir Project, will address these issues. Additional information and the registration link are here: <https://actionnetwork.org/events/debunking-wildfire-myths-in-nj>.

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**"How Much is Enough?" - Webinar  
Thursday, November 11, 2021, 8:00 p.m.**

Stan Cox, author of "The Path to a Livable Future," is presenting this webinar sponsored by Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC). The webinar will address the pressing issues expressed by the single word: enough. Stan Cox will present his approach that maintains that it is possible to satisfy humanity's universal needs fairly—and keep the world livable. "The crises that collided in 2020—climatic disasters, the pandemic, economic breakdown, near-collapse of the U.S. food system, unconstrained police violence—all disproportionately impacted marginalized communities. Various legislative initiatives to end these crises, including the Green New Deal, contain some solid "New Deal" policies for economic and racial justice; however, the "Green" policies remain wholly inadequate. The crucial but missing piece is a fast-falling cap on quantities of oil, gas, and coal that can come out of the ground and into the economy each year, reaching zero within 15 years. Adapting to the cap will require that sufficiency, equity and fairness, not economic growth, become U.S. society's central aims." Additional information and instructions on how to join the webinar are here: <https://uujec.org/webinars>.

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**"The Future of Electric Cars: How Do We Charge Them Up? Do They Really Bring Benefits?" - In-Person**

**Thursday, November 11, 2021, 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Maeder Hall Auditorium, 86 Olden St, Princeton, NJ 08540**

This presentation will show how the energy needs of most electric and plug-in hybrid cars can be met with the conventional electrical outlets most of us have. Safety protection, metering, billing, and other functions can be supported by a car to turn a "dumb" electrical outlet into a smart vehicle charge point. Actual driver needs are discussed, showing how more advanced chargers fit in. This lecture, part of the Princeton University Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment "Highlight Seminar" series, will be presented by Philip Krein, Grainger Endowed Chair Emeritus in Electric Machinery and Electromechanics Research Professor, Grainger Center for Electric Machinery and Electromechanics Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Additional information is available here: <https://acee.princeton.edu/events/highlight-seminar-philip-krein/>.

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**LWVNJ "Meeting with Decision-Makers" Training - **Virtual****  
**Friday, November 12, 2021, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey (LWVNJ) is presenting a series of virtual activist training sessions. This training session "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 and the link to register are available here: <https://www.lwvnj.org/training>.

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**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 below is a sampling of webinars taking place in November 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/>.

**National Adaptation Forum "Tribal & Indigenous Climate Adaptation Series" -  
**Webinars****

**Session 2 - Wednesday, November 10, 2021, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

**Session 3 - Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

These are parts two and three of a four-part series sponsored by the National Adaptation Forum, and focused on advancing discussions about climate adaptation in Tribal and Indigenous communities. The series highlights promising adaptation practices, and showcases the diversity of approaches to climate adaptation. The series will interest not only Tribal and Indigenous professionals, but also their neighbors, allies, and other adaptation professionals interested in innovative approaches.

This series will touch on themes including Tribal climate and health, community-led adaptation, and Indigenous sustainability practices. The sessions will be diverse in format and will include panels, individual speakers, and a documentary film. Video of the first session is available here: <https://nationaladaptationforum.org>. The fourth and last session will be on December 1, 2021. Additional information and the registration links are here: **Session 2:** <https://climatesociety.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/icalrepeat.detail/2021/11/10/6808/-/webinar-national-adaptation-forum-tribal-amp-indigenous-climate-adaptation-series-session-2;> **Session 3:** [https://climatesociety.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/icalrepeat.detail/2021/11/17/6811/-/webinar-national-adaptation-forum-tribal-amp-indigenous-climate-adaptation-series-session-3.](https://climatesociety.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/icalrepeat.detail/2021/11/17/6811/-/webinar-national-adaptation-forum-tribal-amp-indigenous-climate-adaptation-series-session-3)

**"Doubling Down on Data: Giving You the Edge in Agriculture" - **Webinar****  
**Tuesday, November 16, 2021, 1:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.**

In this webinar, sponsored by the Security and Sustainability Forum and Arizona State University, farming, technology, and research experts examine the role of data and data interoperability to improve farm profitability and reduce the impact of agriculture on global warming and the planet's

health. While agriculture contributes negatively to greenhouse gas (GHG) emission, it also presents the potential to sequester carbon, manage water and other process inputs and help remove carbon from the atmosphere. Making climate-smart decisions competitive along the agriculture supply chain requires access to data that define and quantify their financial benefits to the farmer and mechanisms for better consumer price signals. Additional information and registration link are here: <https://climatesociety.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/icalrepeat.detail/2021/11/16/6825/-/webinar-doubling-down-on-data-giving-you-the-edge-in-agriculture>.

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**"Caring for the Earth: Opportunities for Religious Institutions to Protect Clean Water for Healthy Communities." - Webinar**  
**Monday, November 15, 2021, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

Religious institutions have a tremendous opportunity to be good stewards to the environment, protect clean water, and help their local community by instituting smart changes on their properties. From churches to religious schools, many religious institutions are living their values by installing green infrastructure projects. Come hear from leaders who have installed projects like these to reduce their contributions to water pollution and support their communities, find out what options exist, and learn what steps to take to get started and see a project through. This webinar is co-sponsored by the NJ League of Conservation Voters, Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed, National Wildlife Federation, and others. The registration link is here: <https://secure.everyaction.com/fgjTyk82ZE-tBpPVP8kcbA2>.

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**NJBPU Stakeholder Meeting - "In the Matter of New Jersey Grid Modernization / Interconnection Process" - Virtual**  
**Tuesday, November 16, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

The NJ Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) is holding a series of public meetings to collect stakeholder input on the current distribution grid interconnection policies and processes and potential improvements to those policies and processes that will enable faster grid modernization and higher levels of distributed energy resource ("DER") absorption (also see article on [p. 25](#)). **Registration is required 48 hours prior to the meeting.** Additional information, instructions about submitting written comments, registration links, and links to presentations/videos of the previous meeting are available here: <https://njcleanenergy.com/gridmod>.

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**NJ Clean Air Council Monthly Meeting - Virtual**  
**Wednesday, November 17, 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>.

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**"Recap of COP26: Key Outcomes and What Comes Next"**  
**Briefing Series on the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Glasgow - Webinar**  
**Thursday, November 18, 2021, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) is presenting a briefing to review what took place at the U.N. climate change conference in Glasgow - the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - and why it matters for Congress. This briefing will review the key outcomes of COP26 and provide context and nuance to the main headlines coming out of the meeting. Panelists will then dive into takeaways from international, private sector, and local government perspectives. Additional information and the links to register and to view the webinar (as well as previous webinars in the EESI COP26 series) are here: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/111821cop26>.

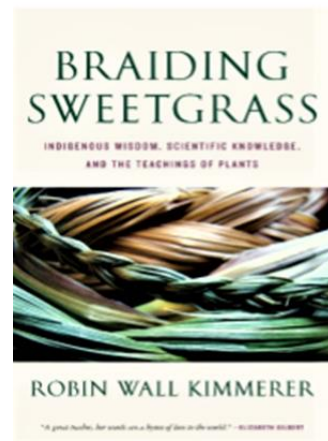
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## **"Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and The Teachings of Plants"**

**Book Discussion - Virtual**  
**Monday, November 29, 2021, 7:30 p.m.**

The Green Earth Ministry of the Morristown Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is presenting a community book discussion on Zoom, facilitated by **EJTF member Jo Sippie-Gora**. The book to be discussed is "Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and The Teachings of Plants," by Robin Wall Kimmerer (2013).

The author of this highly acclaimed book is a college professor and a Native American. In Braiding Sweetgrass, she focuses on plants and botany as seen through Native American traditions and the Western scientific method. The book is available from the Morris County library system in print and audio formats, can be purchased as a used or new book, and is on Kindle.



Some accolades for this book: "...it shakes one's fundamental assumptions with a massive shift...challenges the European immigrant ecological consciousness...far more than a memoir or a field guide; I would call it a wisdom book....something world-changing to pass on...an ethos she has learned by closely listening to plants...a book to savor again and again...a mesmerizing storyteller."

Register here for this book discussion:

<https://onrealm.org/MorristownUnita/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=NTFiZDJlOGYtZDk2OS00YmZmLTg3ZTUtYWVjNTAxMjY1MGVj>; you will receive a confirmation message that includes the Zoom link.

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## **"Habitat Gardening for Birds, Butterflies, and Wildlife" - Webinar** **Tuesday, November 30, 2021, 7:00 p.m.**

Join the Beacon UU Green Earth Ministry for a webinar on Habitat Gardening for Birds, Butterflies, and Wildlife. Learn the importance of supporting our native wildlife within our gardens with Dr. Randi Eckel of Toadshade Wildflower Farm. Learn about some of the creatures that rely upon specific plants, and discuss the complexities of attracting wildlife to our gardens. Click here to register: <https://forms.gle/ba5YpySoL4w6zVVp7>. (Continued on p. 17.)





Randi is a naturalist and research scientist with over with 30 years of experience in the field. Randi specializes in Native Plants and Insects, especially the interactions between the two. She is also a popular public speaker, giving presentations and workshops on various aspects of Native Plants, Plant Propagation and Plant-Insect interactions.

This event is part of the focus at Beacon this year on the importance of native plants to wildlife and the health of our environment. To introduce the theme, we had a quiz about native plants for which the prize was a lobelia plant from the lobelia garden pictured at left. It was won by Helen Kaar of the Beacon congregation.



### **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 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/>.

### **Jersey Water Works Annual Conference "Water Infrastructure for Every Community: Seizing a Once- In-A-Generation Opportunity" Wednesday, December 8 - Friday December 10, 2021**

"The seventh annual Jersey Water Works (JWW) Conference is a multi-day virtual event that will bring together more than 300 state and local community members, decision-makers, practitioners, and stakeholders to confront the threat of climate change with innovative solutions for our aging water infrastructure. Explore a variety of approaches to ensure every community can access new federal and state funding for water. Connect with water champions and members who continue to amplify the importance of addressing New Jersey's water infrastructure."

**SAVE  
the  
DATE**

The conference is presented by Jersey Water Works, a collaborative of diverse individuals and organizations **including UUFANJ**, working to transform New Jersey's inadequate water

infrastructure through sustainable, cost-effective solutions that provide communities with clean water and waterways; healthier, safer neighborhoods; local jobs; flood and climate resilience; and economic growth. (One of JWW's Co-chairs is scheduled to be the guest speaker at the December EJTF meeting.) Additional information is available here:  
<https://www.jerseywaterworks.org/events/annual-conference/2021/>.

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## **VIDEOS+ OF PAST EVENTS**

### **"How Best to Utilize Existing Energy Infrastructure in A Net-Zero Future" Video of Webinar**

Presented by the Columbia|SIPA Center for Global Energy Policy, this webinar examined 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. The video is available here: <https://www.energypolicy.columbia.edu/events-calendar/how-best-utilize-existing-energy-infrastructure-net-zero-future>.

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

Presented by Dr. Eric Chu of the University of California, Davis Climate Adaptation Research Center, an IPCC Working Group Lead Author, this webinar addressed 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. The video is available here:  
<https://climateadaptation.ucdavis.edu/events/benchmarking-progress-towards-social-equity-focused-climate-adaptation-planning-us-cities>.

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### **"Discussion of Green Hydrogen" - Video of Webinar**

In this webinar, sponsored by Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC), Allan Lindrup, a lifelong UU and one of the founders of Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (Chicago area), presents "Green Hydrogen - what is it, how can it contribute to our getting to zero carbon emissions, what are the hurdles to it getting widely used, and what is the outlook for it being rolled out." An article that provides background about green vs. blue hydrogen is available here: <https://www.nationofchange.org/2021/09/27/green-hydrogens-rapidly-falling-costs-undermine-the-gas-industrys-argument-for-blue-hydrogen/>. The video of the webinar is available here: <https://www.facebook.com/uujec/videos/393660699081465/>.

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## **"NJ Decides '21 - NJ Spotlight News Election Conversations" - Videos of Webinars**

In advance of the NJ gubernatorial election, NJ Spotlight News hosted a series of virtual conversations covering issues of importance around the state. Viewers provided input on topics the candidates should focus on and suggested what the outcome of the gubernatorial election will mean to NJ citizens, businesses, and institutions. Panelists included NJ Spotlight News journalists and subject experts, and each event was followed by a Q&A chatroom with the panelists. The following sessions were of relevance to EJTF:

### **"Social Justice & Immigration" -**

Speakers included: 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. The video is available here:

<https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/10/nj-election-roundtable-social-justice-immigration-income-inequality/>.

### **"Climate Change & Clean Energy" -**

Speakers included: 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. The video is available here: <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/10/nj-election-roundtable-climate-change-clean-energy-urgent-issues-feature-little-in-governors-race/>.

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### **"The Rights of Nature: Saving the Planet or Harmful to Humanity?" - Video of Webinar**

The Gonzaga University Center for Climate, Society, and the Environment presented a moderated debate with Thomas Linzey and Wesley J. Smith on "The Rights of Nature: Saving the Planet or Harmful to Humanity?" hosted by Brian G. Henning, Director of the Gonzaga Center for Climate, Society, and the Environment, Professor of Philosophy and Environmental Studies. Proponents of the rights of nature argue that the environmental regulatory system – which treats nature as merely property to be owned – has failed to protect nature and our own life support systems, and that a radical change in the law is needed which re-positions humanity in the role of a guardian or trustee of the best interests of those natural systems. Opponents of this approach see recognizing the rights of nature as inappropriate and ultimately demeaning to the special dignity of the human person – undermining a rights-based system of law which makes humans exceptional. The video is available here:

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

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### **Rutgers Environmental Stewards "Earth Day Every Day Webinar Series"**

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 were webinars on "E2D2 in the City" sessions that focused on specific issues affecting cities and urban communities, including safe practices for urban soil, combined sewer overflows, and urban wildlife.

Links to view videos of previous webinars, including those listed on p. 20, are here:

<https://envirostewards.rutgers.edu/Earth-Day.html>.

Available videos of Rutgers "Earth Day Every Day" webinars include:

"YOU Can Be a Citizen Scientist!"

E2D2 In The City! "Safe Soils for Urban Gardening"

E2D2 In The City! "The Past, Present, and Future of Combined Sewers in New Jersey"

E2D2 In The City! "RU Wildlife Wise: Successfully Navigating the Urban Wild"

"RU Ready for NJ's New Plastic Pollution Reduction Law?"

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**"Electrification: The Good, The Bad, The Reality!"  
Eco-Logic Programs on WBAI - **Recording of Radio Program****

The Eco-Logic radio/internet program on WBAI (**co-hosted by EJTF member Sally Gellert**) has recently presented a number of programs that may be of special interest to EJTF, including: "Electrification: The Good, The Bad, The Reality!" with Andy Padian, Director of Multifamily Sustainability, EME Consulting Engineering Group, who "has vast experience in building science, sustainability, resilience, and energy/financial analysis of buildings" (the link to the audio recording is here: <https://www.wbai.org/archive/program/episode/?id=26167> - the discussion begins 5 minutes in). Additional recent programs such as broadcasts related to the "People vs. Fossil Fuels" week of action in Washington, D.C., as well as many previous relevant broadcasts, are available here: <http://www.comicbookradioshow.com/eco-logic.html>.

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**"Green Genes: A Mother Daughter Duo Fighting for Our Planet"  
Green Amendments for the Generations - **Podcasts****

Tune in every week to join lifelong environmental activist, Maya van Rossum, and her daughter Anneke, a young activist herself, explore pressing issues around environmental protection, environmental justice, and the need for greater community engagement for securing social change. As the Delaware Riverkeeper for over 27 years, Maya has been the world's longest serving Riverkeeper. New episodes are released every Friday. **Note especially Episode 3 - "Green Amendments, the Tool That Could Change the Environmental Movement."** Podcasts are available here: [https://open.spotify.com/show/2iPy90DPwyoTNjjVoN6V7o?si=YEGSPTbYQvmdeER7Wtdcag&dl\\_branch=1&nd=1](https://open.spotify.com/show/2iPy90DPwyoTNjjVoN6V7o?si=YEGSPTbYQvmdeER7Wtdcag&dl_branch=1&nd=1)

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**"Climate as a National Security Threat" - **Podcast****

Presented by the Columbia|SIPA Center for Global Energy Policy, in this podcast Richard Kidd, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment & Energy Resilience at the Department of Defense, discusses the U.S. Department of Defense's 2021 Climate Adaptation Plan, which has identified climate change as a critical national security issue, threat multiplier, and top management challenge. The Plan offers a strategic roadmap for the U.S. military to adapt to the impacts of the climate crisis such as geopolitical turmoil, threats to U.S. military infrastructure and the increased frequency of natural disasters at home and abroad. The podcast is available here: <https://www.energypolicy.columbia.edu/climate-national-security-threat>.

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

[covering 9/27/2021 – 10/27/2021]

### **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

- **Acting AG Bruck, DEP Commissioner LaTourette Announce Seven New Environmental Enforcement Actions, Six Environmental Justice Communities** - Five of the six environmental justice lawsuits focus on harmful contamination posing a threat to residents and natural resources in Camden, Irvington, Jersey City, Newark, and Somerville. Each of these communities is considered “overburdened” under New Jersey’s Environmental Justice Law because it has a significant low-income, minority, and/or limited English proficiency population. Details about each of the actions is given in this press release. <https://www.njoag.gov/acting-ag-bruck-dep-commissioner-latourette-announce-seven-new-environmental-enforcement-actions-six-environmental-justice-communities/>
- **Governor Murphy Announces Over \$100 Million Investment in Urban Parks, Playgrounds, and Open Spaces Across New Jersey** - Gov. Murphy, NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner LaTourette and Senator Brian P. Stack, announced a proposed investment of over \$100 million in urban parks, playgrounds, open spaces, and other local park improvement projects through the Green Acres Program. The over \$100 million proposal, which is pending final approval by the Garden State Preservation Trust, would establish new parks and expand existing ones, develop athletic fields and playgrounds, improve access to waterways, create open spaces, build flood resilience, and enhance stewardship by restoring lands for nature and public enjoyment. For this round of Green Acres funding, applicants were encouraged to develop projects that anticipate and address climate change impacts, advance long-term resilience goals, provide equitable and meaningful public access, and maximize social, environmental and health benefits to the public, particularly within overburdened communities. Among other things, the recommended allocations include \$42.2 million in grants and loans for 49 park development projects in urban, suburban and rural communities, with nearly 84 percent of these funds for local park development projects and land acquisitions in municipalities with overburdened communities. <https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562021/approved/20211020a.shtml>
- **Community Leaders Call on Port Authority to Block Amazon Air Cargo Hub at Newark Airport** - At a press conference on 10/6/2021, Amazon workers, environmental advocates, labor groups, and small business owners came together to push back on plans for a new Amazon air cargo mega-hub at the Newark International Airport. The project, only first reported in August, would give Amazon a twenty-year lease through the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to build two 250,000 sq. ft. air cargo facilities next to the airport, letting the company significantly expand its footprint in the tri-state region. The plan has been shrouded in secrecy, with virtually no formal community input and an ongoing lack of transparency. Environmental justice leaders from Newark and Elizabeth, and small business owners at the press conference also underlined the pollution and human health impacts that Amazon’s additional truck traffic brings and the widespread devastation to small businesses resulting from Amazon’s aggressive pursuit of e-commerce dominance. “Port operations and goods movement is not good for everyone. Dirty diesel trucks and equipment make people sick and take our breath away in some cases forever,” said Amy Goldsmith, New Jersey State Director at Clean Water Action. <https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/community-leaders-call-port-authority-block-amazon-air-cargo-hub-newark-airpor/>
- **Opinion: Barriers Keep Hispanics From Becoming Involved with Environmental Causes** (by Maria Santiago-Valentin, an educator and the founder of Atlantic Climate Justice Alliance, and Patty Cronheim, the campaigns director for NJ League of Conservation Voters, co-founder of ReThink Energy NJ and an advisory board member of the Atlantic Climate Justice Alliance) - The authors describe how “factors that stem primarily from language and economic barriers often keep Hispanics from becoming involved with the environmental causes that impact their daily lives” and present ways to break down those barriers. <https://www.nj.com/opinion/2021/10/barriers-keep-hispanics-from-becoming-involved-with-environmental-causes-opinion.html>

## ELECTRIC VEHICLES

- **NJBPU Launches Grant Program for Electric Vehicle Charging at New Jersey Tourism Destinations** - During Drive Electric Week in September, the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) launched a new program to encourage electric vehicle (EV) charging locations at tourism destinations across the state. Locations ranging from boardwalks, parks, and other unique attractions, as well as overnight lodging establishments, will have the opportunity to apply for up to six Level-Two chargers and two DC Fast Chargers through the program. The Program provides incentives for chargers; applications are due 12/6/2021. Additional information and links to the application and evaluation criteria are in this press release. <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/2021/approved/20210930.html>



- **NJEDA Expands NJ ZIP Program to Support Additional Zero-Emission Vehicle Purchases** - Building on the momentum generated since the launch of the New Jersey Zero Emission Incentive Program (NJ ZIP) pilot program earlier this year, the NJ Economic Development Authority (EDA) announced a \$9.25 million expansion of the popular clean energy initiative. The initial \$15 million voucher pilot program was launched earlier this year to help businesses and institutions in the greater Camden and greater Newark areas offset the cost of purchasing new, zero-emission medium-duty vehicles (MDVs). Through the expansion of the program, the EDA will broaden access to include qualified businesses and institutions in the greater New Brunswick area. Additional information and a link to the application are available in this press release. <https://www.njeda.com/njeda-adds-to-nj-zip-program-to-support-additional-zero-emission-vehicle-purchases/>
- **Make School Buses Electric, Advocates Urge** - This article summarizes the day-long webinar, "Electric School Buses: The Opportunity for New Jersey" held in mid-October. Participants discussed the benefits, hurdles, potential financing methods, and planned legislation related to electric school buses. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/10/nj-school-bus-electric-diesel-fossil-fuel-advocates-say/>
- **More Electric Vehicles on NJ's Roads as State, Clean-Energy Advocates Keep Pushing** (3-minute news video) - Pamela Frank, CEO of ChargeEVC NJ, describes owning her electric car and the various programs in NJ to assist people in joining her in owning one (also see her Opinion piece about NJ's proposed cut in the EV rebate, below). <https://www.njspotlight.com/video/more-electric-vehicles-on-njs-roads-as-state-clean-energy-advocates-keep-pushing>
- **Opinion: Cutting NJ Rebates for Electric Vehicles Is a Losing Strategy** (by Pamela G. Frank, CEO of ChargeEVC-NJ, a nonprofit coalition of retail auto dealers, utilities, consumer and equity advocates, environmental and labor organizations and technology companies) - The author touts the success of NJ's EV program to date, and denounces the NJ Board of Public Utilities' (BPU) proposal to cut the rebates in half (also see the news video above). <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/10/pamela-g-frank-aghast-nj-bpu-proposes-cutting-hugely-successful-electric-vehicle-rebate-program/>

## FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE

### The End of the PennEast Pipeline!

Seven years from its initial proposal to build a 115-mile fracked gas pipeline from northeastern PA to NJ, the PennEast Co. announced that it was cancelling the harmful and unneeded project. WE WON!!

These words from the NJ League of Conservation Voters (NJLCV) say it all: "Back when PennEast was proposed seven years ago, very few thought the pipeline could be blocked. But the communities in the pipeline's path rallied, and never stopped making their voices heard. The more they organized, the larger the opposition grew. Homeowner by homeowner, township by township, and organization by organization, momentum continued to build all the way to Governor Murphy's administration, who denied permits to the project and took their case all the way to the Supreme Court.

Today's news shows the power in organizing, working together, and never giving up. Seven years is a long time to keep fighting. But when your kids' school, your home, your town, your state, and your planet is on the line, giving up isn't an option."

The articles below include descriptions of PennEast's decision to cancel the project, along with reactions to it and possible implications of the cancellation for future fossil-fuel projects.

- **PennEast Ends Battle to Build Natural Gas Pipeline -**  
<https://www.njspotlight.com/video/penneast-ends-battle-to-build-natural-gas-pipeline/>
- **Fossil-Fuel Projects May Face Greater Scrutiny after PennEast Scraps Pipeline -**  
<https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/09/penneast-fossil-fuels-pipeline-projects-nj-gov-murphy-approve/>
- **Some New Jerseyans Relieved over End to PennEast Pipeline -**  
<https://www.njspotlight.com/video/some-new-jerseyans-relieved-over-end-to-penneast-pipeline/>
- **PennEast Opponents Say Community Activism Was Key to Beating Pipeline -**  
<https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/10/penneast-pipeline-throws-in-towel-ends-quest-natural-gas-nj-public-private-land-grassroots-opponents-celebrate/>

## LEAD REDUCTION IN HOUSEHOLDS

- **Replacement of Lead Service Lines in Newark Pays Off** (3-1/2-minute news video) - This video summarizes the successful lead service line replacement program in Newark, with interviews of relieved customers and some who remain skeptical. <https://www.njspotlight.com/video/replacement-of-lead-service-lines-in-newark-pays-off/>
- **EPA Launches Nationwide Initiative to Reduce Lead Exposure in Underserved Communities** - This EPA press release describes a new training initiative, "Enhancing Lead-Safe Work Practices through Education and Outreach (ELSWPEO)," to "raise awareness about childhood lead exposure and protect environmentally overburdened and underserved communities across the United States from lead exposure." (Additional information is available here: <https://www.epa.gov/lead/local->

[training-and-outreach.](#)) This new initiative has two parts; the first part is designed to encourage renovation, repair and painting (RRP) firms and contractors working on pre-1978 homes to become certified. It will also reach community leaders and the general public to raise awareness about lead exposure, the importance of the RRP program and lead-safe work practices. One of the training locations is Trenton, NJ. In the second part of the initiative, EPA presents "Lead Awareness Curriculum Train-the-Trainer" sessions for community leaders (see training session information on [p. 7](#)). The training is in English with simultaneous Spanish interpretation, designed to equip community leaders with tools and resources needed to educate their communities about lead, lead exposure, and actions that can be taken to reduce and prevent childhood lead exposure. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-launches-nationwide-initiative-reduce-lead-exposure-underserved-communities>

## GREEN AMENDMENT -

See [p. 20](#) for Green Amendment podcast information.

### 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

- **Community Solar Program Aims to Increase Access to Clean Energy** (4-minute news video) - This video describes NJ's community solar program, as well as the jobs that are available in this growing sector. Community solar is an important pillar of NJ's clean energy policy that ensures that the benefits of solar energy are accessible to all New Jerseyans, regardless of income or homeownership. In the first ever community solar solicitation in NJ, the NJ Board of Utilities (BPU) received 252 applications and approved 45, representing 78 MW of solar energy capacity with 100 percent of the approved applications serving low and moderate income communities. The program grew significantly in the second solicitation, for which the BPU received a record 412 applications, representing over 800 MW of proposed community solar projects. All but one of those applications proposes to serve low and moderate income communities. The BPU is proud of the Pilot Program's success to date, and looks forward to continuing to support the program as it continues to grow. <https://www.njspotlight.com/video/community-solar-program-aims-to-increase-access-to-clean-energy/>



- **Rule Change Means Boost for NJ's Green-Power Plans** - 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. NJ considered withdrawing from PJM, but instead waited to see how the new Federal administration would treat the issue. In July, PJM proposed changes that would, among other things, replace the rules mandated by the December 2019 FERC ruling. The new rules are controversial, opposed by many power suppliers but supported by clean-energy advocates. FERC's four commissioners were equally split, which allowed the PJM proposal to go into effect; a fifth commissioner awaits approval. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/10/ferc-federal-energy-regulatory-commission-pjm-interconnect-bpu-new-rule-clean-energy-savings-lower-prices/>
- **Popular Solar Program Goes Full Time** - Based on the great success of the first two years of NJ's Community Solar Pilot Program, the third year of the pilot has been cancelled and instead the program will be made permanent. The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) now will begin determining the scope and parameters for the permanent program. The power grid operator PJM Interconnected has just released an advisory study ("Offshore Wind Transmission Study: Phase 1 Results," available here: <https://www.pjm.com/-/media/library/reports-notices/special-reports/2021/20211019-offshore-wind-transmission-study-phase-1-results.ashx>) that provides estimates of costs related to upgrade the transmission system to accommodate increased wind and solar power. However, it only considers costs of onshore transmission. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/10/community-solar-bpu-pilot-permanent-low-middle-income-residents-cheaper-800-megawatts/>



- **How Much Will It Cost to Get Wind, Solar Onto Power Grid?** - One thing that has been missing from data related to NJ's Energy Master Plan is information related to how much transitioning to clean energy is projected to cost. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/10/solar-wind-costs-green-energy-estimates-grid-clean-renewables/>
- **Aging Power Grid Stressed by New Renewable Energy** - Delays in connecting solar projects with NJ's existing power grid, as well as sections of the state where connections are already at capacity, threaten to keep NJ from meeting clean-energy goals. The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) is holding a series of public meetings on modernizing the grid "to collect stakeholder input on the current distribution grid interconnection policies and processes and potential improvements to those policies and processes that will enable faster grid modernization and higher levels of distributed energy resource ("DER") absorption" (see [p. 15](#) for meeting information). A draft report is to be issued 3/2022, with a final report 5/2022. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/10/power-grid-upgrades-interconnections-clean-energy-electricity-solar-evs-electric-vehicles-bpu/>

- **Strong Support for Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind Project** - The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) scheduled three virtual public meetings in October, in preparation for conducting an environmental review of the proposed Atlantic Shores wind energy development projects offshore NJ. At the first public meeting, many expressed support for the project, but some were critical of it, citing their concerns about possible spoiled views, impacts on tourism, impacts on birds and whales, and impacts on fisheries. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/10/atlantic-shores-offshore-wind-project-public-hearing-strong-support-naysayers-backers/>
- **Ocean City Residents Worry an Offshore Wind Farm Will Destroy the Resort** - This article details concerns voiced by shore town residents about the planned offshore wind farm; however, locals do not have leverage over where wind farms are sited, particularly in light of a recently-passed law (described here: <https://enviropolitics.com/nj-offshore-energy-powerline-law-blows-nimby-objectors-out-of-the-water/>) that took away their only recourse, which had been their ability to possibly deny approval for cables from the offshore sites to cross public lands. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/10/ocean-city-residents-fear-effects-on-coastline-resort-offshore-wind-farm/>

## CLIMATE CHANGE

- **Murphy Administration Releases Final Climate Change Resiliency Strategy to Protect New Jersey's Communities, Environment, and Infrastructure from Climate Change** - Gov. Murphy's Interagency Council on Climate Resilience released the final version of the state's first Climate Change Resiliency Strategy, a science-based blueprint for protecting NJ's vulnerable communities, environment, economy, and infrastructure from the impacts of climate change (available here: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/climatechange/resilience-strategy.html>). The Climate Change Resilience Strategy outlines six state priorities to guide state and local government climate action and includes over 100 recommendations to strengthen NJ against climate impacts, including sea-level rise, chronic flooding, rising temperatures, and more frequent and intense storm events. The plan, which was first released for public review and comment on Earth Day, will be a working document supported by a continued robust public engagement process. <https://www.state.nj.us/governor/news/news/562021/approved/20211012c.shtml>
- **New Jersey Department of Education Launches Resources to Help Schools Teach Climate Change Across K-12 Classrooms** - The NJ Department of Education (DOE) announced that it has made available extensive online resources that school districts and educators can use to incorporate climate change education across K-12 classrooms beginning in the 2022-2023 school year. These resources (available here: <https://www.nj.gov/education/standards/climate/>) are designed to help educators meet the new climate change requirements so they can prepare students to understand how and why climate change occurs, the impact it has on our local and global communities, and to respond to climate change with informed and sustainable solutions. <https://www.state.nj.us/governor/news/news/562021/approved/20211007b.shtml>
- **NJ Plans to Expand Buyouts of Flood-Prone Properties** - NJ's "Blue Acres" program of buying houses that have been subject to repeated flooding is to be expanded to include properties that may be expected to flood in the future due to climate change. In the words of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner LaTourette, NJ needs to break the "vicious cycle of damage-recovery-rebuilding-repeat" and begin to utilize a more proactive approach. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/10/nj-expands-blue-acres-property-buyouts-tropical-storm-ida-superstorm-sandy-climate-change-resilience-measures/>
- **Push Ahead or Pull Back? Businesses Question Climate Plans** - The NJ Business and Industry Association held a conference on "Energy & Decarbonization: a New Jersey Business Perspective" at which lines were drawn between approaches favored by clean-energy advocates and those put forth by the

business community. This article describes the positions taken by each group.

<https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/10/njs-clean-energy-goals-business-perspective-not-everyone-agrees/>

- **As NJ Loses Tidal Marshes to Rising Seas, New Study Proposes Solutions** (4-minute news video) - This video describes a number of effects climate change is having on NJ's marshes, considered the "kidneys of the natural world," and proposes several possible ways to mitigate some of these impacts. <https://www.njspotlight.com/video/as-nj-loses-tidal-marshes-to-rising-seas-new-study-proposes-solutions/>
- **Princeton Professor Wins Nobel Prize for Climate Change Studies** (1-minute news video) - Princeton professor Syukuro Manabe, "who built the first-ever modern climate model in the 1960's, explaining global warming and the role humans play in contributing to it," was awarded the 2021 Nobel Prize in physics along with two others. <https://www.njspotlight.com/video/princeton-professor-wins-nobel-prize-for-climate-change-studies/>



- **Opinion: For Much of the Shore, Retreat May Be the Only Option** (by Barry Chalofsky, a former Bureau Chief in the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, now an environmental and land use planning consultant) - The author details the reasons NJ is particularly vulnerable to loss of land along its shore, and concludes that relocating homes and businesses may be the only option as precipitation, storm surges, and sea-level rise increase even as land in parts of the state continues to sink. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/09/nj-opinion-barry-chalofsky-climate-change-shore-retreat-sea-level-rise/>

## POLLUTION

- **Continued Bad Air Days Mean NJ Should Cut Emissions, Activists Urge** - Two recently-issued reports describe continuing problems with NJ's air and emphasized that electrification of many sectors is needed, with particular emphasis on the transportation sector. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/10/nj-pollution-smog-particulates-fossil-fuels-electric-vehicles-green-energy/>

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

- **'Forever Chemicals' May Be Present at Some 2,500 NJ Sites, Data Shows** - Based on a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, a nonprofit obtained data compiled by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) showing 120,000 sites nationwide that may be handling PFAS "forever" chemicals. This is three times the number that another nonprofit had previously calculated. Of

these, 2,500 are in NJ. EPA has, for the first time, announced a plan to set enforceable drinking water standards for PFAS, and a new testing requirement for PFAS manufacturers to report toxicity.

<https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/10/nj-forever-chemicals-epa-pfas-pfoa-pfos-pfna-national-standards-industrial-sites/>

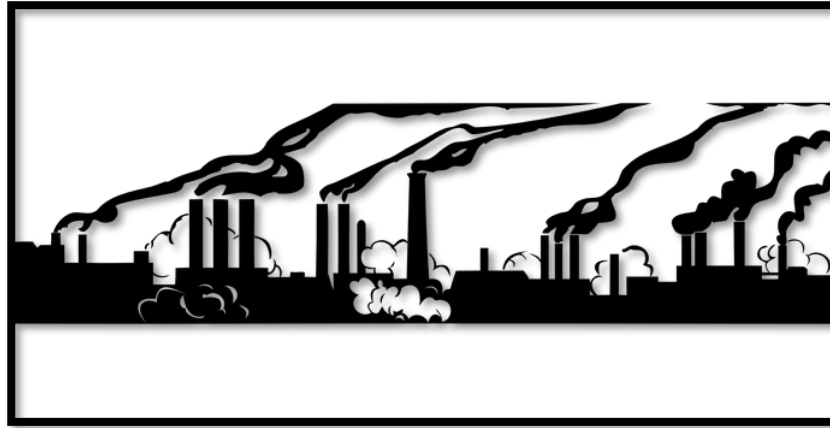
- **Water to Six Towns Exceeds New Limit for a ‘Forever Chemical’** - Middlesex Water Company customers in some portions of South Plainfield, Edison, Metuchen, Woodbridge, Clark and Rahway, all served by the Park Avenue Treatment Plant in South Plainfield, received notices from the company that their water exceeds the PFOA "forever, chemicals" limits set for drinking water set by NJ. Customers were told to use alternative sources of water if they have a severely compromised immune system; if they are feeding infants; are pregnant, or are considering having children, and were told that boiling does not remove the chemicals from water. However, the company did not offer to provide any alternate sources of water to the affected customers. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/10/nj-toxic-forever-chemical-exceeds-new-state-standard-south-plainfield-edison-metuchen-woodbridge-clark-rahway/>
- **Middlesex Water Insists No Public Health Risk After ‘Forever Chemical’ Exceeds New DEP Limit** - Middlesex Water Company maintains that the small amount of PFOA "forever chemicals" in some customers' water, while greater than new standards promulgated by the NJ Department of Environmental Conservation (DEP), are not imminently life-threatening, and they are not contemplating providing filters or bottled water to customers. The affected towns are hiring an outside consultant to advise them on the levels of risk involved and what should be done about them. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/10/middlesex-water-insists-no-public-health-risk-forever-chemical-exceeds-new-dep-limit/>

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- **NJBPU Launches Grant Program to Improve Energy Efficiency and Water Conservation in Schools and Small Businesses** - The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) launched the Schools and Small Business Energy Efficiency Stimulus (SSB) Program, a \$180 million grant program for NJ schools and small businesses to repair or replace HVAC systems, plumbing fixtures, and appliances to meet efficiency and health standards. The federally-funded program will dedicate at least \$135 million of its funding to schools and small businesses within underserved communities as part of the Murphy Administration's commitment to equity and environmental justice. Additional details and links to the application process are in this press release. <https://www.bpu.state.nj.us/bpu/newsroom/2021/approved/20211007.html>

## OTHER

- **NJ Governor's Race: Murphy's Promises for a Greener, Faster Future** - This article describes Gov. Murphy's record on: clean energy; raids on clean-energy funds; water quality; and dealing with pollution in environmental justice communities. One issue is that cost data on meeting the clean energy goals has not yet been provided. <https://www.njspotlight.com/2021/10/nj-governors-race-gov-phil-murphy-assessing-energy-environmental-record-solar-wind-cost/>
- **Advocates Push for Alternatives to Beach Replenishment in NJ** (3-minute news video) - In this video, environmental advocates and others describe the lack of need for beach replenishment projects as well as the harm they do to ecosystems. <https://www.njspotlight.com/video/advocates-push-for-alternatives-to-beach-replenishment-in-nj/>



### **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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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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