



Environmental Justice Task Force Newsletter - June 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.

It's Time to Get Out and Educate, Advocate and Mobilize!

NJ Green Amendment "Last Stand" Networking & Press Conference

Thursday, June 16, 2022, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
(Press Conference at 11:00 a.m.)
Annex Steps of State House, Trenton, NJ

See p. 8, and register here:

<https://forthegenerations.org/events/last-stand-networking-press-conference/>

March For Clean Air and Climate Justice (UUFANJ is a co-sponsor)

Thursday, June 23, 2022, 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Patriots Theatre at the War Memorial,
200 Barrack St., Trenton, NJ 08608

See p. 9, and get more information here:

<https://actionnetwork.org/events/march-for-clean-air-and-climate-justice?source=direct> link&



The weather's finally starting to cooperate, and outdoor advocacy events are picking up. These two address issues of great importance to EJTF - please join us if you can!

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EJTF ACTIVITIES

- **EJTF Co-Chair Ray Nichols and EJTF member Nancy Griffeth** each testified at the 4/26/2022 hearing held by the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC), in accordance with requirements of the EJ Cumulative Impacts law. The hearing was regarding the application for a Title V Air Permit Modification that would enable PVSC to construct a gas-fired Standby Power Generating Facility in Newark's Ironbound Community, a highly overburdened neighborhood. The event was attended by 100 people, and 50 of them testified. There were only three in favor of the project - one was a labor union representative and the other two were business representatives. EJTF/UUFANJ plans to submit written comments in June (see information on p. 5 and the article on p. 18).

- **EJTF Co-Chair Peggy Middaugh** (who attended in person), along with **EJTF member Barbara Diamantopoulos** and fellow Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation (UUOCC) member Judy Weintraub, attended the 5/11/2022 "Ocean County EJ Community Engagement Session." This was the third of a series of in-person events being held by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in order to provide residents, community groups, and other members of the public a chance to meet DEP Commissioner LaTourette and discuss environmental justice issues in the community. At this session, Lisa Garcia, the Regional Administrator for Region 2 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which includes New Jersey, and Kandyce Perry, the Director of the DEP Office of Environmental Justice, also met with the local residents. Opening remarks were also given by Pastor William Greene of the Second Baptist Church of Toms River and by Bahiyyah Abdullah of the Toms River Area branch of the NAACP. A video of the event is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VasKuikSM7A> and a document with the questions and answers from the session is available here: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/ej/docs/20220511-ocean-county-session-notes.pdf>.

FUTURE EVENTS - Virtual, In-person, and Hybrid

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

| JUNE 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 "Heat Vulnerability in a Changing Climate – Can We Acclimatize?" - 12:00 p.m. | 2 "Building Out Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure" - 1:00 p.m. Clean Water Action New Jersey Member Meet-Up - 5:00 p.m. Comments due on: BPU Ocean Wind 1 permits necessity | 3 Comments due (by 4:15 p.m.): to PVSC on Title V Air Permit Modification Application for Standby Power Generation Facility Comments due on: BPU EMP ratepayer impact mid-study update | 4 Rally for the Two Rivers Eco-Fest - 9:00 a.m. Woodbridge, NJ: Stop The Power Plant - 11:00 a.m. |
| <i>Calendar is continued on p. 3</i> | | | | | | |

JUNE 2022 - Calendar continued from p. 2

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| 5 | 6 Isles, Inc. Virtual Forum 2022 | 7 "We Are the Middle of Forever: Indigenous Voices from Turtle Island on the Changing Earth" - 9:00 p.m. Isles, Inc. Virtual Forum 2022 | 8 (DRBC) Second Quarter 2022 Business Meeting - 10:30 a.m. Isles, Inc. Virtual Forum 2022 | 9 RGGI Public Information Session - 6:00 p.m. Isles, Inc. Virtual Forum 2022 | 10 "Permitting & Compliance: the New Environmental Justice Paradigm" - 8:30 a.m. Isles, Inc. Virtual Forum 2022 | 11 Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) June Conference |
| 12 Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) June Conference | 13 "Living with Climate Change: Wildfires" - 1:00 p.m. Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) June Conference | 14 2022 New Jersey Planning and Redevelopment Conference - 9:00 a.m. | 15 2022 New Jersey Planning and Redevelopment Conference - 9:00 a.m. NJ Clean Air Council - 9:30 a.m. | 16 NJ Green Amendment "Last Stand" Networking & Press Conference - 10:00 a.m. "Pathways to Regenerative Agriculture: Farm Policy for the 21st Century" - 12:00 p.m. 2022 New Jersey Planning and Redevelopment Conference - 9:00 a.m. | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 "DRIFT" film screening - 6:30 p.m. | 22 | 23 March For Clean Air and Climate Justice - 10:30 a.m. | 24 2022 NJ Sustainability Summit - 8:00 a.m. | 25 |
| 26 | 27 BPU Grid Modernization Stakeholder Meeting - 9:00 a.m. | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |

"Building Out Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure" - Webinar
Thursday, June 2, 2022, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

"The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) invites you to a briefing on building out electric vehicle charging infrastructure. ... The \$7.5 billion allocated to charging infrastructure in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and existing programs like the Rural Energy Savings Program present a significant opportunity to deploy widespread and equitable electric vehicle charging infrastructure. ... How can charging infrastructure be rapidly expanded? What are the considerations for ensuring that charging infrastructure is accessible, equitable, and efficient? How can innovation improve charging infrastructure? Panelists will discuss these questions and the policy solutions that

can help scale up electric vehicle charging infrastructure to drive down emissions." Additional information and the link to RSVP are here: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/060222tech>.

Clean Water Action New Jersey Member Meet-Up - In-person
Thursday, June 2, 2022 - 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Montclair Brewery, 101 Walnut St., Montclair, NJ 07042

Clean Water Action (of which **EJTF partner Kim Gaddy** is the National Environmental Justice Director) is holding free "meet-ups" at which you can meet some of the NJ team and connect with other members of the Clean Water community. The first meet-up is in Montclair on 6/2/2022 and the second one will be in Asbury Park on 7/17/2022. Additional information and a sign-up link are available here: <https://cleanwateraction.org/events/new-jersey-member-meet-ups-summer-2022>.

**NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) Comments Due
on Issues of Interest to EJTF**

- **"In the matter of the petition of Ocean Wind, LLC for a determination that easements across Green Acres-restricted properties and consents needed for certain environmental permits in, and with respect to, the City of Ocean City are reasonably necessary for the construction or operation of the Ocean Wind 1 qualified offshore wind project."** See the article on p. 19 for Ocean City's continuing opposition to the approval of permits related to this project. Written comments can be submitted to the BPU at https://publicaccess.bpu.state.nj.us/CaseSummary.aspx?case_id=2110929 until **5:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 2, 2022**. Two public meetings were held, but links to recordings are not available on the BPU website.
- **"In the matter of ratepayer impact study of the 2019 Energy Master Plan" (EMP)**. This study has been under preparation for several years, and is now expected to be completed this summer. A mid-study update was provided in a webinar (video available here: https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/play/acKyfLZpTarJzzqFap1Phda_ywrcFO35YFmUZ1hvQbcjColTNIBKftZgsi5Nqa7CQD8IP78_b-YdIcNv.8PhLSFxUcyNL6frh). See the article on p. 21 for a further description. Written comments can be submitted to the BPU at https://publicaccess.bpu.state.nj.us/CaseSummary.aspx?case_id=2111020 until **5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 3, 2022**.
- **"In the matter of New Jersey grid modernization/ interconnection process."** Three public meetings have been held on this topic, and a fourth virtual meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 27, 2022, at which the Draft Report of findings and recommendations will be discussed (see p. 10). Written comments can be submitted to the BPU at https://publicaccess.bpu.state.nj.us/CaseSummary.aspx?case_id=2109704 until **5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 19, 2022**.

**Comments Due on PVSC Title V Air Permit Modification Application
for Standby Power Generation Facility
Friday, June 3, 2022, by 4:15 p.m.**

The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) has applied to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for a Title V Air Permit Modification to allow it to build a Standby Power Generation Facility in Newark's Ironbound Community (see p. 2 and the article on p. 18). PVSC has requested approval for the plant before the NJ Cumulative Impacts Environmental Justice (EJ) law goes into effect (which would require a cumulative impacts assessment), and before a renewable alternatives review directed by Gov. Murphy has been completed by PVSC. Links to documents related to this application are available here: <https://bit.ly/3xduN2b>. **Written comments may be submitted to PVSC until 4:15 p.m. on June 3, 2022**; information is available here: <https://nj.gov/dep/ej/docs/njdep-ao-2025-21-public-hearing-notice.pdf>.

**Rally for the Two Rivers Eco-Fest - In-person
Saturday, June 4, 2022, 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (rain date: June 5)
Victory Park, Lafayette St. and River Rd., Rumson, NJ 07760**

The Rally for the Two Rivers Eco-Fest will be returning to Victory Park in Rumson, NJ this year. Hosted by Clean Ocean Action and the Rumson Environmental Commission, this free, family-friendly event is an environmental celebration of the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers. Activities will include seining, eco-friendly crafts, hands-on educational demonstrations, face painting, music, and more. Additional information is available here:

<https://cleanoceanaction.org/rally-the-waterways/rally-for-the-rivers-eco-fest>.

**Woodbridge, NJ: Stop The Power Plant (Food & Water Watch) - Virtual Meeting
Saturday, June 4, 2022, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

At this virtual meeting, you can learn "how to get involved in the campaign to stop another dirty gas power plant from polluting our air and exacerbating the climate crisis." The meeting is open to anyone who wants to participate in online and in-person actions to stop the power plant planned for the Keasbey section of Woodbridge Township. The link to sign up is available here:

<https://www.mobilize.us/fww/event/445180/>.

**Isles, Inc. Virtual Forum 2022 - Virtual
Monday, June 6, 2022 - Friday, June 10, 2022, various times**



Isles' second annual virtual forum is a weeklong series of free webinars, workshops, and panels focused on community development, urban sustainability, and more. You can pick and choose the topics of interest to you, or sign up for all of them. Topics are: Monday, 6/6 - Equity and Access; Tuesday, 6/7 - Health, Wealth, and the Green Economy; Wednesday, 6/8 - Safe and Sustainable Cities; Thursday, 6/9 - Resilient Communities; and Friday, 6/10 - Future-Focused Opportunities. Additional information, the full schedule, and

links to register for the sessions are available here: <https://isles.org/forum>.

"We Are the Middle of Forever: Indigenous Voices from Turtle Island on the Changing Earth" book publication discussion - Webinar
Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 9:00 p.m.

In this webinar sponsored by the City Lights Foundation, authors Dahr Jamail and Stan Rushworth are joined by indigenous scholars and philosophers Melissa K. Nelson, Shannon Rivers, and Kyle Powys Whyte to celebrate the publication of *We Are the Middle of Forever: Indigenous Voices from Turtle Island on the Changing Earth*. "An innovative work of research and reportage, *We Are the Middle of Forever* places Indigenous voices at the center of conversations about today's environmental crisis. The book draws on interviews with people from different North American Indigenous cultures and communities, generations, and geographic regions, who share their knowledge and experience, their questions, their observations, and their dreams of maintaining the best relationship possible to all of life." Additional information and the registration link are here: <https://citylights.com/events/we-are-the-middle-of-forever-indigenous-voices-from-turtle-island-on-the-changing-earth/>.

Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) Second Quarter 2022 Business Meeting
In-person and via Zoom
Wednesday, June 8, 2022, 10:30 a.m.
Chase Center on the Riverfront, 815 Justison Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

The June 8 Public Business Meeting will take place both in-person and via Zoom. After all scheduled business has been completed and as time allows, the meeting will also include up to one hour of Open Public Comment (prior sign-up by 5 p.m. on June 7, 2022 is required). Additional details about items to be covered, Zoom link for the meeting, and information for prior sign-up for the Open Public Comment portion are available here: <https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/meetings/upcoming/>. The meeting will also be livestreamed here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/delrivbasincomm>.

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) Public Information Session - Webinar
Thursday, June 9, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is a multi-state cap-and-trade program designed to reduce emissions from power plants, while at the same time generating hundreds of millions of dollars for states to invest in clean energy and other technologies. This webinar will describe NJ's participation in RGGI; the link to register is available here: <https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlscOGpzktEw6KRNWedDxwEmdmSCoLkX4>.

"Permitting & Compliance: the New Environmental Justice Paradigm" NJBIA
Hybrid Event
Friday, June 10, 2022, 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Pines Manor, 2085 Lincoln Highway, Edison, NJ 08817

This event, hosted by the NJ Business and Industry Association, will provide information to business and industry representatives about how the new NJ EJ law will impact them. The website's description

states: "The construction of many new facilities will be prevented, conditions will be put on the expansion of others, and yet unknown conditions will be imposed on some renewed permits. Additionally, new processes, expectations, and costs may be imposed on any development or activity in our 'overburdened communities.' It's already an uncertain time to do business in New Jersey. Join representatives of the Department of Environmental Protection and industry experts to hear what the new law requires and learn how to navigate this new landscape before your business or your clients are in jeopardy." Speakers include **EJTF partners Kim Gaddy and Nicky Sheats**. Additional information, agenda, and registration (**\$80 for either in-person or virtual attendance**) are available here: <https://njbia.regfox.com/environmental-justice-seminar>.

Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) June Conference - Hybrid Event
Saturday, June 11, 2022 - Monday, June 13, 2022, various times
In-person in Washington, D.C.; many sessions live-streamed (free)

The Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) is holding an in-person conference in Washington D.C.; however registration for the in-person portion is now closed. Many of the sessions will be live-streamed on Zoom, with no fee required. The conference includes speakers on a number of topics, including CCL's signature carbon pricing priority. This year's conference coincides with an international week of action, including virtual lobby meetings across the world. Additional information, including list of speakers, program schedule, and the link to register for the Zoom sessions are available here: <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/climate-change-conferences/summer/>.

"Living with Climate Change: Wildfires" - Webinar
Monday, June 13, 2022, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

"The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) invites you to a briefing on policies and practices to address wildfires. Billions of dollars are spent fighting wildfires every year, and the cascading economic, health, and societal impacts of wildfires are enormous. Compounding these challenges, wildfires also release greenhouse gases and harmful aerosols into the atmosphere. Over the last century, battling wildfires after they have started has been the main approach to address this threat. Yet, with record-setting fire seasons happening almost every year, more proactive and preventative steps are needed. Panelists will discuss policies and practices that would allow the United States to reduce the overall risk of wildfires, including how innovations in community-centered wildfire protection can improve resilience for humans and ecosystems." Additional information and the link to RSVP are available here: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/061322climatechange>.

2022 New Jersey Planning and Redevelopment Conference - Virtual and In-person
June 14, 2022 - June 15, 2022, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (Virtual)
June 16, 2022, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (In-person)
Hyatt Regency New Brunswick, 2 Albany St., New Brunswick, NJ 08901

New Jersey Future and the New Jersey Chapter of the American Planning Association are presenting the 2022 New Jersey Planning and Redevelopment Conference, at which hundreds of professionals, elected officials, and community activists will address how to restart, recover, and reimagine land use.

"Redevelopment and comprehensive planning can help optimize efficiency, promote sustainable growth, and bolster community resilience. Amid the ongoing pandemic and climate crisis, the implementation of innovative planning and redevelopment solutions has become more crucial than ever. Together, we will build better, more inclusive, and equitable places where people live, work, and play." Additional information, including links to the schedule and to register, are available here: <https://pheedloop.com/njprc22/site/home/>. [Registration rates are; Member - \$300; Non-Member - \$350; Elected Official - \$250; Speaker - \$250; and Student - \$200.]

**NJ Clean Air Council - Virtual
Wednesday, June 15, 2022, 9:30 a.m.**

The Council meets via Microsoft Teams. Information to join the meeting is provided by clicking on the date on the calendar, available here: <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/cleanair/cac-calendar.html>.

**NJ Green Amendment "Last Stand" Networking & Press Conference - In-person
June 16, 2022, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Press Conference at 11:00 a.m.)
Annex Steps of the State House, Trenton, NJ**

Join New Jersey activists, environment and justice leaders, and residents in a gathering to urge the legislature to FINALLY grant a hearing for the proposed New Jersey Green Amendment that will constitutionally recognize and protect the environmental rights of all people in the state. The event will be networking-focused, with a Press Conference at 11:00 a.m., and opportunities to engage with legislators who care about the issue. It's been five years since the NJ Green Amendment was introduced in the NJ legislature, and the time for voices and environmental needs to be heard by NJ representatives is overdue! Rain location: TBD. The link to register is available here: <https://forthegenerations.org/events/last-stand-networking-press-conference/>.

**"Pathways to Regenerative Agriculture: Farm Policy for the 21st Century" - Webinar
Thursday, June 16, 2022, 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

"The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) invite you to a briefing on regenerative agriculture. Regenerative agriculture, or farming in sync with the local environment and climate, produces multiple economic, climate, and societal benefits. Examples of these practices include reducing or eliminating synthetic pesticide and fertilizer use and soil tillage. The briefing will feature findings from NRDC's new report, 'Regenerative Agriculture: Farm Policy for the 21st Century,' which was informed by conversations with farmers and ranchers from 47 states and Washington, D.C. As Congress begins to craft the 2023 Farm Bill, the briefing will cover how federal policies can incentivize and invest in regenerative agriculture, including by making reforms to scale up regenerative agriculture stewardship, supporting the next generation of farmers and ranchers, and funding regenerative agriculture research and education programs. Panelists will describe how these steps can lead to a more resilient and productive agricultural system." Additional information and the link to RSVP are available here: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/061622ag>.

"DRIFT" film (by "Save Barnegat Bay") screening - In-person

Tuesday, June 21, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Ocean County Library Brick Branch, 301 Chambers Bridge Rd., Brick, NJ 08723

"In celebration of its 50th anniversary preserving Barnegat Bay, Save Barnegat Bay is pleased to present our documentary film, DRIFT, produced in collaboration with Monmouth University Production Services and directed by Erin Fleming. DRIFT tells the story of Barnegat Bay through the voices and eyes of people who cherish the Bay as a natural, recreational, and economic resource for the local community and all of New Jersey. The film allows the viewer to DRIFT through 50 years of complex issues through a series of short vignettes, using a variety of perspectives, viewpoints, and experiences." Additional information, the film trailer, and dates of future screenings are available here: <https://www.savebarnegatbay.org/educate/drift-celebrating-50-years-of-save-barnegat-bay/>

March For Clean Air and Climate Justice - In-person

Thursday, June 23, 2022, 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Patriots Theatre at the War Memorial, 200 Barrack St., Trenton, NJ 08608

UUFANJ is a co-sponsor of this March for Clean Air and Climate Justice, organized by EmpowerNJ. "If Governor Murphy and our State legislators are serious about their climate and environmental justice commitments to move our state off fossil fuels, they must:

- Stop the seven fossil fuel projects currently proposed or moving forward in NJ;
- Implement regulations to cut economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions 50% by 2030; and
- Reject all false solutions such as 'Renewable Natural Gas.'

That's why EmpowerNJ and its partners are organizing our biggest action yet, and we need you with us! On June 23rd we will unite and mobilize our communities to the State House in Trenton where we'll march, rally, lobby and hold our elected officials accountable to their commitments to protect clean air and climate justice for all." The plan is to "meet on the steps of the Patriots Theatre at the War Memorial at 10:30 a.m. At 11:00 a.m. we'll march with our art, props, signs and banners approximately 1/2 mile to the Statehouse Annex where we'll hold a rally with speakers, chants, art and music. The rally will conclude around 12:30 p.m. and interested participants can join us inside the Statehouse after the rally to lobby our elected officials." Additional information is available here: [https://actionnetwork.org/events/march-for-clean-air-and-climate-justice?source=direct link&](https://actionnetwork.org/events/march-for-clean-air-and-climate-justice?source=direct_link&).

2022 "Sustainable NJ" New Jersey Sustainability Summit - In-person

Friday, June 24, 2022, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Bell Works, 101 Crawfords Corner Rd, Holmdel, NJ 07733

Sustainable NJ's Sustainability Summit is going live again this year. The Sustainability Summit is a unique opportunity for change-makers across political, private and public sectors to connect on the most pressing issues facing NJ communities, from addressing the climate crisis and identifying the hidden impacts of health, to using food "waste" to combat food insecurity and overcoming racial and social bias, and more. Join Sustainable NJ for an inspiring day of networking and learning that will equip you with fresh ideas and new partners. The Summit will feature 13 sustainability sessions, sustainability exhibits, an EV ride and drive, and a post-Summit happy hour. **Registration is \$38 for elected and appointed officials, green team volunteers, and public and nonprofit employees and \$125 for all other attendees.** Links to a description of the sessions and to register are available here: <https://www.sustainablejersey.com/events/2022-sustainability-summit/>.

NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) Grid Modernization Stakeholder Meeting - **Virtual**
Monday, June 27, 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 discuss 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, was rescheduled to 4/22/2022, and has now been re-scheduled to 6/27/2022, as noted in the Public Notice, available here: <https://nj.gov/bpu/pdf/publicnotice/Notice%20Grid%20Modernization%20Stakeholder%20Meeting%20April%2019%202022.pdf>.) This session is designed to elicit comments that will inform the Final Report, which is to be presented at a future meeting, which is not currently scheduled. Register for the 6/27/2022 stakeholder meeting here:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/9155954799750208782>. **All comments are now due by 5:00 p.m. on 7/19/2022.** 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>.

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 June 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/>.

“Heat Vulnerability in a Changing Climate – Can We Acclimatize?”
Wednesday, June 1, 2022, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Ocean Service Science Seminar Series, this webinar will explore what we can expect in terms of how societies can cope with future extreme heat events, and whether we can adapt to an increasing frequency, duration, and intensity of heat waves in the decades to come. Additional information and the registration link are available here: <https://climatesociety.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/icalrepeat.detail/2022/06/01/7147/-/webinar-heat-vulnerability-in-a-changing-climate-can-we-acclimatize>. [Note: this event uses Adobe Connect.]

VIDEOS OF PAST EVENTS

"Using Census Tools for Environmental Justice" - Video of Webinar

In this webinar, presented by the U.S. Census Bureau, experts showed how you can use Census Bureau data, including the American Community Survey (ACS) that can provide data down to the level of block groups, to plan for equity in development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental projects in your community. The video is available here:

<https://www.census.gov/data/academy/webinars/2022/using-census-tools-for-environmental-justice.html>.

"The Cost of Climate Change" - Video of Webinar

In this special Earth Day edition of the Rutgers Environmental Stewards "Earth Day, Every Day" webinar series, Professor Bob Kopp, a lead author of the 2021 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report, discussed what we know about climate change's economic costs and how we can manage the risks climate change is creating. The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=43p72ze6vRM>.

"Storage to Enable a 100% Renewable Electric Grid" - Video of Webinar

In this Princeton University Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment Highlight Seminar, Dr. Yet-Ming Chiang, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, considered criteria needed for renewable energy electric storage. "Replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy is a key pathway to mitigation of climate change. Remarkable innovations in and scaled production of Li-ion battery technology over the past two decades could allow hour-to-hour and day-to-night variability in wind and solar generation to be largely accommodated. However, multi-day lulls in renewable generation currently challenge the electric grid's ability to provide firm (dispatchable and always-available) power. Affordable and reliable long-duration storage is needed. In order to effectively compete on a cost basis with natural gas generation, system-level storage costs will need to be \$20 per kilowatt hour or less." This talk compared performance requirements for long- and short-duration storage applications, "including where trades unacceptable at short-durations may be relaxed for long-duration batteries." Additional information and the video are available here:

<https://acee.princeton.edu/events/highlight-seminar-yet-ming-chiang/>.

"Sustainable and Renewable Carbon, Nitrogen and Phosphorus Cycles for Fuel and Crop Production" - Video of Webinar

In this Princeton University Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment Highlight Seminar, Dr. Daniel Nocera, of Harvard University, presented his inventions of the "artificial leaf" and the "bionic leaf," which artificially accomplish the solar fuels process of photosynthesis and also make biomass and liquid fuels. "Using only sunlight, air and water, a distributed system powered by renewable energy has been created to produce fuel and food. Such science is particularly useful to the poor of the world, where large infrastructures for fuel and food production are not tenable."

Additional information and the video are available here: <https://acee.princeton.edu/events/highlight-seminar-daniel-nocera/>.

High Water Line: “Presenting the Science” - Video of Panel Discussion

“Presenting the Science” is the first of three panels organized as part of High Water Line: New Jersey, a public-facing project organized by Christina Gerhardt, the 2021-22 Barron Visiting Professor in the Environmental Humanities in the Princeton University High Meadows Environmental Institute, that will walk and chalk New Jersey’s future shoreline as projected by science (see article on p. 20). This panel discussion brought together climate experts to engage the public in understanding what scientists project for the future shoreline of New Jersey, the impact of sea-level rise on the state, and the areas that will be most affected. Additional information and the video are available here: <https://environment.princeton.edu/videos/hwl-presenting-the-science/>

High Water Line: “Translating Science Into Art” - Video of Panel Discussion

“Translating Science Into Art” is the second of three panels organized as part of High Water Line: New Jersey, a public-facing project organized by Christina Gerhardt, the 2021-22 Barron Visiting Professor in the Environmental Humanities in the High Meadows Environmental Institute, that will walk and chalk New Jersey’s future shoreline as projected by science (see article on p. 20). This panel discussion brought together artists and outreach experts to explore how the environmental humanities can translate science into art - with a focus on sea-level rise - and the visual strategies that work best for making scientific information more relatable to everyone. Additional information and the video are available here: <https://environment.princeton.edu/videos/hwl-translating-science-into-art/>.

High Water Line: “Solutions” - Video of Panel Discussion

“Solutions” is the third and last of three panels organized as part of High Water Line: New Jersey, a public-facing project organized by Christina Gerhardt, the 2021-22 Barron Visiting Professor in the Environmental Humanities in the High Meadows Environmental Institute, that will walk and chalk New Jersey’s future shoreline as projected by science (see article on p. 20). This panel discussion examined the range of engineering and public policy approaches available for mitigating and adapting to the impacts of sea-level rise, and those that are under consideration in New Jersey as the state faces a receding shoreline. Additional information and the video are available here: <https://environment.princeton.edu/videos/high-water-line-solutions/>.

Lead-Free NJ May 2022 Membership Meeting - Video of Meeting

Lead-Free NJ, an "inclusive, equitable collaborative working to ensure that our children are unburdened by lead and able to thrive in a lead-safe environment through changes to state and local policy," held their May 2022 Membership Meeting via Zoom. The planned agenda included: a spotlight on Lead-Free NJ policy work; a panel discussion with LFNJ Community Hub representatives on local advocacy, needs, and their projects to address lead in their communities; updates on available resources and ways to get involved in LFNJ; and an action plan to secure funding to make NJ Lead-Free. The video is available here: <https://www.leadfreenj.org/event/lead-free-nj-may-2022-membership/>.

"Climate Change and Health" - Video of Webinar

This talk, part of the Cornell "Perspectives on Climate Change Challenge" series, was presented by Dr. Kristie L. Ebi, who has been conducting research and practice on the health risks of climate variability and change for 25 years. Dr. Ebi "conducts research to estimate current and future health risks of climate change; design adaptation policies and measures to reduce risks in multi-stressor environments; and estimate the health co-benefits of mitigation policies." In this webinar, Dr. Ebi discussed interactions between climate change and demographic, socioeconomic, and other changes, which will determine the burden of climate-sensitive health outcomes. The video is available here: <https://atkinson.cornell.edu/media/climate-change-and-health/>.

"How Waste Became 'Renewable' in Baltimore – A Cautionary Tale" - Video of Webinar

This talk, part of the Cornell "Perspectives on Climate Change Challenge" series, was presented by Dr. Chloe Ahmann, an environmental anthropologist and Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Cornell University. Dr. Ahmann described the debates among neighbors in a South Baltimore neighborhood over a proposed incinerator. Some worried the plant would solidify their neighborhood's position as a "dumping ground," while others thought it might revive them from an economic slump. Dr. Ahmann also presented a cautionary tale about the lure of techno-fixes by examining why some considered the incinerator to be a "renewable" technology. The video is available here: <https://atkinson.cornell.edu/media/how-waste-became-renewable-in-baltimore-a-cautionary-tale/>.

"Lessons from the Front Line" - Video of Webinar

This talk, part of the Cornell "Perspectives on Climate Change Challenge" series, was 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 the status quo, while reducing emissions in more affluent areas. The video is available here: <https://www.atkinson.cornell.edu/media/lessons-from-the-front-line/>.

"Living with Climate Change: Sea Level Rise" - Video of Webinar

The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) hosted a briefing "on policies and practices to address sea level rise. Sea level rise is a unique challenge for coastal communities and for policymakers. How will impacts from sea level rise compound impacts from extreme storm events? What infrastructure and communities will be impacted over different time horizons? When should funding be allocated to rebuild or armor coastlines and what are alternative options? What are the strengths and limitations of nature-based solutions for coastal resilience to sea level rise?" The video is available here: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/051822climatechange>.

"Direct Air Capture" - Video of Webinar

The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) hosted a briefing on direct air capture, "which chemically removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The captured carbon can be permanently stored underground or used in industrial processes. While climate change mitigation efforts are the priority, carbon dioxide removal will be necessary to help meet climate goals." Links to speaker slides and the video are available here: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/052522tech>.

"State of the Climate: New Jersey 2021" - Video of Webinar

A warming climate has led to increased temperature extremes, sea levels, and rainfall intensity in NJ. These changes are projected to continue and will present unique challenges for human health, ecosystems, agricultural production, and more. In this webinar, Dr. James Shope, applied climatologist with the Rutgers New Jersey Climate Change Resource Center, joined by Dr. Anthony Broccoli, co-director of the Rutgers Climate Institute, and Dr. David Robinson, the New Jersey State Climatologist, highlighted the latest climate information from across the climate change research field for NJ. The video is available here: https://njclimateresourcecenter.rutgers.edu/past_events/state-of-the-climate-new-jersey-2021/.

"Current Global Outlook on Planet Earth - A Race Against Time" - Video of Webinar

"A triple existential threat looms over our planet – climate change, biodiversity loss, and global water scarcity. By allowing business-as-usual to be our current default option, the human race is running out of time to address this grave global crisis." In this webinar, sponsored by the Security and Sustainability Forum, Global Council for Science and the Environment (GCSE) co-founder Dr. Karim Ahmed delivered a lecture on how we arrived at this unprecedented moment in human history. Dr. Ahmed also discussed what must be done urgently to disrupt the current path and gave particular attention to the globalized economy where large inequities between rich and poor continue to rise to a societal breaking point. The video is available here: <https://vimeo.com/709268318>.

EJTF's GOALS for 2022

- 1. Advocating for the adoption of the Green Amendment in New Jersey through work in our congregations and as a Task Force;**
 - 2. Working toward resolving the many challenges in NJ related to food-insecurity, including but not limited to promoting regenerative agriculture, increasing accessibility of healthy food, reducing food waste, and encouraging community and family gardens;**
 - 3. Supporting 100% renewable energy and energy conservation through measures such as the Clean Energy Equity Act, and those affecting transportation and Electric Vehicles (EVs).**
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NEWS RELATED TO EJTF ISSUES

[covering 4/26/2022 – 5/26/2022]

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

NJDEP Begins the Permit-related Public Hearings Required by NJ EJ Law

In September 2021, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) issued Administrative Order 2021-26 (AO 2021-25 - a summary is available here: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/ej/docs/njdep-ao-2021-25-fags.pdf>), which implemented a number of the requirements of the NJ Cumulative Impacts Environmental Justice (EJ) law immediately (unless prohibited by other rules), before regulations have been promulgated. The DEP took this step because a number of facilities had been trying to receive permits/permit extensions during the window of time before the regulations are in place. AO 2021-25 applies to all facilities that would be subject to the EJ law and that are seeking covered permits in overburdened communities as mapped by DEP, and requires enhanced public participation and for the facility to respond concerns raised. DEP has begun holding AO 2021-25 public hearings for such facilities. The schedule for recent and upcoming public hearings, along with links to each public notice and other public documents related to the facilities, are available under the "Administrative Order 2021-25 Public Hearings" tab, here: <https://bit.ly/3xduN2b>. [It should be noted that A 2021-25 does not include the requirement for a cumulative public health and environmental impacts assessment to be completed prior to a permit decision, which is a key provision of the EJ law.]

- **Groups Band Together to Fight for Environmental Justice** - A new coalition of civil rights and community advocates just launched a new coalition - the "New Jersey Progressive Equitable Energy Coalition" (NJPEEC). [Additional information is in the press release here: <https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/new-coalition-forms-to-fight-against-n-j-environmental-racism-and-ensure-a-just-transition-to-100-clean-energy-future/> and the group's website is here: <https://www.njpeec.org>.] NJPEEC "will focus on creating policies that prioritize Environmental Justice (EJ) communities to help put an end to systemic environmental racism and ensure low income and communities of color have a say in their own energy future." Among other activities, the coalition plans to review state policies and inform government officials if they find them not to be addressing EJ. The NJ League of Conservation Voters is providing operational support for the coalition as it launches. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/05/nj-energy-environment-climate-change-racial-justice-black-latino-communities-coalition-njpeec-naacp/>

LAND MANAGEMENT/AGRICULTURE/FOOD

- **One in 12 Here Face Food Insecurity, Study Says** - This article describes findings in a report "Hunger and Its Solutions in New Jersey" (available here: https://www.njspotlightnews.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/123/2022/05/A.-Hunger-and-Its-Solutions-in-New-Jersey-Report_FINAL.pdf) that presents the results of a study by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC). The report describes the issues related to food insecurity in NJ, and the various sectors that impact it, and provides recommendations for action. Key players and programs are highlighted, and the report outlines "policies, systems changes, cross-sector outreach, and programmatic initiatives to help reduce food insecurity and support good nutrition and health equity." <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/05/food-insecurity-food-desert-silos-report-hunger-and-its-solutions-in-new-jersey-robert-wood-johnson-foundation-food-research-and-action-center/>

- **NJDEP Invests in Atlantic White Cedars** (5-minute news video) - Once-lush Atlantic White Cedar forests along the NJ coast are dying due to climate change-related impacts such as rising seas and storm surges saturating the soil with salt water. The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is spending \$19 million to try to restore 10,000 acres of the trees which, among other things, serve to clean the water used for drinking and other uses by nearby populations. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/njdep-invests-in-atlantic-white-cedars/>
- **On Arbor Day, DEP Commissioner LaTourette Announces Availability of \$2.2 Million in Urban and Community Forestry Grants** - The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced \$2.2 million for Urban and Community Forestry grants to support planning, planting and maintenance of community trees and forests across the state, with a priority to support overburdened communities, where 76 percent of previously granted funds in the program have gone. https://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2022/22_0022.htm
- **Opinion: Why Farm Bill's Funding of Conservation Programs Is Vital to Fighting Climate Change** (by Alex Ireland, acting president and CEO of New Jersey Audubon and Kristen Meistrell, acting vice president of stewardship for New Jersey Audubon) - The authors describe the benefits of farm conservation and call for support of additional conservation funding both federally and within NJ. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/05/op-ed-alex-ireland-kristen-meistrell-nj-audubon-farm-bill-fund-conservation-programs-historic-amount-vital-fighting-climate-change/>

ELECTRIC VEHICLES & VEHICLE EMISSION REDUCTION

- **Those Who Live in Shadow of Turnpike Extension Speak Out Against \$4.7 Billion Widening Project** - At a NJ Turnpike Authority (NJTA) Board of Commissioners meeting, many Hudson County residents and others expressed their concerns about the planned widening of the highway, stating that it would not relieve congestion and would bring additional traffic and air pollution to an already overburdened community. The plan also includes repairs to a bridge built in the 1950's, and this part of the project was more widely accepted as necessary. See the article below for additional information, contained in a rulemaking petition opposing the project that has been filed by EmpowerNJ. <https://www.nj.com/news/2022/05/those-who-live-in-shadow-of-turnpike-extension-speak-out-against-47-billion-widening-project.html>
- **Environmental Coalition Files Petition to Block Hudson County Turnpike Expansion** - EmpowerNJ, a coalition of environmental and social justice advocacy groups **of which UUFANJ is a member**, has filed a Rulemaking Petition with the NJ Department of Transportation (DOT) and the NJ Turnpike Authority (NJTA) opposing the planned expansion of the Newark Bay Hudson County Extension of the NJ Turnpike. Rulemaking Petitions must be responded to by the agencies within five months. The petition points out that such highway expansion would violate NJ guidelines for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and calls for a halt on the project until rules are considered that would prioritize public transportation, repairs, bike paths and walkways over expanded highways. <https://www.nj.com/hudson/2022/05/environmental-coalition-files-petition-to-block-hudson-county-turnpike-expansion.html>
- **NJBPU Approves More Than \$1 Million in Grants, Adds Additional Funding and Reopens Application for Multi-Unit Dwelling Electric Vehicle Charger Program** - The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) has approved grants totaling \$1,059,500 for the purchase of 223 electric vehicle (EV) chargers and the preparation of charger sites for 67 multi-unit dwellings in 41 municipalities across NJ. These grants were awarded as part of the first year of applications for the popular multi-unit dwelling EV charger program. <https://nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/2022/approved/20220523.html>.

- **Electric School Buses Offer Big Benefits, Group Says** - A new report (available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/123/2022/05/ELECTRIC-SCHOOL-BUSES-AND-THE-GRID.pdf>) describes how electric school buses can provide power to the electric grid through vehicle-to-grid technology using energy stored in their batteries. This could also provide revenue to the school districts. However, the required technology for communicating between the buses and the grid is not included in most charging equipment and would add to their cost. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/05/electric-school-buses-vehicle-to-grid-technology-dirty-diesel-buses-pollution/>
- **Vote Yields Small Step Toward All-Electric School Buses** - This article describes the bill currently in the NJ legislature (A1282) that "Requires DEP to develop and implement electric school bus program; provides for \$15 million in first year and \$15 million annually in subsequent two years to DEP, subject to availability, to provide grants." See box below for additional information. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/05/electric-school-bus-diesel-pollution-environmental-justice-greenhouse-gases/>

Electric School Bus Bill To Provide \$45 Million For School Districts Is Winning Support

Over 15 years ago, New Jersey voters overwhelmingly supported a ballot question to clean up dirty diesel school buses. Back then, we didn't have any other option. Today, we do - electric school buses. Diesel emissions seep into the cabin of existing school buses and into the lungs of our children. Buses are real gas guzzlers, so the cost of fuel to run these buses is huge. They are also large emitters of carbon pollution. It's time to protect our kids' health and our air quality - and to spend our tax dollars more wisely - by taking the first step to electrification.

The bill (A1282) requires the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to develop and implement a three-year "Electric School Bus Program." The purpose is to determine the operational reliability and cost effectiveness of replacing diesel-powered school buses with electric school buses for daily transportation of students and, subsequently, to provide grants.

Right now, the bill is working its way through various state legislative committees (see article above). You can learn more, and urge your representatives to support the bill, by going to <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2022/A1282>.

- **EV Startup Looks to Former Utility Chief** - This article describes a new startup, "EV Edison," that offers both mobile and stationary EV charging technologies: mobile fast-charging stations on trucks, as well as large stationary high-power EV charging hubs. A former head of PSE&G has been named as the company's president. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/05/ev-electric-vehicles-stationary-charging-mobile-charging-supercharging-hub-david-daly/>
- **NJ Board of Public Utilities Marks Earth Day Announcing Clean Fleet Grants to Paterson, 14 Additional Government Entities and William Paterson University** - As part of NJ's "Clean Fleet Program," the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) announced award of close to \$400,000 in grants to government entities and one university (including more than \$200,000 for Paterson) toward the purchase of battery electric vehicles, and fleet and public EV charging stations. <https://nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/2022/approved/20220427.html>

LEAD REDUCTION IN HOUSEHOLDS

- **NJ Gets \$588M to Fix Water Infrastructure** (4-minute news video) - NJ is receiving \$588 million in loan funds at extremely low or zero percent interest. The funds which include \$221 million from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), with the remainder coming from a mix of state funding and from the sale of bonds from the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank. [According to advocates, much more is needed, as described in this article: "**A \$6 Billion Water Problem Gets \$588 Million Help,**" available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/05/nj-water-energy-environment-state-federal-loans-infrastructure-renewal-6-billion-funding-shortfall-dep-epa-climate-change-forever-chemicals/>] At least \$45 million will be used for lead service line replacement. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/nj-gets-588m-to-fix-water-infrastructure/>

FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Residents, Advocates Speak Out Against PVSC Gas Plant At Public Hearing - EJTF Co-Chair Ray Nichols, EJTF member Nancy Griffeth, and EJTF partners María Lopez-Nuñez, Melissa Miles, and Kim Gaddy** joined dozens of Newark residents and others from around the state to testify against the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission's (PVSC) planned gas-fired power plant in Newark's Ironbound Community (see p. 2). PVSC has requested approval for the plant before the NJ Cumulative Impacts Environmental Justice (EJ) law goes into effect, and before a renewable alternatives review directed by Gov. Murphy has been completed by PVSC. Written comments may be submitted to PVSC until 4:15 p.m. on June 3, 2022 (see p. 5). <https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/2022/04/26/residents-advocates-speak-out-against-pvsc-gas-plant-at-public-hearing/>

RENEWABLE RESOURCES



- **16,510 = Solar Panels on Floating Installation in NJ, Which Will Be the Largest Such Solar Array in US** -Construction has begun on an 8.9 megawatt (MW) floating solar installation in Millburn. Once completed, it will be the largest floating solar array in the U.S. According to the press release from the New Jersey Resources company (available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/123/2022/05/22-20-Canoe-Brook-Floating-Solar.pdf>), "floating solar projects offer a solution to the challenge of finding suitable locations to accommodate large scale commercial solar installations. Built mostly on man-made lakes or reservoirs, where tides and saltwater will not impact the panels, floating solar projects turn underutilized space into clean energy. Floating solar panels can also help reduce evaporation." <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/05/16510-canoe-brook-water-treatment-plant-millburn-new-jersey-american-water-cev-8-9-megawatts-clean-energy/>

- **Solar Industry Backs Plan to Boost Stalled Projects** - This article describes ramifications of bills currently in the NJ legislature that address issues resulting from the inability of the aging electric grid to accommodate new solar projects, the lag in development of energy storage systems, among other issues, and the effects the proposed solutions would have both on the solar industry and on ratepayers. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/05/nj-solar-industry-boost-stalled-projects-grid-limitations-ratepayers-subsidies/>
- **Governor Phil Murphy Announces New Jersey's Agreement with Ørsted to Marshal the Ocean Wind Project** - Ørsted Offshore North America has signed a letter of intent with the NJ Economic Development Authority (EDA) to be the first tenant at NJ's Wind Port being constructed in Salem County. Ørsted plans to use the Wind Port as the staging facility for its Ocean Wind 1 project. The lease is expected to create at least 200 pre-assembly, stevedoring and other jobs. Ørsted has committed to use union labor (see article below). <https://www.state.nj.us/governor/news/news/562022/approved/20220428a.shtml>
- **NJ Offshore Wind Developer Ørsted Inks Deal to Use All Union Labor** - With assistance from the Biden administration, Ørsted and North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU) signed a project labor agreement (PLA) to utilize only American union labor in all contracts and subcontracts for construction of Ørsted's U.S. offshore wind farms. As stated on the AFL-CIO website, "The first of its kind in the United States, the National Offshore Wind Agreement (NOWA) sets the bar for working conditions and equity, injects hundreds of millions of dollars in middle-class wages into the American economy, creates apprenticeship and career opportunities for communities most impacted by environmental injustice, and ensures projects will be built with the safest and best-trained workers in the country." <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/05/orsted-north-americas-building-trades-unions-agree-all-union-labor-east-coast-wind-energy-projects/>
- **Ocean City Not Relenting in Battle Against Wind Farm** - At a public meeting in Ocean City organized by the City Council, residents and elected officials voiced continuing concerns about the wind farm planned to be built by Ørsted, including a proposed underground transmission cable that would go through the town. The town plans to ask for a number of "potential host community benefits" and also for the opportunity to review the environmental studies prior to any permitting decisions being made. <https://ocnjdaily.com/ocean-city-not-relenting-battle-wind-farm/>
- **Offshore Wind Leaders Say NJ Making the Right Moves** - This article describes remarks made at a panel at the International Offshore Wind Partnering Forum trade show, where participants described a number of ways NJ is "proceeding in the right direction to produce a sustainable offshore wind industry." <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/04/offshore-wind-industry-conference-atlantic-city-plaudits-development-opportunities-wind-port-salem-county-orsted/>
- **Small Businesses Work for a Piece of Giant Offshore Wind Pie** - This article describes the International Offshore Wind Partnering Forum trade show that took place in Atlantic City [a 4-minute news video of the trade show, "**Murphy Extols NJ's Advances in Offshore Wind**," is available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/murphy-extols-njs-advances-in-offshore-wind/>]. The trade show attracted numerous small businesses that support the offshore wind industry. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/04/atlantic-city-convention-center-seeking-lucrative-offshore-wind-contracts-biggest-trade-show-small-piece-giant-economic-pie/>
- **Opinion: The Future Is Electric; NJ Needs to Catch Up** (by Barbara Blumenthal, research director with the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, and Nicole Miller, a member of the Jersey Water Works steering committee, a member of the Newark Environmental Commission and co-chair of NewarkDIG) - The authors describe how NJ "is falling behind in replacing dirty fossil fuels that heat our homes and buildings with electricity based on clean, renewable solar and wind" and point to a recent

report, "The Future is Electric," that provides an analysis demonstrating the annual savings that New Jersey households will see in utility bills with electrification.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/04/cold-climate-heat-pumps-greenhouse-gas-emissions-buildings-gas-fueled-oil-fueled-furnaces-boilers-water-heaters-utility-bills/>

- **Opinion: Solar Can't Connect to New Jersey's Electric Grid. That's a Problem** (by Fred DeSanti, executive director of the New Jersey Solar Energy Coalition) - The author describes an existing problem related to standards for connecting solar projects to the electric grid, which can require new projects to pay full costs for required grid upgrades. He advocates for a bill currently in the NJ legislature (S431/A3711) for updating interconnection standards and developing a fixed fee structure for interconnection costs. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/05/op-ed-fred-desanti-njs-big-solar-problem-aging-electric-grid-outdated-standards-shattered-areas/>
- **Opinion: Building a Cleaner, Healthier New Jersey Through Solar** (by Elena Weissmann, the Mid-Atlantic regional director at Vote Solar, a national solar advocacy nonprofit) - The author describes the benefits of solar energy, the need for expansion of the community solar program that "puts equity at the forefront," and passage of the Clean Energy Equity Act. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/05/opinion-nj-energy-and-environment-solar-small-percent-states-electricity-generation-legislature-regulators-must-act/>
- **Opinion: Advancing Renewable Energy, a Critical Investment in Our Planet** (by David Hardy, the chief executive officer of Ørsted Offshore, North America) - The author describes the need for advancing the deployment of renewable energy, and states that it is a bipartisan issue requiring government officials and the private sector to work together. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/04/renewable-energy-green-energy-offshore-wind-solar-carbon-carbon-dioxide-transmission-storage/>

CLIMATE CHANGE



- **'High Water Line' Project Draws the Boundary Where N.J.'s New Coastline Will Be if Climate Change Persists** - Christina Gerhardt, a Princeton University Visiting Professor in the Environmental Humanities (from the University of Hawaii at Mānoa) took researchers, students and community members on a walk through Sayreville to draw a chalk line indicating the extent of potential sea level rise as part of the Princeton "High Water Line" project. [A 4-1/2 minute Spotlight News video "**Chalk Line Marks Climate-Change Danger Zone In One NJ Town**" showing the group as they place the - biodegradable - chalk line in Sayreville is available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/chalk-line-marks-climate-change-danger-zone-in-one-nj-town/>] Such walks provide on-the-ground visualization of real life impacts of more esoteric sea level rise descriptions such as "x feet in x number of years." <https://www.princeton.edu/news/2022/04/28/high-water-line-project-draws-boundary-where-njs-new-coastline-will-be-if-climate>

- Hazard NJ - New Podcast Series Highlights the Intersection of Pollution and Climate Change in the Garden State** (4-minute podcast trailer) - NJ Spotlight inaugurated a limited podcast series detailing climate change impacts on Superfund sites in NJ. The trailer is here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/podcast/trailer-hazard-nj/>. The episodes are as follows:

 - **Episode 1: On Thin Ice - At the toxic American Cyanamid Superfund site in Bridgewater, floodwaters are a constant concern** - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/podcast/hazard-nj-podcast-episode-1-on-thin-ice/>
 - **Climate change compounds risks at NJ's Superfund sites: Many of the state's Superfund sites are situated along waterways prone to flooding** - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/hazard-nj-how-climate-change-threatens-njs-superfund-sites/>
 - **What are Superfund sites? Why should you care?:** <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/05/hazard-nj-superfund-sites-qa-why-you-should-care-toxic-hazardous-chemicals/>
- Governor Murphy, Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner LaTourette Announce New Investments in Flood Protection** - As part of continuing programs to bolster the resilience of NJ communities as they deal with effects of climate change, Gov. Murphy announced a \$50 million increase in the Blue Acres homeowner buyout program for Ida-impacted communities and \$10 million in community stormwater grants. <https://www.state.nj.us/governor/news/news/562022/approved/20220503b.shtml>
- Urban Parks Help Fight Climate Change** - The nonprofit group Trust for Public Land issued a report "The Power of Parks to Address Climate Change" (available here: <https://www.tpl.org/parks-address-climate-change-report>) describing the role that urban parks can play in making cities safer and more livable in the face of climate change. It also ranked parks in the 100 most populous U.S. cities; two NJ cities (Jersey City and Newark) were ranked in the top 50, because most residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park. However, they ranked poorly in the size of their parks, which are only around 10% - 15% of the average size of urban parks included in the rankings. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/05/trust-for-public-land-urban-parks-newark-jersey-city-in-to-50-more-investment-needed-climate-change/>
- What Climate Choices Should Cities Make? A Princeton Data Tool Helps Planners Set Priorities** - Princeton University researchers have developed the Zero Emissions Calculator for Communities (ZECC), a carbon dioxide emissions calculator, and "then took it a step farther by partnering with the Twin Cities Metropolitan Council (Met Council) in Minnesota, incorporating high-resolution local data to create a 'Greenhouse Gas Scenario Planning Tool' (currently in beta testing) for every city, town and rural community in the Minneapolis-St. Paul region." The tool uses granular local data to first quantify each community's energy use projections, and then to determine what specific types of changes will most impact greenhouse gas emissions, for use in local planning and decision-making. <https://engineering.princeton.edu/news/2022/04/12/what-climate-choices-should-cities-make-princeton-data-tool-helps-planners-set-priorities>
- Will Going Green Help Utility Customers Save Some Green of Their Own?** - This article describes comments made by various groups and sectors at a webinar (see p. 4 for a link to the video of the webinar) presenting a preliminary analysis of a cost analysis study on the NJ Energy Management Plan (EMP). For several years, various entities ranging from the NJ Division of Rate Counsel to the NJ business community have been asking for such a study. The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) originally had the first quarter of 2020 as a target date for completion, but at that time the BPU stated that it needed to be redone to take the impacts of COVID-19 into effect. The study is now expected to be completed this summer, and the webinar was held in which the BPU's consultant described how some

assumptions were changed in response to previous comments, reviewed preliminary observations about how various clean energy scenarios affect total energy burden, and presented sample calculations. Information about how to submit comments on the mid-study update is available on p. 4. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/05/report-brattle-group-clean-energy-savings-utilities-fossil-fuels/>

DRINKING WATER-RELATED ISSUES (other than lead)

- **Judge OKs Class Action in Middlesex Water Contamination Lawsuit** - As required by NJ regulations, the Middlesex Water Company notified customers in October 2021 of exceedances of PFAS maximum levels set by the state, but maintained that this did not represent a public health emergency, and stated that it would not pay for bottled water or filtration systems. Seven residents sued the company, and a judge has now determined that they represent a class of hundreds of thousands of customers who received tainted water. This is the first time such a class of water company customers has been certified. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/04/nj-class-action-lawsuit-contamination-forever-chemicals-pfoa-middlesex-water-company-utility-compliance-with-state-limits/>
- **Opinion: NJ Must Tackle Its Growing ‘Forever-Chemical’ Problem** (by Eileen Murphy, vice president of government relations at NJ Audubon Society and NJ co-chair of the Keep It Green Coalition) - The author describes the ubiquitousness and lack of knowledge and regulations related to PFAS "forever chemicals," and points out that it took 16 years from initial discovery of PFAS in NJ to regulate three of them, and there are over 12,000 PFAS types known. A regulation approach based on class, in addition to the existing approach based on individual chemicals, is proposed. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/05/forever-chemicals-pfas-pfoa-pfna-drinking-water-delaware-river-watershed-new-york-city-philadelphia/>

POLLUTION



- **The Bag Ban: How Did New Jersey Do on Day One?** (3-1/2 minute news video) - NJ's ban on single-use plastic bags and polystyrene containers went into effect on 5/4/2022. Several articles and news videos describe impacts on different sectors. This video is available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/the-bag-ban-how-did-new-jersey-do-on-day-one/>. Other related videos and articles include: "**Restaurants Prepare for Plastic Bag Ban**" (4-minute news video), available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/restaurants-prepare-for-plastic-bag-ban/>; "**What NJ's Plastic Bag Ban Means for Grocery Chains**," available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/04/nj-bag-ban-grocery-chains-pickup-delivery-rules/>; and "**Lingering Questions About NJ's Ban on Plastic and Paper Bags**," available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/05/nj-bag-ban-starts-may-4-we-answer-peoples-lingering-questions/>.

- **To Ensure Public Awareness of Air Quality, New Jersey Launches Color-Coded Flag System** - During "Air Quality Awareness Week" (5/6/2022 - 5/9/2022), the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) launched a system of color-coded flags that can be flown by schools, senior centers, summer camps, and daycare centers, to show air quality conditions that day. The five color-coded flags match the air quality color system of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and will be based on the Air Quality Index, which reports daily air quality levels for ozone and fine particulate matter (PM 2.5). https://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2022/22_0023.htm

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- **Opinion: Let's Start the Great Efficiency Awakening in Energy Use** (by Ralph Izzo, the chairman, president, and CEO of the Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG)) - The author puts forth a five-point list of actions to mitigate climate change, beginning with "enabling greater energy efficiency." <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/05/op-ed-ralph-izzo-pseg-chairman-president-ceo-offers-five-point-action-list-mitigating-climate-change-damage-affordable-energy-jobs-economy/>

EDUCATIONAL and YOUTH-RELATED

- **New Life for NJ School of Conservation?** - Bills are proceeding in the NJ legislature that would give management of the NJ School of Conservation to the group "Friends of the New Jersey School of Conservation," and would direct the NJ Department of Education (DOE) to include funds for the school's maintenance and operation in its budget. Unless these bills are passed by the full Assembly and Senate, and signed by the governor, the selection of the entity to run the school will fall to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). There is currently one other, undisclosed, bidder (Montclair State University, which had previously run the school, has dropped out of the bidding). <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/05/school-of-conservation-friends-of-the-new-jersey-school-of-conservation-bill-legislation-new-operator/>
- **The First-of-Its-kind Environmental Education Curriculum Is Focused On Sustainable Habits That Support Climate Mitigation** - Rutgers University has been awarded \$335,261 for "NJ Leaves No Bite Behind," a two-year, state-funded project focused on educational interventions to reduce food waste in schools. The first-of-its-kind environmental education curriculum is focused on sustainable habits that support climate mitigation. Rutgers will pilot this curriculum for K-12 in two schools in Ocean and Passaic counties to assess an interdisciplinary, experiential program focused on sustainable food habits that support climate mitigation. It will include videos, animations, interactive games, and in-person lesson plans and activities. <https://www.rutgers.edu/news/new-jersey-funds-rutgers-education-project-focused-curbing-food-waste-k-12-schools>

UU FaithAction NJ - Environmental Justice Task Force - <https://uufaithaction.org/environment/>
Co-Chairs – Peggy Middaugh and Ray Nichols

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



MORATORIUM MONDAYS CONTINUE

Please continue to contact Gov. Murphy every Monday and urge him to declare a climate emergency moratorium on fossil fuel projects! These efforts have been successful in that a number of projects have been stopped or delayed in the past year. Either call through the

EmpowerNJ number (866-586-4069) to get coaching on the topic of the week, emphasizing what is in the news, or call directly to the governor's office (609-292-6000).

Over 50 environmental, citizen, faith, and progressive groups in NJ are calling on Governor Murphy to enact a moratorium on all new fossil fuel projects in New Jersey until there are rules in place to achieve 100% clean energy goals.