



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.

EJTF ACTIVITIES

Trenton March & Rally for Clean Air & Climate Justice (see p. 2)



EJTF Co-Chair Peggy Middaugh (above, right) and others from the UU Congregation of Ocean County (UUCOC) (see photos below) joined hundreds of environmental advocates at the June 23, 2022 March and Rally.



UUCOC members Roseanne DePasquale and Carol Gay joined other singers and IUC members at the event (photos at right).

NEWSLETTER CONTENTS

EJTF Activities	1	- Land Management/Agriculture/Food .	11
Future Events	3	- Renewable Resources	12
Videos of Past Events	7	- Climate Change	14
EJTF's Goals for 2022	10	- Lead Reduction in Households	15
News Related to EJTF Issues	10	- Pollution	16
- Environmental Justice	10	- Educational & Youth Programs	16
- Electric Vehicles/Vehicle Emission Reduction	10	- Other	16
		Moratorium Mondays	18

EJTF ACTIVITIES (continued)

- At the 6/23/2022 "March and Rally for Clean Air and Climate Justice," convened by the EmpowerNJ coalition (**of which EJTF is a member**), **EJTF members** and other Unitarian Universalists (UUs) joined hundreds of community and climate activists and environmental justice leaders, demanding that Gov. Murphy deny permits for major new fossil fuel projects. They gathered at the Patriots Theater at the War Memorial before marching to the Statehouse Annex, where speakers from frontline communities talked about the threats they are facing from new projects. They pointed out that, while the state's environmental justice law is an important step, it is not being applied to the current proposals, including a new fracked gas power plant at the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) treatment plant in Newark. A link to a video of the march is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/2s45tf74>.

FUTURE EVENTS - Virtual, In-person, and Hybrid

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

AUGUST 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 Rally & Public Hearing on TGP permit - 5:30 p.m.	5	6
7	8 Comments Due on: BOEM DEIS for Ocean Wind 1 Project	9 Passaic County EJ DEP Community Engagement Session - 7:00 p.m. Comments Due on " NJ Underserved Communities EV Affordability Program " Draft Report	10 DRBC 3Q 2022 Public Hearing - 1:30 p.m.	11 "Energy Security and Decarbonization" - 3:00 p.m.	12	13 "Forest Fun Day" (NJSOC) - 9:00 a.m.
14	15	16	17	18 "Decarbonizing Buildings" - 1:15 p.m.	19	20 "Water Pollution & Your Planet" (NJSOC) - 10:00 a.m.
21	22	23 "Where Environmental Voters Could Make the Biggest Difference" - 7:00 p.m.	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31		Comments due on NJDEP EJ Proposed Regulations on 9/4/2022	

"Tell NJDEP: No Fracked Gas Compressor Expansion - Rally & Public Hearing"

In-person

Thursday, August 4, 2022: rally at 5:30 p.m.; public hearing at 6:00 p.m.

Sussex County Technical School, 105 N. Church Rd, Sparta, NJ 07871

On 8/4/2022, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will hold the only planned public hearing on the final pending permit required for the North Jersey Compressor expansion proposal. Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company (TGP) plans to triple the size of its fracked gas compressor station in Wantage and build a new one in West Milford.

A rally is to be held before the public hearing, "to call on Gov. Murphy to live up to his climate and environmental commitments and stop this dangerous and unnecessary project." The organizers will be in touch with all those who RSVP, to share talking points to help prepare for making comments at the hearing. Additional information and the link to RSVP are available here:

<https://actionnetwork.org/events/tell-njdep-no-fracked-gas-compressor-expansion-public-hearing-rally/>.

Additional information from the DEP about the permit renewal and modification being requested by TGP, and about providing public comments, is available here:

<https://www.state.nj.us/dep/aqpp/downloads/publicnotpost/tgppn.pdf>. **The deadline to submit comments to DEP is close of business on 8/8/2022.**

U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) "Ocean Wind 1 Project" Draft Environmental Impact Statement Comments due August 8, 2022

The U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the proposed Ocean Wind 1 project, Ørsted's 1,100-megawatt offshore wind farm off the coast of NJ. The BOEM held three virtual public hearings on the DEIS; **the public comment period closes at 12:59 p.m. on August 8, 2022.** Links to the DEIS and related documents are available here: <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/ocean-wind-1>. Videos of public hearings and information on how to comment are available here:

<https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/ocean-wind-1-deis-virtual-public-hearings> (use the tabs at the top of the page for "Videos" and "How to Comment"). On the "Videos" page, there are also seven brief videos that provide an overview of the resources analyzed within the DEIS.

Passaic County EJ DEP Community Engagement Session - Hybrid Tuesday, August 9, 2022, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Boys & Girls Club of Passaic, 14 Hudson Street, Passaic, NJ 07055 and on Zoom

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is inviting Passaic County residents to attend a community engagement session regarding Environmental Justice, with DEP Commissioner Shawn LaTourette and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 2 Regional Administrator Lisa Garcia. This community engagement session will provide residents, community groups, and other members of the public with a chance to discuss environmental justice issues in Passaic County, and is one of a series being conducted by DEP in communities across NJ. The meeting will be in-person and also on Zoom (registration is available here:

https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsdemorjovHo_G536_-uY6jHc7nA-NA2c).

**Comments Due on NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU)
Draft Report - NJ Underserved Communities Electric Vehicle Affordability Program
Tuesday, August 9, 2022**

Staff of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) is inviting all interested parties and members of the public to provide written comments on the draft report on an electric vehicle transportation study ("New Jersey Underserved Communities Electric Vehicle Affordability Program") conducted to identify how low and moderate income communities can gain better access to electric vehicles. Additional information including how to submit comments, and a link to the study report, are available here:

[https://www.nj.gov/bpu/pdf/publicnotice/Notice for Public Comment EVAcessReport.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/bpu/pdf/publicnotice/Notice%20for%20Public%20Comment%20EVAcessReport.pdf).

Written comments can be submitted until 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 9, 2022.

**Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) Third Quarter 2022 Public Hearing
via Zoom
Wednesday, August 10, 2022, 1:30 p.m.**

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) will hold its third-quarter public hearing on Wednesday, August 10, 2022, beginning at 1:30 p.m. The public hearing will take place remotely via Zoom Webinar. You can find the link to register at:

<https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/meetings/upcoming/index.html>.

**Comments Due on
NJDEP proposed implementing regulations for
NJ's Environmental Justice Law
September 4, 2022**

These are the regulations needed in order for the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to implement the landmark Environmental Justice Law enacted by NJ in 2020. "The proposed rule will require certain facilities seeking certain permits in overburdened communities to prepare an environmental justice impact statement and conduct a public hearing to ensure meaningful public participation ... the Department will apply permit conditions where necessary ..."

The Notice of Rule Proposal, links to the proposed rulemaking, and instructions for submitting written comments (due by September 4, 2022) are available here:

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/notices/20220606a.html>.

The specific evaluation process DEP plans to use is described in a "Press Briefing on the EJ Rule Tool" (1-1/4 hour webinar) available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZnBBEL9Q6WE>.

A 25-minute tutorial of the new DEP "EJMAP" tool to be used in the evaluation process is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CAUgfYkkWpc>.

"Forest Fun Day" - In-person
Friends of The New Jersey School of Conservation (NJSOC)
NJ School of Conservation, 1 Wapalanne Road, Sandyston, NJ
Saturday, August 13, 2022, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

"Bring your friends and family for a day of adventure and FUN in the FOREST! Experience the magic of the NJ School of Conservation as you foster a love of nature and build a sense of community with old and new friends in the outdoors. During your visit you will participate in experiential activities in the outdoors such as: boating, fishing, archery, rock painting, iPhone photography and hikes. Upon arrival you will have the opportunity to select several activities in which to participate." In case of rain, this event will be postponed to Sunday, August 14th, and participants will be notified in advance. Additional information including registration (\$10.00 - \$35.00) is available here: <https://friendsofnjsoc.org/event/forest-fun-day-2/>.

"Decarbonizing Buildings: A primer for the systems thinker" - Webinar
Thursday, August 18, 2022, 1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

"The built environment accounts for about 50% of global CO2 emissions. Reducing energy use and converting to renewables go a long way toward decarbonizing a building. But, energy is one system in a whole set of building systems. So, focusing on the whole building has additional energy and carbon reduction payoffs." This webinar, sponsored by the Security and Sustainability Forum and George Washington University (GWU), will be presented by Smita Chandra Thomas. She is the founder and principal of Energy Shrink - a Washington DC consulting practice focused on decarbonizing buildings for international, national, and local clients, and is also an instructor in the GWU Clean Energy Resilience Certificate Program. The registration link is available here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3085220156136883468>.

"Water Pollution & Your Planet" - In-Person
Friends of The New Jersey School of Conservation (NJSOC)
NJ School of Conservation, 1 Wapalanne Road, Sandyston, NJ
Saturday, August 20, 2022, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

"We use water everyday for so many things, but do we really know how it gets polluted? Do we know how we can protect it & make a difference? Clean water is something that we all depend on daily for our hygiene, sanitation, nourishment, recreation and aesthetic enjoyment. Pollution of our waters have significant consequences that impact us all. Join engineer and former NJDEP compliance officer Joseph Mikulka as he introduces you to the basic concepts of water pollution. You will gain an understanding of its sources, its impacts on aquatic biota and public health, how it is regulated, how it can be prevented, and most importantly, what you can personally do the help protect our waters. This ecological learning event is for all ages." Additional information including registration (\$10.00) is available here: <https://friendsofnjsoc.org/event/water-pollution-your-planet/>.

**"Where Environmental Voters Could Make the Biggest Difference in this Year's
Midterms" - Webinar**

Tuesday, August 23, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

In the August National Zoom Call of the Elders Climate Action network, Nathaniel Stinnett, the founder and Executive Director of the Environmental Voter Project, will discuss the project's "cutting-edge voter turnout work, and where he sees the biggest opportunities for environmental voters to make a difference this fall. Nathaniel will share data that demonstrates the success of these efforts and will discuss why you are critical to this work." Additional information and the link to register are available here: https://www.eldersclimateaction.org/event/natcal_aug22/.

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 August 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/>.

**"Energy Security and Decarbonization: A Policy Leadership Series with US Deputy
Secretary of Energy David Turk"**

Thursday, August 11, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Resources for the Future, in this webinar David Turk, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Energy, will discuss the dual global energy and climate change crises, and the administration's ongoing responses to high energy prices, and the policies and technologies needed to combat climate change while ensuring a just and equitable clean energy transition, among other topics. Additional information and the registration link are available here: <https://climatesociety.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/icalrepeat.detail/2022/08/11/7223/-/webinar-energy-security-and-decarbonization-a-policy-leadership-series-with-us-deputy-secretary-of-energy-david-turk>.



New Jersey Clean Energy Conference - In-person

Harrah's Atlantic City, Conference Hall

777 Harrah's Hotel and Casino, Atlantic City, NJ 08401

October 3 and October-4, 2022, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The Clean Energy Conference is returning this year, and will be held in-person. It will include industry experts, state and federal leaders, and advocates. Objectives include taking a closer look at NJ's Energy Master Plan (EMP) and the nation-leading policy design and implementation work undertaken during the last three years; discussions of incentive programs; examination of how solar, offshore wind, electric vehicles, and energy efficiency can benefit communities, particularly environmental justice and low- and moderate-income communities; and discussions of how to move toward a clean energy economy and future that works for everyone. Additional information and the registration link are available here: <https://ce-catalog.rutgers.edu/coursedisplay.cfm?schID=86753>. Early Registration (on or before 9/5/2022) is \$175; Regular Registration (9/6/2022 - 9/28/2022) is \$200; Public / Non-Profit Employee Registration is \$100; Student Registration is \$75; and Walk-in Registration is \$250.

VIDEOS+ OF PAST EVENTS

“Green Amendments: Transforming Environmental Rights from Rhetoric to Reality” Evening Panel from 2nd Annual Green Amendment Day - **Video of Panel**

The 2nd Annual Green Amendment Day brought a "renewed sense of urgency, determination, and action. Over 200 people from 23 different states across the nation registered for our Evening Panel, which brought together a deep field of legal experts, environmental advocates, community leaders, and members of the public. This comes at a time when recent rulings by the Supreme Court have frayed the fabric of society and put our environmental rights and future into jeopardy. As Founder, Maya van Rossum asserted, a "Green Amendment" can be a viable and powerful counter that explicitly solidifies the government's obligation to protect our right to a clean and healthy environment, guaranteeing it for current and future generations." The video of the Evening Panel is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93aNLauoIpo>.

"Offshore-Wind Roundtable Recap: Bringing the Power Ashore" - **Video of Roundtable**

NJ Spotlight News hosted a virtual roundtable to explore how the offshore wind industry can best bring wind power ashore, while protecting public and business interests. NJ "has entered into a key phase where various transmission projects aimed at reliably delivering power from offshore wind turbines to customers are being evaluated by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU). Developers have proposed a wide range of onshore and offshore projects... The range of proposed projects suggests the complexity of bringing wind power to New Jersey customers." The video is available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/06/offshore-wind-roundtable-recap-bringing-the-power-ashore/>?

"New Jersey's Whole House Pilot Program" - **Video of Webinar**

In May 2018, Gov. Murphy signed into law the Clean Energy Act, (CEA), which set forth ambitious goals to advance energy efficiency (EE) and other clean energy efforts. In the years following passage of the CEA, state agencies, public utility companies, and a broad range of stakeholders worked collaboratively to review and consider options and best practices on a myriad of topics related to EE. Many stakeholders expressed support for an approach that would integrate health and safety measures with EE upgrades. The Whole House Pilot Program ("WHPP") intends to take a "whole house" approach to addressing health and safety concerns and implementing EE measures in single- and multi-family residences occupied by low- to moderate-income residents. This pilot will also test an integrated, statewide strategy that streamlines and leverages existing resources, programs, and funding streams from multiple sources, including Federal, State, and Local governments, non-government organizations, and non-profit organizations. In this webinar, NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) staff presented the status of the WHPP, and shared the results of the WHPP Asset and Gap Analysis Report (the report is available here:

https://www.njcleanenergy.com/files/file/Library/6_17_22_GHH-NJ-Report-Final-revised.pdf). The video is available here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/play/PALmxXWQj8VrIVLaaRHlcXmKy4v9IxCKWipzaM5Ut1ENMzdo4U5DbCxbEY6ToAun-2Sc18xD2CVzvOGb.q-x88kTroHXVcrhm>.

**“Protect What You Love, Reduce Militarism To Create a Livable Climate”
Videos of Webinar and Slideshow**

This 2022 Action of Immediate Witness (AIW) Proposal at the 2022 UUA General Assembly (which EJTF had supported but which was not ultimately selected, falling one vote short) addressed protecting the future of life on this planet by calling on the Biden Administration, Congress and the United Nations to include military emissions in our nation’s annual reports to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and to be included as part of our Nationally Determined Contributions. In this webinar, presented by Cindy Piester, the AIW’s author, she covered the current devastating state of the climate, failed efforts by world leaders, and the need to acknowledge the U.S. Department of Defense as the world’s largest institutional producer of greenhouse gas emissions. The video of the webinar is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOXhSI28yqY>; a shorter video of the slideshow is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SmaE-X7Z6Ts>.

**"Offshore Wind Energy: Scaling Up Innovation to Drive Down Emissions"
Video of Webinar**

The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) held a briefing on offshore wind energy in which panelists discussed opportunities, challenges, and considerations for scaling up offshore wind energy in the United States, as well as the policies that could support such a ramp-up. The video is available here: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/062922tech>.

**"Ecological Civilization: Earth, Religion, and the Human Future"
UUA General Assembly 2022 Workshop - Video of Workshop**

"Humans are a choice-making species with a common future, faced with an epic choice. We can continue to seek marginal adjustments in the culture and institutions of the Imperial Civilization of violence, domination, and exploitation that put us on a path to self-extinction. Or we can transition to an Ecological Civilization dedicated to restoring the health of living Earth’s regenerative systems while securing material sufficiency and spiritual abundance for all people." This webinar provided an opportunity to reflect with David Korten on his vision for an Ecological Civilization and how we, as people of faith, can bring it into being. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jGNf1FHOnjM&t=3s>. Also see the related video, below.

**Follow-up Discussion on UUA General Assembly Workshop
"Ecological Civilization: Earth, Religion & the Human Future" - Video of Webinar**

Hosted by UUs for a Just Economic Community and UU Ministry for Earth, presenters Lucy Hitchcock, David Korten, Michael Cox, and Aly Tharp participated in a follow-up discussion to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) General Assembly (GA) program "Ecological Civilization: Earth, Religion & the Human Future" (see above for additional information and the "on demand" video of the GA program). This webinar provided an opportunity for participants to reflect with David Korten on his vision for an Ecological Civilization and how we, as people of faith, can bring it into being. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ew3hpODxGBQ>.

Congressional Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policy Forum (EXPO 2022) **Video of Forum**

The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) and the House and Senate Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (REEE) Caucuses held the 25th Annual Congressional Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policy Forum (EXPO 2022) online. The Forum showcased technology and policy solutions to today's climate and energy use challenges. Presenting before Congress and the public, top-level speakers shared findings and innovations on the impacts they are having to mitigate climate change, improve the economy, build resilience, and protect our security interests. The video is available here: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/expo2022>.

Mini-Symposium: "Clean Energy Infrastructure is Human Infrastructure" **Video of Webinar**

The Dartmouth Energy Collaborative hosted a panel discussion on the clean energy and human infrastructure aspects of the Biden administration's current infrastructure proposal. Moderators Aimee Barnes (California-China Climate Institute) and Dan Reicher (Stanford Woods Institute) engaged a panel of experts - Erin Mayfield (Thayer School of Engineering), Jeanette Pablo (Clean Air Task Force), Sam Ricketts (Center for American Progress), and Peggy Shepard (WEACT for Environmental Justice) - in a conversation about the climate, policy, equity, and labor aspects of the infrastructure plan. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NI4pX6FmSDU>

NJBPU Grid Modernization Public Meetings - Videos of Meetings

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) held a series of public meetings 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. A total of five meetings were held; at the last meeting, the Draft Report of findings and recommendations was presented and comments were made that are to inform the Final Report production. A link to the Draft Report is here: <https://tinyurl.com/r75nzx3p>. Additional information and links to videos of the presentations are available here: <https://www.njcleanenergy.com/gridmod>.

"Green Amendments: Protecting our Rights!" - Recording of Radio Show

The Eco-Logic radio/internet program on WBAI (co-hosted by **EJTF member Sally Gellert**) presented a program on Green Amendments with guest Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper & leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network; founder of the Green Amendments For The Generations Movement; and author of "The Green Amendment; Securing Our Right to a Healthy Environment." Questions addressed included: What are the possible arguments against this amendment? What do we say to counter them? What are the Environmental Justice aspects of the Green Amendment? The recording is available here: <https://wbai.org/archive/program/episode/?id=32139>.

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).**

NEWS RELATED TO EJTF ISSUES

[covering 6/27/2022 – 7/26/2022]

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- **Court Ruling to Limit EPA's Authority a Blow to NJ's Environmental Justice Communities** - In this article, environmental and environmental justice advocates, including **EJTF partner Maria Lopez-Nuñez**, director of Environmental Justice and Community Development for the Newark-based Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC) and a member of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council, decry the Supreme Court's ruling on the West Virginia vs. the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) case and its impact on environmental justice communities. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/07/supreme-court-ruling-limit-epa-oversight-environmental-justice-nj-newark-ironbound/>
- **Amazon's Air Hub at Newark Airport Is Cancelled** - After nearly a year of protests related to the increased environmental burden it would put on an already overburdened community, Amazon cancelled its plans for a cargo hub at Newark Airport. "This is a great victory for South Ward residents who came together in solidarity for Clean Air and Good Jobs" stated **EJTF partner Kim Gaddy**, the Environmental Justice Director for Clean Water Action and Executive Director of the South Ward Environmental Alliance. [A 1-minute news video is available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/plan-for-controversial-amazon-hub-at-newark-airport-is-scraped/>] <https://cleanwateraction.org/releases/breaking-amazon's-air-hub-newark-airport-cancelled>

ELECTRIC VEHICLES & VEHICLE EMISSION REDUCTION

- **Governor Murphy Launches Year Three of Charge Up New Jersey Electric Vehicle Incentive Program and Unveils New Residential EV Charger Program** - Gov. Murphy announced \$60 million in incentives for Year Three of NJ's "Charge Up New Jersey" electric vehicle (EV) incentive program and also unveiled NJ's new residential EV charger program. Incentives include up to \$4,000 per vehicle for EV purchases, and \$250 for installing a home-charging station. See 1-1/2 minute news video here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/nj-to-offer-up-to-4000-cash-incentive-for-purchase-or-lease-of-electric-vehicles/>. Gov. Murphy's press release is available here: <https://www.state.nj.us/governor/news/news/562022/approved/20220725a.shtml>.

- **NJEDA to Expand Electric Vehicle Voucher Program Statewide** - The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) has announced "the expansion of the New Jersey Zero Emission Incentive Program (NJ ZIP) to support businesses and institutions statewide that are purchasing new, zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicles operating in New Jersey... the NJEDA's Board approved the \$45 million expansion, through its Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) allocation, doubling the amount of funding dedicated to the program. In addition to increased funding for the program, the NJEDA Board also approved two major eligibility changes from the earlier phase – expanding eligibility to include heavy-duty vehicle classes, and expanding statewide, beyond the four pilot communities in the first phase... Over 90 percent of the entities approved to date are small businesses, and approximately 57 percent are minority- and/or woman-owned."
<https://www.njeda.com/njeda-to-expand-electric-vehicle-voucher-program-statewide/>
- **NJ among 16 States Suing US Postal Service over Lack of Electric Vehicles** - NJ joined 15 other states to sue the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) over its plan to replace \$165,000 delivery trucks with only 10% of the replacements slated to be electric vehicles in the current contract. The lawsuit, along with two others filed by environmental advocate groups, cites the inadequacy of the environmental review performed by the USPS under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). See <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/07/nj-among-16-states-suing-usps-u-s-postal-service-over-lack-of-evs-in-truck-replacement-plan/>. **Since the filing of these lawsuits, the USPS has issued a change of scope of the impact statement, in which at least 50% of the replacements in the contract now "are expected to be battery electric vehicles."** See "Postal Service Modernization Enables Expanded Electric Vehicle Opportunity" available here: <https://about.usps.com/newsroom/national-releases/2022/0720-postal-service-modernization-enables-expanded-electric-vehicle-opportunity.htm>

LAND MANAGEMENT/AGRICULTURE/FOOD

Food Access-related Legislation Signed by Gov. Murphy

S2921/A4365 - This bill revises certain requirements of the Food Desert Relief Program, through which the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA) provides incentives for the establishment of supermarkets and grocery stores within food desert communities.

A2364/S2017 - This bill would appropriate from the General Fund to the Department of Human Services the sum of \$813,000. The bill requires the Department of Human Services to use the funds to implement the use of electronic benefits transfer cards by persons participating in the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.

- **This Tree Planting Initiative Is Promoting Sustainability, Togetherness In Newark** - This article describes the "Renaissance Trees Program," an initiative of the NJ Tree Foundation (of which **EJTF Co-Chair Peggy Middaugh is a Trustee**), which is "a community-based reforestation effort that began in 2006 in the City of Newark... Created to increase the tree canopy, improve the environment, and enhance the quality of life... the Renaissance Trees Program has planted 3,966 trees. More than 21,974 square feet of concrete has been removed, improving stormwater management and promoting a healthier community forest." In the spring 2022 season, 83 trees were planted with the help of 182 volunteers. <https://www.tapinto.net/towns/newark/sections/green/articles/this-tree-planting-initiative-is-promoting-sustainability-togetherness-in-newark>
- **The State We're In: Helping New Jersey Towns Tackle Warehouse Sprawl** - The NJ Department of State's Office of Planning Advocacy has released guidance documents to help municipalities - which are primarily responsible for land-use decisions regarding warehouses - evaluate their impacts. The documents encourage a regional approach, and include a detailed checklist of factors

to consider. The thirteen documents, which cover topics such as warehouse types, traffic and road planning, public health and overburdened communities, municipal considerations, sustainable design and best practices, are available at <https://nj.gov/state/planning/index.shtml> - click on "Warehouse Guidance." <https://centraljersey.com/2022/07/02/the-state-were-in-helping-new-jersey-towns-tackle-warehouse-sprawl/>

RENEWABLE RESOURCES

- **Delaware Riverkeeper Network Sends Notice to National Marine Fisheries Service for Endangered Species Act Violations Threatening Atlantic Sturgeon [related to NJ WIND PORT]** - "Delaware Riverkeeper Network sent a 60-day notice of intent to sue the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for violating the Endangered Species Act [the notice is available here: <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/22112076-final-60-day-notice-of-intent-letter123>]. These violations concern the Biological Opinions issued to the Army Corps of Engineers for the New Jersey Wind Port project and the Edgemoor Container Port project. If permitted by the Army Corps, these commercial ports could threaten the continued existence of the Delaware River Estuary's genetically unique population of Atlantic sturgeon. According to the notice, if these projects move forward, the increase in ship traffic within the estuary will increase sturgeon deaths due to vessel strike, which could threaten the survival of the Delaware River Atlantic Sturgeon." <https://tinyurl.com/2p9cu2sj>
- **NJ Scores Big on Clean-Energy Scorecard** - RMI, "a non-partisan, non-profit organization that works to transform global energy systems across the real economy," has produced State Climate Scorecards that show NJ, along with 5 other states, as having leading programs in clean energy and reducing emissions. Based on an Energy Policy Simulator, those areas in which NJ is doing well are identified, along with areas needing improvement, such as greenhouse gas emissions from the building sector. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/06/climate-pollution-clean-energy-solar-wind-farms-scorecard-power-generation-buildings-transportation/>



- **How to Fix Power Grid Again at Center of Green-Energy Plans** - A draft report prepared for the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) deals with the issue of grid modernization, primarily identifying ways to address delays in interconnections to the grid by renewable energy projects. One recommendation would spread grid upgrade costs between developers, utilities and ratepayers rather than having developers pay all costs. The NJ Division of Rate Counsel opposes this plan because of increases to what ratepayers pay "to subsidize clean-energy projects." See <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/06/energy-nj-power-grid-connection-problems-clean-energy-bpu-modernizing-needed/>. Five public hearings were held to solicit input related to the grid modernization; the last one dealt with the Draft Report - additional information and a link to videos of the meetings are available here: <https://www.njcleanenergy.com/gridmod>.

- **New Jersey Crosses 4 GW Solar Threshold** - The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) announced that NJ has surpassed four gigawatts (GW) of installed solar power, "enough to provide electricity to over 500,000 New Jersey households annually. There are now more than 157,000 solar installations statewide, and it is estimated that solar capacity in the State will double in the next four years." <https://nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/2022/approved/20220715.html>
- **Conservation Group Blasts Offshore Wind Project** - At the first of three public hearings held by the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the proposed Ocean Wind 1 project, Clean Ocean Action representatives reiterated a previous recommendation that a smaller pilot project be built first, and also requested that the comment period be extended past August 8, 2022. See the "Future Activities" section on p. 3 for links to additional information about the hearings, the DEIS, and providing comments. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/07/offshore-wind-offshore-wind-1-clean-ocean-action-opposition-adverse-impacts-commercial-fisheries-marine-mammals-navigation-vessel-traffic-scenery-bureau-of-ocean-energy-management/>
- **"25%" = Potential Revenue Loss for Atlantic City Clam Fishing Industry Due to Offshore Wind Farms, Studies Say** - Two studies published by the ICES (International Council for the Exploration of the Sea) Journal of Marine Science utilized modeling technology to evaluate impacts on the clamming industry from Atlantic coast offshore energy-generating wind turbines. The studies projected that revenue losses could be as high as 25 percent for fishing vessels based in Atlantic City, NJ. See <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/06/rutgers-u-studies-project-revenue-losses-for-clam-fishing-industry-due-to-offshore-wind-farms/>. Additional information and links to the studies are available here: <https://www.rutgers.edu/news/offshore-wind-farms-expected-reduce-clam-fishery-revenue-study-finds>.
- **NJ Wind Port Gets Approval for Major Land Purchase in Salem County** - The NJ Economic Development Agency (EDA) approved a land purchase for the NJ Wind Port that will allow its expansion from 110.6 acres to 220 acres, enabling it to support two concurrent wind projects along with manufacturing of additional components. At least 25 percent of subcontractors for the port construction are required by the EDA to be small businesses and at least 15 percent are required to be women-, minority-, or veteran-owned. The EDA has also included worker diversity goals of 18 percent for people of color and 6.9 percent for women. <https://enviropolitics.com/nj-wind-port-gets-approval-for-major-land-purchase-in-salem-county/>
- **Opinion: BPU Blindsides Solar Developers by Rescinding Deadline Extensions** (by **EJTF member R. William Potter**, a partner in the Princeton-based law firm Potter and Dickson) - This piece describes how an unexpected ruling by the NJ Board of Utilities (BPU) may result in solar projects in varying stages of construction being forced to shut down, and also in solar developers closing their doors and decamping to more pro-solar states. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/07/extensions-deadlines-solar-developers-solar-projects-pandemic-related-shortages-supply-chain-gibbstown-clean-energy/>
- **Karabinchak Introduces Measure to Create NJ Wave and Tidal Energy Pilot Program** - Assembly member Robert Karabinchak has introduced a bill (A4483) that "Requires study of ocean energy potential; directs BPU to establish wave and tidal energy generation goals and take other action to establish NJ as nationwide leader in ocean energy." Wave energy has great potential for energy production, but harnessing it has been problematic. [FYI, currently, the only grid-connected wave energy testing site in the U.S. is at the Navy's Wave Energy Test Site in the waters near the Marine base in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, where wave energy research has been conducted since 2002. It currently has more than one megawatt of capacity.] The NJ FY 2023 budget includes \$500,000 for a wave and tidal energy study and pilot program. <https://www.assemblydems.com/karabinchak-introduces-measure-to-create-nj-wave-and-tidal-energy-pilot-program/>

CLIMATE CHANGE

- **Murphy Blasts ‘Tragic’ Supreme Court Ruling on EPA and Vows N.J. Action to Combat Climate Crisis** - Gov. Murphy stated that "...the Supreme Court’s far-right majority made it abundantly clear: governments can control women’s bodies, but not the guns that endanger our communities or the polluters who imperil the future of our planet.” He decried the Supreme Court's ruling on West Virginia vs. the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), but vowed that NJ will keep doing everything it can to combat the climate crisis. <https://www.nj.com/politics/2022/06/murphy-blasts-tragic-supreme-court-ruling-on-epa-and-vows-nj-action-to-combat-climate-crisis.html>
- **Environment NJ Director on Impact of SCOTUS Greenhouse-Gas Ruling** (4-1/2 minute news video) - In this video, Environment NJ director Doug O'Malley describes the impacts of the recent West Virginia vs. the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Supreme Court ruling, and details the many areas in which NJ needs to keep addressing climate change issues on its own. See <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/environment-nj-director-on-impact-of-scotus-greenhouse-gas-ruling/>. Additional background information and reactions to the ruling are described in the article "**Supreme Court Decision Brings Back Coal Age for Power Plants,**" available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/07/supreme-court-environmental-protection-agency-clean-air-act-air-pollution-coal-coal-burning-power-plant/>.



- **Climate Change Makes Allergy Season Longer** - A study of the length of pollen season in NJ communities showed increases since 1970 of between eight and 28 days in length. Also, the amount of pollen is increasing. These increases are related to increases in temperature and carbon dioxide levels, and the impacts include increases in asthma, which already affects overburdened communities disproportionately. [A related 4-1/2 minute news video is available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/njs-allergy-season-is-longer-harder-due-to-climate-change/> <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/06/climate-central-study-nj-has-longer-allergy-season-pollen-new-analysis-newark-atlantic-city/>]
- **Murphy Administration Awards \$9.4 Million in Grants for Projects to Improve Water Quality and Reduce Impacts of Climate Change** - The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) awarded \$9.4 million "in grants to local government agencies, nonprofit groups, universities and others to fund projects that will improve water quality and reduce the impacts of nonpoint source pollution from stormwater... In many cases, the projects will help mitigate local flooding problems that are increasing due to more severe storms resulting from climate change." A listing of recipients, amounts, and a description of the projects is included in this press release. https://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2022/22_0032.htm

- **Hazard NJ Episode 4: A Comeback on the Hackensack** - Climate-change-intensified storms can have the effect of stirring up toxic-laden mud, as happened in the Hackensack River during Superstorm Sandy. It is now on a list that may designate it a federal Superfund site. This podcast describes the effects of Superstorm Sandy, and the need to address mitigation efforts such as restoring wetlands. See <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/podcast/hazard-nj-episode-4-a-comeback-on-the-hackensack/>. A related 5-minute news video, "**Hazard NJ: Little Ferry Residents Fear Repeat of Superstorm Sandy's Toxic Flood,**" is available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/hazard-nj-little-ferry-residents-fear-repeat-of-superstorm-sandys-toxic-flood/>.
- **Heat Wave and Heavy Rains Spur Algal Blooms in NJ Lakes** (5-minute news video) - Lake Hopatcong has experienced its first harmful algal bloom (HAB) advisory of the year, exacerbated by the heat waves that NJ has been experiencing and also by heavy rains that flush nutrients into the lake and feed the algae. The heat and rain increases resulting from climate change do not bode well for minimizing the HAB problem in the future. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/heat-wave-and-heavy-rains-spur-algal-blooms-in-nj-lakes/>
- **Opinion: N.J.'s Share of the Fed's \$1.2T Infrastructure Fund Should Target Climate Change** (by EJTF partner **Maria Lopez-Nuñez**, director of Environmental Justice and Community Development for the Newark-based Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC) and a member of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council) - In this piece, specific recommendations are made for using the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funds received by NJ in ways that "will accelerate our clean energy transition, improve health, support New Jersey's families, and enhance the state's economic resiliency." <https://www.nj.com/opinion/2022/06/njs-12-trillion-share-of-the-federal-infrastructure-cash-should-target-climate-change-opinion.html>
- **Opinion: Cities Are the Pragmatists of the Climate Crisis** (by John J. Metro, the business administrator for Jersey City) - The author describes the increasing role of cities to address climate change, especially in light of the recent Supreme Court decision that restricted federal government action related to regulating carbon emissions. The steps taken by Jersey City are described, including its enactment of a Climate and Energy Action Plan, and other cities are encouraged to follow its lead. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/07/op-ed-climate-crisis-u-s-supreme-court-restricted-epa-now-cities-under-pressure-can-solve-needs-jersey-city-plan/>
- **Opinion: Murphy's Paper Thin Climate Change Agenda** (by *Insider NJ* columnist Bob Hennelly) - In this piece, the author contrasts statements made by Gov. Murphy related to actions needed to address climate change with actions actually taken by the State. <https://www.insidernj.com/murphys-paper-thin-climate-change-agenda/>

LEAD REDUCTION IN HOUSEHOLDS

- **New Law Requires State to Remediate Lead-Burdened Homes in NJ** (5-minute news video) - On 7/22/2022, NJ's law addressing lead paint in rental dwellings went into effect (the NJ guidance document is available here: https://nj.gov/dca/divisions/codes/resources/pdfs/lead_based_paint_guide_rental_dwellings.pdf). It requires that rental properties subject to the new law (i.e., one- and two-family residential rental homes built before 1978) must be inspected upon tenant turnover or within two years if there is no tenant turnover, but no later than July 22, 2024. A property where lead is found during an inspection will need to undergo remediation, either to make it lead safe or lead free. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/new-law-requires-state-to-remediate-lead-burdened-homes-in-nj/>

- **Fed Funds Help NJ to Finally Get the Lead Out** - The NJ fiscal year 2023 budget includes \$170 million for removing lead paint from homes and apartments and a part of another \$300 for replacing lead service lines. The funding is part of NJ's allocation from the federal "American Rescue Plan Act," and is projected to address lead paint hazards in more than 250,000 housing units. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/07/lead-paint-lead-service-lines-water-american-rescue-plan-170-million-300-million-death-juvenile-justice-poison/>

POLLUTION

- **Fighting Plastic Pollution on Several Fronts** (4-minute news video) - This video describes several ways NJ is addressing plastic pollution, including with a bill (S426/A1444) that has been introduced, that "Requires producers of packaging products sold in New Jersey to adopt and implement packaging product stewardship plans." <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/fighting-plastic-pollution-on-several-fronts/>

EDUCATIONAL and YOUTH-RELATED

- **Environmental Advocates Hail Final Passage of Bill to Preserve New Jersey School of Conservation** - Last year, one of EJTF's secondary issues was preservation of the NJ School of Conservation (NJSOC), located in Stokes State Forest in Sussex County. The FY 2023 State Budget includes a \$1 million dollar Grant-in-Aid for the Friends of the School of Conservation, a non-profit organization to provide stewardship for the NJSOC. In addition, a bill (A3149) that has passed both houses of the legislature formally designates the non-profit organization as the stewards of the NJSOC and directs the NJ Department of Education (DOE) to request funding for it annually. As of 7/26/2022, that bill was awaiting Gov. Murphy's signature. <https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/environmental-advocates-hail-final-passage-of-bill-to-preserve-new-jersey-school-of-conservation/>



- **What's NJ's Record in Training People for Clean-Energy Jobs? It's Complicated** - This article provides an in-depth report of the many programs and educational facilities at various levels in NJ that are providing training in green jobs. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/07/clean-energy-jobs-nj-green-energy-solar-offshore-wind-technicians-welders-cte-community-colleges/>
- **Murphy Administration Inspires Interest in Environmental Careers While Promoting Diversity, Equity and Inclusion through DEP's Youth Inclusion Initiative** - The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has launched the 2022 Youth Inclusion Initiative, "a pilot workforce development program to help the State of New Jersey develop the next generation of

environmental protection, conservation and stewardship leaders while also providing an avenue for young adults from open space-constrained communities to engage with nature as they provide valuable stewardship services to the public through seasonal jobs at DEP."

https://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2022/22_0030.htm

OTHER

- **New Data Service Allows Highlands Council Communities to Track Environmental Changes** - The NJ Highlands Council has launched an online "Interactive Environmental Resource Inventory ("ERI" - available here: www.highlandseri.com) to allow users, including government officials and homeowners, to create maps compiling selected environmental data layers for areas in the 88 communities in the Highlands region. <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/new-data-service-allows-highlands-council-communities-to-track-environmental-changes/ar-AAYZovW>

Update on Liberty State Park Legislation

As was noted in the July 2022 EJTF newsletter (available here: <https://www.uufaithaction.org/blog/>, see p. 19), a new bill related to Liberty State Park was introduced just prior to the legislative session's summer recess. Unlike the previous "Liberty State Park Protection Act," it did not protect the Park from privatization and would open it to commercial development, and it did not call for protection of any specific areas such as Caven Point. The new bill was passed and approved by Gov. Murphy; however, prior to its passage, it was amended to delete "economic" and "business opportunities" from the list of goals and to add "cultural" to the goals. Further, specifics related to informing and involving the public as planning progresses over time were added, panel membership was increased from 17 to 23, and funding was decreased from \$250 million to \$50 million. The final version, showing the revisions, is available here: https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2022/S3000/2807_R2.PDF. It should be noted that, since passage of this legislation, a bill has been introduced (S2956/A4468) that would "designate and preserve Caven Point Peninsula... as natural habitat." The following are reactions to the new bill.

- **Liberty State Park Legislation Advances as Fight Over Its Future Continues** (4-minute news video) - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/liberty-state-park-legislation-advances-as-fight-over-its-future-continues/>
 - **Liberty State Park Redevelopment Bill Amended: \$200 Million Cut and Task Force Expanded** - <https://www.nj.com/hudson/2022/06/liberty-state-park-redevelopment-bill-amended-200-million-cut-and-task-force-expanded.html>
 - **New Jersey LCV Promises Close Scrutiny Following Liberty State Park Vote** - <https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/new-jersey-lcv-promises-close-scrutiny-following-liberty-state-park-vote/>
 - **Opinion: Is There Still a Chance to Fix Liberty State Park — Or Is the Fix In?** (by Lee Keough, editor emeritus of NJ Spotlight News) - <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/07/liberty-state-park-development-caven-point-gov-phil-murphy-paul-fireman-wildlife-remediation/>
- **New Sprouts Already Formed Following Mullica River Fire** (3-minute news video) - In this video, the division forest fire warden of the NJ Forest Fire Service shows how areas of the forest are already showing new growth, and describes ways that the recent 13,000-acre fire benefitted the ecosystem. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/new-sprouts-already-formed-following-mullica-river-fire/>

Views on Environment-related Pluses and Minuses of NJ 2022/2023 Budget

- **Despite Plush Times and an Emergency, Governor Murphy's Budget Underinvests in a Livable Climate Future** - This article provides the views of the Clean Water Action group on the budget. <https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/despite-plush-times-and-an-emergency-governor-murphys-budget-underinvests-in-a-livable-climate-future/>
- **NJLCV: Environmental Advocates Applaud Landmark Investments in New Jersey State Budget, Denounce Continued Clean Energy Raids, No Dedicated Funding to NJ Transit** - This article provides the views of the NJ League of Conservation Voters on the budget. <https://www.njlcv.org/news/environmental-advocates-applaud-landmark-investments-new-jersey-state-budget-denounce>
- **Giant NJ Budget Again Funnels Money Away from Energy Fund** - This article describes the continuing use of the Clean Energy Fund for NJ Transit operations, even in this time of budget surplus. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/07/latest-raid-nj-clean-energy-fund-angers-clean-energy-advocates-money-diverted-nj-transit-operations/>
- **Governor Murphy Signs Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriations Act into Law** - In this press release from Governor's office, it is stated that "... the budget includes significant investments to combat climate change, including nearly \$30 million to meet the Electric Vehicle Act's mandate of a 100 percent electric State fleet by 2035 and funding for a new grant program to support the implementation of the country's first-in-the-nation climate change education standards." <https://www.state.nj.us/governor/news/news/562022/approved/20220630a.shtml>

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.