



Environmental Justice Task Force Newsletter - December 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.

Governor Murphy signed numerous environment-related bills! See p. 3.

EJTF ACTIVITIES

- Members of EJTF** joined our ally organizations, the Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC), Empower NJ, and others, at the "**March for Clean Air: Stop Dumping on Newark**" march on November 10, 2021. Despite Governor Murphy's environmental justice goals and clean energy commitments, there are two new major polluting projects proposed in the Ironbound section of Newark: the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) power plant and the Aires sludge plant. The group held a short rally, at which speakers included Kim Gaddy of Clean Water Action and Maria Lopez Nuñez of the ICC. Nicky Sheats of the NJ Environmental Justice Alliance and Elena Weissman of Vote Solar were there as well, and then marched to the site of the proposed PVSC fracked gas power plant.



UUFANJ members: Roseann Pasquale and pictured in yellow: Peggy Middaugh (EJTF Co-Chair), Judy Stevens (EJTF), Ray Nichols (EJTF Co-Chair), Mia Morse (UUFANJ Board President), Nancy Griffeth (EJTF)

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- **EJTF Co-Chairs Peggy Middaugh and Ray Nichols, and EJTF member Nancy Griffeth**, submitted comments to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management regarding the environmental impact statements to be prepared for the Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind Projects - Offshore New Jersey. Their comments may be accessed by searching for their names here: <https://www.regulations.gov/document/BOEM-2021-0057-0001/comment>.
- **EJTF member Nancy Griffeth** submitted written testimony to the NJ Legislature asking that the bill S3637, "New Jersey Retirement Infrastructure Collateralized Holdings Fund Act," which would create a \$20,000,000 trust fund "for conveyance of certain assets for benefit of State-administered retirement systems," not be voted out of committee. The legislation would enable local governments to dedicate their assets (such as water and sewer utilities) to the trust in exchange for credit on their pension liability. The outcome may well be higher rates for customers, because the bill creates a profit motive for the trust and requires it to use an inflationary valuation approach. Nancy's comments, which go to the heart of the matter, are below. As of 11/26/2021, the bill was still in committee.

Nancy Griffeth's Testimony on Bill S3637

"Thank you for your service to New Jersey and also for allowing me to speak here today.

I am Nancy Griffeth, a member of the Environmental Justice Task Force of Unitarian Universalist FaithAction New Jersey and of the League of Women Voters, but I am speaking on my own behalf. As a Unitarian Universalist, I believe in justice, compassion, and equity in our relationships with other people, and this bill would create an unequal, unjust situation for those who already struggle to pay their utility bills.

S3637 proposes to turn our utilities into profit-making entities in order to fund our pensions. Yes, our pensions are a serious problem, and a problem that we must solve, but trying to turn a profit off of selling services essential to life, such as water services, is an immoral approach to the problem.

We have a long tradition in this country of requiring public utilities to serve the public rather than private owners. They should provide good service at minimum cost. They should ensure that services are of the highest quality and responsive to the needs and wishes of their customers. They should ensure that their services improve the well-being of the community. They should maximize their efficiency so their services can be delivered as widely as possible. As is apparent to everyone struggling in today's economy, it is clear that these goals are not compatible with privatizing and profit maximization.

We all have to have water, heat, and transportation, and privatizing these will raise their cost by requiring that they produce profits. So if it passes, this bill creates a hidden tax on every New Jerseyan. Not only is it hidden, it will be a highly regressive tax. The poorest among us pay the most for these utilities, as a percentage of their income, but will have to pay the same increase in rates as everyone. Thus the percentage they pay will be higher than anyone else. This is utterly unjust.

Please do not vote this bill out of committee."

NJ Governor Murphy Signs Environment-Related Bills into Law -

See: <https://enviropolitics.com/nj-governor-murphy-signs-environment-related-bills-into-law/>

SCS for S647 / A4825 – Revises cybersecurity, asset management, and related reporting requirements in “Water Quality Accountability Act”

S828 / A2101 – Requires public utilities and local units to provide notice prior to initiating certain infrastructure projects

S829 / A2135 – Requires property condition disclosure statement to indicate presence of lead plumbing in residential property

S830 / A2134 – Requires public water systems to offer drinking water tests to customers in certain circumstances

S894 / A3874 – Prohibits sale of paint or coating removal products that contain methylene chloride unless purchaser meets certain safety standards for use

S1010 / A2103 – Permits counties and municipalities to bond for alternative fuel vehicles

S1239 / A5131 – Authorizes imposition of fee for connection to municipal electric distribution system

S3091 / A4933 – Requires builders to offer unit concrete products that utilize carbon footprint-reducing technology as option in new construction; establishes tax incentives, and State and local purchasing requirements, for unit concrete products that utilize carbon footprint-reducing technology

ACS for A3352 / S3504 – Requires certain newly constructed warehouses to be solar-ready buildings

AJR238 / SJR123– Urges U.S. President and EPA to take appropriate action, through waivers and other reforms, to allow blending of renewable fuels under the federal “Clean Air Act”

FUTURE EVENTS - Virtual

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

DECEMBER 2021 -

(See the following pages for descriptions and links)

Sun.	Mon.	Tues..	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 Tribal & Indigenous Climate Adaptation Series Session 4 - 2:00 p.m.	2 Wind Energy: How Did We Get Here and What's Next? - 12:00 p.m.	3	4
5	6 How Can Carbon Mineralization Help Fight Climate Change - 12:00 p.m.	7 Thinking About Adaptation: Exploring the Resist-Accept-Direct (RAD) Framework - 12:00 p.m. How Can Carbon Mineralization Help Fight Climate Change? - 1:00 p.m. Climate Crisis: Act Now - 7:00 p.m.	8 (DRBC) Third Quarter 2021 Business Meeting - 10:30 p.m. Pathways to Net Zero: The Fundamentals of Getting to Zero - 1:00 p.m. Building Materials: From Production to Reuse - 1:00 p.m. Jersey Water Works Annual Conference	9 The Climate Consequences of Plastics - 1:00 p.m. Investing in our Cities: Pursuing Smart, Resilient Infrastructure - 1:00 p.m. Balancing Environmental Stewardship With Economic Development - 2:00 p.m. Jersey Water Works Annual Conference	10 Reducing Emissions by Reducing Food Waste - 1:00 p.m. Jersey Water Works Annual Conference	11
12	13	14	15 NJ Clean Air Council Monthly Meeting - 9:00 a.m.	16 DRBC Monitoring Advisory and Coordination Committee Meeting - 9:30 p.m.	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

"Columbia Energy Tech Revolution Forum – Wind Energy: How Did We Get Here and What's Next?" - Webinar

Thursday, December 2, 2021, 12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Join the Center on Global Energy Policy for the Columbia Energy Technology Revolution Forum, a new webinar series hosted by Paul Dabbar, CGEP Distinguished Visiting Fellow and former Under Secretary for Science at the U.S. Department of Energy. "The series will focus on frank, practical, scientific and technological discussions on the prospects of new technologies in the energy world. Each session will bring together experts to focus on a different energy technology." This discussion will examine how wind technology evolved from the technology failures and bankruptcy era of 2000 to the industry we

see today. Speakers will explore the evolution of U.S. wind policy and technology over the last twenty years, the future of wind technology, and policies that would support further deployment. Additional information and the registration link are here: <https://www.energypolicy.columbia.edu/events-calendar/columbia-energy-tech-revolution-forum-wind-energy-how-did-we-get-here-and-what-s-next>.

"How Can Carbon Mineralization Help Fight Climate Change" - Webinar
Monday, December 6, 2021, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Carbon mineralization is a process in which carbon dioxide (CO₂) becomes bound in rocks as a solid mineral. This happens naturally at a slow rate as certain rocks are exposed to carbon dioxide, permanently removing small amounts of CO₂--the leading greenhouse gas--from the atmosphere each year. A new report co-authored by Columbia University scholars finds the climate change benefits of enhancing carbon mineralization processes could be enormous. You can join the Columbia Center on Global Energy Policy as several co-authors of the report present their recommendations for using carbon mineralization processes to help achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions. Additional information and the registration link are here: <https://www.energypolicy.columbia.edu/events-calendar/how-can-carbon-mineralization-help-fight-climate-change?>.



Jersey Water Works Annual Conference - Virtual
"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." 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/>.

"How Can Carbon Mineralization Help Fight Climate Change?" - Webinar
Tuesday, December 7, 2021, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Profound changes in state and federal policy are shaping the landscape for carbon capture, use, and storage in real time. Throughout the United States, these changes may be felt most in Wyoming, where extractive industries have long contributed to the economy, the culture, communities and tax base. The Center on Global Energy Policy's Women in Energy program is announcing the fourth event in the Women in Energy carbon capture, use, and storage (CCUS) Roadshow series. This initiative

aims to highlight the extraordinary accomplishments of women in the CCUS field and empower a workforce that is equitable, diverse, and strong by advancing equality and opportunity. You can join them for a discussion of the changes in federal and state laws concerning CCUS and how those changes might affect investment, development, climate, and communities in Wyoming. The conversation will feature energy experts from Wyoming who will also discuss ways to grow women's share of the energy workforce and what organizations in the public and private sectors are looking for in new recruits. Additional information and the registration link are here: <https://www.energypolicy.columbia.edu/events-calendar/how-can-carbon-mineralization-help-fight-climate-change?>.

**Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) Briefing Series: Reduce and Reuse
How to Cut Greenhouse Gas Emissions of Building Materials, Plastics, and Food
Webinars**

**"Building Materials: From Production to Reuse"
Wednesday, December 8, 2021, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**"The Climate Consequences of Plastics"
Thursday, December 9, 2021, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**"Reducing Emissions by Reducing Food Waste"
Friday, December 10, 2021, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

Additional information and links to RSVP and to join the webinar are here:
<https://www.eesi.org/1221waste>.

Virtual 2021 Climate Leadership Series

**"Pathways to Net Zero: The Fundamentals of Getting to Zero" (Workshop)
Wednesday, December 8, 2021, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

Part 1: Science Based Targets and New Criteria Considered for Net Zero Goals; Part 2: Leveraging Quality Offset Projects to Meet Net Zero Targets; Part 3: Where it all Comes Together: Best Practices and the Net Zero Portal (NZP).

**"Investing in our Cities: Pursuing Smart, Resilient Infrastructure" (Webinar)
Thursday, December 9, 2021, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

Climate-related weather events are damaging and disrupting infrastructure across the country, jeopardizing the local economies and livelihoods that rely on it. The recently enacted Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will provide a critical influx of funding to increase infrastructure resilience moving forward. In this conversation, experts, and federal and local leaders will explore what is needed to leverage federal funds, catalyze private dollars, and scale up efforts to build climate resilient, equitable communities and how infrastructure investment is at the core of what cities need to get there.

Additional information and the registration link are here: <https://hopin.com/events/2021-climate-leadership-series-december-events#schedule>. [Note: videos of past sessions are available here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN4N2hXHjScMzyTJOKiV18w/playlists>.]

**Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) Third Quarter 2021 Business Meeting
Wednesday, December 8, 2021, 10:30 a.m. - via Zoom**

After all scheduled business has been completed and as time allows, the Business Meeting will also include up to one hour of Open Public Comment (prior sign-up by 5 p.m. on December 7 is required). Additional details, Zoom link for the meeting, and information for prior sign-up for the Open Public Comment portion are available here:

<https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/meetings/upcoming/#2>. The meeting will also be livestreamed here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/delrivbasincomm>. Procedures for participating in public hearings are here: https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/library/documents/procedures_public-hearings050317.pdf.

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 December 2021. The site includes updated information over time; **check the site periodically for an updated list:**

<https://climatesociety.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/range.listevents/->.

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

Session 4 - Wednesday, December 1, 2021, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

This is part four 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 touches on themes including Tribal climate and health, community-led adaptation, and Indigenous sustainability practices. The sessions are diverse in format and include panels, individual speakers, and a documentary film. Videos of the first three sessions are available here:

<https://nationaladaptationforum.org>. The fourth and last session will be on December 1, 2021.

Additional information and the registration link for Session 4 are here:

<https://climatesociety.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/icalrepeat.detail/2021/12/01/6814/-/webinar-national-adaptation-forum-tribal-amp-indigenous-climate-adaptation-series-session-4>.

**"Thinking About Adaptation: Exploring the Resist-Accept-Direct (RAD) Framework"
Tuesday, December 7, 2021, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Webinar**

The Resist-Accept-Direct framework allows managers to choose from three management responses:

- Resist the direction of change, by working to maintain or restore function, structure or composition, based on historical or table current conditions.
- Accept the direction of change, by allowing the change to occur without intervening.
- Direct the change, by actively managing processes, function, structure or composition toward a new desired condition. Additional information and the registration link are here:

<https://climatesociety.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/icalrepeat.detail/2021/12/07/6868/-/webinar-thinking-about-adaptation-exploring-the-resist-accept-direct-rad-framework>.

**"Balancing Environmental Stewardship With Economic Development" - Webinar
Thursday, December 9, 2021, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Presented by Richard W. Spinrad, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator. Sponsored by NOAA. Additional information and the registration link are here: <https://climatesociety.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/icalrepeat.detail/2021/12/09/6869/-/webinar-balancing-environmental-stewardship-with-economic-development>.

**"Climate Crisis: Act Now" Panel Discussion
Tuesday, December 7, 2021, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - via Zoom**

Panelists:

Rev. Peggy Clarke, Senior Minister, Community Church of New York

David Sayer, Beyond Plastics

Aly Tharp, Program Director, Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth (UUMFE)

Co-sponsored by:

Fourth Universalist Society of NY Environmental Justice Team, the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth, New York UU Justice, Beyond Plastics, and the Unitarian Universalist Association Office at the United Nations. Additional information and the sign-up link are here: <https://4thu.org/climate-2/>.

**NJ Clean Air Council Monthly Meeting - Virtual
Wednesday, December 15, 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) Monitoring Advisory and Coordination
Committee Meeting
Thursday, December 16, 2021, 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. - via Zoom**



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



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/>.

VIDEOS OF PAST EVENTS

"Bag Up Mercer: New N.J. Plastic Bag Rules for Businesses" - Video of Webinar

A provision of New Jersey's commitment to reduce plastics pollution statewide took effect on Thursday, Nov. 4 with the requirement that food-service businesses may only provide single-use plastic straws to a customer upon request. The restriction on single-use plastic straws is part of a broader state law enacted in 2020. In May of 2022, the New Jersey Plastic Pollution Reduction Act will serve as one of the strongest plastic bag bans in our country. To stay ahead of this legislation, the Mercer County Office of Economic Development and the Department of Planning created a webinar to discuss this new law with State officials from the Business Action Center and the New Jersey Clean Communities. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrdKL8RY5yU>.

ANJEC 2021 Environmental Congress - Videos of Conference Sessions

Links to the resources and videos from ANJEC's 2021 Environmental Congress are available here: <https://anjec.org/anjec-2021-environmental-congress/>.

2021 Climate Leadership Conference - Videos of Conference Sessions

Videos of previous sessions of the Climate Leadership Conference hosted by the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES), including the keynote with Lisa Jackson of Apple, and the following sessions: "The Critical Role that Natural Climate Solutions Play in Meeting Corporate Commitments," "Climate Risk, Opportunity, and Disclosure Insights and Trends from TCFD Leaders," and "Transforming the Built Environment through Smart Technology and Innovation" are available here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN4N2hXHjScMzyTJOkiV18w/playlists>. Future sessions are listed in the "Future Events" section, above.

"Doubling Down on Data: Giving You the Edge in Agriculture" - Video of Webinar

In this webinar, sponsored by the Security and Sustainability Forum and Arizona State University, farming, technology, and research experts examined 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. The video is available here: <https://ssfworld.org/doubling-down-on-data-giving-you-the-edge-in-agriculture/>.

"Decarbonize with Big Data" - Video of Webinar

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 discussed 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. The video is available here: <https://ssfworld.org/decarbonize-with-big-data/>.

"Beneficial Electrification - The Future of Farming" - Video of Webinar

Nine percent of US greenhouse gas emissions come from the agriculture sector. Farms consume energy directly in gasoline, diesel, electricity, and natural gas; and indirectly in energy-intensive inputs such as fertilizer and pesticides. Some farms also produce renewable energy or lease out land for wind turbines, oil, or gas development. Arizona State University's School of Sustainability (SOS) and The Sustainability Consortium (TSC) presented a 90-minute discussion of opportunities and challenges to the intelligent, electrified farm of the future. The video is available here: <https://vimeo.com/642470665>.

"System-level Impacts of 24/7 Carbon-free Electricity Procurement" - Video of Webinar

Princeton University's Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment and Google, Inc. presented "Discussing the Impacts of 24/7 Carbon-free Electricity Procurement." In this webinar, they summarized their recently-released report – the first study to examine the grid system impacts of 24/7 carbon-free electricity (CFE) procurement with a sophisticated electricity grid system modeling approach. The video is available here: <https://acee.princeton.edu/24-7>.

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. 11.

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

Following the lead of our EJ partners (see #1, above), help promote outreach to residents about avoiding or reducing lead in drinking water and lead paint in their households. See articles on p. 12.

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. 12.

NEWS RELATED TO EJTF ISSUES

[covering 10/28/2021 – 11/26/2021]

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- **NJBPU Redesigns Community Energy Plan Grant Program with a Focus on Equity and Community Engagement** - <https://www.bpu.state.nj.us/bpu/newsroom/2021/approved/20211116.html>

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

- **Electric Vehicles, Power Grid Win Big with Infrastructure Bill** - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2021/11/infrastructure-bill-clean-energy-power-grid-roads-bridges-water-electric-vehicles-charging-stations/>
- **Opinion: N.J. Should Spend \$45m on Electric School Buses** (by Senator Patrick J. Diegnan Jr., who chairs the state's Senate Transportation Committee and is the Senate sponsor of the electric school bus bill, and Hayley Berliner, a clean energy advocate and a member of Environment New Jersey) - <https://www.nj.com/opinion/2021/11/nj-should-spend-45m-on-electric-school-buses-opinion.html>
- **Opinion: Why NJ's Not Yet Ready for Roads Teeming with Electric Vehicles** (by Regina M. Egea, president of the Garden State Initiative and Sal Risalvato, executive director of the New Jersey Gasoline, C-Store, and Automotive Association) - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2021/11/electric-vehicles-evs-fossil-fuel-nj-not-enough-charging-stations-new-jersey-turnpike-garden-state-parkway-costs-electric-grid-battery/>

FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Fossil Fuel Moratorium Passes New Jersey Senate Committee Vote** - <https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/2021/11/15/fossil-fuel-moratorium-passes-new-jersey-senate-committee-vote/>
- **Towns Join Push to Block ‘Bomb Trains’** (LNG trains) - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2021/11/lng-tank-cars-liquified-natural-gas-trains-block-federal-regulators-state-dep-towns-protest-biden-trump/>

LEAD REDUCTION IN HOUSEHOLDS

- **Murphy Administration Releases Mapping Tool To Help New Jersey Residents Identify Lead Exposure Risks In Housing** - <https://njedl.rutgers.edu/news/murphy-administration-releases-mapping-tool-help-new-jersey-residents-identify-lead-exposure>
- **Four Water Bills Signed into Law in New Jersey** - <https://enviropolitics.com/four-water-bills-signed-into-law-in-new-jersey/>

GREEN AMENDMENT

NY Green Amendment Passes!!

The Green Amendment Movement achieved a monumental victory on November 2, 2021, when the people of New York State showed up to the ballot box and voted in overwhelming support of Proposal 2: New York’s Green Amendment. Maya van Rossum and her team have been working for over 5 years to bring this constitutional change to the state of New York. "Green Amendments For the Generations" worked alongside a committed group of environmental organizations and climate activists to achieve this defining moment in the Green Amendment movement. This makes New York the first state in the 21st century to amend their state’s Bill of Rights to include the right to clean air, clean water, and a healthful environment.

Where is New Jersey in all this? The EJTF, along with dozens of coalition partners, has been calling upon our legislators to move forward a similar resolution, so that New Jersey voters can have their say in a public vote. We’re getting closer, but more people contacting their particular legislators is definitely needed.

The constitutional amendment that passed in New York "will give every New Yorker a right to clean air and water, and a healthful environment " Passing this amendment has made New York just the third state in the U.S. to recognize protecting environmental rights as an inalienable right.

New York State Sen. Robert Jackson (D-31) sponsored the proposal in the Senate. He said, "This language will finally put in place safeguards that require the government to consider the environment and our relationship to the Earth in decision making. If the government fails in that responsibility, New Yorkers will finally have the right to take legal action for a clean environment because it will be in the State Constitution."

See Opinion: Voters Give Go-Ahead to Green Amendment (in "Huntington Now") - <https://huntingtonnow.com/op-ed-voters-give-go-ahead-to-green-amendment/>

RENEWABLE RESOURCES

- **Wind-Farm Builder Tries to Calm Worries** - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2021/11/orsted-wind-farm-ocean-wind-1-jersey-shore-residents-fear-visibility-light-tourism-ocean-city/>
- **Largest Offshore Wind Builders Look To NJ** - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2021/10/offshore-wind-developers-manufacturers-growing-interest-nj-hub-eastern-seaboard-heats-up-pseg-orsted/>
- **Major Offshore Wind Projects Stimulate Support — And Questions** (5-minute news video) - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/major-offshore-wind-projects-stimulate-support-and-questions/>
- **New Jersey Wind Port Wins Strategic Infrastructure Project of the Year Award** - <https://www.njeda.com/new-jersey-wind-port-wins-strategic-infrastructure-project-of-the-year-award/>
- **Environmental Advocates Launch New Jersey Wind Works Campaign to Support Offshore Wind** - <https://www.njlc.org/news/environmental-advocates-launch-new-jersey-wind-works-campaign-support-offshore-wind>
- **NJBPU Awards 165 MW of Community Solar to 105 Projects in Pilot Year 2** - <https://www.bpu.state.nj.us/bpu/newsroom/2021/approved/20211028.html>
- **Smaller Solar Projects See Big Boost** - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2021/11/community-solar-low-income-moderate-income-developers-megawatts-clean-energy-lower-prices/>
- **Nearly 1 MW of Solar Installed for Teaneck, NJ School District** - <https://enviropolitics.com/nearly-1-mw-of-solar-installed-for-new-jersey-school-district/>
- **GEMS Landfill, Once a Notorious NJ Superfund Site, to Be Transformed into a Productive Solar Energy Field without Public Funding** - <https://enviropolitics.com/gems-landfill-a-notorious-nj-superfund-site-will-be-transformed-into-a-productive-solar-energy-field-without-public-funding/>

CLIMATE CHANGE

- **Murphy Speeds up Climate Goal** - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2021/11/nj-gov-phil-murphy-ramps-up-climate-goals-president-joe-biden-course-acceleration/>
- **Governor Murphy Advances Climate Action to Secure New Jersey's Clean Energy Future** (Governor's Press Release) - <https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562021/approved/20211110a.shtml>
- **Bill Signed in NJ to Reduce Carbon Emissions via New Concrete Technology** - <https://enviropolitics.com/trashed-9/>
- **Ida Flood Victims Ponder Blue Acres Buyout and the Cost of Leaving Home** - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/ida-flood-victims-ponder-blue-acres-buyout-and-the-cost-of-leaving-home/>

- **Murphy’s Slim Win Won’t Stop Big Energy Plans -**
<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2021/11/nj-clean-energy-gov-murphy-election-2021-slim-win-energy-master-plan/>
- **Nor’Easter Raises Concerns in Elizabeth About Future Flooding -**
<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/noreaster-raises-concerns-in-elizabeth-about-future-flooding/>
- **Damp Jersey Shore Town Ponders a Fix for ‘Sunny Day’ Floods -**
<https://apnews.com/article/climate-floods-rising-sea-levels-tides-environment-c452192c9995ccd298ca9f5c5dfc9716>
- **Storms Are More Intense and More Are Coming -**
<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2021/11/climate-change-nj-increased-rainfall-precipitation-extreme-storms-flooding-tropical-storms-new-reports-northeast-regional-climate-center/>
- **More Frequent Extreme Rains in NJ, Trend Will Continue With Climate Change, Studies Find** (1-minute news video) - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/more-frequent-extreme-rains-in-nj-trend-will-continue-with-climate-change-studies-find/>
- **Flood Insurance Reform Bill Debuts on Sandy Anniversary** (3-1/2 minute news video) - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/flood-insurance-reform-bill-debuts-on-sandy-anniversary/>
- **As Seas Rise, NJ’s Wetlands Disappear -** <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2021/11/nj-wetlands-rising-sea-level-threat-inundation-back-bay-flooding-meadows-under-water/>
- **NJ Spotlight News Q&A: What to Expect from Latest Climate Talks -**
<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2021/11/un-cop-climate-change-glasgow-biden-paris-agreement-warming-planet-nj/>
- **Climate Change + Urbanization = More Flooding for Montgomery -**
<https://www.themontynews.org/single-post/climate-change-urbanization-more-flooding-for-montgomery>
- **Pallone Assesses Climate Summit — And the Challenges Ahead** (3-minute news video) - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/pallone-assesses-climate-summit-and-the-challenges-ahead/>
- **Opinion: Fossil-Fuel Agenda — Not Facts — Underlies Attack on NJ Energy Master Plan** (by Tom Gilbert, campaign director of ReThink Energy NJ) - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2021/11/fossil-fuel-industry-clean-energy-climate-change-false-message-money-transition-costs/>

POLLUTION

- **NJ’s Limit on Single-Use Plastic Straws Takes Effect** (1-minute news video) - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/njs-limit-on-single-use-plastic-straws-takes-effect/>
- **New Jersey’s Single-Use Plastic Ban Starts with Making Straws by Request Only -**
<https://www.phillyvoice.com/new-jerseys-single-use-plastic-ban-starts-making-straws-request-only/>

- **Limit on Single-Use Straws Is Part of NJ's Effort to Curb Plastic Waste** (3-1/2 minute interview with DEP Commissioner LaTourette) - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/limit-on-single-use-straws-is-part-of-njs-effort-to-curb-plastic-waste/>
- **Environmental Advocates Applaud NJ's Plastic Straw Ban** (3-minute news video) - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/environmental-advocates-applaud-njs-plastic-strawban/>
- **Pace Glass, a Company with Big (Glass Recycling) Plans in New Jersey, Goes Bust** - <https://enviropolitics.com/pace-glass-a-company-with-big-plans-in-new-jersey-goes-bust/>
- **Opinion: Our Single-Use Plastic Ban Has Begun and That's Good** (by Sylvia Kay, a member of the New Jersey Sierra Club Executive Committee and Raghav Akula, the zero waste coordinator of the New Jersey Sierra Club Student Liaison) - <https://www.nj.com/opinion/2021/11/our-single-use-plastic-ban-has-begun-and-thats-good-opinion.html>
- **Opinion: The Other Killer in the Air — Air Pollution Still Plagues NJ** (by Catherine Chen, MD, FACP, a hospitalist and Assistant Professor at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, and Hayley Berliner, the Clean Energy Advocate at Environment New Jersey, a state-based environmental advocacy organization, representing more than 80,000 dues-paying members and activists) - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2021/11/op-ed-the-other-killer-in-the-air-air-pollution-still-plagues-nj/>

DRINKING WATER-RELATED ISSUES (other than lead)

- **DEP Says No Immediate Health Risk in Tainted Middlesex Water** - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2021/11/middlesex-water-co-pfoa-forever-chemical-exceeds-state-standard-dep-says-no-immediate-public-health-threat/>
- **Utility Seeks Early Compliance with New 'Forever Chemical' Rule** - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2021/11/pfoa-perfluorooctanoic-acid-middlesex-water-dep-level-class-action-suit-drinking-water/>
- **Middlesex Water Insists No Public Health Risk after 'Forever Chemical' Exceeds New DEP Limit** - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2021/10/middlesex-water-insists-no-public-health-risk-forever-chemical-exceeds-new-dep-limit/>
- **NJ Sets Tougher Standards for Drinking Water Suppliers** - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2021/11/nj-drinking-water-utilities-must-meet-tougher-standards-transparency-stronger-regulations-ignored-original-law-close-loopholes/>

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- **New Jersey Senate Committee Passes Bill to Save Appliance-Users Money and Reduce Pollution** - <https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/new-jersey-senate-committee-passes-bill-save-appliance-users-money-reduce-pollution/>

OTHER

- **Litigator Becomes Ratepayer Advocate** - "Brian Lipman, an eight-year veteran who served as chief litigator for the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel, has been appointed the agency's new director by Gov. Phil Murphy." - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2021/11/brian-lipman-ratepayer-advocate-gov-phil-murphy-stefanie-brand-costs-clean-energy/>

- **Is Delaware River Basin Still Exposed to Fracking despite Ban on Industry?** - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2021/11/fracking-delaware-river-basin-threat-danger-drbc-regulation-loop-hole/>
- **10,000 Trees to Be Planted along North Branch of Raritan River in Major Restoration Project** - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2021/11/north-branch-raritan-river-major-restoration-superfund-water-wildlife-rha-will-plant-thousands-trees-remove-dams/>
- **What's in NJ's Slice of the Infrastructure Bill — On-Time Trains, Better Roads?** (4-minute news video) - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/whats-in-njs-slice-of-the-infrastructure-bill-on-time-trains-better-roads/>
- **Democrats Laud 'Build Back Better' as Bill Faces Tough Test in Senate** - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/democrats-laud-build-back-better-as-bill-faces-tough-test-in-senate/>
- **Infrastructure Act Helps NJ Conservation Projects, Too** - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2021/11/delaware-river-basin-restoration-program-gets-new-federal-infrastructure-funds-lake-hopatcong-bog-turtle-arlington-roxbury-township/>
- **Former Rail Line to Get New Life as Cross-County 'Greenway'** - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2021/11/essex-hudson-greenway-old-boonton-rail-line-norfolk-southern-railway-trask-filled-recreation-montclair-bloomfield-newark-kearny-jersey-city/>
- **NJ Plans to Turn Old Rail Line into 9-Mile Park through Essex, Hudson Counties** (1-minute news video) - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/nj-plans-to-turn-old-rail-line-into-9-mile-park-through-essex-hudson-counties/>
- **Governor Murphy Announces Historic Acquisition of Former Rail Line and Intent to Create New 9-Mile Linear State Park & Transitway** (Governor's Press Release) - <https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562021/approved/20211112a.shtml>
- **NJ Pension Fund Invests More in Clean Energy, Won't Divest Fossil-Fuel Holdings** - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2021/11/nj-pension-fund-invest-clean-energy-green-energy-fossil-fuel-divest/>
- **Are Harmful Algal Blooms in Lake Hopatcong Fueled by Climate Change?** - <http://www.hopatconglakeregionalnews.com/index.php/news/lake-information/5634-are-harmful-algal-blooms-in-lake-hopatcong-fueled-by-climate-change>
- **Philly-Based Nuns Sell Iconic Cape May Point Retreat, Which Will Become an Environmental Center** - <https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/tripideas/philly-based-nuns-sell-iconic-cape-may-point-retreat-which-will-become-an-environmental-center/ar-AAQco9t>
- **Opinion: 'I Did What I Could to Prevent Erosion on Our Family's Land, but I Worry It Is Not Enough'** (by Alan Hunt, PhD, director of Policy and Grants at the Musconetcong Watershed Association, which forms partnerships for improving water quality in rural Asbury, NJ) - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2021/11/alan-hunt-musconetcong-river-watershed-association-op-ed-hurricane-ida-damage-flooding-septic-basement-trees-emerald-ash-borer/>



MORATORIUM MONDAYS CONTINUE

Please continue to contact Gov. Murphy every Monday and urge him to declare a climate emergency moratorium on fossil fuel projects! These efforts have been successful in that a number of projects have been stopped or delayed in the past year. Either call through the EmpowerNJ number (866-586-4069) to get coaching on the topic of the week, emphasizing what is in the news, or call directly to the governor's office (609-292-6000). Over 50 environmental, citizen, faith, and progressive groups in NJ are calling on Governor Murphy to enact a moratorium on all new fossil fuel projects in New Jersey until there are rules in place to achieve 100% clean energy goals.

UU FaithAction NJ - Environmental Justice Task Force - <https://uufaithaction.org/environment/>

Co-Chairs – Peggy Middaugh and Ray Nichols

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