



Environmental Justice Task Force Newsletter - November 2022

<https://www.uufaithaction.org/blog/>

UU Seventh Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. Environmental Justice (EJ): Addressing disproportionate and adverse human health or environmental effects in communities of low-income residents or persons of color.



NJ SUES FOSSIL FUEL COMPANIES



NJ Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin, the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs (DCA) and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) have filed a lawsuit on behalf of NJ residents against five oil and gas companies and a petroleum trade association, alleging they knowingly made false claims to deceive the public about the existence of climate change and the degree to which their fossil fuel products have been exacerbating anthropogenic global warming. In early 2020, UUFANJ signed a letter to the NJ Attorney General, through the Pay Up Climate Polluters NJ campaign, to encourage the filing of this lawsuit. In addition to asking the court for an injunction ordering the energy companies to stop deceiving NJ consumers about the destructive environmental impacts of fossil fuels, the State is seeking civil monetary penalties and damages, including natural resource damages (see press release, news article and video on [p. 17](#)).

*UUFANJ Issues Conference
is 11/12! See [p. 9](#).*

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Photo by Ray Nichols

CONGRATULATIONS to UUFANJ Executive Director Rev. Charles Loflin on his Ordination!

The UU Congregation of Montclair, NJ ordained Charles Loflin on October 23, 2022. Charles Loflin serves as the Executive Director for UU FaithAction NJ, part of the Coalition of UU State Action Networks. UU FaithAction collaborates with the New Jersey UU congregations, front-line communities, and social justice partners to educate, mobilize, and advocate for state-wide legislative action. As an affiliated community minister, Charles explores his call to public theology, building multi-faith relationships, and community engagement.

CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Somerset Hills (UUCSH)



On September 16, 2022, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Somerset Hills in Somerville, NJ hosted NJ Congressman Tom Malinowski (see photos) of NJ's Seventh Congressional District, for a Community Town Hall on the Inflation Reduction Act. The event was organized by NJ Citizen Action and the NJ League of Conservation Voters. Congressman Malinowski talked about prescription drug prices and making healthcare more affordable, but most of the time was

spent talking about the climate change provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act. He addressed questions from the audience about the energy grid, financial incentives for homeowners and renters, carbon pricing, and the possibility of bipartisan action on future climate bills. Also pictured in the photo at right is **EJTF member** Ann Perry, Board President for UUCSH.



Morristown Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (MUUF)

- **MARCHING with METHODISTS FOR CLIMATE** – Members of MUUF's Green Earth Ministry (GEM) joined with the Earth Aware committee members of the Morristown United Methodist Church to march around the Morristown Green in support of UN goals for saving the planet and ending fossil fuel investments. Our catchy banner and signs got plenty of car honks and several thumbs up.

CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES (continued)

Morristown Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (MUUF) (continued)

- **KIDS KOMPOST-** As part of the environmental unit of the religious education program, students K-7 at the Morristown Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (MUUF) were treated to an up-close and personal lesson on the benefits of composting. Members of the Fellowship's Green Earth Ministry (GEM) engaged the children in animated discussions and were pleased to learn that many of them already knew about composting and had their own bins and piles at home. The lesson included posters of the Earth from space, wild mushrooms and one member's elaborate compost bins. Composting tools such as a pitchfork and thermometer were also on hand. A compost sample was passed around, as well as kitchen waste in various stages of decomposition - which elicited many delightful "EEEWWWS." The children then took a brief field trip to the Fellowship's compost bins and were offered the opportunity to discard the kitchen waste using gloves. The younger age group decorated paper bags to take home for a starter compost kit. The classes all received a list of appropriate items to compost.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sussex County (UUFSC)

Members of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sussex County (UUFSC) participated in the 2022 Paulins Kill Watershed Fall Cleanups to help clean up roadsides, parks, trails, etc., to prevent litter pollution from clogging storm drains, harming wildlife, and polluting the Paulins Kill waterways. The Foodshed Alliance's Paulins Kill Watershed Program (of which **EJTF member Christine Dunbar**, pictured in the photo at right, below, is the Coordinator) partnered with NJ Clean Communities, North Jersey Trout Unlimited, Skylands Sierra Club, NJ State Parks and local municipalities for this event.



FUTURE EVENTS - Virtual, In-person, and Hybrid

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

NOVEMBER 2022

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

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
		<p>1 "The Green Amendment" 2nd edition book release</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 NJ WasteWise Business Network Meeting - 10:00 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p>"CDR Academy: Forests and Tidal Wetlands" - 2:30 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>Delaware River Watershed Forum</p>	<p>4 "Women Declare Emergency" Summit - 4:30 a.m. EDT (all day)</p> <hr/> <p>NJBPU Public Hearing - Energy Storage Incentives - 9:00 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p>"CDR Academy: Ocean CDR" - 2:00 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>"Liberation From Incineration" - 6:00 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>Delaware River Watershed Forum</p>	<p>5 "Stop the Keasbey Gas Plant" - 11:00 a.m.</p>
<p>6 Canvass to Stop Gibbstown LNG Terminal - 11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 Rutgers Climate Institute (RCI) Symposium "Climate Change and Biodiversity" - 8:00 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p>DRBC 4Q Public Hearing</p>	<p>10 NJBPU Public Hearing - Ocean Wind 1 - 9:00 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p>NJDEP EJ Monmouth County Session - 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 UUFANJ Fall Issues Conference - 10:00 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p>"Youth Climate Activists Speak Out" - 7:00 p.m.</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>14 NJBPU Public Hearing - Energy Storage Incentives - 9:00 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p>Ocean Wind 1 Public Hearing - 6:00 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>"Strategies to Minimize Coastal Flooding Impacts on Agricultural Lands" - 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>15 LWVNJ "Conducting Lobbying Meetings" - 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>16 NJ Clean Air Council - 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>17 "Building Electrification: Increase Energy Efficiency, House Value and Save Money" - 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p>	<p>21 LWVNJ "Hyperlocal: Understanding Municipal and County Government" - 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>22 "CDR Academy: CDR Similarities and Differences across Earth Systems" - 12:00 noon</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Pinelands Commission Climate Committee Meeting</p>	<p>Dec. 2 Jersey Water Works Conference 2022 - 9:30 a.m.</p>		

"The Green Amendment: The People's Fight for a Clean, Safe, and Healthy Environment" - 2nd Edition Book Release Date
Tuesday, November 1, 2022

This is the revised and updated edition of the 2017 book "The Green Amendment: Securing Our Right to a Healthy Environment." Since the original edition was published nearly five years ago, the world has undergone dramatic change. In the new edition, Maya K. van Rossum "turns her attention to the often-neglected issues of environmental racism, the climate crisis, the human health devastation caused by environmental degradation, and the importance of protecting future generations from pollution and environmental harm. The book offers hope and a plan of action to rescue our communities and environment from destructive forces and deliver to the people what they rightfully deserve, but have for so long been denied... In The Green Amendment, veteran environmentalist Maya K. van Rossum presents her radically simple plan for a green future: bypass local laws and turn to the ultimate authority - our state and federal constitutions - to ensure we have the right to a healthy environment." Additional information and links to order are available here: <https://forthegenerations.org/the-green-amendment/>.

10th Annual Delaware River Watershed Forum - In-person
The Logan Hotel, One Logan Square, Philadelphia, PA 19103
Thursday, November 3 and Friday, November 4, 2022

"The Delaware River Watershed Forum features a mix of engaging speakers, facilitated discussions to work toward shared watershed priorities, and field trips." This year the Forum will be hosted in-person at the Logan Hotel in downtown Philadelphia, PA. There will also be in-person field trip experiences and an in-person networking reception. The Forum will include 27 sessions, 3 Plenary sessions, 7 field trip excursions, and networking with 250 watershed advocates. The two-day Forum registration rate is \$200; registration is limited to 250 people. Additional information and links to the agenda and to register are available here: <https://www.delriverwatershed.org/2022-forum>.

NJ WasteWise Business Network Meeting - Virtual
Thursday, November 3, 2022, 10:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

The New Jersey WasteWise Business Network is a free educational program designed to help businesses and other organizations learn how waste reduction, recycling, and recycled product procurement not only help the environment, but also their bottom line. Some of the topics to be presented at this webinar/meeting are "The Societal Benefits of Reuse: Habitat for Humanity ReStores," and "Plastic Film Pelletizing and Recycling." Links to the agenda and to register are available here: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/wastewise/wwevents.htm>.

"Liberation From Incineration" - Webinar
Friday, November 4, 2022, 6:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.

"The Liberation From Incineration Webinar is part of a workshop 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. This series aims 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. We will also explore some strategies and alternatives available to move away from the toxic practice of burning waste as a solution to the waste crisis. As part of the webinar, participants will be able to screen the documentary The Sacrifice Zone prior to the webinar." Additional information and registration is available here: <https://njeja.ourpowerbase.net/civicrm/event/register?reset=1&id=7>.

**"Women Declare Emergency and Raise Climate Ambition" Summit - Virtual
Friday, November 4, 2022, 4:30 a.m. EDT - 5:00 p.m.**

"Women from all sectors of society across the globe are being impacted by the climate emergency and they need to be part of the solution. In September, SHE Changes Climate launched an Open Letter, (available here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfK2vVIpTFihyompLiysO5g7t3MPljdYgSmkDd3phgYxFlayA/viewform>) signed by 1000+ leaders from around the world, to the COP27 Presidency and all Leaders attending COP calling for a 50:50 split of men and women in top environmental decision-making positions." SHE Changes Climate and partners are sponsoring an online Summit of leaders from around the world to discuss diversity and climate, to address the planetary emergency. All recommendations will be collated into a "Women Declare Emergency" statement distributed to media and decision-makers immediately after the Summit and before the opening of the COP27. This is an all-day Summit with multiple sessions. Additional information and the registration link are available here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/women-declare-emergency-and-raise-climate-ambition-tickets-430877274527?>.

**"Woodbridge, NJ: Stop The Keasbey Gas Plant" - Virtual
Saturday, November 5, 2022, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

This virtual meeting of the Central Jersey Food & Water Volunteer Team is open to anyone who wants to participate in online and in-person actions to stop the gas plant planned for the Keasbey section of Woodbridge Township. At the meeting, you can learn "how to get involved in the campaign to stop another dirty gas power plant from polluting our air and making the climate crisis worse!" The link to sign up is available here: <https://www.mobilize.us/fww/event/482376/>.

**Canvass to Stop the Gibbstown LNG Terminal - In-person
Meet at Lawnside Historical Society, 26 Kings Ct., Lawnside, NJ 08045
Sunday, November 6, 2022, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. & 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

Food & Water Watch is sponsoring an event to knock on doors and talk to neighbors in Camden County (Woodlynne and Lawnside) to help build the movement to stop the Gibbstown LNG terminal in Camden County and advocate for municipal resolutions. "All levels of experience welcome! A canvass training will be provided." Additional information and the sign-up link are available here: <https://www.mobilize.us/fww/event/520536/>.

NJBPU Public Hearing on the Ocean Wind 1 Requested Easements - **Virtual**
Thursday, November 10, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) will hear oral arguments pertaining to the petition of Ocean Wind LLC for a "Determination That Certain Easements and Consents Needed for Certain Environmental Permits In, and With Respect To, the County of Cape May Are Reasonably Necessary for the Construction or Operation of the Ocean Wind 1 Qualified Offshore Wind Project." The parties, Ocean Wind, LLC, Cape May County, and the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel, as well as the intervenors, the City of Ocean City, NJ and Upper Township, NJ, will be given an opportunity to present their arguments, including rebuttals. Interested listeners can join the meeting here: <https://youtube.com/watch?v=mArUb6bxoLg>.

Ocean Wind 1 Public Hearing on Green Acres Diversion in Ocean City - **Virtual**
Monday, November 14, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

Ocean Wind LLC (Ocean Wind 1) will hold a public hearing "to receive public comment on the proposed diversion of an approximately +/- 0.647-acre portion of Ocean City-owned parkland." This hearing was originally scheduled for October 3, 2022 but was canceled due to a coastal flood warning issued by the National Weather Service and concern for the safety of the public. This hearing will be conducted virtually and members of the public may participate via video conference or by telephone. Ocean Wind 1 has filed a petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to acquire permanent rights of way and easements needed to install an underground cable in connection with its proposed Ocean Wind Offshore Wind Farm Project. The Ocean Wind I developers believe this route for transmission cable landings will be the cheapest and most effective route for transmission and will also be the cheapest route for ratepayers in the future. Numerous NJ environmental advocacy groups including NJ Wind Works, **of which UUFANJ is a partner**, strongly support the Ocean Wind 1 project. In addition to attending the public hearing, **the public may submit written comments to Ocean Wind 1 until November 28, 2022**. Additional information is available here: <https://oceanwindone.com/news-archive/2022/10/notice-of-green-acres-public-hearing-november-14>.

DEP Notice of Receipt of Permit Application for Ocean Wind 1

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has received a permit application from Ørsted Ocean Wind 1 to construct near shore and onshore components within NJ associated with the development of a commercial-scale, offshore wind energy facility off the coast of NJ. The overall project includes up to 98 wind turbine generators, inter-array cables, up to three offshore substations, two onshore substations, and onshore export cable systems. Within NJ, the subject application includes the installation of onshore export cable systems and construction of the two onshore substations. The permit application is requesting approval of the following permits: Coastal Area Facility Review Act (CAFRA) Individual Permit, Waterfront Development Individual Permit (in-water), Coastal Wetlands permit, Freshwater Wetlands Individual Permit, Flood Hazard Area Individual Permit and Flood Hazard Area Verification. There is no deadline for submission of comments at this time, as the application is currently undergoing initial review. Updates to deadlines for submission of comments will be posted on the Department's Offshore Wind website at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/offshorewind/outreach.html>. **Additional information is provided on p. 4 of the document available here:** https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/bulletin/bu2022_0907.pdf.

NJBPU Public Meetings on the NJ Energy Storage Incentive Program - Virtual
Friday, November 4, 2022, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Monday, November 14, 2022, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) is holding a series of virtual stakeholder meetings to discuss the NJ Energy Storage Incentive Program (NJ SIP) Straw Proposal (Straw), which is attached to the public notice available through the link below. The NJ SIP described in this Straw will build a critical foundation for long-term energy storage, proposing to create two energy storage programs for Front-of-Meter and Behind-the-Meter energy storage incentives, both patterned after the solar-plus-storage program proposed in the Board's Competitive Solar Incentive ("CSI") Program. However, while the CSI Program is designed to incentivize solar-plus-storage projects, this Straw will focus on incentivizing stand-alone energy storage devices physically connected to a NJ electric distribution company ("EDC"). Only energy storage projects placed into service after the effective date of the Board Order establishing this program would qualify for incentives, and a portion will be reserved for projects located in, or directly serving, overburdened communities. **The deadline for written public comments is 5 p.m. EST on Monday, December 12, 2022.** Additional information and the registration link are here:

https://nj.gov/bpu/pdf/publicnotice/Notice_StakeholderMeetings_NewJerseyEnergyStorageProgram.pdf.

Also see the news article on [p. 19](#).

Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) Fourth Quarter 2022 Public Hearing
Wednesday, November 9, 2022
Meeting time and location are forthcoming

Additional information on meeting time, location, and other details will be available here:

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

Monmouth County EJ DEP Community Engagement Session - Hybrid
Long Branch City Hall, 344 Broadway, 2nd Floor, Long Branch, NJ 07740
and on Zoom

Thursday, November 10, 2022, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is inviting Monmouth 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 Monmouth County environmental justice issues with DEP Commissioner Shawn LaTourette and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 2 Regional Administrator Lisa Garcia. 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/vJIsf-2hqTsjHL1ZcGpjDCQRubk_hlZf4j8).



**UUFANJ Fall Issues Conference - "Stronger Together"
- Hybrid**

**Morristown Unitarian Universalist Fellowship,
21 Normandy Heights Road, Morristown, NJ 07960
In-person and on Zoom
Saturday, November 12, 2022, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

To all NJ UUs - UUFANJ needs you at the 2022 Issues Conference, to share your congregation's unique experience, to learn from fellow New Jersey UU congregations, and to participate in shaping UUFANJ's common action plan for the year ahead. "This is the time for UUs (and our allies!) across the state to gather to envision, strategize and collaborate on the social justice issues that we face in New Jersey. This year's theme of 'Stronger Together' recognizes that, to be most effective, the work of UU FaithAction NJ needs to be grounded in the work of UU Congregations across the state. At its heart, the Issues Conference is about accountability between our organization and the congregations that make this work possible." Additional information and the registration link are available here: <https://uufaithactionnj.salsalabs.org/2022-issues-conference/index.html>.

**"Youth Climate Activists Speak Out" - Virtual
Saturday, November 12, 2022, 7:00 p.m.**

This event, sponsored by Central Jersey Coalition Against Endless War, will feature the following speakers: Alexa Haris (she/her), RU Progressive President and Sayreville Environmental Commissioner; Daniel Jimenez (he/him), Woodbridge Youth for Liberation and Equity (WYLE); and Rey Watson (they/them), Co-Coordinator of Sunrise Hunterdon County. Speakers will be followed by an open discussion. Register at <https://bit.ly/3VS7t1P> to receive the zoom link via email.

**NJ Clean Air Council - Virtual
Wednesday, November 16, 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> or contact Heidi Jones at (609) 777-0598.

**"Building Electrification: Increase Energy Efficiency, House Value and Save Money"
Webinar
Thursday, November 17, 2022, 7:00 p.m.**

This webinar, part of a continuing series organized by the Sierra Club-NJ Chapter, will feature a speaker from the HVAC industry. In addition Matt, the Parsippany Green Team co-Leader, will describe his ground sourced heat pump, rooftop solar, energy storage, amped-up insulation, and two hybrid EV vehicles. Matt's home is a role model for Building Decarbonization leading toward near Zero GHG.. Additional information and the link registration link are available here: [https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7013q000001y2vLAAQ&mapLinkHref=.](https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7013q000001y2vLAAQ&mapLinkHref=)

Pinelands Commission Climate Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 30, 2022, after the Policy & Implementation Committee meeting
Location is forthcoming

Additional information on location, agenda, and other details will be available here:
<https://www.nj.gov/pinelands/home/meetings/index.shtml>.

"The Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) Academy" - Webinars
Multiple dates

Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) is a controversial subject, and some may be interested in learning more about it. To that end, the North American Carbon Program (NACP) and the US Carbon Cycle Science Program (supported by US government agencies) are presenting a "CDR Academy" that "will offer introductory material on the basics of CDR in different Earth systems, including:

- A curated list of introductory resources (reports, videos, articles, etc.) on CDR;
- A series of 1-hour webinars on CDR in different ecosystems/contexts, such as oceans and coasts, geological reservoirs, natural and working lands, and the atmosphere. These webinars will be recorded for future viewing and reference; and
- A panel discussion with webinar presenters discussing cross-cutting themes, research needs, and potential opportunities for collaboration."

Future webinars (see below for registration link site):

"CDR Academy: Forests and Tidal Wetlands" with Kimberly Novick, Indiana University and Kevin Kroeger, USGS - **Thursday, November 3, 2022, 2:30 p.m.** (see below for registration link site)

"CDR Academy: Ocean CDR" with Jessica Cross, NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (PMEL) - **Friday, November 4, 2022, 2:00 p.m.** (see below for registration link site)

"Panel Discussion: CDR Similarities and Differences across Earth Systems" - with Jarad Daniels, Global CCS (Carbon Capture and Storage) Institute, Emily Grubert, University of Notre Dame, Kimberly Novick, Indiana University, Kevin Kroeger, USGS, and Jessica Cross, NOAA PMEL - **Tuesday, November 22, 2022, 12:00 p.m.** (see below for registration link site)

Past webinars:

"CDR Academy: Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) and Mineralization" with Jarad Daniels, Global CCS (Carbon Capture and Storage) Institute - (see below for video link site)

"CDR Academy: Role of the Atmosphere in Deep Decarbonization" - with Emily Grubert, University of Notre Dame - (see below for video link site)

Links to all materials - background resources, recordings of previous webinars, and registration for future webinars - are available here:
https://www.nacarbon.org/nacp/cdr_academy.html.

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

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey (LWVNJ) is presenting a public series of virtual activist training sessions designed to equip participants "with the knowledge and skills needed to carry out dynamic organizing strategies that can effectively influence public policy and the state of democracy in New Jersey." The sessions scheduled for November 2022 are listed below; descriptions of these and additional sessions, along with the links to register for all sessions, are available here: <https://www.lwvnj.org/training>.

LWVNJ "Conducting Lobbying Meetings" **Tuesday, November 15, 2022, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

"Meeting with legislators and key decision-makers to urge them to take specific action or vote in favor of a bill is an important way that constituents can express their views and influence the legislative process. During this training you will learn: Best practices for scheduling and preparing for a lobbying meeting; How to structure an effective and persuasive discussion; and Tips on how to use the information you learn from your meeting." See above for registration link.

LWVNJ "Hyperlocal: Understanding Municipal and County Government" **Monday, November 21, 2022, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

"Most people know that the actions that federal and state governments take can have major implications on the lives of millions of Americans. But what about local government? In New Jersey, thousands of municipal and county government officials are responsible for making critical daily decisions and delivering essential services to the communities they serve. Despite the tremendous power that local government has over our daily lives, most people know little to nothing about what it does or how it works. Join this workshop to learn about the structures and powers of the municipal and county government bodies that are making decisions for your community." See above for registration link.

Rutgers Climate Institute Listing of 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 November 2022 (a sampling is listed below and on p. 12), but the site includes updated information over time; check the site periodically for an updated list: <https://climatechange.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/range.listevents/->.

Rutgers Climate Institute (RCI) Symposium 2022: "Climate Change and Biodiversity" **In-person and Virtual (a.m. only)** **Wednesday, November 9, 2022, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

The Rutgers Climate Institute (RCI) Symposium aims to foster collaboration among natural and social science researchers and students interested in climate change from institutions in the NJ, NY, and Philadelphia region. Talks are centered on the symposium theme. There is no fee to attend but registration is required. Over 200 attendees representing more than 20 research institutions in the region participate annually. **Please Note:** This event is intended for students, faculty, and staff of

academic and research institutions. A limited number of in-person registrations will be available for unaffiliated members of the public upon request. Links to additional information including registration are available here: <https://climatechange.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/icalrepeat.detail/2022/11/09/7240/-/rci-symposium-2022-climate-change-and-biodiversity>.

"Strategies to Minimize the Impacts of Coastal Flooding and Salt Water on Agricultural Lands" - Webinar
Monday, November 14, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

"Managing the impact of saltwater inundation will require farmers to use more adaptive agricultural practices. With better site assessment tools and implementation of appropriate conservation practices, producers in these impacted areas may not need to completely abandon their affected fields. In addition, potential income opportunities may be possible by growing value-added, niche conservation plants that also provide valuable ecosystem services." In this webinar, Christopher Miller, Manager/Plant Specialist with the USDA-NRCS Cape May Plant Materials Center, will discuss methods for dealing with flooding and saltwater on farms.

This webinar is part of the "Weathering The Storm: Increased Resiliency After Superstorm Sandy" program, a collaboration between two Rutgers Cooperative Extension programs, the Earth Day, Every Day program and the Marine Extension Program Seminar Series (MEPSS), in recognition of the 10th anniversary of Superstorm Sandy. Registration is available here: https://rutgers.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1cU5rGBRQmCLP3OY6GtnBg.



Jersey Water Works Conference 2022 - In-person
Friday, December 2, 2022, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
The War Memorial, 1 Memorial Drive, Trenton, NJ, 08608

Jersey Water Works (JWW) is presenting its Eighth Annual Jersey Water Works Conference, with the themes "Building a Water Sector Leadership Pipeline," "Moving Money to Projects," "Implementation," and "Community Engagement." The JWW Conference is an event that will bring together state and local decision makers, practitioners, and stakeholders. It will be a full-day in-person event including keynote, featured speakers, two plenaries, three workshops, continental breakfast, and lunch. **[Note: a virtual evening session on the water assistance program for low income households will be held on Thursday, December, 8, 2022 from 6:00–7:00 p.m.]** Additional information and the registration link are available here: <https://www.jerseywaterworks.org/events/annual-conference/2022/>.

VIDEOS OF PAST EVENTS

"Challenges and Opportunities in Organic Urban Agriculture" - Video of Webinar

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), this webinar addressed "production and marketing challenges and opportunities for farming organically in urban environments. Organic producers of all sizes and across all landscapes must

follow the same national standards to meet the requirements of USDA organic certification. However, certified organic farmers and farmers using organic growing practices may have different production and market opportunities and challenges when growing in an urban environment. This webinar explored research in this field, as well as perspectives from farmers on growing organically in urban spaces." A link to sign up to view the webinar on-demand is available here:

<https://conservationwebinars.net/webinars/challenges-and-opportunities-in-organic-agriculture>.

"Beyond Recovery From Sandy: Setting The Stage For Future Community Resilience" Video of Webinar

"The significant damage generated by Superstorm Sandy exposed New Jersey's substantial vulnerability to coastal storms, many of which were unknown or unrecognized prior to Sandy. Faced with significant threats to the state's infrastructure, businesses and communities, Sandy ushered in new and innovative thinking about how communities can become resilient to future storms." In this webinar sponsored by Rutgers NJ Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES), Dr. Tom Herrington, Associate Director of Monmouth University's Urban Coast Institute, discussed how innovative resilience concepts have been incorporated into regional and local planning and project design. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4WTS2Fuc2zw>.

"Adapting to Climate Change in Your Community" - Video of Webinar

"As the impacts of climate change become increasingly evident, we are learning how to be resilient in facing the challenges brought by climate-related events or conditions. We are also working to understand how to adapt the way we plan and design our communities to be climate ready." In this webinar, Tanya Rohrbach of NJ Future discussed some of the strategies for advancing local climate readiness. This webinar is part of the "Weathering The Storm: Increased Resiliency After Superstorm Sandy" program, a collaboration between two Rutgers Cooperative Extension programs, the Earth Day, Every Day program and the Marine Extension Program Seminar Series (MEPSS), in recognition of the 10th anniversary of Superstorm Sandy. The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ni6FmQyfM8>.

"How the Inflation Reduction Act Invests in Climate Solutions" - Video of Webinar

In the September National Zoom Call of the Elders Climate Action network, Matt Salton, Federal Campaigns Manager of the League of Conservation Voters, discussed "the ways in which the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) will invest in communities and climate solutions and how you can help to ensure funds go to the right places." The video is available here:

<https://youtu.be/GlBOKSlKD4o>.

"Rooted Together" - Green Team Summit 2022 - Videos of Sessions

Sponsored by "Faith in Place," the Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin affiliate of Interfaith Power & Light, this virtual summit featured the following sessions: Session 1 - Keynote Session; Session 2 - DJs, Milkweed, Jams, and More! Get to Know Faith in Place; Session 3 - Interwoven: Exploring

Environmental Justice with Faith Leaders; Session 4 - Climate Resilience from a Justice Perspective; and Session 5 - Healing Centered Justice. Videos of the sessions, as well as session resources and the Chat for each session, are available here: <https://www.greenteamsummit.org/2022-summit-recordings>.

"Climate-Proofing the Grid: Strategies for Grid Modernization and Climate Resilience" Video of Webinar

"As decarbonization efforts accelerate and severe weather events become more common in a changing climate, electric grid systems and the communities and businesses that rely on them are seeing increasing impacts. Grid modernization strategies and technologies - from grid hardening and smart grid technologies to distributed energy resources, virtual power plants, and storage capacity (e.g., microgrids) - can increase the resilience of electricity infrastructure to extreme weather and decarbonization activities, making power more reliable and decreasing the costs."

This webinar, sponsored by the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES), explored the various technologies and strategies that can be used to modernize the grid and improve climate resilience, those technologies at scale, and policy mechanisms and steps that can accelerate their adoption. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KvjB4Edyyc>.

"Climate Change Loss and Damage" - Video of Webinar

Sponsored by the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI), this briefing addressed the topic of loss and damage from climate change, in the lead-up to the international climate negotiations in Egypt (COP27). This topic is expected to be one of the most discussed issues at COP27. Impacts like land loss in Louisiana and homes falling into the ocean in North Carolina are being felt around the world. Leaders are reckoning with how to address this growing challenge, particularly in countries without the financial and technical tools needed to respond. Panelists discussed "the tools the international community has designed so far to address loss and damage, the current status of international climate negotiations on this issue, expectations of what might happen next on the topic at COP27, and why the international conversation on loss and damage matters for U.S. policymakers." The video is available here: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/102022cop>.

"Back to School - Catalyzing Climate Action in K-12 Schools" - Video of Webinar

Sponsored by the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI), this briefing addressed the topic of climate action in K-12 schools, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing climate change resilience, and increasing climate change education. Public K-12 schools operate 480,000 fossil fuel-powered school buses, produce 530,000 tons of food waste, and are one of the largest public-sector energy consumers. From electric buses to energy-efficient, resilient buildings, implementing climate solutions in schools can reduce greenhouse gas emissions while also creating a healthier environment for students and teachers to learn and work in. At the same time, schools need to be made more resilient to worsening climate impacts such as wildfires and extreme heat, which can disrupt school operations and impact student learning. During this briefing, panelists discussed the federal policy levers needed to scale up climate mitigation and adaptation actions in schools to build a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable education sector. The video is available here: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/092822school>.

"Harvest Season: Organizing for Food Justice" - Video of Webinar

Sponsored by Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC), this webinar addressed how congregations can work with others to create an ethical and sustainable food economy, and included presentations from UU congregations about feeding the hungry, fair trade economics, and economic and environmental justice. Emphasis was on "congregation-based programs that help to nourish and empower communities, small business, and food industry workers." Discussion of a harvest season cookbook that identifies recipes and resources for environmentalists and community organizers, as well as information about harvest celebrations, also were included. Music was provided by UU composer and musician Jim Scott, co-chair of the UU Ministry for the Earth and one of the creators of the Green Sanctuary program. The video is available here:

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

"Key Findings from the Newest Global Assessment Report on Climate Change" Video of Webinar

Sponsored by the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI), this briefing examined the implications of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) most recent report - the Sixth Assessment Report - for the upcoming international climate negotiations in Egypt (COP27) and for work on Capitol Hill. Panelists, who participated in drafting sections of the report, discussed key findings from the report and how the information can be used by decision-makers at the national and international levels. The video is available here: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/101222cop>.

"Thermal Energy Storage: An Opportunity for Industrial Decarbonization" Video of Webinar

"From glass and steel manufacturing to distilling spirits, industrial processes often require high levels of heat, making emissions generated in these processes some of the hardest to avoid. This webinar, sponsored by the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES) and hosted by the Renewable Thermal Collaborative (RTC), explored thermal energy storage, a promising technology for replacing the heat demand of industrial facilities with electricity from renewable sources." The webinar covered how thermal storage works, real-world applications from thermal storage companies, and what the RTC is doing to support this technology. The video is available here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cd_UUIHrLbw.

"Faith and Forests" - Video of Webinar

Sponsored by Interfaith Power and Light, this webinar was presented by Dr. Nalini Nadkarni, a Professor of Biology at the University of Utah who carries out research on ecological interactions in rainforest canopies. Dr. Nadkarni discussed her forest canopy explorations, her findings that many faith and spiritual traditions have trees and forests as central parts of their respective religious texts, and how to find and communicate common ground between scientific and faith-based communities. Written materials are available here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1J5uA3XkQANY3YcxIoycmbyagP6uOApUI?usp=sharing>, and the video is available here:

<https://www.facebook.com/InterfaithPowerandLight/videos/475836180990727>.

Also see [p. 10](#) for videos of "CDR Academy" webinars.

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 9/27/2022 – 10/26/2022]

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- **EPA Researchers Release Cumulative Impacts Report, Prioritizing Environmental Justice in New Research Cycle** - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) "has identified the cumulative impact assessment as one means to address environmental injustice. In the newly published 'Cumulative Impacts Research: Recommendations for EPA's Office of Research and Development' [ORD] report [available here: <https://tinyurl.com/4cxw34bd>], ORD defines cumulative impacts and shows the various research areas that can use this evolving concept. This research is essential to solving longstanding environmental health problems, including health disparities exacerbated by racial and social injustices." The report cites NJ's Environmental Justice law in a number of places. <https://www.epa.gov/sciencematters/epa-researchers-release-cumulative-impacts-report-prioritizing-environmental-justice>

ELECTRIC VEHICLES & VEHICLE EMISSION REDUCTION

- **NJ Transit's First Electric Bus Starts Real World Testing With Riders on Board This Month** - This article describes how NJ has started deploying its first electric bus on actual routes, to test how battery-life responds in different situations. This data will factor into where the buses are ultimately utilized. Initially, it seems urban routes would be optimal, with ability to recharge on routes with less mileage and also reduce air pollution in these areas. <https://www.nj.com/news/2022/10/nj-transits-first-electric-bus-starts-real-world-testing-with-riders-on-board-this-month.html>
- **"6" = Number of NJ State Forests and Parks to Get Charging Stations for Electric Vehicles** - As part of the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) "Electric Vehicle Tourism" grant program, charging stations are to be built at six state parks and forests. The properties to receive the chargers have been prioritized based on electrical feasibility, parking lot layout and structure, and the number of daily and overnight visitors. See <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/09/cheesequake-high-point-wawayanda-wharton-round-valley-to-get-ev-charging-stations-nj/>. The Murphy administration's press release is available here: https://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2022/22_0038.htm.

- **NJ Set to Share in Billions for Charging Stations** - A key part of the transition to electric vehicles (EVs) is the availability of charging stations. NJ is scheduled to receive \$104 million from the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, with an initial \$15 million allocation, plus \$22 million per year for the next four years. There are currently 655 fast chargers in NJ, with plans for an additional 1,600 to 5,600 by 2035. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/10/electric-vehicles-dot-billions-charging-stations-nj-infrastructure-national-network-clean-energy-higher-rebates/>



FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE

NJ Suit Wants Fossil-Fuel Industry to Pay for Damages Done by Climate Change

At least 20 climate-change-related lawsuits have been filed against fossil-fuel companies by states, cities and counties across the U.S., and NJ has just filed its own lawsuit against five fossil-fuel companies and the American Petroleum Institute (API). NJ is asking the court for an injunction ordering the energy companies to stop deceiving NJ consumers about the destructive environmental impacts of fossil fuels, and is also seeking civil monetary penalties and damages, including natural resource damages. The complaint alleges the companies fell short of their legal obligation to warn consumers about all the hidden or latent dangers arising from the use of their products. The complaint also alleges negligence, impairment of the public trust, trespass, and public nuisance. The fossil fuel industry's alleged fraud and the climate changes their products have driven are disproportionately harming low income communities and communities of color, particularly those individuals residing in overburdened communities already subject to adverse cumulative environmental and public health stressors, where extreme heat and chronic flooding are having damaging results for public health and safety. See

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/10/superior-court-suit-legal-filing-pay-climate-change-damage-exxon-shell-chevron-conocophillips-bp-american-petroleum-institute-oil-gas-industry-attorney-general-matthew-platkin-fossil-fuel/>.

A 4-1/2-minute news video including statements by the NJ Attorney General and the Commissioner of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is available here:

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/lawsuit-filed-against-oil-companies-claiming-systemic-fraud/>.

The NJ Office of the Attorney General's press release, which outlines in detail the charges and role of the companies and the API, is available here: <https://www.njoag.gov/lawsuit-filed-by-ag-njdep-and-division-of-consumer-affairs-accuses-five-oil-and-gas-companies-of-misleading-the-public-about-their-products-and-climate-change/>.

- **Opinion: Federal Agency Should Reject Plan to Expand NJ's Fossil Fuel Infrastructure** (by Tom Gilbert, campaign director of ReThink Energy NJ) - The author makes the case for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) denying the Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line's (Transco) Regional Energy Access Project expansion proposal, based on a recent study undertaken for the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) that found that NJ doesn't need more gas pipeline capacity through 2030. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/10/transco-natural-gas-pipeline-plan-ferc-should-consider-bpu-rate-counsel-study/>

LAND MANAGEMENT/AGRICULTURE/FOOD

- **NJ Gives New Support to Farmers of Color** (4-1/2-minute news video) - This video describes the bill that Gov. Murphy signed into law that directs the NJ Department of Agriculture (NJDA) to establish a "New Jersey Minority, Women, and Underserved Farmer Registry." This will establish a registry in NJ that parallels the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Minority Farm Registry, and is intended to strengthen the participation of minorities, women, disabled, LGBTQIA+, and historically underserved farmers in available NJ and federal loan and assistance programs for farmers. Farmers interviewed in the video describe potential positive effects of the registry, and also additional assistance that is needed. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/nj-gives-new-support-to-farmers-of-color/>
- **Tiny Forest, Big Honor** - The Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) awarded an Environmental Achievement Award to the Summit NJ Environmental Commission for its urban "Tiny Forest." This urban reforestation project, located behind the Summit Community Center, will eventually include 150 trees, and will utilize advanced techniques, native plantings, and a deer fence, restoring the area to its natural state. <https://www.tapinto.net/towns/summit/sections/summit-snaps/articles/tiny-forest-big-honor>

RENEWABLE RESOURCES

- **Monmouth University to Monitor the Ocean Wind 1 Project through eDNA** - "Monmouth University scientists are conducting a first-of-its-kind study that uses genetic materials extracted from the ocean to determine whether the development of turbines and power infrastructure has an impact on fish populations and demographics in the Ocean Wind 1 project area, located off the southern New Jersey coast. Through a \$1.3 million agreement with Ørsted, the team will sample the waters before, during and after construction for DNA shed by marine life in the area and compare the findings with data gathered through traditional trawls and fish tagging methods. The project is the first to monitor potential changes to fisheries in a wind energy area using environmental DNA, or 'eDNA.'" <https://www.monmouth.edu/uci/2022/07/28/monmouth-university-to-monitor-ocean-wind-1-projects-potential-impacts-on-fisheries-through-dna-samples/>
- **NJ Is 'the Nation's Center of Offshore Wind,' Murphy Says** (5-minute news video) - At the Clean Energy Conference in Atlantic City, Gov. Murphy and the CEO of the NJ Economic Development Authority (EDA) touted NJ's growing offshore wind industry and the jobs that it can bring to the state. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/nj-is-the-nations-center-of-offshore-wind-murphy-says/>
- **Murphy Addresses Opposition to Offshore Wind Energy in New Jersey** - On Gov. Murphy's monthly radio call-in show on regional NPR, he answered questions about offshore wind development and stated that efforts are being made to engage with the community and the public (comments on specific offshore wind development projects can be provided to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) here: <https://dep.nj.gov/offshorwind/comments/>). See <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/09/nj-gov-phil-murphy-answers-questions-offshore-wind-industry-opposition-fishing-industry-tourism-marine/>.

- **Bringing Offshore Wind Power to the Grid** - This article describes some of the 80 proposals the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) has received to address the issue of bringing power from offshore wind farms to users onshore. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/09/nj-offshore-wind-connecting-to-grid-bpu-bids/>
- **Customers May Subsidize Crucial Green-Energy Component** - NJ has fallen behind on its goals for energy storage, and the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) has issued a New Jersey Energy Storage Incentive Program Straw Proposal (available here: https://www.state.nj.us/bpu/pdf/publicnotice/Notice_StakeholderMeetings_NewJerseyEnergyStorageProgram.pdf). The proposal focuses on incentivizing stand-alone energy storage devices physically connected to a NJ electric distribution company, and proposes to create two energy storage programs for Front-of-Meter ("Grid Supply") and Behind-the-Meter ("Distributed" or "Customer Level") energy storage incentives, both patterned after the solar-plus-storage program proposed in the BPU's previously proposed Competitive Solar Incentive ("CSI") Program. A portion of the Distributed storage incentive program will be reserved for projects located in, or directly serving, overburdened communities. However, the proposal does not address what the program will cost or what ratepayers may pay. Stakeholder meetings are being held (see meeting information in "Future Events" section on [p. 8](#)). <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/10/bpu-wants-to-crank-up-njs-energy-storage-efforts/>



- **Opinion: The Collapse of NJ's Solar Industry Puts Thousands of Jobs at Risk** (by Rodger Ferguson, president of PennJersey Environmental Consulting, with experience representing solar redevelopers on landfills and contaminated sites in NJ) - The author describes current declines in NJ's solar industry, and asks for support of two bills in the legislature that would help to reverse the negative trends: A4089/S2732 (passed by the Assembly as of 10/26/2022) and A4328/S2848 (passed by the Senate as of 10/26/2022). <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/09/op-ed-writer-says-nj-solar-industry-is-collapsing-thousands-jobs-at-risk/>
- **Opinion: Another Step Toward New Jersey's Clean-Energy Future** (by Kim Hanemann, the president and chief operating officer of PSE&G) - The author describes the need for a "meshed" grid system for transmitting energy from offshore wind farms to shore, rather than individual "extension cords" from each wind farm. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/10/nj-clean-energy-offshore-wind-farms-need-interconnected-meshed-grid-connect-onshore/>
- **Opinion: Offshore Wind Will Help Save Long Beach Island** (by Nancy Davis, a lifelong resident of Long Beach Island and a member of the borough council in Beach Haven) - The author, a former mayor and a scientist, eloquently describes the need for offshore wind projects to cut carbon emissions, because the island "will literally sink into the ocean" if emissions are not addressed as soon as possible. In response to those against the projects, she states "I hear the concerns of residents who are worried about the impact of offshore wind on property values, but let's be real: Properties will have no value if they're under water." <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/10/op-ed-says-offshore-wind-projects-will-help-save-long-beach-island-from-rising-seas-climate-change/>

CLIMATE CHANGE

- **DEP Drops ‘Emergency’ Plan in New Public Sessions on Inland Flood Rule** - 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, using "imminent peril" to justify them. However, after 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) there was no further mention of the rules' issuance until October, when a series of public sessions were held (video and presentation materials are available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/inland-flood-protection-rule/engagement-sessions/>). However, there has been no further mention of using the expedited "emergency" process for the rulemaking. Under the new rules, new buildings and roads would have to be built outside current flood plains - or higher than current flooding levels, and updated rainfall estimates would have to be used. Standards for stormwater systems also would change, with new requirements that they retain flood water and slowly release it after large storms to minimize flooding. Environmentalists called the meetings "a good sign," but said more frequent and catastrophic storms demand urgency in implementing new rules. The New Jersey Business and Industry Association has opposed a change in rules, warning of "dire economic consequences on potentially thousands of projects." <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/10/state-dep-inland-flood-protection-rule-public-sessions-backs-away-from-emergency-plan-imminent-peril-tropical-storm-ida/>
- **10 Years After Sandy, Are We Safer From Flooding?** - In this article, the NJ Conservation Foundation describes the progress that has been made since Superstorm Sandy, and also the great need for new rules to increase NJ's resilience to inland flooding (see article above). <https://centraljersey.com/2022/10/17/10-years-after-sandy-are-we-safer-from-flooding/>
- **How Climate Change Could Sink NJ's Tax Base - And Not Just at the Shore** - A new analysis by Climate Central (available here: <https://www.climatecentral.org/tools/sinking-tax-base>) assesses sea level rise impact on the tax base of hundreds of coastal U.S. counties - specifically, the potential loss of taxable properties caused by shifting tidal boundaries. Coastal flooding caused by sea level rise is shifting the tide lines that many coastal states use to delineate boundaries between public and private property. Changes in property boundaries can have significant implications for both property owners and local property tax revenues - a primary source of funding for schools and services provided by local governments. In the seventeen affected NJ counties, the analysis found that, by 2050, 6,125 buildings with an estimated tax-ratable amount of over \$6.3 billion, and close to 46,000 land parcels, are at or below the projected flood level. See <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/10/high-tides-projected-impact-flooding-property-with-6-3-billion-property-tax-assessments-sinking-the-tax-base/>. A related 6-minute news video is available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/rising-seas-projected-to-exact-heavy-toll-on-njs-tax-base/>.
- **Governor Murphy Announces Launch of Statewide Clean Buildings Working Group** - At the Clean Energy Conference, Gov. Murphy announced the launch of the Clean Buildings Working Group. The Working Group is a collaboration between the Governor's Office of Climate Action and the Green Economy (OCAGE) and the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU), and is envisioned to "serve as a cross-sector collaborative of stakeholders and experts in industry, government, building science, organized labor, environmental justice, and workforce development that will inform pathways to greener, cleaner buildings." The Working Group will address "the adoption of energy efficiency improvements and emissions reduction upgrades in buildings - a priority sector of the Administration's climate action agenda - while supporting critical repairs for low-to-moderate income housing and expanding opportunities for green buildings job growth." One of the initial members of the Working Group is **EJTF partner Melissa Miles** of the NJ Environmental Justice Alliance (NJEJA). <https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562022/approved/20221003b.shtml>

- Four Regions of New Jersey Release Climate Resilience Action Plans Following Community Development Process** - Four regional groups have released regional climate action plans in advance of the 10th anniversary of Superstorm Sandy. The “Resilient NJ” plans are an outgrowth of a National Disaster Resilience Competition award provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to NJ after Superstorm Sandy, for the nine counties designated “Most Impacted and Distressed” from Sandy. “The funding led to the four innovative regional planning projects focused on addressing gaps in resilience planning and partnering with underserved and socially vulnerable populations to enhance the value and integrity of the ecological, recreational, and economic resources in the regions through a collaborative, community-led planning process.”
https://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2022/22_0042.htm
- Climate Change Raises Flooding Risk for Many Hospitals, Study Finds** (4-1/2-minute news video) - This video describes how half or more of hospitals in NJ are located within miles of the coast and have a “22% greater risk of flooding” from hurricanes or lower category storms. In addition, the health care system is at additional risk because flooding of roads impacts the ability to reach the hospitals. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/climate-change-raises-flooding-risk-for-many-hospitals-study-finds/>



- Business Report: Gas Prices, Cost of Climate Change in NJ, Mortgage Rates** (3-minute news video) - A report issued by E2 (“a national, nonpartisan group of business leaders, investors and others who advocate for smart policies that are good for the economy and good for the environment”) found that NJ has had more than \$59 billion in losses since 1980 due to hurricanes, winter storms, fires and flooding, and identified Ocean County as one of the U.S.’s most vulnerable for future economic losses. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/business-report-gas-prices-cost-of-climate-change-in-nj-mortgage-rates/>
- Hazard NJ Episode 5: Orange Fog and Creeping Saltwater** (22-minute podcast) - This podcast describes how: “The National Lead company spent years in the 1970s recycling car batteries at a factory in rural South Jersey, haphazardly draining battery acid onto the ground. The pollution left dangerous heavy metals in the site’s soil and groundwater - a mess that is now on the verge of being cleaned up. But in an area along Delaware Bay, sea level rise is slowly pushing a new potential problem into the ground.”
<https://hazardnj.podbean.com/e/episode-5-orange-fog-and-creeping-saltwater/>

POLLUTION

- **NJ Bag Ban Set to Get Tweaked** - The NJ single-use plastic bag ban that went into effect on 5/4/2022, was perceived to have had the unintended consequence of consumers who get curbside-pickup or home-delivered orders ending up with an increasing stream of reusable bags. An amendment to the law (S3114/A4741) has been introduced that would allow stores to use some paper bags or boxes in these instances for a period of time. Since the time of this news article, the bill has been amended by the Senate (amended version available here: https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2022/S3500/3114_R1.PDF) to revise the timeframes, clarify some responsibilities, and include a provision that grocery stores and third party grocery delivery services be given the option to establish a program to provide for the donation of reusable bags returned by customers to a food bank or food pantry. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/10/some-want-nj-single-use-ban-plastic-paper-bags-tweaked-others-say-bag-glut-overblown/>

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- **NJBPU Launches State Energy Manager Training Program to Help Make State Buildings More Energy Efficient** - NJ state agencies are collectively one of the largest energy users in the state, and each state agency is required to have an Energy Manager, so for the next eight months, staff from the New Jersey Institute of Technology will lead classes for the State Energy Managers on the technical side of energy management. The training includes practical, hands-on tasks that will help to inform state agencies of their energy use, ways to manage energy costs and consumption, and create a plan to upgrade a state facility, helping to reduce the effects of climate change by increasing efficiency and reducing demand. <https://nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/2022/approved/20220927.html>

OTHER

- **Florio's Legacy: Protected Pinelands, Superfund Law** (5-minute news video) - This video describes many of the environmental programs and projects that are the legacy of former NJ governor and Senator James Florio, who died 9/25/2022 at the age of 85. "He really was the only governor we've ever had who was a true environmentalist, not only in his heart, but in the actions he did," said former NJ Sierra Club president Jeff Tittel. In addition to writing the Superfund law and protecting NJ natural areas like the Pinelands, he also shut down incinerator projects in cities such as Trenton and Passaic. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/florios-legacy-protected-pinelands-superfund-law/>
- **Fossil Fuel Divestment Gets Big Boost** - The Senate Environment and Energy Committee for the first time narrowly passed a bill (S416) that "Prohibits investment by State of pension and annuity funds in, and requires divestment from, 200 largest publicly traded fossil fuel companies." An identical Assembly bill (A1733) is still in committee as of 10/26/2022. See <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/10/nj-fossil-fuel-divestment-gets-big-boost-bag-bag-tweak/>. A 4-minute news video that describes this bill, as well as fossil-fuel investment divestiture and other movements with recent successful results at Princeton and Rutgers is available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/fossil-free-movement-gathers-steam-in-nj/>.
- **Gov. Murphy Announces Nominations for the Pinelands Commission** - Unlike some previous nominations by Gov. Murphy for the Pinelands Commission, the two current nominees have strong environmental credentials. In order to join the Commission, Senators from their local counties have to sign off, and the NJ Senate then has to confirm them. In this article, the Pinelands Preservation Alliance gives its support to the nominees, and asks constituents of their local Senators (Districts 7, 8, 11, and 13) to contact them and urge that the nominations proceed to the full Senate for confirmation. <https://pinelandsalliance.org/gov-murphy-announces-nominations-for-the-pinelands-commission/>



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
