



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 and CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

"Gov. Murphy: Walk Your Talk on Climate" 50-mile March & Rallies



Final rally in Red Bank, just across the river from Gov. Murphy's home

Unitarian Universalists (UUs) and **members of EJTF** participated in a 5-day, 50-mile march for clean air and climate justice organized by Food & Water Watch and Empower NJ. Starting in Newark,

they proceeded to Elizabeth, Woodbridge, Old Bridge, and finally Red Bank, holding rallies, educational events and actions to spotlight the need for clean air, healthy communities, and a rapid shift away from fossil fuels to clean renewable energy jobs. At the final rally in



Entertainment provided by the "Trumpet Chics" from Camden, NJ



Carol Gay (l.) and Roseann DePasquale (3rd from l.) from the UU Ocean City Congregation (UUOCC) in the chorus

Red Bank, participants called on Gov. Murphy to stop the 7 major fossil fuel projects threatening NJ's communities and climate. In addition, the "Eco-Logic" program on WBAI (radio and online), co-hosted by **EJTF member Sally Gellert**, broadcast live from the march; you can listen to it here:

<https://wbai.org/archive/program/episode/?id=33884>.

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EJTF and CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES (continued)

- As covered on the front page of the July 2022 EJTF Newsletter, **EJTF Co-Chair Ray Nichols** spoke in Trenton at a June 16, 2022 press event including NJ justice organizers, legislators, environmental leaders, and local residents, to urge the state legislature to grant a hearing for the proposed NJ Green Amendment. A video of the press event, with Ray's eloquent remarks beginning at minute 18, is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65mgSbzpb78>. Ray also testified at the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Ocean Wind 1 public hearing; his remarks are at the 3:07:40 point of the recording, available here: <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/ocean-wind-1-recording-july-26-2022>.

- Members of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sussex County (UUFSC) Social Action Team, **including EJTF member Christine Dunbar** (third from left in the photo) attended the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) public hearing on the final pending air permit required for the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company's (TGP) North Jersey Compressor expansion proposal. TGP plans to triple the size of its fracked gas compressor station in Wantage and build a new one in West Milford. At the hearing and rally, participants included many residents of Wantage, where the compressor is being expanded, and also representatives from Passaic and Bergen, where the pipeline runs. Many union workers, who are in favor of the project because it would provide jobs and impact the local economy, also spoke at the hearing. See the news article "**Residents Rally Against Gas Compressor Expansion Project**," available here: <https://www.westmilfordmessenger.com/news/local-news/residents-rally-against-gas-compressor-expansion-project-MC2172608>.



- The **Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Monmouth County (UUCMC)** will soon begin to receive TREC (transition renewable energy credit) payments of about \$6000/year for the next 15 years as a result of recently installing updated solar panels. They are significantly more efficient than the previous panels and, combined with an almost doubling of the number of panels, now supply nearly four times the wattage of the previous system - about 40 megawatts. They should also serve to keep the meetinghouse electric bill near zero for the next 20 years or more.



EJTF and CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES (continued)

• UUFANJ Testimony on DEP's Proposed Implementing Regulations for NJ's Environmental Justice Law

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) held public hearings for the proposed regulations needed in order to implement the landmark Environmental Justice (EJ) Law enacted by NJ in 2020. At the hearing in Newark, **EJTF member Nancy Griffeth**, who also serves on the DEP Environmental Justice Advisory Council (EJAC), presented comments on behalf of UUFANJ (see box at right), and formal written comments are planned to be submitted by UUFANJ also. The due date for written comments is 9/4/2022 (see p. 5).

The EJ Law is precedent-setting in the U.S., as it requires that cumulative impacts of polluting facilities in overburdened communities are considered in the permitting process. The EJ Law has been a primary focus of EJTF, and as the critical steps are taken to craft the regulations that will implement it, we want to be sure that the original intent is carried out. In particular, we join with other environmental justice advocates in opposing including "economic exceptions" that would pit jobs against a clean environment.

See the news video "**Supporters, Critics in Heated Debate Over Enforcement of NJ's Environmental Justice Law**" (here: <https://tinyurl.com/47xmbn57>) and the article "**Newark Environmental Advocates Want 'Landmark' NJDEP Legislation To Prioritize Residents' Health Over Wealth**" (here: <https://tinyurl.com/yc77unce>) for descriptions of the public hearing.

The photos below show a family from the Newark Ironbound section testifying together (l.) and Cynthia Mellon, Chair of the Newark Environmental Commission providing testimony (r.).



UUFANJ Comments at DEP's EJ Rules Public Hearing

I am Nancy Griffeth, and I am commenting on behalf of Unitarian Universalist FaithAction NJ. UU FaithAction is a faith-based nonprofit that believes in the worth and dignity of every person and justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

Thanks to DEP for your hard work. As a member of EJAC I have seen how hard you have worked on this. Also thanks to the brilliant EJ advocates who explained the problem, often to people who just didn't want to listen, and to those who finally got the law passed.

UU FaithAction is in support of the rules as they are. No economic benefits offsetting pollution, and also we support a very strict interpretation of the compelling interest clause.

The most important thing is that the EJ Law must protect the health of EJ communities. I have suffered from various health problems as I have aged, and it's clear that we've got nothing if we don't have our health. Marcus Sibley said it well: To think of children beginning their lives with health struggles is truly distressing.

I have been speculating on something as I have been sitting here listening to the comments, and I just want to mention it. Shoppers don't want to go into a heavily polluted area. Workers don't want to work there. Businesses can't go where there are no shoppers and workers. Residents will be tempted to move away. So how can a heavily polluted area be economically healthy? Is the idea that there's a trade-off between individuals' health and the economic health of the community a fallacy?

But here's something that's not speculation - dirty industries repeatedly victimize the same communities, while providing most of their benefits - both jobs and services or products - to other communities. This is completely unfair.

Thank you for listening.

FUTURE EVENTS - Virtual, In-person, and Hybrid

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

SEPTEMBER 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 "Protecting Liberty State Park" - 2:30 p.m.	3
4 Comments Due on: NJDEP EJ Proposed Regulations	5	6 "Organic Agriculture as a Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy" - 3:00 p.m. Comments Due on: NJDEP Transco 505 Compressor Station	7	8 DRBC 3Q 2022 Business Meeting - 10:30 a.m. "Ideas for Organizing a Climate Change Task Force in your Congregation" - 8:00 p.m.	9 "Climate Justice: Advancing Health Equity in the Face of a Changing Climate" - 12:00 p.m.	10
11 "Rooted Together" - Green Team Summit 2022	12 "Rooted Together" - Green Team Summit 2022	13 "Pathways toward Grid Decarbonization" - 2:00 p.m. "Observing, Modeling, and Mitigating Urban Heat for Equitable Resilience" - 3:00 p.m. "Liberation From Incineration Workshop: Rahway" - 7:00 p.m. "Rooted Together" - Green Team Summit 2022	14 "Rooted Together" - Green Team Summit 2022	15 Cumberland County EJ DEP Community Engagement Session - 6:00 p.m. "20 Years of Perseverance" of the NJEJA assembly	16 "20 Years of Perseverance" of the NJEJA assembly	17 "Observing Nature: Inward and Outward" (NJSOC) - 9:00 a.m. 4th Annual Northwest New Jersey Rivers Conference - 9:00 a.m.
18 "Observing Nature: Inward and Outward" (NJSOC) - 9:00 a.m.	19	20	21 NJ Clean Air Council - 9:30 a.m.	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Lead-Free NJ September 2022 Membership Meeting - 5:30 p.m.	29 "Majestic and Mysterious Trees" (SOPAC) - 3:30 p.m.	30 "Voices from the Land: Integrating Language, Landscape, Art and Culture" (NJSOC) 9:00 a.m. (also 10/1 at 9:00 a.m. - 2-day session) "Homecoming 2022 at Murray Grove" (also 10/1 & 10/2)	

"Protecting Liberty State Park" - On Radio and Online
Friday, September 2, 2022, 2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The Eco-Logic radio/internet program on WBAI (co-hosted by **EJTF member Sally Gellert**) will present a program on Protecting Liberty State Park. The program may be heard on radio at WBAI - 99.5 FM - or accessed at <https://wbai.org>. Past programs can be accessed at <https://wbai.org/archive/> and selecting "Eco-Logic" from the program list, and then the date of the program.

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 ..." See the article on p. 3.

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>.

Comments Due on
NJDEP's Pending Approval of Williams-Transco Compressor Station 505
Permit Modification
Tuesday, September 6, 2022

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) "is seeking public comment on its intent to approve an air pollution control Operating Permit Significant Modification" for the Williams-Transco Compressor Station 505 located in Neshanic Station, Somerset County, NJ. The facility consists of a natural gas pipeline compressor station. A coalition of environmental groups has sent a letter with 75 signatures to Gov. Murphy to reject the project, saying that overall, the project would lead to a 16% increase in greenhouse gas emissions and would bring irreparable harm to local communities.

Additional information about the permit renewal and the modification being requested is available here: <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/aqpp/downloads/publicnotpost/505sb.pdf>, and information about providing public comments is available here: <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/aqpp/downloads/publicnotpost/505pn.pdf>. **The deadline to submit comments is 5:00 p.m. on 9/6/2022.**

**Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) Third Quarter 2022 Business Meeting
- Via Zoom
Thursday, September 8, 2022, 10:30 a.m.**

After all scheduled business has been completed and as time allows, the meeting will include up to one hour of Open Public Comment (prior sign-up by 5 p.m. on September 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/#2>. The meeting will also be livestreamed here:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/delrivbasincomm>.

**"Ideas for Organizing a Climate Change Task Force in your Congregation, with
Interfaith Partners" - Webinar
Thursday, September 8, 2022, 8:00 p.m.**

Sponsored by Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC), in this webinar representatives from climate action teams from two UU congregations share how they "have organized, with local action, to address causes and prevention of our climate crisis... It is UUJEC's hope, with a series of webinars, that we can spark lively dialogue, share useful 'how-tos' and support one another as we address this increasing challenge to the earth and the hometowns we love." Additional information and a link to register for Zoom or to join the Facebook Live event are available here: <https://uujec.org/webinars>.

**"Rooted Together" - Green Team Summit 2022 - Virtual
Sunday, September 11, 2022 - Wednesday September 14, 2022 (see schedule below)**

Sponsored by "Faith in Place," the Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin affiliate of Interfaith Power & Light, this virtual summit will feature six sessions, as follows (all times EDT):

- Session 1: Keynote Session - Sunday, September 11, 2022, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- Session 2: DJs, Milkweed, Jams, and More! Get to Know Faith in Place - Monday, September 12, 2022, 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- Session 3: Interwoven: Exploring Environmental Justice with Faith Leaders - Monday, September 12, 2022, 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Session 4: Climate Resilience from a Justice Perspective - Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- Session 5: Healing Centered Justice - Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Session 6: Green Team Networking Session - Wednesday, September 14, 2022, 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Additional information and the link to register are available here: <https://www.greenteamsummit.org>.

"Pathways toward Grid Decarbonization" - Webinar
Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

"The power sector is the second-largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States—accounting for a quarter of total emissions. Experts have noted that decarbonizing this sector and electrifying other sectors is crucial for achieving economy-wide emissions reductions. A new report from Resources for the Future (RFF) and the Clean Electricity Buyers Institute examines five pathways toward decarbonization of the power sector. The report finds that three of them would reduce costs and inflation: a national transmission macrogrid, further competition among electricity generators, and expansion of retail supply choice among buyers. The other two are candidates for going beyond the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act: a national clean electricity standard and utility-led decarbonization." Additional information and the link to register are available here: <https://www.rff.org/events/rff-live/pathways-toward-grid-decarbonization/>.

"Liberation From Incineration Workshop: Rahway" - In-person
Ebenezer AME Church, 253 Central Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065
Tuesday, September 13, 7:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

The "Liberation From Incineration: Rahway" workshop is the third in a series hosted by EJ Communities Against Incineration, "a coalition of environmental justice groups and organizations that support communities with the tools and knowledge necessary to engage in advocacy to protect their communities against the ongoing impacts of the incineration industry." The aim of the workshop is to provide information about what incineration is, and the impacts of incineration on the health and well-being of EJ communities in NJ and throughout the world. Strategies and alternatives available to move away from the toxic practice of burning waste as a solution to the waste crisis will also be explored. As part of the workshop, there will be a screening of the documentary "The Sacrifice Zone." Community members from Rahway interested in learning more or sharing their experiences are invited to this event. Additional information and registration are available here: tinyurl.com/rahwayws.

"20 Years of Perseverance" of the NJ Environmental Justice Alliance - In-person
The Conference Center at Mercer, on the campus of Mercer County Community College.
1200 Old Trenton Road, West Windsor, NJ 08550
Thursday, September 15, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
through Friday, September 16, 2022, 10:00 p.m.

The NJ Environmental Justice Alliance (NJEJA) is holding a "people's assembly celebrating 20 years of the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance and the second anniversary of the passage of the New Jersey Environmental Justice Law." This two-day event will include: panel and roundtable discussions on local and national EJ campaigns; breakfast and lunch on both days; a networking mixer on Thursday evening; and NJEJA's 20th Anniversary Celebration on Friday evening. Additional information and the registration link (there is a range of fees) are available here: <https://njeja.org/20-years-of-perseverance/>.

Cumberland County EJ DEP Community Engagement Session - Hybrid
Alms Center, 1 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Bridgeton, NJ 08302
and on Zoom

Thursday, September 15, 2022, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is inviting Cumberland County residents to attend the next EJ Community Engagement Session regarding Environmental Justice. This community engagement session will provide residents, community groups, and other members of the public with a chance to discuss Cumberland County environmental justice issues with DEP Deputy Commissioner Sean Moriarty and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 2 Chief of Staff & Senior Advisor for Equity Olivia Glenn. It 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/vJIsd-usqjkgS1bmuWD3lttZEruheZ-22Y>).

"Observing Nature: Inward and Outward" - In-person

Friends of The New Jersey School of Conservation (NJSOC)
NJ School of Conservation, 1 Wapalanne Road, Sandyston, NJ

Saturday, September 17, 2022, 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

and Sunday, September 18, 2022, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (either a ONE- or a TWO-DAY SESSION)

"An intuitive and exciting program to enhance participants' lives with practical instruction on how to develop powers of observation. 'Observing Nature: Inward and Outward' is created and led by Peter Del Vecchio, a life coach, environmentalist, nature photographer, and former yogic monk...The weekend's activities are specifically designed to increase awareness of one's own abilities of observation, both internally (perceptions and feelings) and externally (increased awareness of the natural world which surrounds). The very concept of 'observation' itself and how to strengthen one's awareness and daily application form the core of the program. The instructor-led activities will include simple, yet powerful, mindfulness techniques, deep relaxation instruction, nature observation walks (some silent), private journaling, cell phone nature photography, as well as fun 'camp' activities, such as a campfire with s'mores, stories, etc. This program is designed for ages 12 to adult, and no prior experience is required." This is a two-day session, rain or shine. The complete experience from Saturday a.m. to Sunday p.m. is highly recommended, but participants have the option to purchase a single-day ticket. Additional information including registration link (\$99.00 - \$149.00) is available here: <https://friendsofnjsoc.org/event/observing-nature-inward-and-outward/>.

4th Annual Northwest New Jersey Rivers Conference - In-person

The Lackland Center at Centenary University, 715 Grand Ave., Hackettstown, NJ 07840

Saturday, September 17, 2022, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

"The Northwest New Jersey Rivers Conference is the forum for better understanding the relationship between our region's water and other natural resources and our region's quality of life, including enhanced water quality, developing a vibrant tourism sector economy, expanding recreational opportunities, and appreciating the region's scenic values.... The focus of this year's Conference is on Tourism and promoting a compatible tourism economy that leverages the region's incredible natural resources." Tickets are \$30, which includes a free 65-mile self-guided auto tour of the Delaware River Watershed. Additional information, including the schedule and the registration link, are available here: <https://www.northwestnewjerseyrivers.org>.

NJ Clean Air Council - Virtual
Wednesday, September 21, 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>.

Lead-Free NJ September 2022 Membership Meeting - Virtual
Wednesday, September 28, 2022, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Join Lead-Free NJ to network and discuss lead policy with others, and to learn more about Lead-Free NJ's recent work to "get the lead out." The registration link is available here:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUzdOygrDooH92JppQUdmTqjz3jfXkBXCod>.

"Majestic and Mysterious Trees" - In-person
Friends of The New Jersey School of Conservation (NJSOC)
NJ School of Conservation, 1 Wapalanne Road, Sandyston, NJ
Thursday, September 29, 2022, 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

"Trees are both majestic and mysterious. Why are they important? What do they do for the world? What do we know about them?" Dr. Jon Connolly (President, Sussex County Community College) will lead "a hands-on outdoor learning experience designed to provide an introduction to the world of tree biology. In this 3-hour course/workshop, you will learn about why trees are important, how they live, how they are studied, as well as their care and management. There will be opportunities to participate in hands-on activities to study trees-as-plants." Additional information including registration link (\$12.00) is available here: <https://friendsofnjsoc.org/event/majestic-and-mysterious-trees/>.

"Voices from the Land: Integrating Language, Landscape, Art and Culture" - In-person
Friends of The New Jersey School of Conservation (NJSOC)
NJ School of Conservation, 1 Wapalanne Road, Sandyston, NJ
Friday, September 30, 2022, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
and Saturday, October 1, 2022, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (2-DAY SESSION)

"Research reveals an ancient and intimate connection between language and landscape, a connection that is found in cultures around the world. Within each person there is a gifted orator, artist, listener, and performer. Exploring the natural world becomes a way for people to develop these gifts and celebrate their use. 'Voices from the Land' uses the natural landscape as inspiration for students to explore the power of written and oral language, digital photography, performing arts, online publishing... and the power of working collaboratively with other people. Through the 'Voices' process, students create ephemeral art using only what nature has to offer and write poetry based on their artwork. They then design and publish books and/or posters showcasing their art and poetry and share them with their school, community, and beyond. This two-day workshop will guide you through the process in a hands-on way to ensure you have the skills and knowledge necessary to implement the program in your own classroom or educational setting." Additional information including registration link (\$99.00) is available here: <https://friendsofnjsoc.org/event/majestic-and-mysterious-trees/https://friendsofnjsoc.org/event/voices-from-the-land-integrating-language-landscape-art-and-culture/>.



"Homecoming 2022 at Murray Grove" - In-person
431 US Highway 9 at Church Lane, Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734
Friday, September 30, 2022 - Sunday, October 2, 2022

This 3-day event at the historic Unitarian Universalist Murray Grove Retreat and Renewal Center will feature "Inspiring Speakers, Panels, Music and Motivation," including the opening night speech by UUFANJ Board President Mia Morse, a workshop on "Effective Legislative Action and Implementation" by UUFANJ Executive Director Charles Loflin, and a keynote speech on "Building for a Sustainable Future," focusing on "building organizations that are sustainable and strong going forward and protecting the environment that sustains all life." Additional information, a link to the schedule, and the registration link (there is a range of fees) are available here: <https://murraygrove.org/homecoming-2022/>.

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 September 2022 (a sampling is below and on p. 11), 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/>.

"Organic Agriculture as a Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy"
Webinar

Tuesday, September 6, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), this webinar will address the role of organic agriculture in presenting climate change solutions and adaptation strategies, as we seek to increase the resilience of our food system. Additional information, including how to join, are available here: <https://climatesociety.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/icalrepeat.detail/2022/09/06/7239/-/webinar-organic-agriculture-as-a-climate-change-mitigation-and-adaptation-strategy>. [Note: this event uses Adobe Connect.]

"Climate Justice: Advancing Health Equity in the Face of a Changing Climate" - Webinar
Friday, September 9, 2022, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

This webinar, sponsored by the Rutgers Institute for Corporate Social Innovation, will feature the following speakers: Philip Dahlin, Johnson and Johnson; Kristin Stevens, AmeriCares; and Jeana Wirtenberg, Rutgers Business School. "The World Health Organization has declared climate change as the single biggest threat to humanity. In this timely webinar, Phil and Kristin will discuss how they are working proactively to drive positive changes on issues that affect climate change and health equity.

(continued on p. 11)

We'll explore how to create high impact strategies and scale workable solutions, especially in communities where health disparities are stark. 'Americares recently launched the Climate Health Equity for Community Clinics Program with a \$2 million grant from Johnson & Johnson. The three-year program will strengthen the resilience of over 100 safety net health clinics where climate change disproportionately impacts the health of vulnerable communities.'" The link to register is available here: <https://climatesociety.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/icalrepeat.detail/2022/09/09/7245/-/webinar-climate-justice-advancing-health-equity-in-the-face-of-a-changing-climate>.

"Community Climate Studies - Observing, Modeling, and Mitigating Urban Heat for Equitable Resilience" - Webinar
Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

"The burden of heat in urban areas is not shared equally among all residents, often with the most disadvantaged bearing the highest risk and suffering the greatest impacts. The drivers of these inequities are many, including social factors, historical housing policies, urban planning and design choices, and urban-scale climate dynamics affected by urban form. This webinar [sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Office] will focus on 4 projects taking place across the country aiming to work with communities to understand the impacts of extreme heat, to observe and model the drivers of those impacts, and to ultimately help local decision makers make informed decisions about how to mitigate heat risk now and for the future." Additional information and the link to register are available here: <https://climatesociety.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/icalrepeat.detail/2022/09/13/7246/-/webinar-community-climate-studies-observing-modeling-and-mitigating-urban-heat-for-equitable-resilience>.



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://cpe.rutgers.edu/clean-energy>. 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

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

Sponsored by Resources for the Future, in this webinar David Turk, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Energy, discussed the dual global energy and climate change crises, 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. The video is available here:

<https://www.rff.org/events/pls/energy-deputy-secretary-david-turk/>.

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

In the August National Zoom Call of the Elders Climate Action network, Nathaniel Stinnett, the founder and Executive Director of the Environmental Voter Project, discussed 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 shared data that demonstrates the success of these efforts and discussed "why you are critical to this work." The video is available here:

<https://www.eldersclimateaction.org/videos/>.

"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 and 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>.

Also see NJ Green Amendment "Last Stand" Networking & Press Conference video linked in the article at the top of p. 2.

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 7/27/2022 – 8/26/2022]

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- **State Sues Over Pollution in ‘Overburdened Communities’** - NJ has filed six environmental justice lawsuits that center on a broad array of chemical pollutants that have tainted separate, unrelated sites in Newark, Linden, Ewing, Rahway, Elmwood Park Borough, and Middlesex Borough. Those six communities are considered overburdened under New Jersey’s Environmental Justice Law because they have significant low-income, minority, and/or limited English proficiency populations. In addition, a previous environmental justice case related to a site in Camden has been resolved. With the new cases, there have been a total of 52 total environmental justice cases filed in NJ since 2018. See <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/08/nj-dep-ag-sues-over-pollution-in-overburdened-communities/>. Additional information including a map, descriptions of the cases, and links to the case filings are available here: <https://www.njoag.gov/acting-ag-platkin-dep-commissioner-latourette-announce-seven-new-environmental-enforcement-actions-six-in-environmental-justice-communities/>.
- **Advocates Mobilize to Prevent More Pollution in Low-Income Neighborhoods** - This article describes ways NJ environmental justice organizations are keeping involved in the fight to prevent the expansion of fossil fuel industries in environmental justices neighborhoods, including holding workshops and providing comments on the Environmental Justice Law (also see the article on p. 3). <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/08/nj-advocates-mobilize-fight-fossil-fuel-companies-bar-from-low-income-neighborhoods/>
- **Urban Heat Islands Fire up Temperatures, Day and Night** (4-minute news video; the "Groundwork Elizabeth" tree-planting program is described at minute 3) - With support from a Climate Preparedness and Land Restoration Grant, Groundwork Elizabeth is collaborating with the city government and community groups to plant four microforests to address climate risks in formerly redlined neighborhoods and brownfield areas. Using the "Miyawaki method" – restoring forests by planting native tree seeds on deforested, degraded soils – these microforests will improve soil permeability, mitigate flooding, improve air quality, reduce the heat island effect, and help replenish biodiversity. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/urban-heat-islands-fire-up-temperatures-day-and-night/>
- **Fight on to Limit Underground Storage Caverns** - This article describes the controversy related to proposed rules for underground storage cavern systems "that are used for the underground storage of any natural or artificial gas, or any petroleum product or derivative of any petroleum product, with the exception of liquefied natural gas (LNG)." Some of the controversy is related to the lack of a definition

for "derivative of any petroleum product" and some of it is related to the lack of consideration of potential impacts on overburdened communities that are located near facilities that may be looking to implement underground storage in caverns. In addition, linkage with the Environmental Justice Law is lacking in the proposed rules. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/08/storage-caverns-underground-storage-caverns-nj-dep-revised-rules-regulations-liquified-gas-petroleum-chemicals-liquified-petroleum-gas-environmental-justice-gibbstown-gloucester-county-repauno-port/>

Also see "Supporters, Critics in Heated Debate Over Enforcement of NJ's Environmental Justice Law" (4-minute news video) and **"Newark Environmental Advocates Want 'Landmark' NJDEP Legislation To Prioritize Residents' Health Over Wealth"** both linked in the article on p. 3.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES & VEHICLE EMISSION REDUCTION

- **Murphy Administration Drives Toward Zero Transportation Emissions Future With \$10.8 Million Investment** - Leveraging proceeds from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), and also using funds from the Volkswagen Settlement, the Murphy administration is investing another \$10.8 million on transportation electrification. \$6.9 million will be used "to increase the number of electric trucks and buses that traverse communities overburdened by air pollution" - including school buses, garbage trucks, transit and shuttle buses - and \$3.9 million will be used for 62 fast-charging stations. https://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2022/22_0034.htm
- **Murphy Urged to Accelerate Switch to Green Energy** - In a letter sent to Gov. Murphy as well as the NJ Department of Health (DOH) and NJ legislative leaders, close to 300 members of the new group "Clinicians for Climate Action New Jersey - Medical and Health Professionals Calling for Change" called for NJ "to adopt a comprehensive approach to transportation that will protect the health and well-being of New Jersey residents from vehicular pollutants, long known to cause severe respiratory and cardiovascular disease. Fossil fuel-powered automobiles, buses and trucks release pollutants that exacerbate respiratory and cardiovascular disease including asthma, multiple lung diseases, heart disease and many forms of cancer." The letter (available here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WIesrRMAMTwLGL3Q-dQIB9T5S7v_7JTy/view) cites the American Lung Association's (ALA) 2021 annual "State of the Air" report, which found that "...more than 40% of Americans — more than 135 million people — are living in places with unhealthy levels of ozone or particle pollution. The burden of living with unhealthy air is not shared equally. People of color are more than three times more likely to be breathing the most polluted air than white people." Camden and seven other urban NJ counties received "F" grades from the ALA for exceeding the national air quality standard for ground-level ozone. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/08/medical-professionals-urge-murphy-administration-speed-up-nj-switch-clean-energy-emissions-fossil-fuels-public-health-threat/>
- **EV Charging Stations Coming to Atlantic Highlands** - The NJ Board of Public Utilities' (BPU) "Electric Vehicle (EV) Tourism Program," part of the NJ Clean Energy Program, provides reimbursement grants for Level Two chargers and DC Fast Chargers at tourism-related locations ranging from boardwalks, parks, and other unique attractions, to overnight lodging establishments. The Borough of Highland Park received two grants: one for two dual-port Level Two chargers, and one for a Level Three/Direct Current Fast Charger. The deadline for applications for the next round of EV Tourism Program grants is 10/31/2022. See. <https://www.ahherald.com/2022/08/03/ev-charging-stations-coming-to-atlantic-highlands/>. Information about this and other BPU EV incentive programs is available here: <https://www.njcleanenergy.com/ev>.

Electric School Bus Bill Passed!



An "Electric School Bus Ride" took place in Trenton on the day the NJ Senate approved the Electric School Bus bill.

First envisioned in a bill in the NJ legislature in 2018, an Electric School Bus Program has finally been approved. **UUFANJ joined with 36 other environmental, labor, community, faith, business and environmental justice organizations in signing onto a letter to Gov. Murphy urging him to sign the legislation, which he did on 8/4/2022.**

- **Electric School Buses Get a Jump Start** - The "Electric School Bus Program" bill (A1282) that Gov. Murphy recently signed requires the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to implement a three-year program to provide funding for the purchase of electric school buses and charging infrastructure, and to assess a variety of operational issues related to school bus electrification. \$15 million in grants are to be issued in Year One, and up to \$15 million issued in Years Two and Three, for a total of up to \$45 million over the course of the three-year program. Grants will be awarded to at least six school districts or bus contractors across NJ annually. In each year, at least half of the school districts or school bus contractors – and at least half of the grant funding awarded – will be allocated to low-income, urban, or environmental justice communities in order to mitigate the disproportionate health impacts of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles on vulnerable populations. In addition to cutting greenhouse gas emissions and helping to further NJ's goals for vehicle electrification, electric school buses help to protect children and families from harmful air pollutants, especially in environmental justice communities. "On average, children who ride in a diesel-powered school bus are exposed to 4-12 times the level of toxic exhaust than riding in a car," said Senator Linda R. Greenstein. "School buses are known to emit greenhouse gases and carcinogens, both of which contribute to climate change and threaten exposed individuals with elevated lifetime risks of developing cancer, asthma, and heart disease. By implementing this program, we're offering students a healthier and more environmentally friendly way to get to and from school each day." <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/08/nj-ups-funding-school-bus-electrification-switch-from-dirty-diesel-45-million-three-year-program/>

- **Tesla Still Tops, but Others Look to Crash EV Market** - This article describes how lower-priced electric vehicles (EVs) are starting to make inroads on the EV market, and includes graphics showing growth in electric vehicle registrations in NJ overall and EV registrations by NJ county in 2021. Gov. Murphy has announced that Year Three of the NJ "ChargeUp" program will include higher rebates for cars costing less than \$45,000. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/08/tesla-evs-electric-vehicles-cheaper-models-hyundai-kia-chevy-ford-gov-phil-murphy-nj-clean-energy-goals-incentives/>

- **JCP&L Launches Electric Vehicle Charging Incentive Program** -The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) has approved a \$39.8 million, four-year JCP&L program that will provide incentives for electric vehicle charging in the following three areas: residential charging (electrical and/or utility upgrades); mixed-use and multifamily property charging (ports, off-peak use credits, and/or utility upgrades, including increased incentives in some cases for overburdened communities); and public-access DC Fast charging (ports, JCP&L infrastructure upgrades, and/or demand charge discounts). <https://highlandsborough.org/ev-driven-program-provides-customer-incentives-that-support-the-states-electric-vehicle-expansion-goals/>

LAND MANAGEMENT/AGRICULTURE/FOOD

- **Urban Farmers Say Government Funding Would Help Solve Food Insecurity in NJ** - In this article, an urban farmer in Newark describes how small urban farms can contribute to the health of marginalized communities. Also described are two bills in the NJ legislature that have not received hearings in their respective committees: A3153, which would direct the NJ Department of Agriculture (DA) to establish an "Urban Farming Pilot Program" and provide grants of up to \$35,000 to three eligible urban gardening initiatives in low-income areas throughout the state; and SS1003, which would direct the NJ Economic Development Authority (EDA) to establish an urban farming grant and loan program. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/07/urban-farmer-sen-nellie-pou-sen-teresa-ruiz-food-insecurity-brick-city-poverty-crime-community-farms-newark-healthy-food/>
- **Thousands of South Jersey Students Get Access to Farm-Fresh Meals** (3-1/2 minute news video) - The Bridgeton Public School District is partnering with "Common Market," a nonprofit distributor linking local farmers with communities, in a pilot program that provides fresh NJ fruits, vegetables, and meats as an option for students' school lunches. This pilot program is currently operating in Bridgeton and Camden, and is planned for Newark. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/thousands-of-south-jersey-students-get-access-to-farm-fresh-meals/>
- **Roselle Park Community Garden in Full Swing, Hundreds of Pounds of Produce Donated to the Casano Community Center** - Roselle Park's community garden provides fresh organic produce such as cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, and arugula to the Casano Community Center for its food pantry participants. <https://www.tapinto.net/towns/roselle-park/sections/food-and-drink/articles/roselle-park-community-garden-in-full-swing-hundreds-of-pounds-of-produce-donated-to-the-casano-community-center>

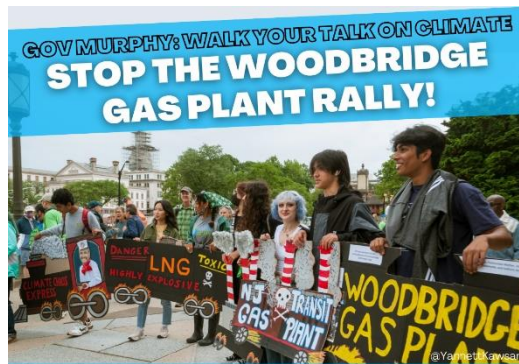
Also see "Newark High School Creates One of the Largest Urban Farms in the City" (and link to 4-minute news video) in the "Educational and Youth-related" section on p. 21.

FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE

"N.J. Pipeline Project Could Shake Up FERC Gas Reviews"

This article, in the E &E News publication "Energywire," (available here: <https://www.eenews.net/articles/n-j-pipeline-project-could-shake-up-ferc-gas-reviews/>) provides an interesting analysis of the possible impact on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) approval deliberations for new natural gas infrastructure in those cases in which states provide information that additional gas is not needed, as NJ has recently done (see the article on p. 17).

- **No Need for Expanded Gas Pipeline, NJ Says** - The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) has joined with the NJ Division of Rate Counsel in a filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in regards to the pending approval of the Williams-Transco (Transco) Regional Energy Access Expansion (REAE) project in NJ, PA, and MD. The filing, in the form of a "Motion to Lodge" additional information that may be pertinent to the decision-making, provides a report that the BPU recently accepted that shows that NJ is not in need of additional natural gas pipeline capacity. Transco has filed a response, stating that the BPU-accepted study is flawed, and that a study Transco provided, which states that additional capacity is needed, should be utilized for FERC's decision. See the article in the box on p. 16 for an analysis of how NJ's filing - in this era of some states' limiting fossil fuels - may impact FERC's decision-making, which in past cases has almost uniformly approved such pipeline requests. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/08/board-of-public-utilities-bpu-division-of-rate-counsel-gas-pipeline-transco-pseg-nj-natural-gas-new-jersey-conservation-foundation/>
- **Protestors Urge Murphy to Say No to Expansion of Natural Gas Facility** (4-minute news video) - In this video, protesters rally against the Transco Regional Energy Expansion (REAE) project, specifically the expansion of a compressor station in Branchburg in Somerset County, while others including union representatives, spoke in favor of the project at a public hearing. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/protestors-urge-murphy-to-say-no-to-expansion-of-natural-gas-facility/>



- **2nd Natural Gas Power Plant Protested In Woodbridge** - As part of the "Governor Murphy: Walk Your Talk on Climate" 5-day, 50-mile march organized by Food & Water Watch and Empower NJ to draw attention to 7 fossil fuel projects in NJ (see p. 1), protesters rallied against the construction of a second natural gas power plant in the Keasbey section of Woodbridge, long a heavily industrial part of town. The towns of Franklin, Edison, Highland Park, Hoboken and Perth Amboy have passed resolutions calling on Gov. Murphy to reject the second Keasbey power plant, which would be owned and operated by Competitive Power Ventures (CPV). <https://patch.com/new-jersey/woodbridge/protest-builds-against-2nd-woodbridge-natural-gas-power-plant>

Also see "Residents Rally Against Gas Compressor Expansion Project," linked in the article on p. 2.

RENEWABLE RESOURCES

- **NJ to Participate in New Clean-Energy Program** (3-minute news video; clean energy portion starts at 1:42) - The Biden administration has announced that Washington, D.C., CO, IL, NM and NY are joining NJ in a new federal community solar program - the "Community Solar Subscription Platform" - that is expected to cut electricity bills for lower-income residents. The program targets families on government-run assistance programs, and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) projects that NJ residents will save a total of \$175 million on their electric bills. See <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/business-report-fed-raises-interest-rates-again-nj-to-participate-in-new-clean-energy-program/> Additional information is available on the DOE website, here: <https://www.energy.gov/communitysolar/community-solar-subscription-platform>.

- **New Jersey Community Solar Project Brings New Twist to ‘Solar+Storage’** - The first project completed in "Year 2" of NJ's Community Solar Pilot Program is a 500 kW solar system on the roofs of the Extra Space Storage facility in Neptune, NJ. <https://www.renewableenergyworld.com/solar/new-jersey-community-solar-project-brings-new-twist-to-solarstorage/> This project, and others like it, are featured in a 3-1/2 minute news video, available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/states-to-join-nj-in-national-community-solar-program/>
- **Solar Projects Derailed by COVID-19 Get a Lifeline** - Primarily due to supply chain issues for components affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and also due to some power grid connection delays, a number of NJ solar projects were unable to meet deadlines for project completion, which meant they would not qualify for incentives under the state's program set up to transition between the previous incentive program and a new program now in effect. Some projects (primarily those involving "public entities like schools and municipalities; utility-scale facilities on landfills and brownfields; and to some extent, projects designed to build solar facilities for low-income customers") have been given extensions by the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU). Others, which did not receive extensions, may not be financially viable if they need to renegotiate contracts under the new incentive program. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/08/bpu-extends-some-solar-projects-deadlines-schools-municipalities-utility-scale-landfills-brownfields-37-commercial-projects-denied/>
- **The Race Onshore to Move Electricity From Offshore Wind** - This article describes a number of the eighty proposals (from thirteen different companies) that have been submitted to the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) for transmitting power from offshore wind turbines. The BPU plans to make a decision this fall. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/08/nj-offshore-wind-industry-getting-onshore-pseg-orsted-7-billion-proposal-substations-meshed-grid/>

CLIMATE CHANGE

- **Energy Costs May Drop, but at What Price?** - A just-issued "New Jersey Energy Master Plan Ratepayer Impact Study" (available here: https://www.nj.gov/bpu/pdf/reports/2022-08-13%20-%20BPU,%20EMP%20Ratepayer%20Impact%20Study%20Report_PUBLIC_Brattle.pdf), commissioned by the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU), has been under preparation for several years; it was first scheduled for completion in early 2020. The study concludes that, if ratepayers transition to clean-energy sources and utilize energy efficiency measures, their energy bills will go down. The study does not, however, address capital costs needed to transition to clean energy or to implement energy efficiency measures. It does state that low-income ratepayers will only benefit from energy bill savings if they are provided with assistance to defray the up-front costs. The study also addressed the climate and health benefits of transitioning to clean energy sources and electrification. See <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/08/brattle-group-new-jersey-board-of-public-utilities-bpu-home-heating-electric-cars-electric-vehicles-green-energy-consumers-savings/>. A criticism of the study is found in the article: "**NJ State Senator Steve Oroho Labels Energy Master Plan a Political Whitewash,**" available here: <https://enviropolitics.com/nj-state-senator-steve-oroho-labels-energy-master-plan-a-political-whitewash/>.
- **Critics Assail Murphy for Supporting \$5B Turnpike Expansion** (4-minute news video) - As part of the "Governor Murphy: Walk Your Talk on Climate" 5-day, 50-mile march organized by Food & Water Watch and Empower NJ to draw attention to 7 fossil fuel projects in NJ (see p. 1), protesters rallied outside the NJ Turnpike Authority's headquarters in Woodbridge. There, they protested against the proposed \$5 billion expansion of the NJ Turnpike in Northern NJ, pointing out that it would lead to more particle pollution and more traffic on the surface streets of Jersey City, as well as make the climate crisis even worse. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/critics-assail-murphy-for-supporting-5b-turnpike-expansion/>

- Debate Sharpens Over Fast-Tracking Climate Effort** - A bill (S2978) in the NJ legislature would revise NJ's renewable energy portfolio standards, moving the goal of 100% clean energy from 2050 to 2045 and requiring that 50% of power used by NJ companies by 2030 be generated in-state. There is disagreement between various factions as to whether this would be beneficial or detrimental to ratepayers in terms of costs. There is currently no comparable bill in the Assembly. See <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/08/fast-tracking-nj-climate-change-response-worsening-crisis-clean-energy-sen-bob-smith-fred-desanti-tina-weishaus/>. This bill was discussed at a joint meeting between the legislature's Senate and Assembly environmental committees, as shown in this 4-minute news video, "**NJ Lawmakers Hold Public Hearings on Renewable Energy Legislation.**" The video includes remarks from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner (see article below); it is available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/nj-lawmakers-hold-public-hearings-on-renewable-energy-legislation/>.
- Commissioner LaTourette Delivers Remarks on Climate Change Adaptation to Joint Meeting of Senate, Assembly Environment Committees** - At a combined meeting of the state legislature's Senate and Assembly environmental committees, NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner LaTourette warned that "...climate risks facing New Jersey will only worsen in the years ahead, with devastating impacts to our communities, economy, public health, and the daily lives of our residents if we are not prepared. All levels of government must act with concerted urgency to help communities adapt to the realities of climate change. He said the state's climate resilience efforts must focus on at least four key areas: Engineered & Natural Resilience Infrastructure; Climate Resilience Planning; Blue Acres Buyouts; and Modernizing Flood Standards and Stormwater Management. See https://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2022/22_0035.htm. Also see the video referenced in the article above.
- NJ Climate Push Wins Big in Senate Vote** - This article outlines the areas covered in the federal "Inflation Reduction Act" that will impact NJ's clean energy and climate resiliency goals. See <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/08/inflation-reduction-act-nj-clean-energy-advocates-predict-bounty-state-tax-credits-resiliency-solar-utility-bills/>. A 6-minute news video, in which Sen. Cory Booker describes impacts on NJ of the items covered in the bill, is available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/booker-extols-inflation-reduction-acts-benefits-for-nj/>.



- More 'Sunny-Day' Flooding in Our Future, NOAA Predicts** (2-minute news video) - According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) recently-issued "The State of High Tide Flooding and 2022 Outlook," NJ towns like Atlantic City and Cape May may experience ten times the amount of high-tide flooding by 2050 compared to 2021. This is primarily due to sea-level rise. See <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/more-sunny-day-flooding-in-our-future-noaa-predicts/>. The NOAA document, including an interactive map, is available here: https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/HighTideFlooding_AnnualOutlook.html.

- What Happened to Rule That Was Going to Protect NJ Against Next Big Storm?** - As part of the NJ PACT ("Protecting Against Climate Threats") process, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) revealed plans in late May to issue an emergency amendment to NJ Flood Hazard Area Control Act rules and Stormwater Management rules. The Administrative Procedures Act provides that an agency can make emergency amendments to administrative code upon a finding of imminent peril to public health, safety and welfare. The new rules were to become effective upon filing with Office of Administrative Law and would be valid for 60 days, followed by a 30-day comment period. By comparison, the regular rulemaking process can take a year or more from proposal to adoption. DEP presented the plans to business and environmental groups in late May, using "imminent peril" to justify them. At that point, letters were sent to Gov. Murphy from the business groups (asking for a delay in rule issuance) and environmental groups (asking that the rules be issued immediately). Since then, there has been no mention of the rules' issuance, although DEP has stated that additional stakeholder meetings will be held "soon." <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/07/emergency-flooding-rule-flood-zone-department-of-environmental-protection-dep-njbia-stakeholders-meeting/>
- Climate Change Will Boost Flood Repair Costs, Study Says** - The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) has issued a report titled "Estimating Undisclosed Flood Risk in Real Estate Transactions: Financial Implications for Single-Family Home Buyers in New Jersey, New York, and North Carolina" (available here: https://www.milliman.com/-/media/milliman/pdfs/2022-articles/7-29-22_nrdc-estimating-undisclosed-flood-risk.ashx). The report describes the higher risk of repeat flooding in homes that have previously flooded, with resulting higher and repeated flood repair costs, and emphasizes that the potential for repeat flooding is not required to be disclosed in these states' real estate sales and is not something many people research when buying a home. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/08/climate-change-flood-repairs-rising-costs-previously-flooded-homes-national-resources-defense-council-nrdc-estimating-undisclosed-risk/> [Interestingly, **Hawaii is the only state that requires "sea level rise" disclosures in a real estate transaction; a 5/1/2022 law requires that sellers disclose if a property lies within an area projected to have up to 3.2 feet of sea level rise by 2050. See <https://www.surfrider.org/coastal-blog/entry/hawaiis-new-law-requires-real-estate-disclosures-for-sea-level-rise.>**]
- Results Are in for "Your Climate Solutions Ideas" for RGGI Funds**- 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. NJ releases a Strategic Funding Plan every three years that identifies how the state will invest its share of RGGI funding. To ensure that the next Strategic Funding Plan (to be released in 2023) reflects the needs and priorities of New Jerseyans in an equitable way, the RGGI program asked NJ residents to weigh in on how the state should invest these funds by voting on which climate change solutions are most important. The climate change solutions that received the most votes will be given priority consideration in the draft of the next RGGI Strategic Funding. Results of the voting are in, and are available here: <https://nj.gov/rggi/docs/rggi-aoi-results.pdf>.

LEAD REDUCTION IN HOUSEHOLDS

- \$170 Million For Lead Paint Removal In NJ State Budget** - The NJ FY 2023 budget includes \$170 million in funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for lead-based paint remediation in homes and apartments. The budget also includes \$300 million in water infrastructure funding, which will help to replace lead contaminated water lines. <https://patch.com/new-jersey/princeton/s/icgcq/170-million-for-lead-paint-removal-in-nj-state-budget>

- **‘An Absurd Disparity’: NJ Shortchanged by Feds on Lead Pipe Replacement Funds, Report Says** - According to a Natural Resources Defense Council report, in the first round of funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill, NJ will receive the second-lowest amount of money per lead pipe of any state in the nation, despite being one of the states with the highest number of lead pipes. With an estimated 350,000 lead service lines, NJ's share averages to \$138 per pipe. [Hawaii, with an estimated 2,800 lead service lines, has the largest average share - \$10,098 per pipe.] The shares were determined based on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) latest "Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment" (DWINSA), from 2015. The next DWINSA is scheduled to be released in early 2023. A number of Congressional representatives from states with the highest number of lead pipes, including those from NJ, have sent letters to EPA urging it to make the 2023 funding allocation based on the next DWINSA rather than the one from 2015. See <https://www.yahoo.com/entertainment/absurd-disparity-nj-shortchanged-feds-160032440.html>. A 3-1/2-minute news video describing the issue is available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/epa-can-improve-njs-lead-pipe-replacement-funding-pallone-says/>.

EDUCATIONAL and YOUTH-RELATED



- **Newark High School Creates One of the Largest Urban Farms in the City** (4-minute news video) - Resulting from an appearance on the "Ellen DeGeneris Show" by the Newark West High School principal, at which \$110,000 was provided for an educational urban farm at the high school, urban farming has become an integral part of the curriculum. In addition to providing education on growing organic food, the curriculum also emphasizes how the crops can be monetized in order to support the growers. All students in the school partipate, for example by recycling food for compost and by learning about the cycle of growing food. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/newark-high-school-creates-one-of-the-largest-urban-farms-in-the-city/>
- **'Floating Islands' Launched by Mahwah Students to Fight Climate Change** - Students at Ramapo College of New Jersey in Mahwah, and Ridgefield Park middle-schoolers, launched "artificial floating islands" this summer as part of a climate change study program at the Meadowlands Environment Center (MEC) in Lyndhurst. The islands can help reduce algae by cycling excessive nutrients (phosphorous and nitrogen) that cause harmful algal blooms, when combined with sunlight and warm temperatures fueled by climate change. A prototype was created and tested prior to the islands being constructed and launched. See <https://patch.com/new-jersey/mahwah/floating-islands-launched-mahwah-students-fight-climate-change>. Additional information about the project and the MEC is available here: <https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/ramapo-college-students-launch-a-climate-change-project-at-meadowlands-environment-center/>.
- **Brookdale Adds Electric Vehicle Technology Training to Curriculum** - Brookdale Community College will be adding training in electric vehicle technology to its curriculum. "There aren't very many higher ed institutions that even offer automotive technology, and there's an even fewer number that offer training in EVs," said Dr. James Crowder, dean of Brookdale's STEM Institute. "So of course our immediate thought was, well, who's going to train the people that are going to be needed to maintain and repair all these vehicles?" <https://www.ahherald.com/2022/08/02/brookdale-adds-electric-vehicle-technology-training-to-curriculum/>

- **Governor Murphy, NJ CEO Council, & Social Finance Launch New Jersey Pay It Forward Program to Prepare Students for Good-Paying Jobs in Health Care, IT, and Clean Energy** - NJ has instituted a new workforce development program, "Pay It Forward," which is the first of its kind in the U.S. "Participants in the program will receive zero-interest, no-fee loans at no upfront cost, as well as non-repayable living stipends and wraparound supports, to allow them to affordably prepare for good-paying, career-track jobs in the health care, information technology (IT), and clean energy sectors." The initial "clean energy" curriculum supported appears to focus on Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC) or Welding courses at Camden County College.
<https://www.state.nj.us/governor/news/news/562022/approved/20220817a.shtml>

OTHER

- **Senate Committee Passes Bill to Protect Caven Point** (1-minute news video) - At the end of the previous NJ legislative session, a bill was passed that provided funds for a task force to redevelop Liberty State Park; however, it did not protect any portions of the park from development, including the Caven Point natural area. A bill (S2956) has been passed by the NJ Senate that "would designate and preserve the 21.5 acre Caven Point Peninsula in Liberty State Park as natural habitat. Caven Point Peninsula is the estuarine ecosystem for plants and animals, critical bird breeding habitat, and urban environmental education resource." An identical bill (A4468) has not yet had a hearing in the Assembly. See <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/senate-committee-passes-bill-to-protect-caven-point/>. Additional details about the bill and its ramifications are described in this article, "**Liberty State Park Caven Point Cave-in Averted**," available here: <https://www.insidernj.com/liberty-state-park-caven-point-cave-in-averted/>.
- **Appeals Court Declines to Hear Hoboken's Case Against ExxonMobil, Heading Back to N.J.** - The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit has declined to hear the City of Hoboken's case against ExxonMobil, Shell, Chevron, BP, and ConocoPhillips for damages caused by climate change. This is a blow to the oil companies, which wanted the case to be heard in federal court rather than state court, and it is in line with such decisions in other states. The Court's opinion states, "Our federal system trusts state courts to hear most cases – even big, important ones that raise federal defenses. Plaintiffs choose which claims to file, in which court, and under which law. Defendants may prefer federal court, but they may not remove their cases to federal court unless federal laws let them. Here, they do not."
<https://hudsoncountyview.com/appeals-court-declines-to-hear-hobokens-case-against-exxonmobil-heading-back-to-n-j/>
- **Divesting From Fossil Fuels Gets First Look** - A bill (A1733/S416) that "Prohibits investment by State of pension and annuity funds in, and requires divestment from, 200 largest publicly traded fossil fuel companies" was discussed at a joint meeting between the environment committees of the Senate and the Assembly. A version of the bill was first introduced in 2018, but it has not had a hearing in either house of the legislature. See <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/08/fossil-fuels-clean-energy-divestment-public-worker-pension-funds-senate-environment-and-energy-committee-chair-bob-smith-climate-change-sea-level-rise-global-warming-divestnj-carbon-content-esg-policy/>. Bills that have been introduced in the NJ legislature this year that call for new pension-fund investment restrictions in a number of investment areas are listed in this article, "**Bid to Ban Fossil-Fuel Investments Just One of Many**," available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/08/nj-public-worker-pension-fund-fossil-fuel-divestment-lawmakers-propose-other-divestments-policy-reasons-fiduciary-responsibility/>.

- **The Troubling Implications of the Liberty State Park Problem** - This article describes the steps taken on the road to passing the recent Liberty State Park bill that does not include protections against development. Jeff Tittel, former executive director of the NJ Sierra Club, is quoted as warning that what is happening with Liberty Park could be "opening a Pandora's box when it comes to managing a park in New Jersey" and that "as New Jersey runs out of developable lands, developers will look more at public lands." <https://www.insidernj.com/troubling-implications-liberty-state-park-problem/>



MORATORIUM MONDAYS CONTINUE

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

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

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

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

Co-Chairs – Peggy Middaugh and Ray Nichols

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