



Environmental Justice Task Force Newsletter - December 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.**

The Hybrid UUFANJ Issues Conference held 11/12/2022 was a resounding success!



The EJTF hybrid breakout session successfully enabled full participation by everyone, in-person (above) and on Zoom (below).

UUFANJ's Executive Director Rev. Charles Loflin (above) and (l. to r. below) Communications Coordinator Emily Parker and ministerial intern Laura Kushner, and UU Cong. of Princeton's Elaine Nigam



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EJTF ACTIVITIES

- A bill (A3444) that establishes an Organic Farming Board in the NJ Department of Agriculture has passed both houses of the NJ legislature with overwhelming support and is awaiting signature by Gov. Murphy (see box below). **EJTF has supported this bill, including by sending a letter of support** to the legislature and by working with advocates for the bill.

NJ ORGANIC FARMING BOARD BILL PASSES BOTH HOUSES

One of the EJTF's Goals for 2022 relates to promoting regenerative agriculture, and the Organic Farming Board's purpose will be "to develop, administer, and oversee programs in consultation with the Department of Agriculture on topics related to organic farming, including ... best practices for organic and regenerative farming, incentives to encourage more organic and regenerative farming in the State, new techniques to carry out organic and regenerative farming, and programs to provide outreach, education, and marketing support to organic and regenerative farms in New Jersey." The bill was originally brought to EJTF's attention by **EJTF members Christine Dunbar and Deb Huber**. Christine serves as Paulins Kill Watershed Coordinator for the Foodshed Alliance, whose affordable farmland leasing program on preserved land, known as the Sustainable Agriculture Enterprise (SAGE), supports a number of NJ farmers dedicated to sustainable agriculture, and Deb is EJTF's liaison with the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey (NOFA-NJ) organization that was instrumental in initiating and advancing this bill. They had a wonderful working relationship with the sponsor Assemblyman Dancer, who unfortunately died this summer. Both the Foodshed Alliance and NOFA are mentioned by name in the bill as organizations to be invited to participate with the Organic Farming Board in its quarterly meetings in different regions of NJ. The full text of the bill is available here: https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2022/A3500/3444_R1.PDF.

Christine has pointed out that "the establishment of an Organic Advisory Board will presumably result in education and opportunities for farmers from all backgrounds who wish to take the best care of their living soil and crops. We know that organic and regenerative farming makes the healthiest food, water and is necessary to combat climate change." The bill's requirement that the Board include two organic farmers from historically underserved communities to be appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be recommended by the Speaker of the General Assembly and one of whom shall be recommended by the Senate President "is directly supportive of EJTF's goals." In addition, the Board will include one regenerative farmer, to be appointed by the Governor. It has been recognized that organic and regenerative farmers, growers, and livestock producers represent the fastest-growing sector within NJ's agricultural industry, and this Board will hopefully increase the connection and collaboration between this sector and the established agricultural entities.

Deb lauds NOFA-NJ for initiating this bill, and points out that "this bill is intended to give the organic and regenerative farmers a seat at the table with the NJ Department of Agriculture. Key objectives of the organic/regenerative farming movement are to promote healthy crops grown on healthy soil and work to restore the balance of nature on mother earth. Consumers are increasingly seeking food which does not contain toxic chemicals and are recognizing that we have a climate crisis. Our government at all levels should be exploring all possible methods of addressing this crisis. New Jersey is the Garden State, and should lead the way to healthier farming. Think globally, act locally. Support our local organic farmers. This benefits our personal health and benefits mother earth."

CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Morristown Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (MUUF)

Prior to the United Nations COP27 Climate Change Conference, members of the Morristown Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (MUUF) joined with the Earth Aware committee members of the Morristown United Methodist Church in a march around the Morristown Green in support of UN goals for saving the planet and ending fossil fuel investments. MUUF and EJTF member Jo Sippie-Gora (at right in inset photo below) and MUUF member Linda DeLap (at left in inset photo) were among the participants.



FUTURE EVENTS - Virtual, In-person, and Hybrid

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

DECEMBER 2022

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

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
				1	2 Jersey Water Works Conference - 9:30 a.m. "Climate Summit Recap" - 3:00 p.m.	3

Calendar continues on p. 4.

Calendar continued from p. 3.

4	5 "Critical Data Gaps in Climate Change Adaptation Modeling" - 12:15 p.m. "Soil Life in Organic Farming" - 2:30 p.m.	6	7 DEP Public Meeting - Ocean Wind 1 Permit - 9:00 a.m. DRBC 4Q Public Meeting - 10:30 a.m. "The Environmental Justice Index" - 12:00 p.m. "Beyond Plastics" - 7:00 p.m.	8 DEP Public Hearing - Heavy-duty Vehicles Emissions Rule - 9:30 a.m. "Exploring the Intersections of EJ & Equitable Development in Infrastructure Investments" - 1:00 p.m. "Induction Cooking" - 7:00 p.m. "The Green Amendment" Book Signing - 7:00 p.m.	9 "Advancing Climate Change Solutions in New Jersey" Conference - 8:30 a.m. "Nature-Based Adaptation: Getting to Scale" - 9:00 a.m.	10
11	12 DEP Public Meeting - Ocean Wind 1 Permit - 5:00 p.m. Comments Due: DEP NJ Energy Storage Incentive Plan	13 DEP Atlantic County EJ Community Engagement Session - 6:00 p.m.	14 "Stop the Flow of Money. Stop the Flow of Fossil Fuels" - 8:00 p.m.	15 DEP Public Meeting - Ocean Wind 1 Permit - 6:00 p.m. "Building Electrification: Increase Energy Efficiency, House Value and Save Money" - 7:00 p.m.	16	17
18	19	20	21 Clean Air Council - 9:30 a.m.	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Jersey Water Works Conference 2022 - In-person

**Friday, December 2, 2022, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. [& virtual event 12/8/2022, 6:00 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 is included and will be held on Thursday, December, 8, 2022 from 6:00–7:00 p.m.]** Additional information and the registration link **(at various fee levels)** are available here: <https://www.jerseywaterworks.org/events/annual-conference/2022/>.

**"Climate Summit Recap: Key Outcomes and What Comes Next"
(from the EESI "What Congress Needs to Know About COP27" briefing series) - Webinar
Friday, December 2, 2022, 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

Sponsored by the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI), this briefing will review what took place during the international climate negotiations in Egypt (COP27) and why it matters for Congress. "With dozens of events and negotiating sessions happening at any one time during the two weeks of a U.N. climate summit, it can be challenging to keep up with all the details. This briefing will review the key outcomes of COP27 - and what they mean for Congress - and provide context and nuance to the main headlines coming out of the meeting. Panelists will provide perspectives and key takeaways from the federal government, U.S. states, philanthropy, and nongovernmental organization perspectives." Additional information and the link to RSVP are available here:

<https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/120222cop>.

**"Critical Data Gaps in Climate Change Adaptation Modeling"
Monday, December 5, 2022, 12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. - Virtual**

The Center for Policy Research on Energy and the Environment (C-PREE), in the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, and the Princeton High Meadows Environmental Institute (HMEI) are co-sponsoring this seminar by Andrew Reid Bell, assistant professor of Earth and Environment at Boston University. Bell will discuss his approach to agent-based modeling - in which system-level outcomes emerge from interactions among individuals and their environment - that captures environmental forcings on migration. He will focus on data gaps in modeling people's adaptation to climate hazards and shocks such as sea-level rise, and the frontier of opportunities for resolving parts of them. Additional information and the link to attend the livestream are available here:

<https://environment.princeton.edu/event/bradford-seminar-critical-data-gaps-in-climate-change-adaptation-modeling/>.

**"Beyond Plastics" - Webinar
Wednesday, December 7, 2022, 7:00 p.m.**

In this webinar, sponsored by the Hunterdon Warren Group and the Central NJ Group of Sierra Club NJ, Emily Reinhold will discuss "Beyond Plastics." Emily's focus on the plastics crisis issue began in college with her Senior Thesis, "Perpetual Plastics No More: Large-Scale Plastic Waste Mitigation in a Circular Economy," which explored potential policy solutions to the plastic waste crisis. Since graduating, She has sought opportunities to engage in grassroots activism around this topic, which led her to Beyond Plastics and the founding of New Jersey Youth Beyond Plastics, which seeks to engage young people in the Beyond Plastics mission, provide public education on the plastics crisis, and take concrete steps to tackle plastic waste in NJ and beyond. Emily holds a B.A. in Public Policy from Princeton University, with a certificate in Environmental Studies. She works on a team that partners with high-impact companies to reduce their agricultural emissions and/or the amount of toxic chemicals in their products. Additional information and the link to register are available here:

<https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7013q000002NNVOAA4&mapLinkHref=>.

DEP Public Meetings on Permit Application for Ocean Wind 1
Wednesday, December 7, 2022, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Virtual
Monday, December 12, 2022, 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Virtual
Thursday, December 15, 2022, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - In-person
Hammonton High School, 566 Old Forks Rd., Hammonton, NJ 08037

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is holding a series of public hearings in response to the submission of 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 NJ coast. 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.

Registration for the December 7th, 2022 and December 12th, 2022 virtual public hearings can be made by visiting the following link:

<https://cbuilding.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlcuCsqjoqGNzFHdfL6THAPU-kgoICiq8I>.

Written comments may be submitted electronically within fifteen (15) days of the close of the December 15, 2022 public hearing (i.e., by 12/30/2022) at

www.nj.gov/dep/offshorewind/comments.html. Additional information is provided in the public notice, available here: [public notice: https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/offshorewind/docs/ocean-wind-1/njdep-oceanwindone-public-hearing.pdf](https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/offshorewind/docs/ocean-wind-1/njdep-oceanwindone-public-hearing.pdf).

Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) Fourth Quarter 2022 Public Hearing -
Virtual
Wednesday, December 7, 2022, 10:30 a.m.

This meeting is anticipated to include a Resolution to amend the Comprehensive Plan, Water Code and Special Regulations regarding importations of water into and exportations of water from the Delaware River Basin and discharges of wastewater from high volume hydraulic fracturing (“HVHF”) and HVHF-related activities. Additional information, including links to information on this pending rulemaking and to the full agenda, and the registration link, are available here:

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

DEP Public Hearing on Rule Revision Regarding
Year 2027 or Later Heavy-Duty New Engine and Vehicle Standards and Requirements -
Virtual
Thursday, December 8, 2022, 9:30 a.m.

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is proposing revisions to the State Implementation Plan. The primary component of this rulemaking is the incorporation by reference of California’s emission standards and supporting requirements for new model year 2027 and later gasoline and diesel engines and vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) greater than 8,500 pounds. The Department proposes this rulemaking to ensure that any new gasoline- and diesel-

powered vehicles rated in excess of 8,500 pounds GVWR sold in NJ will be subject to the most stringent emission standards that are technically feasible for nitrogen oxides and particulate matter. Information about additional areas covered, as well as a link to the proposed rule, a link to join the meeting, instructions about how to register to provide oral comments, and how to provide written comments, are available here: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/notices/20221107a.html>. **Written comments are due by January 6, 2023.**

"The Green Amendment: The People's Fight for a Clean, Safe, and Healthy Environment" - 2nd Edition, Book Talk and Signing - In-person
Thursday, December 8, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Inkwood Books, 106 Kings Highway East, Haddonfield, NJ 08033

Maya K. van Rossum, Green Amendment founder and author of the revised and updated edition of the 2017 book "The Green Amendment: Securing Our Right to a Healthy Environment," will give a book talk and signing of the 2nd edition of the book. She will be joined by NJ Senator Andrew Zwicker. Since the original edition was published nearly five years ago, the world has undergone dramatic changes. 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, Maya 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 is available here: <https://forthe generations.org/events/inkwood-books/>.

"Exploring the Intersections of Environmental Justice and Equitable Development in Infrastructure Investments" - Webinar
Thursday, December 8, 2022, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

"Are you interested in learning more about the process of defining disproportionately impacted communities for federal and state policies? Or, how large investments—like from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law - will tie to equitable development and anti-displacement practices in disproportionately impacted communities that receive the funding because of the Justice 40 Initiative?" The Urban Waters Learning Network Equitable Development and Anti-Displacement Collaborative is hosting a live session to engage in conversation on the intersections of environmental justice policy and equitable development / anti-displacement practices. The session is designed to be conversational and interactive, with participants prepared to ask questions live and interact with the collaborative and the panelists. Additional information, including an introductory video and the link to register, are available here: <https://www.rivernetnetwork.org/events/exploring-the-intersections-of-environmental-justice-and-equitable-development-in-infrastructure-investments/>.

**"In Conversation with Chef Christopher Galarza – Induction Cooking" - Webinar
Thursday, December 8, 2022, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

In this webinar sponsored by Elders Climate Action, Chef Christopher Galarza, "renowned for his work in commercial kitchen electrification," will address the impacts our kitchen appliances are having on the environment and on our health. He will provide information about sustainable cooking and kitchen electrification, including how electric induction cooking is much more energy efficient than top-of-the-line gas range appliances, and does not create harmful carbon monoxide emissions, resulting in cleaner indoor air. Additional information and the registration link are available here: https://www.eldersclimateaction.org/event/dec_chef/.

**Climate Adaptation Forum - "Nature-Based Adaptation: Getting to Scale" - Hybrid
Friday, December 9, 2022, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

"Flooding risks, sea level rise, storm surges, and extreme heat are accelerating with a changing climate. Ecosystems are also at risk, along with the social, economic, and environmental benefits they provide. Nature-based climate adaptation approaches offer opportunities to bring people into greater harmony with ecology, secure and enhance ecosystem services for future generations, and cost-effectively reduce some flooding risks. Funders, regulators, adaptation professionals, and the public now view nature-based adaptation as no longer an aspiration, but a priority or requirement. Pilot projects are being scaled up to billions of oysters, miles of shoreline, and hectares of wetlands. But how feasible and effective are they? And how do we effectively regulate and build the capacity to plan and implement them at scales that match the urgency of risks, speed of climate changes, and our own expectations? Join us to learn about the opportunities and barriers to scaling up nature-based approaches to climate adaptation, from planning to permitting to implementation." **Note: registration for the virtual event is \$45 for non-members of the Environmental Business Council of New England.** Additional information and links to register for virtual or in-person attendance (in Boston, MA) are available here: <https://climateadaptationforum.org/event/nature-based-adaptation-getting-to-scale/>.

**Comments Due on
NJBPUs Straw Proposal on the NJ Energy Storage Incentive Program
Monday, December 12, 2022**

The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) held 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 this link: https://www.nj.gov/bpu/pdf/publicnotice/Notice_StakeholderMeetings_NewJerseyEnergyStorageProgram.pdf. 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 5:00 p.m. EST on Monday, December 12, 2022.** Additional information and links to videos of the public meetings and presentation materials are available here: <https://njcleanenergy.com/storage>.

**NJDEP Atlantic County EJ Community Engagement Session - Hybrid
Second Baptist Church, 110 Rev. Dr. Isaac Cole Plaza, Atlantic City, NJ 08401
and on Zoom**

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is inviting Atlantic 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 a chance to meet DEP and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) senior staff and discuss environmental justice issues in Atlantic County. 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, required for virtual attendance (to send the link for the Zoom livestream), and recommended for in-person attendance, is available here:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJItcOmhqTwoHf9f6ieN7kwoJ5lDlt-zxa4>.

**"Stop the Flow of Money. Stop the Flow of Fossil Fuels" - Webinar
Wednesday, December 14, 2022, 8:00 p.m.**

"Midterms. COP. Global fuel crisis. What's going on in the movement to stop the climate crisis, and how can you get involved? Join Stop the Money Pipeline and our partners to hear about our analysis of the current factors impacting the climate movement, and how you can take part in stopping the flow of Wall Street money to oil, gas, coal, and deforestation." Registration is available here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_26nAosnQTmq7RDeoNBRSOA.

**LWVNJ "Facilitating Community Conversation for Change" - Virtual
League of Women Voters of New Jersey (LWVNJ) Activist Training
Thursday, December 15, 2022, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey (LWVNJ) has been 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." One session is scheduled in December 2022, dealing with facilitating community conversations. "In a strong and healthy democracy, communities can come together to identify their common issues and work towards solutions together. But hyperpartisanship and the spread of misinformation has exacerbated distrust and created deep divisions in communities across the country. In this workshop we'll explore strategies and best practices for having conversations with the potential to create meaningful relationships and build community power." The registration link is available here: <https://www.lwvnj.org/training>.

**"Building Electrification: Increase Energy Efficiency, House Value and Save Money"
- Webinar**

Thursday, December 15, 2022, 7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

The Sierra Club NJ Chapter and NJ 50x30 Building Electrification Team are presenting this webinar, which is part of a continuing series. "Start in your own home to reduce your climate-changing Green House Gases. We bring back lead speaker Matt, Parsippany Green Team co-Leader, who describes his ground source heat pump, solar roof, energy storage, amped-up insulation, and two hybrid EV vehicles. Matt's home is a role model for Building Decarbonization leading significant savings, and to near Zero Green House Gas emissions." The registration link is available here:

[https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7013q000001yBBCAA2&mapLinkHref=.](https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7013q000001yBBCAA2&mapLinkHref=)

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

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

**"The Environmental Justice Index: a National Tool to Measure the Cumulative Impacts
of Environmental Burden on Health" - Webinar
Wednesday, December 7, 2022, 12:00 p.m.**

Join the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Environmental Justice and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR) for a zoom webinar that showcases the Environmental Justice Index (EJI). The EJI uses data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to rank the cumulative impacts of environmental injustice on health for every census tract, ranking each tract on 36 environmental, social, and health factors and grouping them into three overarching modules and ten different domains. It is the first national, geographic-driven tool designed to measure the cumulative impacts of environmental burden through the lenses of human health and health equity. Additional information and the link to register are available here:

<https://climatechange.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/icalrepeat.detail/2022/12/07/7399/-/webinar-the-environmental-justice-index-a-national-tool-to-measure-the-cumulative-impacts-of-environmental-burden-on-health>.

"Advancing Climate Change Solutions in New Jersey: Creating Opportunities to Build a Healthy, Just, Resilient and Carbon-neutral Garden State" Conference - In-person
Friday, December 9, 2022, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Rutgers' Busch Student Center, 604 Bartholomew Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854

This conference is sponsored by the New Jersey Climate Change Alliance, "a network of diverse organizations that share the goal of advancing science-informed climate change strategies at the state and local levels in New Jersey, both with regard to adapting to changing climate conditions and addressing the emissions that cause climate change." This year, the New Jersey Climate Change Alliance's annual convening focuses on integrated climate change solutions that: Advance health equity; Promote social justice; Create vibrant communities; and Encourage nature-based solutions. A link to additional information and registration (**\$70**) is available here:

<https://climatechange.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/icalrepeat.detail/2022/12/09/7368/-/advancing-climate-change-solutions-in-new-jersey-creating-opportunities-to-build-a-healthy-just-resilient-and-carbon-neutral-garden-state>.

"Soil Life in Organic Farming: The Role of Soil Organisms in Soil Health and Resource Conservation" - Webinar
Monday, December 5, 2022, 2:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Resources Conservation Service, this webinar will cover soil life in organic agriculture and the role of soil organisms, such as macro-and micro-fauna, including earthworms, fungi, protozoa, and bacteria. It will highlight the importance of macro and micro organisms in soil in addition to the functions of each, as well as guidelines for optimizing practices and outcomes. Additional information is available here:

<https://climatechange.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/icalrepeat.detail/2022/12/05/7398/-/webinar-soil-life-in-organic-farming-the-role-of-soil-organisms-in-soil-health-and-resource-conservation>. [Note: this event uses Adobe Connect.]

VIDEOS OF PAST EVENTS

"Natural Climate Solutions"
(from the "What Congress Needs to Know About COP27" briefing series)
- Video of Webinar

The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) and U.S. Nature4Climate presented this briefing on natural climate solutions on the international stage. "Across the United States, agricultural producers are practicing regenerative agriculture, foresters are managing forests to increase carbon sequestration and reduce wildfires, and coastal communities are restoring living shorelines. How will these natural climate solutions be discussed and advanced during the international climate negotiations in Egypt (COP27)? What policies are needed here in the United States to reinforce these efforts? What examples of U.S. leadership on natural climate solutions should be shared with people from around the world at COP27?" During this briefing, panelists responded to these questions and shared insights about ways in which natural climate solutions have been integrated into international climate negotiations in the past. They also shared a vision of how these techniques can be central to advancing climate solutions at the national and international levels going forward. The video is available here: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/102822cop>.

"Climate Change and the Farm Bill" - Video of Webinar

In the October National Zoom Call of the Elders Climate Action network, Jonathan Coppess, who wrote "The Fault Lines of Farm Policy: A Legislative and Political History of the Farm Bill," and who has extensive related experience on the National level, reviewed the farm bill and its history, as well as recent developments and the potential for the next farm bill to make real progress on climate change issues. "Every five years, Congress is scheduled to reauthorize the myriad programs in the Farm Bill. The current statute, the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018, is scheduled to expire in 2023 and the next Congress is expected to attempt reauthorization but much remains uncertain. Addressing climate change in agriculture - reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving resiliency, and practices that can help capture and sequester greenhouse gases - is increasingly a priority for many Members of Congress and interests." The video is available here: <https://youtu.be/eICv9jC2QrE>.

"Mutual Aid for Congregations" - Video of Webinar

Sponsored by Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC), in this webinar the "mutual aid" concept and its importance for UUs were discussed. "The fate of Mother Earth and her children depends on mutual aid. Mutual aid projects are voluntary, participatory, empowering, and equalitarian arrangements, that provide goods or services. Personal and social wellness are encouraged. The emphasis is on direct action and on being the change that you want to see in the world." This webinar introduced Climate Justice, mental health, and food justice programs that involve Unitarian Universalists, and resources were identified including basic information that congregations and communities can use as neighbors care for each other and their environment. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aTKV2N8-vjM>.

"Strategies to Minimize the Impacts of Coastal Flooding and Salt Water on Agricultural Lands" - Video of Webinar

"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, discussed 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. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tlq69HgnFr4>.

"Living Shorelines in the Decade Since Sandy: Lessons Learned and Implications for Future Design" - Video of Webinar

"Superstorm Sandy both affirmed the effectiveness of beaches and dunes at protecting oceanfront communities and highlighted the need for new techniques for restoring New Jersey's long neglected interior shorelines. In the decade since Sandy, New Jersey has expanded its nourishment efforts along

the oceanfront and has begun incorporating living shorelines along its interior shorelines." In this webinar, Dr. John Miller, Research Associate Professor at Stevens Institute of Technology, and the New Jersey Sea Grant Coastal Processes Specialist, reviewed the progress made over the past decade along both coasts, and offered a perspective on how the lessons of the past can inform projects of the future. 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=fkp52_NrVTo.

Monmouth County EJ DEP Community Engagement Session - Video of Meeting

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) held a Monmouth County EJ Community Engagement Session regarding Environmental Justice. This community engagement session provided 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 was one of a series being conducted by DEP in communities across NJ. The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=knNCMhX9THs>.

The Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment 2022 Annual Meeting "The Changing Geopolitics of Climate Change and the Energy Transition" - Videos of Keynote Speakers and Panels

"The past year marked record heatwaves, flooding, and droughts around the world, while surging inflation and supply chain disruptions threaten to derail energy transition efforts. The Annual Meeting featured speakers from business, national security, and academia sharing their experiences and offering insights on the changing geopolitics of the global energy transition." Keynote speakers were Amanda Lacaze, CEO and Managing Director, Lynas Rare Earths and Jigar Shah, Director, Loan Programs Office, U.S. Department of Energy. Panels included "Climate Change and Conflict," "Future of Seaborne Traded Energy Commodities," and "Globalizing Technology and Finance." The videos are available here: <https://acee.princeton.edu/2022-annual-meeting/videos>.

"Stormwater Matters Webinar" - Video of Webinar

Sponsored by the Solutions Journalism Network, which aims to "transform journalism so that all people have access to news that helps them envision and build a more equitable and sustainable world," this webinar features journalists from "Stormwater Matters," a new collaborative news project about solutions to flooding and stormwater management in northern NJ. The collaborative includes 18 local news outlets: the 14 papers of the New Jersey Hills Media Group, New Jersey Spotlight News, TapInto Newark, and Public Square Amplified (PSA), as well as the Center for Cooperative Media at Montclair State University. In addition, the collaborative has unveiled a centralized website, <https://njstormwatermatters.com/>, which will house all stories produced as part of the series. In addition to publishing stories on the centralized Stormwater Matters website, each member of the collaborative will publish their original reporting in their outlets, with the aim of reaching local news

readers with innovative and practical solutions to the various issues surrounding stormwater management. This webinar featured the journalists who have reported the initial stories on this issue. The video of the webinar is available here: <https://newsweeed.org/stormwater-matters-webinar/>.

"What is an 'Energy Community?' Understanding the Effects of the Inflation Reduction Act" - Video of Webinar

"As the United States begins to move toward its net-zero goals, policymakers are looking to mitigate the impacts of a transition to clean energy on communities that currently rely heavily on fossil fuel production. The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA) includes a provision that directs additional financial incentives for clean energy projects developed in 'energy communities,' which could provide economic benefits to regions that face challenges associated with the energy transition. However, what constitutes an 'energy community,' and does this provision sufficiently target the most vulnerable communities? This webinar examined the IRA's provisions targeting 'energy communities' and what it could mean for fossil fuel-dependent communities. Researchers from Resources for the Future (RFF) presented their analysis of the provision's potential impacts, alternative interpretations, and a new approach for defining an 'energy community.' Then, a panel of experts discussed its effectiveness, uncertainties behind the law's implementation, and the broader implications of the transition to a net-zero economy." The video is available here: <https://www.rff.org/events/rff-live/what-is-an-energy-community/>.

Coalition for Peace Action 43rd Annual Conference for Peace - Videos of Webinar Talks

At this conference, Bill McKibbin gave a talk linking fossil fuels to the war in Ukraine, and describing steps that need to be taken; Rabbi David Saperstein gave a talk in which he addressed the challenge of climate change and the environment from a religious standpoint; and Medea Benjamin, author of "War in Ukraine, Making Sense of a Senseless Conflict" discussed the war in Ukraine. Links to videos of these three talks from this conference are available here: <https://peacecoalition.org/recent-events.html>.

"Optimizing Collaborative Energy Storage Systems for an Equitable and Sustainable Energy Transition" - Video of Webinar

"To support the delivery of an equitable and just transition, it is imperative to study models of ownership that can sustainably promote adoption. The aim of the study is to assess the benefits of cooperatively owned and operated storage systems. The underlying hypothesis is that there is a monetary and non-monetary value to residential storage. The hypothesis is built on the flexibility offered by storage as a demand response asset, which can be used by residents in price-based demand response programs and equally provides consumers with increased autonomy and reduced cost." This webinar, part of the "New Energy: Conversations with Early-Career Energy Researchers" series, was presented by Ogechi Vivian Nwadiaru, PhD Candidate/NRT ELEVATE ("Elevating Equity Values in the Transition of the Energy System") Fellow, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Her research with ELEVATE explores equitable demand response strategies, such as pricing schemes for deploying solar and storage technologies to reduce cost and improve reliability in low-income communities. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vIIUjSZf3w>.

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 10/27/2022 – 11/26/2022]

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- **Local Activists Log a Victory in Newark's Ironbound** - Plans have been discontinued for building a plant in the industrial section of Newark's Ironbound neighborhood, that would bake treated sewage and turn it into biosolids. Community groups have been opposing the plant for two years, stating that it is a sludge-processing facility, which is prohibited by zoning laws, and also that it would greatly increase harmful truck traffic in this neighborhood that already experiences some of the worst air quality in NJ. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/11/ironbound-project-stopped-aries-clean-technologies-sludge-sewage/>
- **Opinion: Nature for All** (by Jay Watson, co-executive director of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation) - The author describes the causes and results of disproportionate access to nature and impacts of environmental threats on communities of color, and advocates programs such as Isles' Trenton Climate Corps to help create pathways for youth of color to become involved in fields that address these issues. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/11/environmental-justice-black-communities-brown-hispanic-equal-access/>

ELECTRIC VEHICLES & VEHICLE EMISSION REDUCTION

- **Biden-Harris Administration Announces New Jersey School Districts Will Get \$2,500,000 from EPA's Clean School Bus Program** - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded funding to provide clean school buses and infrastructure for school districts in Atlantic City and Bridgeton, NJ. The Atlantic City School District will receive five clean school buses with nearly \$1.5 million in funds and the Bridgeton City School District will receive two clean school buses with nearly \$800,000 in funds. These awards result from the Clean School Bus Program rebate competition, funded by the bipartisan Infrastructure Law. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-new-jersey-school-districts-will-get-2500000>

- **NJ Well Below Average for EV Chargers** - This article describes the current status of electric vehicle (EV) chargers in NJ, which a recent report has found ranks 28th among U.S. states in vehicle chargers, and outlines what is needed and what is being done to address the current lack of chargers. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/11/electric-vehicles-evs-charging-stations-range-anxiety-co-pilot-fast-chargers/>
- **NJ Tries to Jump-Start Move to Electric Trucks** - This article describes a program the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) plans to implement in mid-December 2022, to spend \$16 million to fund charging stations and speed up electrification of medium- and heavy-duty trucks in environmental justice communities and private fleets. Funded by Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) proceeds, the application process is scheduled to begin around 12/22/2022, according to BPU staff. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/10/nj-electric-trucks-charging-station-incentive-environmental-justice-global-warming-fossil-fuels/>



- **Opinion: Why NJ Should Follow California's Lead on 100% EV Sales by 2035** (by Pamela G. Frank, CEO of the nonprofit coalition ChargeEVC) - The author advocates NJ's phasing out sales of internal combustion engine light-duty vehicles by 2035, as California has recently done; NJ's current goal calls for 85% of electric vehicle (EV) sales and leases by 2040. The need for a plan is also described, along with what it needs to include. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/10/electric-vehicles-ev-2035-california-advanced-clean-cars-ii-accii-power-grid/>

FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Protest Planned in West Milford as Natural Gas Pipeline Upgrades Commence** - Although final permit approval has not yet been granted for all aspects of the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company's (TGP) proposed expansion of the Wantage compressor station and a new West Milford compressor station, construction has begun. Protests have taken place in the past, and the Food & Water Watch group planned another protest of the project, in an attempt to convince state officials to block it based on safety, health and environmental concerns. In addition to the pending permit approval, there are also pending legal challenges to previously granted state and federal approvals. <https://www.northjersey.com/story/news/passaic/west-milford/2022/11/18/protest-planned-west-milford-gas-pipeline-upgrades/69661289007/>

RENEWABLE RESOURCES

OFFSHORE WIND POWER TRANSMISSION PROJECTS SELECTED

NJ is moving forward on methods of connecting power from planned offshore wind ("OSW") projects to the onshore electric grid. Several approaches are possible, including one in which the offshore turbine developer includes transmission as part of its project, or another in which transmission development proceeds independently of turbine projects (i.e., "transmission-first").

The "Ocean Wind 1" project, selected in 2019, is implementing the first approach and proceeding with planning for its own transmission cables as identified in its bid, with some opposition by onshore municipalities (see article on p. 18). For subsequent projects, NJ "took a monumental step" in 2020 by becoming the first state to integrate its offshore wind transmission objectives with the regional grid's planning and development process through a State Agreement Approach ("SAA"), in which the regional grid operator PJM Interconnection, LLC (PJM) opened a solicitation window on behalf of the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) for developers to submit potential transmission solutions. The BPU had found that this "transmission-first" approach would lower costs, reduce the chance of delays in offshore wind projects, and minimize community and environmental impacts.

In response to the SAA solicitation, transmission developers submitted 80 ready-to-build designs, and the BPU has now selected a series of projects from them. While awards could have been made for both offshore and onshore projects, the BPU opted to approve projects needed to strengthen the regional and near-shore transmission grids, including the identification of a preferred point of interconnection ("POI") for future offshore wind projects. It is estimated that the selected projects will save NJ ratepayers \$900 million compared to the cost of transmission without utilizing this coordinated approach through the SAA. The scope of the selection was tailored to maximize federal tax incentives moving forward, preserving an additional \$2.2 billion of ratepayer benefits and also positioning NJ to seek direct federal funding for future expansions of the OSW transmission grid, including the potential to award a full OSW offshore transmission backbone in future solicitations, and preserving preferable interconnection locations and transmission corridors for future use.

The projects selected are described in the articles below:

- **BPU Doubles Down on Improving On-Land Transmission Capacity for Offshore Wind** (4-1/2-minute news video) - In this video, Doug O'Malley, director of Environment New Jersey, describes the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) decision to focus on insuring that the onshore electric grid could handle transmission from offshore wind farms, while reserving consideration of transmission from offshore to a later solicitation. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/bpu-doubles-down-on-improving-on-land-transmission-capacity-for-offshore-wind/>
- **No Deal on Offshore Power Grid** - This article describes the projects approved by the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) related to offshore wind power, including a combined \$1 billion for a project proposed by Mid-Atlantic Offshore Development and Jersey Central Power & Light that addresses a key component of the power collection system, and also several projects by PSE&G and others related to upgrading the electric grid. Combined, the work approved by the BPU is estimated to cost more than \$1 billion. See <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/10/bpu-offshore-backbone-offshore-wind-federal-funds-atlantic-city-electric-baltimore-gas-and-electric-ls-power-peco-energy-co-ppl-corp-pseg-transource/>.
- The NJ BPU Press release is available here: <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/2022/approved/20221026.html>.
- The NJ BPU Order providing background and describing the approved projects is available here: <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/pdf/boardorders/2022/20221026/8A%20ORDER%20State%20Agreement%20Approach.pdf>.

- **Municipalities Challenge Where Offshore Wind Cables Will Go** (4-minute news video) - This video describes objections made by Sea Isle City and Ocean City to proposed routes for Ocean Wind 1 offshore wind farm transmission cables. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/municipalities-challenge-where-offshore-wind-cables-will-go/>
- **Fiscal Headwinds Challenge Offshore Projects** - This article describes how "The offshore wind industry is facing new scrutiny as some initial proposals to build big wind farms off coastal waters are running into unforeseen fiscal challenges driven by high inflation, rising interest rates and continued constraints in the supply chain ... But offshore wind advocates [including Doug O'Malley, director of Environment NJ] noted these types of setbacks are common for an emerging new industry." <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/11/nj-clean-energy-offshore-wind-power-fiscal-challenges-nj-murphy-goal/>
- **PSEG May Cut Offshore Wind Investment** - Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) is revisiting its option to invest in the Ocean Wind 1 offshore wind farm, seeming to be weighing whether it would be more profitable to invest in the transmission systems for offshore wind rather than the turbines. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/11/pseg-reconsiders-offshore-wind-farm-investment-orsted-economic-headwinds/>



- **NJ's Energy Storage Plan Hits Resistance** - The Straw Proposal issued 9/29/2022 by the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) for the NJ Energy Storage Incentive Program (SIP) "recommends that the [BPU] adopt a storage business model that encourages private ownership and operation of energy storage devices, consistent with New Jersey's restructured competitive market structure. While ratepayers will support investment in storage resources, the commercial and operational risks will largely be borne by private investors." Three virtual public meetings have been held: links to the Straw Proposal as well as videos of the public meetings are available here (under "Notice Energy Storage Straw Proposal Stakeholder Meetings"): <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/public/>. Some commenters at the meetings have been concerned that the proposal excludes public utilities from owning energy storage projects. The deadline for written public comments is 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 12, 2022 (see p. 8 in "Future Activities" section). https://www.nj.gov/bpu/pdf/publicnotice/Notice_StakeholderMeetings_NewJerseyEnergyStorageProgram.pdf. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/11/new-jersey-energy-storage-proposal-meets-resistance-clean-energy-utilities/>

CLIMATE CHANGE

- **Governor Murphy, NJDEP Commissioner LaTourette Announce Proposal of Inland Flood Protection Rule to Better Protect Communities From Extreme Weather** - After much back-and-forth between the Murphy administration and groups such as those representing business and those advocating for immediate issuance due to urgency related to climate change, a proposed Inland Flood Protection Rule is scheduled for publication on 12/5/2022 and a virtual public hearing is planned for 1:00 p.m. on 1/11/2023. The rule will require that the latest precipitation data be used in certain cases, and "would establish design elevations that are reflective of New Jersey's changing climate and the more frequent and intense rainfall we are experiencing. The updated standards would apply to certain new and substantially reconstructed development in inland riverine areas that are subject to flooding, but they do not prohibit development in these flood hazard areas." Pending development applications that are administratively complete at the time of a future adoption of the rule would not be affected by these changes, major transportation projects are exempt from the new flood-zone requirements if they "have determined a preferred alternative or reached an equivalent planning and design milestone before the effective date" of the rules, and provisions are included "designed to ensure that infrastructure projects already in progress will continue to move forward." Environmental advocates are asking that pending projects be put on hold until the rulemaking process ends, whereas some in the business community are not in favor of some of the proposed requirements (see article below). See <https://www.state.nj.us/governor/news/news/562022/approved/20221027a.shtml>. A copy of the rule proposal can be found at <https://dep.nj.gov/inland-flood-protection-rule/>.
- **More Questions About New Flood Rule** - This article describes some of the issues that various groups have with the proposed NJ Inland Flood Protection rule, scheduled for publication on 12/5/2022 (see article above). <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/11/nj-flood-rule-relaunched-business-concerns-environmental-concerns-gov-phil-murphy-shawn-latourette-dep/>
- **Cost to Repair and Widen NJ Turnpike Rises to \$10.6B** (1-minute news video) - "New budget documents from the New Jersey Turnpike Authority show the cost to repair and widen the Hudson County extension to and from the Holland Tunnel is now estimated at \$10.6 billion - more than double the original projection of \$4.7 billion. The project also includes replacing exit 14 in Newark, including the Newark Bay Bridge, and exit 14A in Bayonne. Turnpike Authority officials blame the increase on inflation and rising costs to borrow money." See <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/cost-to-repair-and-widen-nj-turnpike-rises-to-10-6b/>. A 4-minute news video about the cost increase and opposition to it is available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/nj-turnpike-expansion-plan-draws-critics/>
- **Proposed Turnpike Extension Has Cyclists and Residents Fuming** - At a protest rally on 11/12/2022 in Jersey City, bicyclists, Hudson County residents, environmental advocates, Jersey City officials and city workers gathered to voice opposition to the proposed \$4.7 billion NJ Turnpike expansion project to and from the Holland Tunnel. Protesters pointed out that the project would lead to more particle pollution and more traffic on the surface streets of Jersey City, as well as disrupt the fabric of the community. <https://hudsonreporter.com/2022/11/12/proposed-highway-expansion-has-cyclists-and-residents-fuming-against-it/>. A 1-minute news video about the protest is available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/advocates-protest-plan-to-expand-turnpike-in-jersey-city/>.
- **\$12B = Cost to NJ Economy of Climate Disasters Since 2017** - A report by Environmental Entrepreneurs, "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 the \$12 billion in climate-related disaster losses that have occurred in NJ since 1980 represents 40% of such losses during that time. See <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/10/climate-change-nj-economy-losses-12b-2017-40/>. A link to sign up to get the report, "Billion Dollar Losses, Trillion Dollar Threats: The Cost of Climate Change," is available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/10/climate-change-nj-economy-losses-12b-2017-40/>.

- **Calls Grow for Climate-Resilience Measures** - This article describes a number of actions being planned as part of "Resilient NJ," a state program to help towns and regions plan for climate change, as well as other such actions being planned around NJ. Online tools available to assist resilience planners are also described. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/11/four-nj-regions-regional-resilience-action-plan-climate-change-storm-surge-barriers-waterfront-infrastructure-atlantic-county-raritan-river-newark-jersey-city-bayonne/>
- **New Bill May Force NJ Realtors To Disclose If Homes Are Flood-Prone** - A bill (S3110), that has been approved by the NJ Senate and Environment Committee, would require landlords and sellers of real property to make notifications regarding flooding prior to lease signing or renewal or sale of the property. A similar bill (A4783) has yet to be considered by House committee. <https://patch.com/new-jersey/summit/new-bill-may-force-nj-realtors-disclose-if-homes-are-flood-prone>



- **On 10th Anniversary of Hurricane Sandy, New Jerseyans Believe in Climate Change, See It as a Threat and Are Concerned About Its Effects** - According to a new Rutgers Eagleton Poll (available here: <https://eagletonpoll.rutgers.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/RU-ECPIP-NJCCA-Climate-Change-Survey-Executive-Summary-10.28.22-FINAL-PDF.pdf>) "nearly two in three residents believe extreme flooding from storms like Sandy and Ida in 2021 is occurring more often. Among registered voters counted in the survey, nearly 70% say climate change is an important factor in how they plan to vote on Nov. 8. More than two in three say the state should seek to reduce carbon emissions to zero by mid-century as much as possible, which matches up with the energy master plan formulated by the Murphy administration. 43% of respondents believe the government should use incentives to reduce greenhouse gases, while one in four believe the government should impose limits on greenhouse-gas sources." <https://www.rutgers.edu/news/10th-anniversary-hurricane-sandy-new-jerseyans-believe-climate-change-see-it-threat-and-are>
- **Climate Change: How Can New Jersey Prepare?** (5-minute news video) - "Robert Kopp, a professor in the Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences at Rutgers University and co-director of the Office of Climate Action, discusses what's ahead for New Jersey in the face of increasing hazards related to climate change. Coastal flooding and rain-driven flooding are among the areas of concern." <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/climate-change-how-can-new-jersey-prepare/>
- **Hazard NJ Episode 6: Toxic Sites in a Tinderbox** (22-minute podcast) - This podcast describes how climate change is making the wildfire season in the Pinelands more unpredictable. "The Pinelands, a million-acre swath of pine forest dominating South Jersey, is one of America's most unique environments. The Pinelands have always been a place prone to catch fire. Today, climate change is making the area's wildfire season more unpredictable. The fear is not only fire, but its impact on the area's legacy of illegal toxic dumping." <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/podcast/hazard-nj-episode-6-toxic-sites-in-a-tinderbox-nj-pinelands-wildfires/>

LEAD REDUCTION IN HOUSEHOLDS

- **Program Launched to Replace Lead Service Lines in Passaic County** (4-minute news video) - The Passaic Valley Water Commission began its project for replacing 6,500 service lines that have lead components, at no cost to homeowners. Funds from the federal government and a loan from the NJ Infrastructure Bank will be used. An additional 11,000 lines will be inspected for lead components. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/program-launched-to-replace-lead-service-lines-in-passaic-county/>

POLLUTION

- **Billions of Plastic Bags Kept Out of Circulation by NJ Ban** (4-1/2-minute news video) - The NJ single-use plastic bag ban has been in effect for six months, and "According to the Food Council of New Jersey, 3.4 billion plastic bags have been kept out of the waste stream since the ban went into effect; and it says 68 million paper bags have not been used because of the ban." <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/billions-of-plastic-bags-kept-out-of-circulation-by-nj-ban/>
- **NJ County Launches First-Of-Its-Kind Plastic Recycling Program** - Union County has instituted the first NJ program for recycling plastic film, such as produce bags, Ziploc and other re-closable bags, cereal box liners, bread bags, newspaper sleeves, bubble wrap, and plastic e-commerce mailers. Drop-off centers are located throughout the county. The material will be shipped to Trex Company Inc., "the world's largest manufacturer of high-performance, low-maintenance composite decking and other outdoor living products made from recycled materials." <https://nj1015.com/nj-county-launches-first-of-its-kind-plastic-recycling-program/>
- **Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$1 Million for New Jersey Community Air Pollution Monitoring Projects in Elizabeth and Jersey City, NJ** - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is awarding \$465,250 to Jersey City and \$500,000 to the City of Elizabeth to conduct community air quality monitoring. Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds are being used for these projects that support President Biden's Justice40 Initiative, which directed that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments flow to overburdened communities. In addition, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) received \$234,000 in ARP funds for enhanced continuous monitoring of PM2.5 particulate matter pollutants and to replace aging monitoring equipment for five other air pollutants. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-1-million-new-jersey-community-air-pollution>

DRINKING WATER-RELATED ISSUES (other than lead)

- **NJ Steps up Fight Against Toxic 'Forever Chemicals'** - There are thousands of different perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS - aka "forever chemicals"), but NJ only has set drinking water health standards for three of them (PFOA, PFOS, and PFNA). A bill (S3176) that has been voted out of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee would require a study to assess the feasibility of regulating the substances as one or several classes rather than individually, and would also assess treatment technologies for removing them from drinking water or wastewater. An identical Assembly bill (A4760) has not yet been considered by committee. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/11/some-nj-lawmakers-want-forever-chemical-regulations-by-class-not-one-by-one/>

EDUCATIONAL and YOUTH-RELATED

- **In One State, Every Class Teaches Climate Change — Even P.E.** - This article describes implementation of NJ's first-in-the-U.S. requirement for climate change to be taught across grade levels and subjects. [Details of NJ's Learning Standards for Climate Change Education by Grade Band and class type are available here: <https://www.nj.gov/education/standards/climate/learning/gradeband/index.shtml>.] The article points out that "Supporters are trying to ensure that teachers have plenty of examples for teaching the standards in age-appropriate ways, with racial and environmental justice as one of the key features of the instruction" (with thanks to **EJTF member Mike Skelly!**). The article also points out that the coverage may be uneven in different districts across the state. <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/in-one-state-every-class-teaches-climate-change---even-pe/ar-AA13LHrV>

OTHER

- **NJ's Big-Oil Lawsuit Reason to Divest, Advocates Say** - This article describes ongoing efforts to impel the NJ State Investment Council to cease investing public-worker pension funds in fossil-fuel companies. A bill (S416) that was voted out of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee would require such divestment. See <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/10/public-workers-pension-fund-fossil-fuels-divest-divesture-oil-climate-change-economic-losses-bpu-attorney-general-matt-platkin-senate-environment-and-energy-committee-divestnj-division-of-investments/>. The NJ Division of Investment has a webpage (available here: <https://www.nj.gov/treasury/doinvest/proxy/governance.shtml>) that includes a Climate Action Bulletin, which has a summary of the major actions taken to date. A 4-1/2-minute news video that summarizes positions taken by advocates for fossil-fuel investment divestment is available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/why-pressure-grows-for-nj-pension-funds-to-divest-from-fossil-fuel-investments/>.
- **If 2.4 Million Trees Fall Will Trenton Hear it?** - The NJ Pinelands Commission has adopted a plan, to begin in April 2023, to cut down up to 2.4 million trees in the Bass River State Forest, with the purpose of protecting against wildfires. This article provides discussion of the project from proponents and opponents. See <https://www.insidernj.com/if-2-4-million-trees-fall-will-trenton-hear-it/>. The project was approved at the Commission's 10/14/2022 meeting; the notes of the meeting (which are included in the document available here: <https://nj.gov/pinelands/home/meetings/documents/111022%20Meeting%20Packet.pdf>) provide discussion of the application (as amended) on pp. 7 - 9, the language of the approved amended application on pp. 20-27, and maps of the affected areas on pp. 84 - 86.

UU FaithAction NJ - Environmental Justice Task Force - <https://uufaithaction.org/environment/>
Co-Chairs – Peggy Middaugh and Ray Nichols
Visit our website for Environmental links and resources / sign up for email alerts / join the EJTF



MORATORIUM MONDAYS CONTINUE

Please continue to contact Gov. Murphy every Monday and urge him to declare a climate emergency moratorium on fossil fuel projects! These efforts have been successful in that a number of projects have been stopped or delayed in the past year. Either call through the EmpowerNJ number (866-586-4069) to get coaching on the topic of the week, emphasizing what is in the news, or call directly to the governor's office (609-292-6000).

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