



Environmental Justice Task Force Newsletter - February 2022

<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.

EmpowerNJ (UUFANJ is a member) sues Gov. Murphy over climate inaction (see p. 17).



SUMMARIZING 2021/ LOOKING AHEAD to 2022

- **Ida’s Devastation Dominated NJ’s Environmental Landscape in 2021 -**
<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2021/12/nj-environmental-issues-2021-2022-tropical-storm-ida-devastation-lng-warehouse-sprawl-red-knot-pinelands-gov-phil-murphy-wind-port-middlesex-water-pfoa/>
- **Flooding, Pipelines, Warehouses Top 2021 N.J. Environmental News -**
<https://centraljersey.com/2022/01/10/flooding-pipelines-warehouses-top-2021-n-j-environmental-news-jan-19/>
- **Opinion: Searching for the Green in Gov. Murphy’s Second Term (by EJTF member R. William Potter, a partner in the Princeton-based law firm Potter and Dickson) -**
<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/01/gov-phil-murphy-sierra-club-second-term-fracking-natural-gas-methane-dep-latourette/>
- **What’s the Future for Green Energy in Murphy’s Second Term? -**
<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/01/nj-murphy-green-energy-agenda-master-plan-resistance-in-second-term/>

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LAME DUCK SESSION BILLS APPROVED

S83/A1580 - Establishes “**Jersey Native Plants Program**”

SJR75/AJR103 - Designates April 22 each year as "**Personal Carbon Footprint Awareness Day**"

S2515/A4676 - Establishes **postconsumer recycled content** requirements for rigid plastic containers, glass containers, paper and plastic carryout bags, and plastic trash bags; prohibits sale of polystyrene loose fill packaging

S3539/A5409 - Directs DEP to establish grant program for local governments to support development of **community gardens**

A6159/S4236 - Revises and renames **Office of Food Insecurity Advocate** to increase coordination

A2360/S3285 - Requires electric public utility to charge residential rate for service used by residential customer for **electric vehicle charging** at charging stations within certain designated parking spaces

A5160/S3324 - Establishes minimum **water- and energy-efficiency standards** for a number of commercial and household products

A2070/S1016 - Prohibits nearly all outdoor, non-agricultural uses of toxic **neonicotinoid pesticides**

See <https://njleg.state.nj.us> for details of the bills listed above.

Bills not passed, but reintroduced for the 2022-2023 session, include the Clean Energy Equity Act, the Liberty State Part Protection Act, and the Green Amendment.

FUTURE EVENTS - Virtual

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

FEBRUARY 2022 -

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

<i>Sun.</i>	<i>Mon.</i>	<i>Tues.</i>	<i>Wed.</i>	<i>Thurs.</i>	<i>Fri.</i>	<i>Sat.</i>
		1 NJ DEP "CO2 Emissions" Public Hearing - 9:00 a.m. "Research and Innovation in Organic AgTech" - 3:00 p.m.	2 "ESG in Emerging Markets" - 8:30 a.m. "Power Outage Preparedness... Spotighting EJ" (Dartmouth) - 12:00 p.m.	3 DRBC "Water Import/Export" Public Hearing - 1:30 p.m. "Introduction to Grassroots Organizing" (LWVNJ) - 5:30 p.m.	4 NJ EDA "Food Desert Community Designation" comments due	5 CCL Regional Conference - 1:00 p.m.
6 CCL Regional Conference (MD) - 4:00 p.m.	7	8 "Weather Fluctuations, Migration and Inequality" - 12:30 p.m. "Financing Inclusive Clean Energy Investments in Rural America" - 2:00 p.m.	9 NJ DEP "Cargo Handling Equipment" Public Hearing - 9:30 a.m. DRBC 1Q 2022 Public Hearing - 1:30 p.m.	10 "How to Talk About Climate Accountability" - 3:00 p.m.	11 NJ DEP "Natural & Working Lands Strategy" comments due	12
13	14 "Perspectives on the Climate Change Challenge" Cornell Series (Reaching Carbon Neutral) - 2:45 p.m.	15 "Youth Dialogue on the National Climate Assessment" - 7:00 p.m.	16 NJ Clean Air Council Monthly Meeting - 9:30 a.m. Towards Energy as a Human Right..." (Dartmouth) - 12:00 p.m.	17 "Introduction to Get Out The Vote" (LWVNJ) - 5:30 p.m.	18	19

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20	21 "Perspectives on the Climate Change Challenge" Cornell Series (TBD) - 2:45 p.m.	22	23	24 "Letter to the Editor Action Workshop" (LWVNJ) - 5:30 p.m. "Evidence to Action: Achieving the Net-Zero 2050 Targets" Princeton Conference	25 "Evidence to Action: Achieving the Net-Zero 2050 Targets" Princeton Conference	26
27	28 "Perspectives on the Climate Change Challenge" Cornell Series (Making Science Relevant) - 2:45 p.m.	(Mar. 1)				

Public Hearing on NJ DEP Proposed Rule "Control and Prohibition of Carbon Dioxide Emissions" - **Virtual**
Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has proposed new air pollution control rules for "Control and Prohibition of Carbon Dioxide Emissions," with three major components that are intended to focus on reductions of carbon dioxide (CO2) from stationary sources. The rules would affect close to 100 natural-gas power plants and thousands of commercial and industrial boilers and, according to information provided at an EmpowerNJ webinar (the video is available here: <https://www.facebook.com/EmpowerNJNoFossilFuel/videos/513784096710273/>), this rule is a missed opportunity to truly reduce greenhouse gas emissions in NJ and move away from new fossil fuel infrastructure, and in order for NJ to achieve Gov. Murphy's climate goals of 50% reduction of greenhouse gases by 2030 and 80% reduction by 2050, this rule needs to be strengthened and include concrete and enforceable requirements to ensure it is effective. A copy of the proposed rule is available here: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/proposals/20211206a.pdf>*. Additional information about the public hearing, including instructions for submitting comments, are here: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/notices/20211206a.html>. **Written comments are due by March 6, 2022.** Talking points from EmpowerNJ related to the rule are available here: https://actionnetwork.org/user_files/user_files/000/070/913/original/Talking_Points_-_PACT_RULE.pdf.

[*Note: DEP has issued a correction to the original published rules, and will hold a public hearing on the correction only on 3/29/2022; comments on the correction only will be accepted until 4/8/2022. A copy of the notice of proposal with the correction is available here: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/proposals/20211206a-ext.pdf>.

**"ESG in Emerging Markets: A Discussion with Leading Women from the Energy Sector"
- Webinar**

Wednesday, February 2, 2022, 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Environmental Stewardship, Social Responsibility and Corporate Governance (ESG) have become the new standard of best corporate practices globally. The Columbia University Center on Global Energy Policy's "Women in Energy" program is hosting "a panel of board directors and C-suite executives from different emerging market (EM) companies to examine the dual challenges of ESG compliance and energy transition readiness. The panel will discuss how ESG issues compare to the myriad risks that are inherent to operating in emerging markets, the challenges EM companies are facing navigating the energy transition vs. ensuring energy access, profitability and reliability, and the role women corporate leaders play in managing and addressing these challenges." Additional information including the list of panelists and registration link are available here: <https://www.energypolicy.columbia.edu/events-calendar/esg-emerging-markets-discussion-leading-women-energy-sector>.

**DRBC Public Hearing on Proposed Regulations on Importation/Exportation of Water
Thursday, February 3, 2022, 1:30 p.m. - Virtual**

"The purpose of the hearing is to afford a 5th opportunity for individuals to provide on-the-record testimony on the Commission's draft amendments to its: Water Code, concerning importations of water into and exportations of water from the Delaware River Basin; Special Regulations – High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing, to prohibit the discharge of wastewater from high volume hydraulic fracturing and related activities to waters or land within the Delaware River Basin; and Water Quality Regulations, to ensure implementation of the prohibition through state programs that rely on these regulations." Only those who have not provided oral comment at any of the DRBC's previous four December 2021 public hearings may register to speak at this hearing. Registration will close at 5 p.m. on February 2, 2022. Additional information about the proposed regulations and registration are available here: https://www.nj.gov/drbc/meetings/proposed/notice_import-export-rules.html.

**Comments on NJ EDA "Food Desert Community Designation" Report
Due by Friday, February 4, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.**

As required by NJ law, the NJ Economic Development Authority (EDA) has begun the process to identify "Food Desert" communities that would be eligible for the up to \$40 million per year (for six years) in assistance to be provided under the NJ Food Desert Relief Act. See the news articles on pp. 19 and 20 for additional information and links to slides and videos about the Act, the EDA's process, and two public listening sessions that have been held. **Public comments about the EDA's Food Desert Community Designation report are due by 5:00 p.m. on February 4, 2022.**

Written feedback is to be submitted here:

<https://www.njeda.com/economicrecoveryact/program-specific-feedback/>.

**2022 Citizens' Climate Lobby Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference: "Charting Our Course
for a Livable Future" - Virtual & In-Person
Saturday, February 5, 2022, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Online
Sunday, February 6, 2022, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. In-Person in Bowie, MD**

The Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) 2022 Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference will include online discussions on Saturday with CCL staff and volunteers, regional thought leaders, and representatives

of allied organizations on "what it means to chart our course for a livable future." The conference will include online plenary sessions with Tykee James (Audubon, Black Birders Week, and Amplify the Future), Wandra Ashley-Williams (Maryland Regional Director for Climate XChange), Sevim Kalyoncu (Executive Director, Green Muslims), and Jack Thompson (President, Fridays For Future DE, and Policy Advisor, Fridays For Future USA & International), and end the first day with a legislative update from CCL's Vice President for Government Affairs, Dr. Danny Richter. Breakout sessions will also be held. Also included are demonstrations of how to use tools such as social media and the En-ROADS climate solutions simulator to engage others in the region. On Sunday, fully vaccinated attendees will have the opportunity to meet in person in Bowie, MD in the Student Center Ballroom at Bowie State University from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The agenda, additional information, and the link to purchase tickets at \$25 (\$10 for students) are available here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-citizens-climate-lobby-mid-atlantic-regional-conference-tickets-228004536707>.

"Financing Inclusive Clean Energy Investments in Rural America" - Webinar
Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) is beginning a new briefing series on "federal programs that currently deliver a host of climate, environmental, economic, and social benefits nationwide. Experts and practitioners will discuss how these programs are working on-the-ground to deliver value to constituents across geographies, in both urban and rural settings. The series covers federal programs in climate financing, energy efficiency, climate adaptation, and conservation. The first briefing in the series will feature the Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP), which provides rural electric cooperatives, other rural utilities, credit unions, and green banks with zero-percent loans to launch or expand energy efficiency, beneficial electrification, and renewable energy on-bill financing programs." Additional information and the registration link are available here: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/020822fed>.

Public Hearing on NJ DEP Proposed Rule "Mobile Cargo Handling Equipment at Ports and Intermodal Rail Yards" - Virtual
Wednesday, February 9, 2022, 9:30 a.m.

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has proposed new air pollution control rules for "Mobile Cargo Handling Equipment at Ports and Intermodal Rail Yards." Modeled on California regulations, the rules would affect both public and private port operators. The notice, along with a link to the proposed rules and additional information, including instructions for testifying at the public hearing to be held 2/9/2022, and/or submitting written comments, are here: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/notices/20220103a.html>. **If you are interested in providing oral testimony or submitting written comments at the virtual public hearing, email monica.miranda@dep.nj.gov no later than 5:00 P.M. on Friday, February 4, 2022**, with your contact information (name, organization, telephone number, and email address). **Written comments are due by March 4, 2022.** Also see the news article on p. 15.

"How to Talk About Climate Accountability: A Messaging Deep Dive" - Webinar
Thursday, February 10, 2022, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

This is the third of three sessions of the Leaders for Climate Accountability learning series hosted by The Center for Climate Integrity. [Links to videos of the first two sessions are available on p. 13.] In

this webinar, leading climate communications experts will discuss how the media, and the fossil fuel industry, talk about climate change and accountability, review the latest polling research, and present the “Dos and Don’ts” of climate accountability messaging. Additional information and the registration link are available here: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3FkCi8jIQ_KKcPVxYfGx8g.

Comments on NJ DEP "Natural & Working Lands Strategy" Scoping Document Due by Friday, February 11, 2022

On 12/13/2021, following a joint effort between the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the NJ Department of Agriculture (DA), The NJ "Natural & Working Lands Strategy" (NWLS) Scoping Document was released for public comment. According to DEP, the document is "an outline of a strategy for managing natural and working lands that is intended to reduce the amount of carbon in the atmosphere contributing to global warming." The public comment period will end on 2/11/2022; in addition, the DEP will host a set of targeted stakeholder sessions for the specific natural and working land types that will be the focus of the carbon capture and sequestration efforts. The land types that will be covered include forests, agricultural lands and aquaculture, grasslands, wetlands, developed lands, and aquatic resources and habitats. **Additional information and the links to provide comments by 2/11/2022, and to request participation in future targeted stakeholder sessions, are here:** <https://www.nj.gov/dep/climatechange/mitigation-nwls.html>.

League of Women Voters of New Jersey (LWVNJ) Activist Trainings - **Virtual Various dates**

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey (LWVNJ) is presenting a series of virtual activist training sessions designed to equip participants "with the knowledge and skills needed to carry out dynamic organizing strategies that can effectively influence public policy and the state of democracy in New Jersey." The trainings cover three core areas: Legislative Advocacy, Grassroots Organizing, and Voter Outreach. **The three sessions scheduled for February 2022 are listed below; descriptions of these and additional future sessions, along with the links to register for all sessions, are available here:** <https://www.lwvnj.org/training#intro-leg-process>.

LWVNJ "Introduction to Grassroots Organizing" Thursday, February 3, 2022, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

This training will provide an understanding of grassroots organizing principles and an overview of organizing strategies, and will guide participants through the process of creating a campaign plan to mobilize supporters and reach critical goals.

LWVNJ "Introduction to Get Out The Vote (GOTV)" Thursday, February 17, 2022, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

"GOTV or Get Out the Vote is a term used to describe a popular grassroots effort focused on increasing voter turnout and educating voters. LWVNJ holds nonpartisan GOTV efforts ahead of each Primary and General Election. This introductory course will teach participants about the various GOTV strategies – phone banking, textbanking, postcard writing, lit dropping, canvassing – and help participants understand the pros and cons of each contact method."

**LWVNJ "Letter to the Editor Action Workshop"
Thursday, February 24, 2022, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

Writing a letter to the editor of a local newspaper is a great way to communicate a position and to encourage readers to take action in support of your cause. This training will prepare participants to write letters to the editor that are compelling and effective. Topics include: "What a letter to the editor is and why you should write one; How to write a letter to the editor and what the appropriate length and formatting is; [and] How to submit your letter to the editor for publishing." (See registration information on p. 6.)

Dartmouth College's "New Energy: Conversations with Early-Career Energy Researchers" Series - **Webinars
Various dates**

"New Energy: Conversations with Early-Career Energy Researchers" is an online series presented by Dartmouth College and "featuring graduate, postdoctoral, and other early-career researchers sharing their discoveries and perspectives on energy-related topics. From policy to analysis to emerging research, this bi-weekly series gives anyone interested in energy the opportunity to learn from the rising stars in the field." **The sessions scheduled for February 2022 are listed below; descriptions of these and additional future sessions, along with the links to register for all sessions, are available here:** <https://irving.dartmouth.edu/engagement/new-energy-conversations-early-career-energy-researchers>.

"Power Outage Preparedness, Distribution, and Duration: Spotighting Environmental Justice" - **Webinar
Wednesday, February 2, 2022, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

In this webinar, Dr. Joan A. Casey of Columbia University will describe power outage timing, frequency, and duration in the United States from 2018 to 2020. She will also assess equity implications of medically relevant (8+ hour) outages and will conclude with a case study of the 2021 Texas Power Crisis. Dr. Casey is an environmental epidemiologist who focuses on environmental health, environmental justice, and sustainability. She investigates a range of exposures including unconventional natural gas and oil development, coal-fired power plants, wildfires, power outages, and concentrated animal feeding operations.

"Towards Energy as a Human Right: A Multidimensional Exploration of State and Utility Level Disconnect Policies in the United States during COVID-19" - **Webinar
Wednesday, February 16, 2022, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

This webinar is presented by Dr. Dominic J. Bednar, Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow at Arizona State University. Dr. Bednar's research "examines the institutional barriers of energy poverty recognition and response in the United States, exploring the spatial, racial/ethnic, and socioeconomic patterns of residential energy affordability, consumption, and efficiency. His body of work contributes to the growing energy, environmental, and climate justice fields and promotes ongoing policy analysis and program evaluations to improve community health and to effectuate a just energy transition." The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 unveiled the entrenched environmental and energy injustices that threaten public health at the household level and inspired energy protection responses to address pandemic-caused economic hardship. This webinar explores the responses implemented in 25 major metropolitan areas in the United States.

DRBC First Quarter 2022 Public Hearing - Virtual
Wednesday, February 9, 2022, 1:30 p.m.

Items to be heard at this public hearing include 16 draft dockets for withdrawals, discharges and other projects that could have a substantial effect on the Delaware Basin's water resources. Advance sign-up is required by 5:00 p.m. on February 8, 2022; written comments on matters scheduled for hearing on February 9, 2022 will be accepted through 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 14, 2022. The opportunity for Open Public Comment will not be offered as part of this public hearing; an opportunity for Open Public Comment will be offered, as time allows, after the DRBC Business Meeting on March 9, 2022. Additional information, including a description of the projects and instructions for joining the meeting, are available here: <https://nj.gov/drbc/meetings/upcoming/index.html>.

NJ Clean Air Council Monthly Meeting - Virtual
Wednesday, February 16, 2022, 9:30 a.m.

The meeting will be held on Microsoft Teams; information on joining the meeting is on the Clean Air Council website, available here: <https://nj.gov/dep/cleanair/cac-calendar.html>.

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. Currently there are limited events listed for February 2022 (a sampling is below), but 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/>.

"Research and Innovation in Organic AgTech"
Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), this webinar "will explore new and developing technologies that can be used in organic systems to improve efficiency, yields, and conservation of natural resources. Robotics and imaging methods to detect disease, breeding well-adapted crop varieties, and laser weeding machinery will be highlighted." Advance registration is NOT available for this event, but you may join this virtual event 15 to 30 minutes before its scheduled start time by clicking the 'JOIN' button on this web page: <https://conservationwebinars.net/webinars/research-and-innovation-in-organic-agtech>. [Note: this event uses Adobe Connect; instructions and a compatibility test for Adobe Connect are available on the web page.]

"Weather Fluctuations, Migration and Inequality"
Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

The Princeton High Meadows Environmental Institute (HMEI) is presenting this faculty seminar in which Dr. Filiz Garip, professor of sociology and public affairs, will discuss how weather fluctuations over the past 30 years have shaped human migration from Mexico to the United

States. She will then explore the emergence of migration as a climate-adaptation strategy in developing countries, particularly for households with financial means. Additional information and the registration link are here: <https://environment.princeton.edu/event/hmei-faculty-seminar-weather-fluctuations-migration-and-inequality/>.

"Youth Dialogue on the National Climate Assessment"
Tuesday, February 15, 2022, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

FOR UNIVERSITY AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS - This webinar, sponsored by the Youth Environmental Alliance in Higher Education (YEAH) and Rutgers Climate Institute, affords university and high school students with an opportunity to discuss the Fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA5), a major U.S. Government report on how climate change affects people and places in the United States. Attendees will have the chance to hear from authors of the assessment and discuss together how the report can learn from and reflect the concerns of young people in the U.S. Additional information and the link to register are available here: <https://climatesociety.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/icalrepeat.detail/2022/02/15/6949/-/youth-dialogue-on-the-national-climate-assessment>.

"Evidence to Action: Achieving the Net-Zero 2050 Targets"
Eleventh Annual Princeton University JRCPPF Conference - Virtual
Thursday, February 24, 2022 - Friday, February 25, 2022

This conference of the Princeton University Julis-Rabinowitz Center for Public Policy & Finance, co-sponsored by the Center for Policy Research on Energy and Environment, the Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment, and the High Meadows Environmental Institute, is **virtual, free, and open to the public**. "Transitioning to a carbon-neutral society in less than three decades means transformational changes in technology, behavior, and markets. Massive levels of investment and new financial instruments are required to deploy renewable energy at scale and develop new technologies for energy efficiency, carbon capture, and carbon storage. Smart policies and economic incentives are needed to shift consumer behavior and accelerate the switch away from fossil fuels. What will it take for us to stabilize and reduce the concentration of carbon dioxide in Earth's atmosphere? How can we navigate this transition in a just manner that addresses the needs of workers in carbon-intensive sectors and the most vulnerable communities? This conference will bring together leading climate scientists, economists, and financial industry experts to explore the science behind the net-zero goals, optimal pathways to achieving the targets, the political and behavioral constraints, and the role of markets." Additional information about the agenda and the panelists, along with the registration link, are available here: <https://jrc.princeton.edu/annual-conference/2022>.

"Perspectives on the Climate Change Challenge" (Cornell) - Webinars
Most Mondays: January 31 – May 9, 2022, 2:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

This seminar series, sponsored by the Cornell Department of Biological and Environmental Engineering and the Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability, "provides important views on the critical issue of climate change, drawing from many perspectives and disciplines. Experts from Cornell University and beyond present an overview of the science of climate change and climate change models, the implications for agriculture, ecosystems, and food systems, and provide

important economic, ethical, and policy insights on the issue." Webinars scheduled in February are listed below; additional information is available here: <https://atkinson.cornell.edu/news-events/climate-change-seminar/>.

February 7, 2022: "How to Get Into the Red: Cornell as a Living Laboratory and Reaching Carbon Neutral"

February 14, 2022: TBD (to be presented by Corinne Le Quéré, a Royal Society Research Professor of Climate Change Science at the University of East Anglia, who conducts research on the interactions between climate change and the carbon cycle)

February 21, 2022: "To Be of Use: Making Our Science Relevant to Policy and Practice in a Fast-Paced, Difficult World"

March

NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) Grid Modernization Stakeholder Meeting - Webinar

Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

This is the fourth in a series of public meetings being held by the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to collect stakeholder input on the current distribution grid interconnection policies and process, and potential improvements that will enable faster grid modernization and higher levels of distributed energy resource (DER) absorption. This session, "**Draft Report Review and Comment**" will present the Draft Report of findings and recommendations that will be made public prior to the meeting. This session is designed to elicit comments that will inform the Final Report, which is to be presented at a meeting on 5/2/2022. Register for this stakeholder meeting here:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/9155954799750208782>.

[The previous stakeholder sessions were:

"Grid Modernization Context" (a recording of the webinar including the graphics is here: <https://njcefiles.s3.amazonaws.com/NJ+BPU+Grid+Modernization+Stakeholder+Meeting+1-Project+Overview.mp4>);

"Stakeholder Data/Comment Ingestion" (a recording of the webinar including the graphics is here: <https://njcefiles.s3.amazonaws.com/2021-11-16+09.00+NJ+BPU+Grid+Modernization+Stakeholder+Meeting+2-Stakeholder+Input.mp4>); and

"EDC Readout - Collaborative Alignment" (a recording of the webinar including the graphics is here: https://njcefiles.s3.amazonaws.com/2022-01-14+09.00+NJ+BPU+Grid+Modernization+Stakeholder+Meeting+3-Collaborative+Session+_+EDC+Readout.mp4).]

**Applications Open for DEP Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (EJAC)
Due Date March 15, 2022, 5:00 p.m.**

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is seeking applications from interested individuals to be considered for appointment to the Environmental Justice Advisory Council (EJAC). The purpose of the council is to provide advice to the Commissioner of DEP on issues involving environmental justice and public health in New Jersey and to coordinate with DEP and the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) in providing advice and guidance to executive branch departments and agencies. There are six vacancies for three-year terms from 2022 through 2025 in the following sectors:

- Local grassroots or community groups (1 vacancy)
- State or federally recognized tribal governments or indigenous groups (1 vacancy)
- State-wide social justice/civil rights organizations or labor (1 vacancy)
- Public health (1 vacancy)
- Business or industry (2 vacancies)

EJTF member Nancy Griffeth is currently a member of EJAC, in the "Faith-based organizations or State or Federally recognized tribal governments or indigenous groups sector".

Online applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on 3/15/2022; non-electronic submissions must be postmarked by the application deadline. The application, FAQ, and more information can be found on the OEJ website here: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/ej/ej-council.html>.



**UU FaithAction New Jersey 2022 Spring Gala
Saturday, April 9, 2022**

The current plan is for both in-person and virtual invitations; additional information will be available at <https://www.uufaithaction.org/>.

VIDEOS+ OF PAST EVENTS
(also see links to additional videos in the section above)



Jersey Water Works Annual Conference - Videos of Conference Sessions
"Water Infrastructure for Every Community: Seizing a Once-In-A-Generation Opportunity"

Videos from the seventh annual multi-day Jersey Water Works (JWW) Conference are now available. Jersey Water Works is 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."

The following videos from the conference are available here:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLnQf_AqTQoRUnGh-pOZ-b5cVvD_LUcdHa.

- "Welcome - 2021 Jersey Water Work Conference"**
- "NJDEP Commissioner Address"**
- "Keynote: Colette Pichon Battle"**
- "JWW Call to Action for 2022"**
- "When significant funding is available, will it be accessible to all?"**
- "Seizing the Moment: The Role of Community and Water Stewards"**
- "Why Affordability Matters"**
- "Resilient Water Systems in the Face of a Changing Climate"**
- "Putting Lead Service Lines in New Jersey's Rearview Mirror"**

"New Recycling Laws - NJ: 3rd in Nation!" - Recording of Radio Show

The Eco-Logic radio/internet program on WBAI (co-hosted by **EJTF member Sally Gellert**) presented a program in which Alex Truelove from the U.S. Public Interest Research Group (USPIRG) and Maura Toomey of Clean Water Action led a discussion of statewide recycling laws. NJ's Gov. Murphy just signed a recycled-content law—the first East Coast state, and 3rd nationwide, to require products sold in the state to include a gradually-increasing percentage of recycled content (see news article on p. 18). The discussion included: "What will be the next state to follow? How powerful are these laws in reality? A lot of what is put in the garbage is not really trash; much of it can be used as raw materials for new items and kept out of landfills." A link to the recording is here:

<https://www.wbai.org/archive/program/episode/?id=28983>.

Leaders for Climate Accountability Learning Series
hosted by The Center for Climate Integrity - Videos of Webinars

Session 1: "Fossil Fuel Industry Deception - Historical and Ongoing" with special guests Dr. Geoffrey Supran and journalist Dharna Noor. "Fossil fuel companies learned over 50 years ago that burning fossil fuels would lead to climate change, and were soon predicting 'globally catastrophic effects.' Company executives recognized that addressing climate change would require burning fewer fossil fuels - making climate action a threat to industry profits. In order to protect their bottom line, oil and gas companies masterminded a decades-long, multi-million dollar climate denial and disinformation campaign that stopped climate policy in its tracks." In this webinar, leading experts in the field of climate accountability took a deep dive into the documentation of Big Oil's deception (from past to present) and discussed how the fossil fuel industry fits into the larger picture of modern-day corporate deception and how local communities (and U.S. Congress) are using this evidence to hold the industry accountable. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bxqz-lGnRNg>.

Session 2: "Attributing Climate Change Impacts to Fossil Fuel Companies" with special guests Dr. Rachel Licker and Dr. Benjamin Franta. "Attribution science is a relatively new and rapidly developing field of research identifying the causal links between human activities and global climate change, extreme weather events, and the impacts on human and natural systems. Similarly, emissions attribution identifies the relative contribution of different entities to climate change, revealing that just 90 companies are responsible for nearly two-thirds of all carbon dioxide emitted since the 1750s. Within the context of climate accountability, attribution science has identified the responsible parties for communities to consider holding accountable for the harms created by the greenhouse gas emissions of their products." In this webinar, leading experts in the field of attribution science discussed the different kinds of climate attribution (climate change attribution, climate impacts attribution, extreme weather attribution, and emissions attribution) and their implications and uses for holding the fossil fuel industry accountable. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yMDcYrZXghc>.

[See "Future Events" on p. 5 for information about Session 3: "How to Talk About Climate Accountability – A Messaging Deep Dive" to be presented 2/3/2022.]

There are also follow-up materials available for the above sessions, upon email request to payupnjpolluters@gmail.com.

"Innovation as Climate Action: Advances in Weather Forecasting: How Federal Agencies Partner with the Private Sector to Tackle Climate Challenges" - Video of Webinar

The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) presented a briefing on federal policies and programs supporting innovation in weather forecasting, an essential capability to help communities prepare for and adapt to extreme weather. During this briefing, experts discussed "the policies and programs that guide public-private partnerships, emerging weather forecasting technologies, and new business models enabling the government to more effectively tap into private-sector innovation across the weather forecasting value chain." The video is available here: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/011222weather>.

"Energy Democracy and Empowerment" - Video of Webinar

"We need to reorganize the energy system to empower communities: What does that look like? How do we create benefits and support for communities, open up space for them to imagine and contribute to debates about energy futures, and find ways to diversify ownership of energy? How can we scale it nationally?" The Security and Sustainability Forum and Arizona State University "LightWorks" presented this webinar to address these questions. The panel included:

Clark Miller, Moderator, Professor and Director of the Center for Energy & Society, College of Global Futures, Arizona State University;
Chéri Smith, Founder & CEO, Indigenized Energy Initiative (formerly Covenant Tribal Solar Initiative);
Emily Schapira, Board Member, President & CEO, Philadelphia Energy Authority; and
Cecilio Ortiz-Garcia, Chair, Department of Public Affairs & Security Studies, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.

The video is available here: <https://ssfworld.org/energy-democracy-and-empowerment/>.

Community Planning and Advocacy Council Annual "L.E.A.D. Forum" - Video of Webinar

Although the Community Planning and Advocacy Council's annual L.E.A.D. Forum does not deal specifically with "lead" (the initials stand for Leadership, Education, Advocacy and Development), this forum included an hour about the lead problem in NJ, featuring the groups "Lead-free NJ," "East Trenton Collaborative," and "Isles NJ." The video is available here: <https://www.facebook.com/CPACHVI/videos/681238126580897/>; the lead portion is from 1:48:00 to 2:52:00 in the video.

EJTF's GOALS FOR 2021 [We'll decide on next year's goals early in 2022]

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

Follow the lead of our Environmental Justice partners including the NJ Environmental Justice Alliance, the Ironbound Community Corporation, and Clean Water Action. This will have direct impact on health of residents in EJ neighborhoods. See articles on pp. 15 and 16.

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

Following the lead of our EJ partners (see #1, above), help promote outreach to residents about avoiding or reducing lead in drinking water and lead paint in their households. See articles on p. 15.

3) Promote the Green Amendment

Support the Green Amendment, along with our EJ partners: conduct outreach, especially through UU Congregations, to build understanding and support for NJ legislative resolutions which promote the right to clean air, clean water and a healthy environment. Follow the lead of "Green Amendments for the Generations."

NEWS RELATED TO EJTF ISSUES

[covering 12/27/2021 – 1/27/2022]

ELECTRIC VEHICLES & VEHICLE EMISSION REDUCTION

- **NJ Hopes to Curb Diesel Emissions at Its Ports** - On 1/3/2022, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) published a proposed rulemaking (copy available here: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/proposals/20220103a.pdf>) that would follow the California example and restrict diesel emissions from cargo-handling equipment (CHE) at NJ ports. This is part of the DEP's Protecting Against Climate Threats (PACT) process. The DEP "expects that communities near ports and intermodal rail yards in the State where cargo handling equipment is operated will particularly benefit from the reduced emissions. These include some communities identified as overburdened..." There is a 60-day comment period, and a virtual public hearing on 2/9/2022 (see "Future Events" on p. 5). <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/01/diesel-emissions-ports-cargo-handling-pollution-communities-dep-forklift/>



LEAD REDUCTION IN HOUSEHOLDS

- **NJ Welcomes \$1B in Federal Funding for Water Infrastructure Upgrades** - This article describes some of the uses for the \$1B in Federal water infrastructure funding NJ expects to receive over the next five years; this represents about 1/30th of what is estimated to be needed. One major category that needs to be addressed is the replacement of lead service lines. The state expects to use the funds to leverage private funds for low-interest loans. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/01/nj-preps-for-federal-1-billion-fix-aging-water-infrastructure-fraction-30-billion-needed/>
- **Lead in North Jersey, New Jersey, Drinking Water Falls to Its Lowest Level** - According to the water utility company Suez, after sending 20 construction crews to 57 towns in Bergen and Hudson Counties to remove 7,700 lead service lines, the amount of lead in drinking water "has fallen to its lowest level in at least 30 years." <https://www.wqpmag.com/drinking-water-systems/lead-north-jersey-new-jersey-drinking-water-falls-its-lowest-level>

FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE

- **NJ Gov. Murphy Halts Controversial Power Plant Vote, Vows More Thorough Environmental Review** - After protesters put pressure on Gov. Murphy to contact the Passaic Valley Sewerage Authority (PVSC) before it voted to begin construction on an extremely controversial new power plant in Newark's Ironbound community, the governor reached out to PVSC and requested that the

vote be postponed, which it was. The pressure included protesters following Gov. Murphy to a Commissioners' swearing-in ceremony in Union County, and UUFANJ members calling him the morning of the vote **in response to an "Action Alert" spearheaded by EJTF**. The project will require a permit from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), but the planned PVSC vote was regarding beginning construction prior to obtaining the permit. Gov. Murphy's office stated "...The pause will allow the project to undergo a more thorough environmental justice review and robust public engagement process, ensuring that the voices of the community are heard." This is in keeping with the NJ Environmental Justice law that requires consideration of cumulative impacts on overburdened communities. Also see the video below. <https://enviropolitics.com/nj-gov-murphy-halts-controversial-power-plant-vote-vows-more-thorough-environmental-review/>

- **Fury over Proposed New Power Plant in Newark's East Ward** (4-minute news video) - In this video featuring EJTF partners **Maria Nuñez of the Ironbound Community Corporation and Melissa Miles of the NJ Environmental Justice Alliance**, they describe the harms that would be caused by a new power plant proposed to be built in the Newark Ironbound community, and call on Gov. Murphy to stop the planned PVSC vote on beginning construction of the plant (see the article above). <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/fury-over-proposed-new-power-plant-in-newarks-east-ward/>
- **NJ Natural-Gas Supply Adequate Through 2030, New Analysis Indicates** - In a report prepared for the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) (available here: <https://www.state.nj.us/bpu/pdf/boardorders/2021/20211215/9B%20LEI%20Final%20Gas%20Capacity%20Report%2011%2005%202021%20Public%20Redacted.pdf>), the main findings were that "through 2030, firm gas capacity can easily meet firm demand under normal winter weather conditions, in cases of colder-than-normal weather on a scale experienced in the past, and even in the case of a design day. In the cases of extreme weather (i.e., a winter day which could be expected to occur only once in 90 years), by 2030, the system is projected to fall short by ... approximately 2.7% of current firm supply resources However, if New Jersey meets even half of its building electrification goals and/or has effective voluntary demand reduction with higher energy efficiency program targets, the shortfall risk disappears." <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2021/12/natural-gas-pipeline-2030-gas-reservoir/>
- **Letter to the Editor: Canvassing Shows Little Extra Gas Going through Roseland Compressor Station** (by Ted Glick, coordinator of Roseland Against the Compressor Station (RACS) and president of 350NJ-Rockland) - After canvassing the neighborhood, the author found that there does not seem to have been an increase in gas through the compressor, as was originally planned by Williams/Transco. This is due to the fact that there was no Penn East pipeline built, to feed additional gas into the compressor, which as had been originally planned. The full letter was published here: https://www.newjerseyhills.com/print_only/letters/letter-canvassing-shows-little-extra-gas-going-through-roseland-compressor-station/article_e8c7436f-d1e4-54ad-8a14-88a4222da271.html, but if you do not subscribe to the NJ Hills Media Group, it is also available on the RACS Facebook page, here: <https://www.facebook.com/RoselandAgainstCompressorStation/>.

RENEWABLE RESOURCES

- **US Moves to Boost Offshore Wind** - The federal Bureau of Ocean Management (BOEM) announced plans for a 2/23/2022 auction of leases for six lease areas totaling 480,000 acres in the New York Bight area off the NJ and NY coasts. The power potentially generated in the auctioned areas would be enough to power nearly 2 million homes, officials said. Offshore wind power is a key element of Gov. Murphy's plans to achieve NJ's clean energy goals while increasing economic growth and creating jobs (the press release is available here: <https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562022/approved/20220112a.shtml>). Despite changes made to the initially-considered lease areas, including decreasing the total area by 72% and moving them farther offshore than previously-approved lease areas, some advocates concerned about the impacts on marine life question the speed at which the approvals are taking place. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/01/us-moves-to-boost-offshore-wind/>

- **NJBPU Joins National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium** - The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) has joined the National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium (NOWRDC), a prominent U.S. offshore wind research organization. Established in 2018, NOWRDC is national not-for-profit public-private partnership focused on advancing offshore wind technology in the U.S. through high impact research projects and cost-effective responsible development, while maximizing other economic and social benefits. “We are excited to be joining NOWRDC as the representative for the State of New Jersey,” said BPU President Joseph L. Fiordaliso. “Our participation in this prominent national organization will aid our offshore wind efforts and play a key role in helping us meet Governor Murphy’s goal of 7,500 MW of offshore wind energy by 2035.”
<https://www.bpu.state.nj.us/bpu/newsroom/2022/approved/20220104.html>
- **Phillipsburg Commits to 20 Years of Solar Power from Panels Sharing Active Farmland** - The Town of Phillipsburg, NJ has committed to enter into a contract to buy electricity for 20 years from a solar installation proposed to be built on active farmland that will allow the land to continue to be farmed. Panels are built 15 to 17 feet above the ground, limiting the loss of land able to be farmed to 10% - 15% due to the installation of the solar panels. The Town estimates it would save more than \$6 million over the 20 years, compared to its current costs for municipal electricity.
<https://www.lehighvalleylive.com/phillipsburg/2022/01/phillipsburg-commits-to-20-years-of-solar-power-from-panels-sharing-active-farmland.html>

CLIMATE CHANGE

- **Coalition Sues Murphy Administration over Alleged Failure on Climate Pollutants** - Last month, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) denied a petition filed by EmpowerNJ (a coalition of which UUFANJ is a member) and a number of other environmental advocate groups. The petition was for DEP to adopt rules that: 1) set a 50% greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction target for NJ by 2030, from 2005 levels; 2) specifically map out and implement how that reduction is to be achieved; and 3) restrict the issuance of operating permits for new fossil fuel infrastructure projects. In response to that denial, EmpowerNJ filed a lawsuit challenging the rejection of the petition. [The EmpowerNJ press release is here: <https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/climate-coalition-sues-murphy-administration-inaction/>.] <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/01/nj-environmental-coalition-sues-murphy-administration-dep-climate-pollution-empower-nj/>
- **Opinion: This Is Why Climate Activists Are Suing Gov. Murphy** (by John Reichman, an attorney and a member of the Steering Committee of EmpowerNJ, a coalition of more than 120 environmental, community, religious and grassroots groups in New Jersey, of which UUFANJ is a member) - In this opinion piece, the author describes the "Jekyll and Hyde" character of Gov. Murphy's actions regarding climate change, stating that his administration has "talked the talk, but not walked the walk," and describing a number of actions that show this, which have resulted in the lawsuit described in the article above. <https://www.nj.com/opinion/2022/01/this-is-why-climate-activists-are-suing-gov-murphy-opinion.html>



- **Climate Change Overtakes Archaic NOAA Rain Records** - This article describes the findings of a report (available here: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/dsr/publications/nj-atlas-14.pdf>) prepared for the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that found that NJ precipitation is likely to increase

20 percent by the year 2100, and that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) records used to delineate flood zones have not kept pace with the effects of climate change. <https://www.eenews.net/articles/climate-change-overtakes-archaic-noaa-rain-records/>

POLLUTION

- **Great Day for the Environment: Gov. Murphy Signs Plastic Recycling Bill into Law** - Gov. Murphy signed into law a recycled-content bill that was first proposed two years ago, making NJ the first East Coast state, and the third state nationwide, to require products sold in the state to include a gradually-increasing percentage of recycled content. Details about what's included in the bill are described in this article: <https://enviropolitics.com/ambitious-recycled-content-bill-passes-new-jersey-legislature-now-heads-to-governor-murphy-for-his-signature/> and reactions to it are described here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/01/nj-recycled-content-bill-plastics-antipollution-effort-assembly-committee-approval/>. [Also see the "Eco-Logic" radio broadcast recording link on p. 12.] <https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/blog/2022/01/great-day-for-environment-gov-murphy-signs-plastic-recycling-bill-law>

DRINKING WATER-RELATED ISSUES (other than lead)

- **NJ Details Which Utilities Exceeded Limits for 'Forever Chemicals'** - The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) published its first list of public water systems that have violated standards recently put into place for "forever chemicals" (PFAS, PFOA, and PFNA) (the list and a map are available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/01/nj-drinking-water-systems-track-forever-chemicals-pfas/>). Some of the systems that are on the list have already taken interim measures; they will be on the list until there is a permanent solution, and not all of those on the list need to provide alternative sources of water because the level does not constitute an acute health threat. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/01/nj-drinking-water-dep-list-pfas-exceed-limit-utilities/>
- **Trenton Airport Expansion Poses PFAS Contamination Risk, Opponents Say** - A group opposing proposed expansion of the Trenton Airport is calling for a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be performed, due to the known presence of PFAS "forever chemicals" on the Naval Air Warfare Center that borders the airport. A less-thorough Environmental Assessment (EA) has been completed. The group is concerned that "Airport expansion projects risk dislodging and flushing PFAS and other toxins into waterways." <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/01/trenton-mercator-airport-nj-expansion-plans-raise-pfas-risks-critics-charge-toxic-chemicals-former-military-base-delaware-river/>

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- **NJ Senate Advances Bill to Establish Energy Efficiency Standards** - The bill described in this article (A5160/S3324), that would establish minimum water- and energy-efficiency standards for a number of commercial and household products, **was approved by Gov. Murphy** after it passed in both houses of the legislature in the lame duck session. The energy and water efficiency standards required in the bill would be based on federal programs such as ENERGY STAR as well as definitions and criteria in the California Code of Regulations. <https://enviropolitics.com/nj-senate-advances-bill-to-establish-energy-efficiency-standards/>

EDUCATIONAL and YOUTH-RELATED

- **Ramapo College Receives Grant for Students to Study and Research Climate Change Issues** - A "Teaching, Research & Action to Combat Climate Change" grant will enable nine Ramapo College students to receive hands-on specialized experience in climate change-related issues. Five students will study and work on invasive plant species at the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park, and four students will study and work at the NJ Sports and Exposition Authority's (NJSEA) Meadowlands Environment Center (MEC) and Meadowlands Research and Restoration Institute (MRRI). See the box below for additional information about the ongoing environmental education and monitoring programs of the MEC and the MRRI. <https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/ramapo-college-receives-grant-students-study-research-climate-change-issues/>

Meadowlands Environment Center / Meadowlands Research and Restoration Institute

The NJ Sports and Exposition Authority's (NJSEA) Meadowlands Environment Center (MEC) provides hands-on environmental education for schools and the general public, spanning K-12, undergraduate, and graduate education as well as life-long learning. The MEC offers "MarshAccess" programs for people living with disabilities. Ramapo College educators teach the K-12 programs, which meet NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards as well as the Next Generation Science Standards. Studies include ecology, chemistry, biology, physics, natural history and geology, with outdoor field-based lessons centered on the New Jersey Meadowlands marsh ecosystem. More than 20,000 students participate in MEC education programs each year, and there are also programs for educators and for Scouts. Additional information is here: <https://www.njsea.com/meadowlands-environment-center/>.

The Meadowlands Research and Restoration Institute (MRRI) is the science and research arm of the NJSEA. MRRI's scientists monitor environmental conditions, conduct research and develop and apply technology to address the environmental problems of the Hackensack Meadowlands District. Additional information is here: <https://www.njsea.com/mrri/>

LAND MANAGEMENT/AGRICULTURE/FOOD



- **State Maps 'Food Deserts' Where Healthy Choices Are Hard to Find** - The NJ Food Desert Relief Act (FDRA), part of the NJ Economic Recovery Act of 2020, directs the NJ Economic Development Authority (EDA) to provide up to \$40 million per year for six years in tax credits, grants, loans, and technical assistance to increase access to nutritious foods and develop new approaches to alleviate food deserts in NJ. The Act required that the EDA, in consultation with the NJ Departments of Community Affairs (DCA) and Agriculture (DA), develop criteria for designation of up to 50 contiguous Food Desert Communities (FDCs) that have limited access to nutritious foods; these criteria will be used to distribute the assistance. The 23 criteria developed fall into the following categories: Food Retail Environment; Demographics; Economic Factors; Health Factors; and Community Factors. The report proposing these FDCs has been released, and listening sessions for public input were held. Very informative slides from

the sessions are available here, as well as links to the two public listening sessions:

<https://www.njeda.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Food-Desert-Communities-Listening-Session-Slides-January-2022.pdf>. See "Future Events" on p. 4 for information on submitting written comments (also see the article below). <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/01/nj-food-deserts-pinpointed-camden-atlantic-city-newark-paterson-lack-of-access-obesity-snap/>

- **Advocates Call for Education to Accompany State's New Food-Desert Program** - At a listening session related to the NJ Economic Development Authority's (EDA) release of a report proposing 50 Food Desert Communities (FDCs) that would be eligible for assistance under the NJ Food Desert Relief Act (FDRA - see article above), members of the public pointed out the need for education about healthy eating and food preparation, to increase demand for quality food, and the need for affordability or increased assistance such as is found in the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). See the article above for a link to videos and slides of this session and a second public listening session. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/01/food-desert-hunger-advocates-supermarkets-bodegas-consumer-education-cooking-shopping/>
- **Cattle at Hillsborough Farm Helping to Fight Climate Change** (4-1/2-minute news video) - Duke Farms in Hillsborough is utilizing rotational grazing of cattle to help remove carbon dioxide from the air, storing it in vegetation and the soil. Cows are moved from place to place so that the pastures can rest and revegetate, resulting in an increase of carbon in the soil and reducing carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/cattle-at-hillsborough-farm-helping-to-fight-climate-change/>
- **Here's Why More NJ Native Plants Could Be Coming to a Yard near You** - Gov. Murphy approved the "Jersey Native Plants Program" bill, which requires the NJ Department of Agriculture (DA) to develop a program that would: (1) encourage and promote the sale of NJ native plants at retail garden centers and nurseries; (2) increase consumer awareness of the important role of native plants in the ecosystem through advertising campaigns and marketing programs; (3) provide for the dissemination of information about the variety and availability of NJ native plants; and (4) create a labeling program to identify native plants as "Jersey natives" similar to the Jersey Fresh and Jersey Grown programs. The goal is to promote the benefits of native plants, which are already adapted to NJ growing conditions and therefore don't require the fertilizer and water that non-native plants often do, and that also support native wildlife. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/01/nj-native-plants-diverse-array-new-legislation-consumer-awareness/>

OTHER

- **NJ Senate Confirms 3 New Pinelands Commissioners** - After a large outcry from environmental advocates about Gov. Murphy's three nominees for the Pinelands Commission, he withdrew the most contentious of them and replaced him with Theresa Lettman, who had been touted by the environmental community. Those three nominees were confirmed by the NJ Senate. [An analysis of what this may mean for the Pinelands is included in this article: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/01/pinelands-commission-nominees-new-slate-murphy-laura-matos-davon-mccurry-theresa-lettman-chemical-industry/> and the Sierra Club's reaction is described in this article: <https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/blog/2022/01/pyrrhic-victory-for-pinelands-theresa-lettman-moves-through-senate> <https://pinelandsalliance.org/new-jersey-senate-confirms-3-new-pinelands-commissioners/>
- **The Impacts of Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions on the Delaware River Basin** - The Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed (CDRW) is including climate change as a priority category in 2022 "by incorporating climate change considerations into its technical assistance, support, training, and policy goals. Weaving climate change considerations into our every-day work will help to ensure the communities disproportionately impacted are included in the shaping of the solutions,

including state and federal level policies and projects with basin-wide implications." This article describes the effects of climate change on the Basin. <http://www.delriverwatershed.org/news>

- **Utility Asks Again to Upgrade Power Grid** - For the third time in eight years, the Public Service Electric & Gas (PSE&G) company is asking the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) for approval of large-scale investment in its electric and gas grids. The rationale includes that more people are working from home, and also more electric vehicles will need to be supported. Some critics question why the envisioned upgrades were not included in previous investment proposals, and also point out that the expenditures for the charging infrastructure for PSE&G fleet vehicles should be borne by the company itself and not passed on to ratepayers. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/01/pseg-wants-nearly-1-billion-spent-upgrade-gas-electric-systems/>



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
