



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.

**Come to
the
UUFANJ
Spring
Gala! →**

Saturday, April 9th UU FaithAction New Jersey
2022 Spring Gala!



This will be a multi-platform event (see [p. 9](#) for more information)

UU CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Morristown Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (MUUF)



- In early March (brrrr!), EJTF member Jo Sippie-Gora and Linda DeLap, two members of the Morristown Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (MUUF), who are also part of the Morristown Citizens' Climate Lobby group, helped host an information table at the Morristown winter farmers market. The winter market was held in the parking lot across from NJ Transit's Convent Station on Sunday mornings until the end of March.



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Morristown Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (MUUF) (cont.)

- The Green Earth Ministry (GEM) at the Morristown Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (MUUF) has begun a big push for the NJ Green Amendment bill (ACR72/SCR15). Despite a four-year struggle and strong support from 59 legislative cosponsors to bring this bill to a vote, it has yet to be prioritized for a hearing this legislative session.

During Sunday morning coffee hours (see photo at right) and on MUUF's Facebook pages, GEM is asking its congregation to send

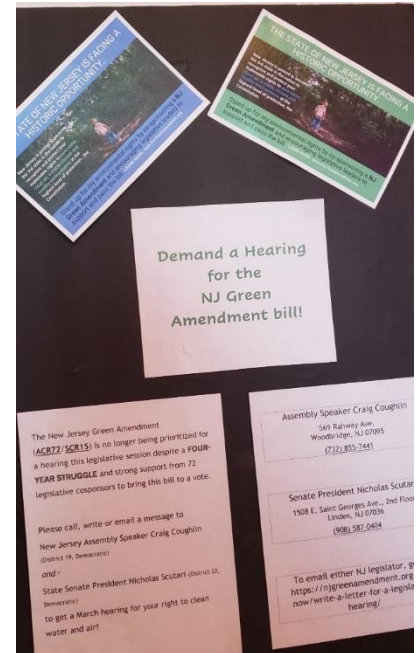
What is a

GREEN AMENDMENT?

Green Amendments are self-executing provisions added to the bill of rights section of a constitution that recognize and protect the rights of all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion or income, including future generations, to pure water, clean air, a stable climate, and healthy environments.

a message to Speaker Craig Coughlin, State Senate President Nicholas Scutari, and Assembly Environment Committee Chair James Kennedy to start hearings this Spring for your right to clean water and air!

A form you can use to quickly submit a pre-written letter is available here: <https://njgreenamendment.org/act-now/write-a-letter-for-a-legislative-hearing/>. With 1 more Assembly member and 2 more Senators we have outright majorities in each house. NJ has an "either/or" system for qualifying a proposed NJ constitutional amendment for inclusion on the ballot to be voted on by the citizens of NJ; it can be passed by simple majority in two separate legislative sessions, or by a 60 percent supermajority vote of one session.



EJTF ACTIVITIES

- EJTF member Mike Skelly** has had a positive influence on the NJ public schools curriculum with his successful introduction to the NJ curriculum committee on climate change of requiring the inclusion of environmental justice in both instruction and evaluation. NJ is the first state in the nation to adopt teaching climate change in its core requirements. Mike also pointed out to the EJTF that the NJ Lead Pipe legislation that the Task Force and our partners were very involved in successfully advocating for has been reported around the globe, including in China media at <https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/kzgF5pMMiSTsAl5YTYjDw>. The article originally written by Greater New York Living Network is comprehensive and includes photos, and the Chinese language article is a well-written description of the situation and the changes that the Lead Pipe legislation will make for New Jersey. An automated translation is available through Google at https://mp.weixin-qq-com.translate.google.com/s/kzgF5pMMiSTsAl5YTYjDw?x_tr_sl=auto&x_tr_tl=en&x_tr_hl=en&x_tr_pto=wapp.

- **EJTF member Nancy Griffeth** attended the meeting of NJ Shines (a coalition of environmental organizations in NJ to promote solar initiatives and energy equity in NJ, of which EJTF is a member) at which the Clean Energy Equity Act was discussed, and provided information for the following summary.

Clean Energy Equity Act Background and Status

Status

The bill is working through committees, at which time there are chances to amend it. There have been discussions of amending it to raise the ante on the solar initiatives, because of other developments described below.

Background

Motivation: Low- and moderate-income households pay a larger percentage of their income for New Jersey's clean energy programs than do higher-income households, but receive only about 10% of the benefits. This bill is intended, first, to increase their share of the benefits, and, second, to establish and fund an office to oversee the administration of the benefits.

State: There is currently an Office of Energy Equity in the BPU, but it was established by Executive Order not by legislation, so it could go away with a new administration.

Federal (President Biden's J40 Initiative): The J40 order creates a government-wide Justice40 Initiative with the goal of delivering 40 percent of the overall benefits of relevant federal investments to disadvantaged communities and tracks performance toward that goal through the establishment of an Environmental Justice Scorecard. (See <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/01/27/fact-sheet-president-biden-takes-executive-actions-to-tackle-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad-create-jobs-and-restore-scientific-integrity-across-federal-government/>) 40% is higher than the percentages cited in the current NJ bill. So it should make sense to amend the bill to include higher percentages.

Possible concern: A solar sector representative was concerned that the provisions of the bill would be in addition to all other programs (such as J40), and felt that would be unachievable. But after it was clarified that the bill includes the results of other programs as satisfying the provisions of the bill, the small amount that would be required on top of the other programs was viewed as being achievable.

FUTURE EVENTS - Virtual, In-person, and Hybrid

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



2022 Earth Day Events Calendar

**Earth Day - Friday, April 22, 2022,
Earth Week and Environmental Education Week -
Monday, April 18 - Sunday, April 24, 2022**

<https://www.state.nj.us/dep/seeds/earthday/april.htm>

There are MULTITUDES OF OTHER EVENTS, many too many to list here - search the internet for an event near you!

APRIL 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	2
3	4 (BPU) Offshore Wind Transmission "Environmental and Permitting Issues Stakeholder Meeting" - 10:00 a.m. <hr/> "When Do Environmental Markets Worsen or Improve Environmental Disparities?" - 12:15 p.m. <hr/> "Greening the Grid through Demand-Side Automation" - 3:00 p.m.	5 "The Science Is Clear': Why the Climate Crisis Needs New Narratives" - 12:30 p.m.	6	7	8 (BPU) Competitive Solar Incentive ("CSI") Program "Siting Stakeholder Meeting" - 1:00 p.m. <hr/> "Justice40 - The Path Forward for the Administration's Environmental Justice Initiative" - 1:00 p.m. <hr/> Comments due on: BPU NJ Energy Plan Ratepayer Impact Study	9 UUFANJ Spring Gala - 6:00 p.m. In-person; 7:45 p.m. Virtual
10	11 "Perspectives on the Climate Change Challenge" (Cornell series) "Bringing Science to Bear for Climate Solutions and Environmental Justice – A Perspective from the White House OSTP" - 2:45 p.m.	12 (BPU) Offshore Wind Transmission "Ratepayer Protections/Cost Controls" Stakeholder Meeting - 10:00 a.m.	13	14 Book Discussion: "The Day the World Stops Shopping" - 8:00 p.m.	15	16
17	18 "Perspectives on the Climate Change Challenge" (Cornell series) "How to Achieve Net Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Midcentury" - 2:45 p.m.	19	20	21 NJ Senate FY 2023 Budget Public Hearing - 10:00 a.m.	22 (BPU) Grid Modernization Stakeholder Meeting - 9:00 a.m. <hr/> Film /Discussion: "Here's the Story: the Green Amendment" - 7:00 p.m. <hr/> UU@UN Intergenerational Spring Seminar	23 UU@UN Intergenerational Spring Seminar
24 UU@UN Intergenerational Spring Seminar	25 "Perspectives on the Climate Change Challenge" (Cornell series) (TBD) - 2:45 p.m. <hr/> Comments due on: FERC TRANSCO REAE EIS <hr/> UU@UN Intergenerational Spring Seminar	26 UU@UN Intergenerational Spring Seminar	27 UU@UN Intergenerational Spring Seminar	28 "The Condition of Cornbelt Streams and a New Path Forward" - 8:00 p.m. <hr/> UU@UN Intergenerational Spring Seminar	29 Comments due on: BPU 1) Grid Modernization 2) Offshore Wind Transmission <hr/> UU@UN Intergenerational Spring Seminar	30 "Drive Electric Earth Day - Skylands Drive Electric Event" - 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. <hr/> UU@UN Intergenerational Spring Seminar

**NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) NJ Energy Master Plan Ratepayer Impact Study -
Comments Due by 5:00 p.m. on April 8, 2022**

The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) is soliciting input from the public and interested parties on modeling and analysis for a Ratepayer Impact Study ("Study") of the clean energy policies presented in the most recent Energy Master Plan ("EMP"). A public meeting was held in March, but **comments can be submitted until 5:00 p.m. on 4/8/2022**. Details about the study and about how to comment are available here:

<https://nj.gov/bpu/pdf/publicnotice/EMP%20Ratepayer%20Impact%20Study%20Stakeholder%20Notice.pdf>.

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Draft Environmental Impact Statement
for the TRANSCO Regional Energy Access Expansion -
Comments Due by 5:00 p.m. on April 25, 2022**

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) prepared a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Regional Energy Access Expansion (REAE Project) proposed by Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC (Transco). "Transco requests authorization to construct, own, operate, and maintain pipelines, compression, and other aboveground facilities in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland and to abandon certain compression facilities. The REAE Project would involve the construction and operation of 22.3 miles of 30-inch-diameter lateral pipeline and 13.8 miles of 42-inch-diameter loop pipeline in Pennsylvania; one new compressor station in New Jersey; modifications to five existing compressor stations in Pennsylvania and New Jersey; modifications to existing pipeline tie-ins, valves, regulators, and meter and regulating stations in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland; the addition of ancillary facilities such as regulation controls, valves, cathodic protection, communication facilities, and pig launchers and receivers in Pennsylvania; and abandonment of certain existing compression facilities." The EIS found that impacts would be less than significant (except for climate change impacts) if all mitigation measures and FERC recommendations were implemented. The FERC press release and a link to documents are available here: <https://ferc.gov/news-events/news/ferc-staff-issues-draft-environmental-impact-statement-regional-energy-access>. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network's analysis of impacts of the project is available here: <https://delawariverkeeper.org/node/6842>. **Comments are due by 5:00 p.m. on 4/25/2022. Comment using the eComment feature on the FERC website (available here: <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/QuickComment.aspx>) under docket number CP21-94-000.**

**NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) Offshore Wind Transmission Stakeholder Meetings -
Virtual**

**"Environmental and Permitting Issues" -
Monday, April 4, 2022, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**"Ratepayer Protections/Cost Controls" -
Tuesday, April 12, 2022, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

These are the third and fourth in a series of public meetings being held by the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to collect stakeholder input to help the BPU's evaluation of offshore wind transmission proposals. **The deadline for comments on this matter is 5:00 p.m. on 4/29/2022. Detailed**

information about the process, including how to submit comments, and registration links for the meetings, are available here:

<https://nj.gov/bpu/pdf/publicnotice/Notice%20SAA%20Public%20Stakeholder%20Meeting.pdf>.

The first two meetings in the series were held in March; the first meeting, "General Description of SAA [the PJM State Agreement Approach] Goals and Evaluation Process, and Review of Applications Received" is described in the article "Stiff Competition to Bring Offshore Wind Power to Customers" on p. 17. The second meeting covered "Integration with Offshore Wind Generation Projects." Check here for links to videos of the meetings: <https://nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/public/>.

**NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) Competitive Solar Incentive (CSI) Program
"Siting Stakeholder Meeting" - **Virtual**
Friday, April 8, 2022, 1:00 p.m.**

This is the second of two public meetings being held by the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to collect stakeholder input on the design and establishment of siting rules for projects eligible to participate in the Competitive Solar Incentive (CSI) program. The first meeting was held in March and focused on the Siting Straw Proposal and general stakeholder comments regarding the siting rules. The second meeting is scheduled for 4/8/2022 and will focus on a proposal that has been put forth for the construction of grid-scale solar on specific farmlands in Agricultural Development Areas.

The deadline for comments on this matter is 5 p.m. on 4/22/2022. A very detailed document including a BPU Staff Straw Proposal and the proposal for grid-scale solar, as well as information on submitting comments and the registration link for the meeting, are available here:

<https://nj.gov/bpu/pdf/publicnotice/Notice%20Stakeholder%20Meeting%20Siting%20with%20Straw%20included.pdf>.

NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) Grid Modernization Stakeholder Meeting - **Virtual
Friday, April 22, 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. (*Note: this session was originally scheduled for 3/1/2022, but has been rescheduled, as noted in the Public Notice, available here:

<https://nj.gov/bpu/pdf/publicnotice/Notice%20GridMod%20Stakeholder%20Meeting.pdf>.) This session is designed to elicit comments that will inform the Final Report, which is to be presented at a meeting now scheduled to be held on 7/29/2022. Register for the 4/22/2022 stakeholder meeting here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1026998156196526095>. **All comments are due by 5:00 p.m. on 4/29/2022. Additional information, links to register for upcoming meetings, links to videos of previous stakeholder sessions, and instructions for submitting comments are available here:** <https://njcleanenergy.com/gridmod>.

“

The Science Is Clear’: Why the Climate Crisis Needs New Narratives” - Webinar*
Tuesday, April 5, 2022, 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the Princeton University High Meadows Environmental Institute, this webinar will address "how appeals to both big data and apocalyptic alarm define the most widely circulated environmental stories. While powerful for some groups, these appeals do not speak to the increasingly unequal impacts of global warming. [The presenter] Carruth will make a case for narratives that include localized and lived accounts of climate disaster while envisioning futures beyond catastrophe. She will focus on a set of environmental art and media projects about American coastlines that cast neighborhood-level experiences of the climate crisis — and the actions to address them — as inseparable from social inequality." [*Note: in-person attendance is possible - for Princeton University ID holders only.] Additional information and registration links are here:

<https://environment.princeton.edu/event/hmei-faculty-seminar-allison-carruth/>.

"Justice40 - The Path Forward for the Administration’s Environmental Justice Initiative" - Webinar
Friday, April 8, 2022, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

This briefing, sponsored by the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI), will include discussions of the status, and the potential benefits to frontline communities, of the federal "Justice40 Initiative" The Justice40 Initiative was included in Executive Order 14008 which includes a target of providing 40 percent of the benefits from specific federal investments - such as those for clean energy, energy efficiency, and water infrastructure - to “disadvantaged communities.” Additional information and the link to RSVP are available here: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/040822justice>.

Book Discussion: "The Day the World Stops Shopping: How Ending Consumerism Saves the Environment and Ourselves" - Webinar
Thursday, April 14, 2022, 8:00 p.m.

Join Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC), in this first of what may become a series of Zoom webinars to discuss JB MacKinnon's book "The Day the World Stops Shopping." "Drawing from experts in fields ranging from climate change to economics, MacKinnon investigates how living with less would change our planet, our society, and ourselves. Along the way, he reveals just how much we stand to gain: An investment in our physical and emotional wellness. The pleasure of caring for our possessions. Closer relationships with our natural world and one another. Imaginative and inspiring, The Day the World Stops Shopping will encourage you to envision another way." To begin not shopping, pick up the book at your public library! Information on how to prepare for the discussion is here: <https://uujec.org/Portals/0/News%20views%20spring%202022.pdf>, and additional information and the registration link are available here: <https://uujec.org/webinars>.

Earth Day Green Amendment Film Screening and Discussion - In-person
"Here's the Story: the Green Amendment"
Friday, April 22, 2022, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Acme Screening Room, 25 S. Union St., Lambertville, NJ 08530

In this film, Emmy-nominated journalist Steve Rogers, producer of NJTV's "Here's the Story," follows Green Amendments For The Generations founder and Delaware Riverkeeper Maya van Rossum on her quest to ignite a Green Amendment movement across the nation. Green Amendments are constitutional amendments which recognize and protect environmental rights. Throughout the film, van Rossum meets with legislators, activists, youth leaders and policy advocates to explore the implications a Green Amendment could have across New Jersey. **Includes post screening discussion with Maya and Steve followed by lobby reception. Tickets are \$20 and a portion of the proceeds will go to Green Amendments For the Generations' advocacy.** Tickets are available here: <https://www.acmescreeningroom.org/now-playing/the-green-amendment>.

"The Condition of Cornbelt Streams and a New Path Forward" - Webinar
Thursday, April 28, 2022, 8:00 p.m.

In this webinar sponsored by Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC), Dr. Chris Jones, a Research Engineer with IIHR Hydroscience and Engineering at the University of Iowa, will discuss how his career experience led him to view clean water as an issue of justice, and his ideas for a new agricultural production system to achieve desired environmental outcomes. Additional information and a link to sign up are available here: <https://uujec.org/webinars>.

"Drive Electric Earth Day - Skylands Drive Electric Event" - In-person
Saturday, April 30, 2022, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sussex County Mall, 9-15 Hampton House Road, Route 206, Newton, NJ 07860

The Skylands Chapter of the NJ Sierra Club is sponsoring this in-person event in which you can examine a variety of electric vehicles (EVs) and talk to EV owners and dealers about their experiences with the vehicles. Additional information and a link to register is available here: <https://driveelectricearthday.org/event?eventid=3190>.

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 April 2022 (a sampling is on p. 9), 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/>.

**"When Do Environmental Markets Worsen or Improve Environmental Disparities?"
Monday, April 4, 2022, 12:15 p.m.**

Sponsored by the Princeton University High Meadows Environmental Institute, this webinar will address the linkage between addressing climate change and impacts on social inequity. This talk will combine two studies, a retrospective study on the pollution disparity consequences of California's carbon market and a prospective study on pollution disparities of various simulated US-wide climate policies in order to explore when there is a trade-off and when there is alignment between these equity and efficiency considerations. Additional information and the registration link are available here: <https://climatesociety.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/icalrepeat.detail/2022/04/04/7039/-/webinar-bradford-seminar-when-do-environmental-markets-worsen-or-improve-environmental-disparities>.

**"Greening the Grid through Demand-Side Automation" - Webinar
Monday, April 4, 2022, 3:00 p.m.**

Sponsored by Resources for the Future (RFF), this webinar will review recent research and regulatory developments, as well as on-the-ground experiences, related to the use of internet-accessible smart technologies to match electricity demand with available supply and potentially also provide other services to the grid. A panel featuring experts from across academia, policy, and industry, will discuss the various challenges and opportunities of using automation and pricing to help "green" the grid. Additional information and the registration link are available here: <https://climatesociety.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/icalrepeat.detail/2022/04/04/7050/-/webinar-greening-the-grid-through-demand-side-automation>.



**UU FaithAction New Jersey 2022 Spring Gala
"Embracing Resiliency" - In-person and Virtual
Saturday, April 9, 2022**

**6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.: appetizers & drinks; 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.: dinner & program
In-person at The Unitarian Society of Ridgewood
113 Cottage Place, Ridgewood, NJ 07450**

Virtual program - 7:45 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Join UU FaithAction NJ (UUFANJ) for an evening of reconnection, celebration, music, and more! This year, the theme of "Embracing Resiliency" recognizes UUFANJ's commitment to build wider alliances between front-line communities, advocacy groups, and key coalitions across the state. Each of the UUFANJ Task Forces will present a micro-grant to recognize and support the ongoing work of a key coalition partner. This will be a multi-platform event, with both an in-person and virtual option for attendance. Additional information and the registration link are available here

<https://www.uufaithaction.org/2022/03/02/registration-now-open-for-the-spring-gala-embracing-resiliency/#more-12748>.

UU@UN Intergenerational Spring Seminar - Online with in-person local options
"Displacement and Human Rights: All In for Climate Justice"
April 22, 2022 – May 1, 2022

The 2022 Intergenerational Spring Seminar will address the theme Displacement and Human Rights: All In for Climate Justice. It will take place online April 22 – May 1, 2022, with an opportunity for congregations to host local in-person gatherings. The UU@UN is partnering with the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth, UUSC, and Side With Love on this event. **Registration closes on April 10, 2022, with flexible rates.** Additional information and the registration link are available here: <https://www.uua.org/international-justice/un/spring-seminar>.

"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 April are listed below; links to additional information and zoom access are available here: <https://atkinson.cornell.edu/news-events/climate-change-seminar/>.

April 11, 2022: "Bringing Science to Bear for Climate Solutions and Environmental Justice – A Perspective from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)" (to be presented by Gretchen Goldman, Assistant Director for Environmental Science, Engineering, Policy, and Justice at the White House OSTP) - This talk will highlight the ongoing work of the White House OSTP and other parts of the U.S. government to address issues of climate change and environmental justice.

April 18, 2022: "How to Achieve Net Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Midcentury" (to be presented by Stephen Pacala, Professor in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology at Princeton University) - Dr. Pacala's research uses a global model to make predictions about the large-scale distribution of biomes and associated biogeochemical fluxes, as well as specific local predictions including hourly physiological carbon gain and water loss, community composition and dynamics throughout succession, the outcome of spatial competition among plant species, and the fluxes of nitrogen, water, and carbon.

April 25, 2022: TBD (to be presented by Mary Nichols, former chair of the California Air and Resources Board (CARB), who led CARB when it crafted and enforced regulations that slashed air pollution from cars and light trucks by over 99%, paved the way for a new generation of advanced biofuels, and created the roadmap for a transition to a fully electrified transportation system. However, it also enacted the first comprehensive cap on industrial greenhouse gas emissions by any major regulatory agency in the world, which became controversial when she was first considered - and then withdrawn from consideration - by President Biden to head the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; EJ advocates protested that cap-and-trade would enable polluters to maintain that status quo, while reducing emissions in more affluent areas).

NJ Senate FY 2023 Budget Public Hearing - Virtual
Thursday, April 21, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

The NJ legislature scheduled four public hearings to receive testimony on the proposed FY 2023 budget. The two Assembly Budget Committee hearings and the first Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee hearings were held in March; the remaining Senate hearing is to be held virtually on 4/21/2022. Additional information and the link to register are available here: <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/budget-hearings-registration>.

VIDEOS OF PAST EVENTS

"Earth's Water Cycle in a Changing Climate" - Video of Webinar

This talk, part of the Cornell "Perspectives on the Climate Change Challenge" series, highlighted some of the key questions about Earth's water cycle and its changes: How does precipitation vary over time, and in response to climate change? Does the latest generation of model simulations have anything new to tell us about this? What do we mean when talk about "extreme" precipitation? The video is available here: <https://www.atkinson.cornell.edu/media/earths-water-cycle-in-a-changing-climate/>.

"Carbon Dioxide Removal: The Social and Policy Landscape" - Video of Webinar

This talk, part of the Cornell "Perspectives on the Climate Change Challenge" series, presented specific examples from research conducted in the U.S. that point towards how social science research can help identify community concerns, priorities, and potential benefits from carbon dioxide removal projects and policies. It describes what social science has learned to date about the social dimensions of carbon removal, and outlines priorities for future interdisciplinary research to inform carbon removal policy on multiple scales. The video is available here: <https://www.atkinson.cornell.edu/media/carbon-dioxide-removal-the-social-and-policy-landscape/>.

"Climate Mitigation in Three Parts: Energy, Land, and Removal" - Video of Webinar

This talk, part of the Cornell "Perspectives on the Climate Change Challenge" series, presented options and challenges related to climate mitigation along three distinct fronts: 1) analyses of the geophysical constraints on reliable solar- and wind-based electricity systems, including related modeling of long-duration energy storage options; 2) findings of work assessing the global and regional drivers of land-use GHG emissions, including the magnitude and patterns of these emissions embodied in global trade; and 3) results from new global modeling to evaluate the biophysical and economic limits and key uncertainties of seaweed-based carbon dioxide removal. The video is available here: <https://www.atkinson.cornell.edu/media/climate-mitigation-in-three-parts-energy-land-and-removal/>.

"Energy Efficiency Means Business 2022" - Video of Webinar

This is the second briefing in an Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) briefing series on "federal programs that currently deliver a host of climate, environmental, economic, and social benefits nationwide. In the series, experts and practitioners 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." This briefing covered federal energy efficiency programs administered by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that support millions of jobs and deliver direct savings to homeowners, consumers, and businesses while reducing the stresses on the U.S. energy system and improving the sustainability and resilience of communities, and contributing to near-term reductions in pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. The video is available here: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/022422fed>.

"Climate Adaptation Programs across Agencies" - Video of Webinar

This is the third briefing in an Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) briefing series on "federal programs that currently deliver a host of climate, environmental, economic, and social benefits nationwide. In the series, experts and practitioners 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." This briefing covered climate adaptation-focused federal programs administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Army Corps of Engineers, and other agencies, and why these programs are important for districts across the country. The video is available here: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/031822fed>.

"2022 Sustainable Energy in America Factbook" Briefing - Video of Webinar

This briefing, based on the tenth edition of the "Sustainable Energy in America Factbook" (download signup available here: www.bcse.org/factbook), was sponsored by the Business Council for Sustainable Energy and the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) and was hosted in coordination with the House and Senate Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Caucuses. The Factbook provides updates on industry information and trends for the U.S. energy sector, with an in-depth look at the energy efficiency, renewable energy, and natural gas sectors, as well as emerging areas such as digitalization, micro-grids, offshore wind, hydrogen, and renewable natural gas. The video is available here: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/030922factbook>.

"Climate Accountability and the Courts: Legal Perspectives on Holding Climate Polluters Accountable" - Video of Webinar

Part of the Leaders for Climate Accountability learning series hosted by "The Center for Climate Integrity," this webinar dealt with climate litigation, which is a growing trend in the U.S. Since 2017, twenty municipalities, six states, the District of Columbia, and one industry trade association have filed lawsuits against fossil fuel companies for deceiving the public and policymakers about the climate impacts their products would cause. In this webinar, legal experts described the historical precedent set by the tobacco and opioid lawsuits, the legal theories behind climate liability cases, and how this litigation is unfolding in courts across the country. In addition, public officials described climate liability cases they have brought on behalf of their constituents. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5yWs6UktLw>.

"Caring for the Earth: How to Install and Finance Green Infrastructure" - Video of Webinar

This webinar was sponsored by the NJ League of Conservation Voters, among other groups. "Religious institutions have a tremendous opportunity to be good stewards to the environment, protect clean water, and help their local community by instituting smart changes on their properties. From churches to religious schools, many religious institutions are living their values by installing cost-effective green infrastructure projects that help to reduce harmful flooding and naturally filter polluted runoff before it hits our waterways." In this webinar, experts discussed the variety of projects that can be done as well as funding programs that can assist congregations get started on their projects. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qznauWMNxyo>.

OUTLINE of EJTF's GOALS for 2022

Based on EJTF discussions, and conversations with EJTF's partner organizations in the environmental justice community, the following is a preliminary outline of our goals for 2022. Many aspects of EJTF's work on networking and education on environmental justice are underpinnings of the work included in pursuing the identified goals. [Note: descriptions may change slightly upon final approval.]

- 1. Furthering the adoption of the Green Amendment in New Jersey through work in our congregations and as a Task Force;**
- 2. Addressing food-related issues, including a variety of interests and actionable items, e.g., regenerative agriculture, community gardens, food deserts, and consumption; and**
- 3. Supporting 100% clean energy, including transportation and Electric Vehicles (EV's), and the Clean Energy Equity Act.**

NEWS RELATED TO EJTF ISSUES

[covering 2/25/2022 – 3/27/2022]

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- **Murphy Administration Awards \$1.3 Million in Urban and Community Forestry Grants to Enhance Tree Stewardship Statewide** - The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced that it is awarding 38 grants totaling \$1.3 million to promote the stewardship of urban and community trees and forests throughout NJ. The grants are intended to support Gov. Murphy's environmental justice initiatives in vulnerable neighborhoods, with 75 percent of the funds awarded to municipalities with at least one overburdened community. DEP Deputy Commissioner for Environmental Justice and Equity Olivia Glenn stated that "From greenhouse gases to urban heat island effect, lack of tree canopy can compromise social, environmental and economic quality of life for some of New Jersey's most vulnerable residents." https://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2022/22_0012.htm

NJ Water Risk and Equity Map

Jersey Water Works and New Jersey Future have developed an interactive online map (hosted by Rutgers University) that shows the overlay of water risks and demographic factors in NJ. Its ultimate purpose is to address inequities in water risk exposure. It is designed for use by government officials, advocates, and water utilities to set priorities for funding and repair/replacement work. General layers included demographics and water risk data, with specific layers showing data such as overburdened communities, water and sewer affordability stress, and redlining as well as lead service lines, flood risk, and contaminated sites, among many others. The map is available here: <https://njwaterequity.rutgers.edu>.

A detailed illustration of an example of using the map to show areas with household affordability stress and lead service lines, and the relative occurrence of each, is available here:

[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/6169b39ae0caf173106fc5cd/t/6234bf1c1aca7d31c38b639e/1647623970613/NJF Mapping+and+Equity.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/6169b39ae0caf173106fc5cd/t/6234bf1c1aca7d31c38b639e/1647623970613/NJF+Mapping+and+Equity.pdf).

ELECTRIC VEHICLES & VEHICLE EMISSION REDUCTION



- **Pallone Highlights Federal Funding for EV Charging Stations** (3-1/2 minute news video) - In a meeting in Asbury Park, U.S. Representative Frank Pallone Jr. lauded the first installment of \$15 million that NJ will receive from the federal bipartisan infrastructure law, to be used to support additional electric vehicle charging stations. NJ expects to receive over \$104 million over five years. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/pallone-highlights-federal-funding-for-ev-charging-stations/>

- **Business Report: Increase EV Charging Stations in NJ** (first 40 sec. of news video) - Two EV charging station announcements are highlighted: NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) grants to be awarded for charging stations at tourist destinations (the BPU press release is available here: <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/2022/approved/20220321.html>), and Hoboken's plans for additional charging stations using federal funds. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/business-report-increase-ev-charging-stations-in-nj-tax-relief-for-drivers-rutgers-launches-program-for-retiring-business-owners/>
- **Will More Drivers Switch to Electric Vehicles If Gas Prices Continue to Rise?** (3-1/2 minute news video) - A consumer describes how rising gas prices convinced him to switch from a gas-powered car to an electric vehicle. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/will-more-drivers-switch-to-electric-vehicles-if-gas-prices-continue-to-rise/>
- **Murphy Administration Releases Guide to Help Municipalities Prepare for More Electric Vehicles** -The NJ Department of Community Affairs (DCA), the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) have collaborated on "Charge Up Your Town – Best Management Practices to Ensure Your Town is EV Ready," (available here: <https://nj.gov/dep/drivegreen/pdf/chargeupyourtown.pdf>) a comprehensive guide that is intended to assist communities "in enhancing EV accessibility for all." A significant percentage of EV charging stations installed in NJ will be overseen by municipal officials, and the guide is designed to help facilitate that process. <https://www.nj.gov/dca/news/news/2022/approved/20220308.shtml>

LEAD REDUCTION IN HOUSEHOLDS

- **Levels of Lead in Newark Children Decreased in Recent Years, Report Says** - The "Newark Kids Count 2022: A City Profile of Child Well-Being" report (available here: <https://acnj.org/newark-kids-count-2022-a-city-profile-of-child-well-being/>) released by the non-profit Advocates for Children of New Jersey, found that while lead continues to be a problem, levels in children's blood decreased between 2015 and 2019. With the replacement of lead service lines in the water system, the greatest risk of exposure continues to be from lead paint and dust in homes. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/levels-of-lead-in-newark-children-decreased-in-recent-years-report-says/>
- **How Cities Leverage Machine Learning To Expedite Lead Service Line Removal** - In this 2/10/2022 interview, Kristin Epstein, PE, Assistant Director of Department of Water and Sewer (Trenton Water Works) for the City of Trenton, describes Trenton's plans to replace all lead service lines by 2031, capping costs to homeowners at \$1,000, using a continuously updated data-driven location map approach that prioritizes those at highest risk of lead exposure. <https://www.wateronline.com/doc/how-cities-leverage-machine-learning-to-expedite-lead-service-line-removal-0001>
- **Jersey Water Works and New Jersey Future Win National Water Data Prize** - The Water Data Prize awarded by the Environmental Policy Data Center "aims to break down those barriers and spur the development of innovative ideas to remove toxic lead pipes." While the overall prize was won by the City of Newark and its program manager CDM Smith for completion of its Lead Service Line Replacement Program, the prize in the category of "Equity" was won by Jersey Water Works and NJ Future for development of the NJ Water Risk and Equity Map (see box under "Environmental Justice" on p 14) and Jersey WaterCheck (an online dashboard that features data about NJ drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems). <https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/jersey-water-works-and-new-jersey-future-win-national-water-data-prize/>.

- **Lead Service Line Replacement at a Blistering Pace Newark, New Jersey** - This Jersey Water Works (JWW) article recounts the history of Newark's very successful lead service line replacement program. <https://www.jerseywaterworks.org/latest-news/lead-service-line-replacement-at-a-blistering-pace-newark-new-jersey/>

FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Gibbstown Gas Terminal on Hold** - A court settlement was reached with the developer of a plant in Wyalusing, PA where liquefaction would take place of the natural gas to be shipped through the Gibbstown terminal. The settlement allows for the current air quality permit to expire in July rather than be extended to enable the plant to be built under that permit; the company will need to apply for a new permit if it decides to proceed with the project. A number of other issues are also delaying or potentially delaying construction of the terminal. The PA plant developer's parent company has stated that it still plans to ship liquefied gas to the terminal, either from the Wyalusing, PA plant or from some other liquefaction facility. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/03/lng-liquefied-natural-gas-gibbstown-terminal-gloucester-county-pennsylvania-plant/>
- **Agreement Will End Coal-Burning at Two South Jersey Power Plants** - The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) approved an Atlantic City Electric Company (ACE) petition to approve agreements between ACE and the last two coal-fired electricity generation units in NJ. (The BPU's press release describing their approval is available here: <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/2022/approved/20220323.html>.) Under the agreements, coal-fired generation will end on or around 5/31/2022. The company plans to transition the sites to clean energy; the move will also result in savings for ACE customers. <https://news.yahoo.com/agreement-end-coal-burning-two-203437386.html>
- **Political Opposition Grows to PVSC Fracked Gas Power Plant Proposal** - Union City and Bayonne passed resolutions opposing the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission's (PVSC) proposed new fracked gas power plant in Newark, which means half of the municipalities in Hudson County (six out of twelve) along with three municipalities in Essex and Bergen Counties, formally oppose the plan. “We applaud our neighbors in Hudson County for taking a stand against the dirty energy plant and supporting the well-being of North Jersey communities and our climate,” said **EJTF partner Maria Lopez-Nuñez**, Deputy Director of Advocacy and Organizing at Ironbound Community Corporation. <https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/2022/03/17/political-opposition-grows-to-pvsc-fracked-gas-power-plant-proposal/>
- **Hoboken Passes Resolution Opposing Woodbridge Fracked Gas Plant** - The Hoboken City Council joined the Edison and Highland Park councils in opposing a plan by Competitive Power Ventures (CPV) to build a new fracked gas power plant in Woodbridge, adjacent to an existing power plant that it operates. (A copy of the resolution is available here: [http://hobokennj.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_LegiFile.aspx?Frame=&MeetingID=2285&MediaPosition=&ID=7995&CssClass=.](http://hobokennj.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_LegiFile.aspx?Frame=&MeetingID=2285&MediaPosition=&ID=7995&CssClass=;)) Each of the towns located within five miles of the proposed site (Woodbridge, Perth Amboy, South Amboy, Metuchen, and Edison) are considered overburdened, with 73% of all census block groups meeting one or more of NJ's environmental justice criteria. <https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/2022/03/24/hoboken-passes-resolution-opposing-woodbridge-fracked-gas-plant/>

RENEWABLE RESOURCES



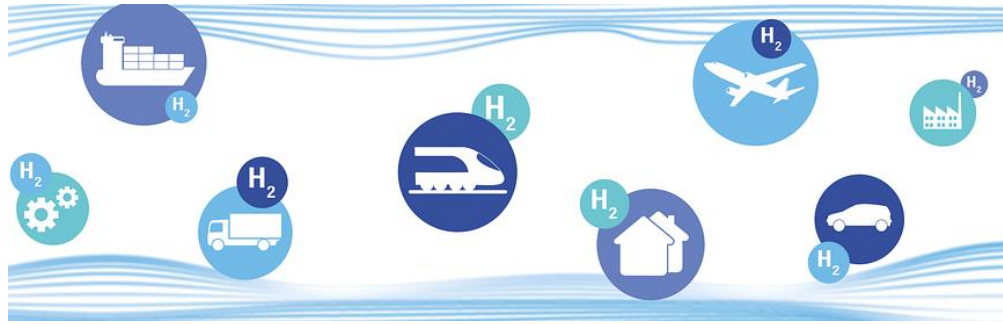
- **Six Developers Offer \$4 Billion for Offshore Wind Rights** - The U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) announced the results of what turned out to be the highest-grossing competitive offshore lease sale in U.S. history (including oil and gas sales), with bidding reaching approximately \$4.37 billion. Six provisional winners were selected, and when the turbines are all operational they are projected to be able to power up to two million homes. The DOI press release is available here: <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/biden-harris-administration-sets-offshore-energy-records-437-billion-winning-bids-wind>; the DOI Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) website related to the New York Bight leases, including a map, is available here: <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/new-york-bight>. According to the DOI, these leases "include innovative stipulations designed to promote the development of a robust domestic U.S. supply chain for offshore wind energy and enhance engagement with Tribes, the commercial fishing industry, other ocean users and underserved communities." <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/02/developers-4-billion-offshore-wind-rights-auction-new-jersey-new-york-coasts-bight/>
- **Most Enviro Advocates Cheer Latest Offshore Wind Leases but Clean Ocean Action Has Reservations** (includes 4-minute news video) - While most environmental advocates, such as the NJ League of Conservation Voters, applauded the increase in offshore wind leases just awarded, the Clean Ocean Action organization has issued a statement (available here: https://cleanoceanaction.org/fileadmin/editor_group1/Issues/Wind/COAStatement_LeaseDayFeb23.pdf) describing concerns about the speed at which large-scale leases are being awarded, without pilot-scale projects occurring first to assess impacts on the marine ecosystem. <https://enviropolitics.com/most-enviro-advocates-cheer-latest-offshore-wind-leases-but-clean-ocean-advocates-has-reservations/>
- **Stiff Competition to Bring Offshore Wind Power to Customers** - Thirteen different developers have submitted proposals for eighty projects for various aspects of transmitting power from offshore wind farms, including vital upgrades to the transmission grid. In an almost 4-1/2-hour public hearing (video available here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9101745247>), developers presented their proposals; a description is available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/03/nj-offshore-power-wind-clean-energy-developers-transmission-companies-utilities-orsted-anbaric-pseg-ppl-atlantic-city-electric-jcpl-proposals-state/>) The proposals are being reviewed by the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) and grid operator PJM Interconnection in a unique joint process. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/03/nj-hot-bidding-process-to-get-offshore-wind-ashore-many-bidders/>
- **Wind Farm Hot Topic in Ocean City** - In a 2-1/2 hour Zoom meeting, representatives of Ørsted and PSEG, the developers of the Ocean Wind wind farm, heard comments from residents about a proposed transmission line through Green Acres lands in Ocean City, and many other related topics. Most commenters were opposed to the wind farm. Answers to all the questions raised at the meeting will be

available on the Ocean Wind website (<https://oceanwind.com>) after March 21, 2002.
<https://ocnjdaily.com/wind-farm-hot-topic-ocean-city/>

- **Murphy Administration Announces Award of Funding for Offshore Wind Environmental Studies, Entry Into Regional Science Collaborative** - The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), in collaboration with the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU), is administering the Offshore Wind Research and Monitoring Initiative, initially funded by two of the companies developing wind farms off the NJ coast. The first awards of funds for studies "to provide enhanced information on the impacts of offshore wind energy development" were announced. A description of the short-term highest priority research and monitoring needs is available here: <https://nj.gov/dep/offshorewind/docs/njdep-osw-rmi-process-description.pdf>. \$2.5 million will be provided to gather data on seafloor topography, sunlight availability and ocean temperatures via an underwater glider; nearly \$900,000 will fund studies of areas where clam beds and the turbines co-exist; and \$60,000 will fund NJ's entry into the Regional Wildlife Science Entity, a new multistate consortium to coordinate regional monitoring and research of Atlantic wildlife and marine ecosystems where offshore wind power is developed. In addition, funds will be provided for a passive acoustic monitoring system to track the movement of whales.
https://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2022/22_0011.htm
- **Wetlands No More. NJ Redraws Map to Boost Offshore Wind Project** - The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is reclassifying around 150 acres of wetlands from "coastal wetlands" to "uplands" in conjunction with construction of the NJ Wind Port. DEP stated that the lands do not meet the definition of wetlands because of topography and fill that has been added there. DEP stated that the reclassification will not have any environmental impact, but Jeff Tittel, former director of the NJ Sierra Club, expressed concern that additional fill will be added in areas subject to climate change and sea level rise. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/03/wetlands-pseg-power-150-acres-reclassified-wind-port-project/>
- **13,800 = Record Number of Solar Installations Deployed Statewide in 2021** - Although characterized by COVID-19 issues and policy changes, 2021 saw a record number of solar installations in NJ. (The NJ Board of Public Utilities' (BPU) press release with additional details is available here: <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/2022/approved/20220302.html>.)
<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/03/13800-solar-installations-2021-nj-record-srec-successor-solar-incentive-program-susi-bpu-board-of-public-utilities/>

CLIMATE CHANGE

- **As World Warms, Murphy Budget Offers Little Comfort** - The fiscal year 2022/2023 NJ budget proposed by Gov. Murphy does not include new initiatives for clean energy or to address climate change, and continues to raid the Clean Energy Fund to support NJ Transit.
<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/03/nj-budget-murphy-clean-energy-global-warming-largely-silent/>
- **Murphy's First-Term Climate Goals Turn To Second-Term Worries for New Jersey Green Groups** - This article describes the perceived lack of mention of climate change by Gov. Murphy since his reelection, and points to the lack of initiatives in the proposed budget, as well as recent proposed power plant rules deemed inadequate; however others in the administration attribute the lack of mention of new initiatives to the fact that Gov. Murphy has passed along implementation of programs addressing climate change to state departments through executive orders, and also point out the iterative nature of developing regulations, a process that is just beginning.
<https://www.politico.com/news/2022/03/18/murphys-first-term-climate-goals-turn-to-second-term-worries-for-new-jersey-green-groups-00017777>



- Governor Murphy, Governor Hochul, Governor Baker, and Governor Lamont Announce Multi-State Partnership with Major Hydrogen Ecosystem Partners to Propose a Clean Regional Hydrogen Hub** -A NY-led consortium of four states (NY, NJ, CT and MA) and at least forty "hydrogen ecosystem partners" announced it will submit a proposal to become one of at least four regional clean hydrogen hubs designated through the federal Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs program included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). They intend to develop a proposal "that makes climate and environmental justice central to its strategy, which will deliver opportunities and improved quality of life to under-resourced areas across the region."
<https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/governor-murphy-governor-hochul-governor-baker-and-governor-lamont-announce-multi-state-partnership-with-major-hydrogen-ecosystem-partners-to-propose-a-clean-regional-hydrogen-hub/>
- Switch to Electric Buildings or Miss Climate Goals, Advocates Say** - The power used for heating/cooling buildings is the second-largest source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in NJ, but a new report (available here: <https://acadiacenter.org/resource/the-future-is-electric/>) finds that NJ "is falling behind in achieving its building decarbonization goals compared to neighboring states," and that besides the beneficial GHG emission effects, "NJ households could achieve over 50% reduction on energy bills by combining electric appliances with home weatherization measures."
<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/03/nj-electric-buildings-climate-change-heat-pump-fossil-fuels-state-goals/>
- To Meet Green-Energy Goal, NJ Must Import Power, Report Says** - A new report (available here: <https://zenodo.org/record/6345571#.YkS-bXHMKUn>) by the Princeton University Zero-carbon Energy Systems Research and Optimization Laboratory (ZERO Lab) examines various ways for NJ to meet its 100% carbon-free energy goals. The goal of the report is "to provide an independent assessment of costs and trade-offs associated with different choices facing New Jersey stakeholders;" the project was supported by a grant from PSEG. Key findings of the report are that, for the most cost-effective approach, NJ would need to import a greater amount of carbon-free energy from out-of-state. If NJ wants to reduce dependence on out-of-state resources while avoiding an increase in fossil gas generation, preservation of the nuclear generators would be key.
<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/03/study-suggests-nj-should-import-clean-energy-others-states-controversial-clean-energy-option/>

POLLUTION

- Opinion: We're Working to Reduce Plastic Pollution - So Should Corporations** (by Caren Fitzpatrick, an Atlantic County commissioner) - The author calls for holding the oil and gas companies that produce plastics accountable for the problems of plastic pollution, pointing out that they misled the public about the recyclability of plastic in the same way that they did the relationship between fossil fuels and climate change. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/03/nj-op-ed-plastic-carryout-bag-polystyrene-foam-containers-ban-corporate-responsibility-pollution/>

DRINKING WATER-RELATED ISSUES (other than lead)

- **‘Forever Chemicals’ Taint Dozens of Private Wells** - This article provides an in-depth look at what is resulting from the discovery of PFAS "forever chemicals" in two Mercer County schools, which led to the testing of a number of private wells; the chemicals have been found at a number of them. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/03/forever-chemicals-pfas-found-2-schools-40-private-wells-mercercounty-nj-dep-tests-residential-very-upsetting-disturbing/>

EDUCATIONAL and YOUTH-RELATED

- **Nonprofit Is Front-Runner to Reopen Storied NJ Conservation School** - The Friends of the New Jersey School of Conservation ("Friends") has submitted a bid to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to run the NJ School of Conservation that closed in 2020 when Montclair State University gave up management of the school. There are bills in the NJ legislature (S438/A3149) that would recognize the Friends nonprofit as the management entity for the school, and would direct the NJ Department of Education (DOE) to request funding for it annually. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/03/friends-nj-school-conservation-management-steward-dep-sustainability-climate-change-environmental-justice/>
- **Wardlaw+Hartridge Middle School Students Explore Climate Change** - The Wardlaw+Hartridge Middle School in Edison, NJ held "Climate Change Week," devoted to focusing on climate change across multiple disciplines including mathematics, languages, English, history, and science. Besides classroom studies, the week also included role-playing, movies, and group discussions. <https://www.tapinto.net/towns/edison/articles/wardlaw-hartridge-middle-school-students-explore-climate-change>
- **Local Teens Organize Climate Change Rally outside West Orange Town Hall** - As was noted in the March 2022 EJTF newsletter, West Orange, NJ teenagers, including members of the NJ Student Sustainability Coalition, were planning a "Climate Action Now" rally to demand that the Town Council and the mayor enact comprehensive legislation in response to threats made more imminent by climate change. That rally took place on 2/20/2022, and included a composting demonstration by Roosevelt Middle School's Environmental Club. The rally organizers presented a 13-item pledge to the West Orange Township Council, with many of the items recognizing that climate change is already here and affecting West Orange, so adaptation measures are needed. <https://essexnewsdaily.com/headline-news/local-teens-organize-climate-change-rally-outside-west-orange-town-hall>

LAND MANAGEMENT/AGRICULTURE/FOOD

- **Mayor Baraka Announces \$2 Million Emergency Aid to Combat Food Insecurity and Food Deserts** - Newark Mayor Baraka announced the availability of \$2 million for the Nourishing Newark Community Grants Program to support community-based organizations to combat hunger and food insecurity by spurring the creation and expansion of sustainable urban food cooperatives and other community-based healthy food distribution channels. This program aligns with the NJ Economic Development Authority (EDA) Food Desert Relief Program designed around the central purpose of eradicating food deserts. <https://www.newarknj.gov/news/mayor-baraka-announces-2-million-emergency-aid-to-combat-food-insecurity-and-food-deserts>

- **Food ‘Rescue’ Groups Feeding the Hungry as Pandemic Ebbs** - This article describes how many groups around the state are collecting unsold but still edible food from retailers and providing it to NJ food banks and families in need. Certain retailers are required by the 2020 NJ "Food Waste Recycling" law to recycle their food waste, and this has motivated some to seek ways that also provide a benefit to those in need. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/03/nj-food-assistance-needs-still-high-pandemic-jobs-rescue-groups-collect-unwanted-still-edible/>
- **A Glimmer of Hope for Pinelands Preservation — If Key Reforms Are Made** - This article presents a more upbeat view of the future of the Pinelands Preservation Commission than was put forth during the recent contentious process of selecting new Commissioners. Now that the Commission is almost at full strength after years with vacancies, the article delineates actions that need to be taken by different agencies and groups to bring preservation of the Pinelands to where it needs to be. In addition, the Pinelands Preservation Alliance has prepared a Climate Change Whitepaper (description and link available <https://pinelandsalliance.org/protecting-the-pinelands/climate-change-and-the-pinelands/>), that provides suggestions - many of which have been pending action for years - to address climate change challenges in the Pinelands National Reserve. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/03/nj-state-of-the-pinelands-preservation-alliance-commission-pipeline-off-roading-vehicles-management-plan/>

OTHER

- **Budget Hearings Begin With Pleas for More Money** - The NJ legislature has scheduled four public hearings to receive testimony on the proposed FY 2023 budget. The two Assembly Budget Committee hearings and the first Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee hearings were held in March; the remaining Senate hearing is to be held virtually, to allow for increased participation, on 4/21/2022 (see "Future Activities" section on p. 11). At the first Assembly hearing, comments were made decrying the continuing diversion of funds from the Clean Energy Fund to support NJ Transit, despite a 10% increase in budget revenues, and also calling for additional funding for climate change-related programs such as those that reduce emissions. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/03/nj-public-budget-hearing-gov-murphy-lawmakers-more-spending-state-tax-revenues/?>
- **Prescribed Burns Miss Target as Wildfire Season Approaches** - Because of unfavorable weather conditions, the NJ program of prescribed burns to help prevent large forest fires has fallen significantly short of its target. [Watch a 4-minute- video of a prescribed burn at Bass River State Forest here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/prescribed-burn-at-bass-river-state-forest-watch-the-video/>.] In NJ, 40% of the land is forested, and close to half of homes are located in the residential/forest interface area. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/02/prescribed-burns-wildfires-state-forests-dep-climate-change-prescribed-burns-far-behind/>
- **As World Warms, PSEG Details Green-Energy Future** - This article provides a summary of what PSEG states it has done, and intends to do, in a process it is calling "Powering Progress: Clean Energy & Reliability Initiatives" (their website detailing this process is available here: <https://poweringprogress.pseg.com>). <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/03/pseg-nj-largest-energy-company-sold-fossil-fuel-power-plants-focus-clean-energy/>



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.³

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
