



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.

CONGREGATIONAL and EJTF ACTIVITIES



Congregations Thank Legislators

The NJ legislature recently passed a bill to strengthen organic and regenerative farming in NJ, and Gov. Murphy signed it into law. The EJTF, following the lead of our partner organization, the Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA), had supported the bill through letters and calls, and we're very pleased that it passed with near unanimous approval. Mike Skelly of EJTF suggested that we take this opportunity for NJ Unitarian Universalists to thank the legislators who voted in favor of the bill, so we've initiated a "Postcard Thank You Campaign" for the UU congregations to send to their Assembly Representatives, Senator, and Gov Murphy. The post cards are shown above (at left), and a group from the Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation (UUOCC) is shown signing them (above, at right, with **EJTF member and UUFANJ Liaison Barbara Diamantopoulos** standing).

NEWSLETTER CONTENTS

Congregational and EJTF Activities	1	- Fossil Fuel Infrastructure	12
EJTF Activities (continued)	2	- Land Management/Agriculture/Food	12
Unexplained NJ Whale Deaths	2	- Renewable Resources	13
Future Events	3	- Climate Change	14
Videos+ of Past Events	9	- Lead Reduction in Households	15
EJTF's Goals for 2022/2023	11	- Pollution	16
News Related to EJTF Issues	11	- Other	16
- Environmental Justice	11	Moratorium Mondays	18
- Electric Vehicles/Vehicle Emission Reduction	11		

EJTF ACTIVITIES (continued)

- As Paulins Kill Watershed Coordinator of the Foodshed Alliance, **EJTF member Christine Dunbar** continues coordinate a project to monitor salt levels in the Paulins Kill River, and is looking for volunteers to collect and test water samples. The goal is to learn about and monitor the amount of road salt that is getting into the Paulins Kill River, tributaries, lakes, and ponds and to document the impact of road salt applications on aquatic systems. The program, funded by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), is managed by The Watershed Institute, which is providing the Foodshed Alliance with this opportunity including materials needed to test water quality for salt levels. The salt monitoring recruitment flyer for citizen scientists in the Paulins Kill Watershed, which is the third largest NJ Delaware River watershed, is at right. This study is being conducted by volunteers throughout the state in various watersheds and even nationally. Anyone in NJ can learn more and volunteer by visiting the

NJ Watershed Watch Network website:
njwatershedwatch.org/roadsalt.

JOIN THE SALT WATCH!

Be a citizen scientist – volunteer to help monitor road salt concentrations in the Paulins Kill Watershed!

Guidance & all materials will be provided.

FOR MORE INFO & TO SIGN UP GO TO
paulinskillwatershed.org/road-salt-monitoring

Unexplained NJ Whale Deaths

The following is from a statement by Jennifer M. Coffey, Executive Director of ANJEC (Association of NJ Environmental Commissions): "You may have read recently about the unfortunate occurrence of several whales washing up on our beaches. Since 2016, we have witnessed up to 27 whale carcasses washing up on the east coast from what NOAA has designated "Unusual Mortality Events"... We know that the causes of most whale deaths are: collision with shipping vessels, entanglement with fishing gear, and plastic pollution.

Reducing plastic pollution, along with strengthened policies to make commercial shipping and fishing safer, will protect our oceans and save the lives of marine mammals... Since the Plastic Pollution Reduction Act went into effect last May, NJ has saved 55 million plastic bags from being thrown away every month. We call on the NJ Legislature to push further by passing the Packaging Reduction Act, which reduces plastic pollution coming from NJ. We call on Congress to pass federal legislation to reduce plastic pollution coming from the U.S.

We call on the U.S. Coast Guard to monitor the speeds of shipping vessels in an improved capacity to prevent further damages to marine wildlife. We acknowledge the significant role climate change plays in confusing whale migration routes, as it is warming the Atlantic Ocean and keeping whales near NJ much longer into winter... We support shifting energy production away from dirty fossil fuel sources and to clean renewable sources, including responsible offshore wind. The science tells us that the geotechnical ocean floor mapping being conducted by wind companies does not harm marine mammals... vessels conducting this surveying have marine mammal observers on board at all times and have reported no strikes as of this message... the increased whale mortalities began nearly seven years ago, well before any geotechnical surveying began this winter by wind companies."

Also see the news stories on [p. 14](#) and the videos on [p. 9](#).

FUTURE EVENTS - *Virtual, In-person, and Hybrid*

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

FEBRUARY 2023						
(with hyperlinks to details on the following pages)						
<i>Sun.</i>	<i>Mon.</i>	<i>Tues.</i>	<i>Wed.</i>	<i>Thurs.</i>	<i>Fri.</i>	<i>Sat.</i>
		Jan. 31 "Ecology as Scripture" - 7:00 p.m.	1	2	3	4
5	6 "Biological Nutrient Management: Best Organic Practices for Soil" - 1:00 p.m.	7 "Fundamentals of Food Labels: Organic, Certified Naturally Grown, Salmon Safe, Bee Better" - 3:00 p.m. "Ecology as Scripture" - 7:00 p.m.	8 "Carbon Capital: The Moral Metrics of Energy Finance" - 12:00 p.m. DRBC 1Q Public Hearing - 1:30 p.m. "The Energy Transition: Opportunities and Challenges for Indigenous Communities" - 6:00 p.m. "Offshore Wind!" - 6:30 p.m.	9 "Public Polling on Climate Change" - 2:00 p.m. NJ Extreme Heat Resilience Action Plan - 4:00 p.m.	10 "6th Annual Watershed Conference" - 10:00 a.m. "Clean Energy, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction, Rapid Decarbonization in PJM Region" - 12:00 p.m.	11
12	13	14 "Ecology as Scripture" - 7:00 p.m.	15 Pinelands Commission Climate Committee - 2:30 p.m.	16 "Role of Carbon Capture in Meeting Net-zero Carbon Goals" - 12:30 p.m. "Increase Home Energy Efficiency & Savings with Solar!" - 7:00 p.m.	17 "6th Annual Watershed Conference" - 10:00 a.m.	18
19 "Beans, Greens, Tomatoes: Food, Accessibility & Justice in the Black Diaspora" - 9:30 a.m.	20	21 "Climate Adaptation for Forest-Dependent Wildlife" - 1:00 p.m. "Ecology as Scripture" - 7:00 p.m.	22 "Rain Garden 101" 12:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.	23 "Building Efficiency" - 10:00 a.m. "Non-CO2 Greenhouse Gases" - 2:00 p.m.	24	25
26	27	28 Keasbey Energy Center Public Hearing - 6:00 p.m. "Ecology as Scripture" - 7:00 p.m.	"34th-annual Pinelands Short Course" 3/12/2023			

"Ecology as Scripture" - Virtual
6 Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m., starting 1/31/2023

This Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth (UUMFE) "long-course" will be led by Rev. Dr. Leonisa Ardizzone, and will "explore interfaith/ interspiritual teachings and practices that will guide us into personal, local, and global responses to climate chaos and environmental injustice." Registration is available here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSesiLuVtwJ9215EVTllx7itaUofPfeewtk1jauVsPw1IRglCw/viewform>.

"Carbon Capital: The Moral Metrics of Energy Finance" - Virtual
2/8/2023, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

This webinar, part of the Dartmouth "New Energy Series," will be presented by Dr. Sean Field, a Research Fellow at the Centre for Energy Ethics and in the Department of Social Anthropology at the University of St Andrews. His research focuses on "how financial professionals ethically and financially value energy. His ethnographic work explores the calculation of risk, the performance of financial expertise, the valuation of energy resources, and the integration of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) factors into investment practices. A key implication of his research is that the world of finance is central to the materialization of our collective energy and anthropogenic landscapes." Additional information and the registration link are available here:

<https://irving.dartmouth.edu/news-events/news-events/new-energy-series>.

Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)
First Quarter 2023 Public Hearing
2/8/2023, 1:30 p.m. - Location TBA

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

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

"The Energy Transition: Opportunities and Challenges for Indigenous Communities"
2/8/2023, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Hybrid
NYC and on Zoom

"Join the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and a panel of experts for a discussion about opportunities and risks for indigenous communities in the North American energy transition. According to the US Department of Energy, wind resources on US tribal lands could meet up to 32% of US electricity needs. Similarly,... 79% of US lithium reserves are located within 35 miles of an Indian reservation." The panel will discuss the Biden administration's efforts to strengthen indigenous consultation and environmental justice around natural resources and renewable energy development. They will also explore how Canadian indigenous leaders are developing equity-based partnerships to develop renewable energy and critical minerals projects. Additional information and registration links are available here:

<https://www.energypolicy.columbia.edu/events-calendar/energy-transition-opportunities-and-challenges-indigenous-communities-us-and-canada>.

"Offshore Wind!"
2/8/2023, 6:30 p.m. - Virtual

The Raritan Valley and Loantaka Groups of the NJ Sierra Club are hosting a webinar on offshore wind energy. Join them to learn how NJ will be harnessing this energy, why it is so important and what obstacles stand in the way of its development. The discussion will be led by Denise Brush, NJ Sierra Club's Issue Coordinator and Committee Chair for Offshore Wind. Additional information and the registration link are available here:

<https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7013q000002NdqoAAC&mapLinkHref=>

**"Public Polling on Climate Change"
2/9/2023, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Webinar**

This webinar is part of the Environmental and Energy Study Institute's (EESI) Congressional Climate Camp series. This webinar will explore the public's interest in seeing continued federal attention on climate change. "Forty-six percent of people in the United States say they have personally experienced the impacts of climate change and 55 percent of people say that climate change should be a high or very high priority for Congress and the administration, according to the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication. Panelists will explore the latest analyses of public opinion on climate change across sectors and geography and explain why it matters for the 118th Congress." Additional information and the link to RSVP are available here:
<https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/020923camp>.

**NJ Extreme Heat Resilience Action Plan
Webinars
2/9/2023, 4:00 p.m.
and 3/2/2023, 6:00 p.m.**

"New Jersey's Interagency Council on Climate Resilience is seeking public input on how the state should address extreme heat priorities and concerns as part of the development of a series of plans, known as the Resilience Action Plans, outlining the incorporation of climate resilience into state agencies' policies, programs and regulations.

The first Resilience Action Plan will focus on state agency efforts to address increasing extreme heat events resulting from climate change. Public involvement will be an important step in the process. The Interagency Council will host a webinar on February 9 to present the Resilience Action Plan initiative and the Scoping Document which addresses their purpose, development process, and content. A second webinar is scheduled for March 2 to further develop and discuss potential state agency actions which will build New Jersey's resilience to extreme heat." Additional information and links to join the webinars (to be held on Microsoft Teams) are available here:
<https://nj.gov/dep/climatechange/resilience-action-plans.html>.

**"Clean Energy, Greenhouse Gas
Emissions Reduction, and Rapid
Decarbonization in the PJM Region"
Webinar
2/10/2023, 12:00 p.m.**

PJM is the Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) that operates the wholesale power markets and controls the transmission of electricity in NJ and a number of other states. In this Rutgers Climate Academy webinar, Professor Jesse Jenkins, Princeton University, will present an analysis of the impact that the federal Inflation Reduction Act will have on electricity cost, greenhouse gas emissions and investments in electricity capacity in the PJM region thru 2035, and what additional investments and resources would be needed to deeply decarbonize the region while maintaining affordable and reliable electricity. A panel will provide responses. Additional information and the registration link are available here:
https://rutgers.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kPkXvTZPT4SpvykZH6LqiA.

**"6th Annual Watershed Conference" of
The Watershed Institute - Hybrid
2/10/2023 & 2/17/2023,
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Pennington, NJ and on Zoom**

There are new NJ stormwater regulations, and the 6th Annual Watershed Conference, held on Fridays 2/10 and 2/17 will focus on these regulations for citizens, officials and engineers to understand and make use of. The keynote speaker is Kandyce Perry, Director of the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) at the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Register by 2/6/2023: Virtual = \$45.00; In-person, 1 Day = \$65.00; and In-person, 2 Days = \$85.00. Links for additional information and to register are available here: <https://thewatershed.org/sixth-annual-watershed-conference-feb-10-2023/>.

**Pinelands Commission
Climate Committee Meeting
2/15/2023, 9:30 a.m.
Location is forthcoming**

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

<https://www.nj.gov/pinelands/home/meetings/index.shtml#5>.

**"The Role of Carbon Capture in Meeting
Net-zero Carbon Goals" - Hybrid
2/16/2023, 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Princeton, NJ and on Zoom**

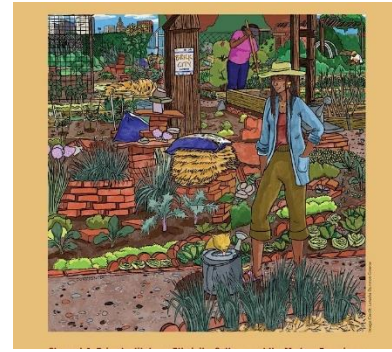
Jennifer Wilcox, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy and Carbon Management, Office of Fossil Energy, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will present this webinar discussing the Biden administration's view of the role of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies in reducing carbon emissions. "The Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management will play an important role in the transition to net-zero carbon emissions by reducing the environmental impacts of fossil energy production and use – and helping decarbonize other hard-to-abate sectors – through investments in technology solutions including CCS, direct air capture, and the deployment of carbon capture technologies to produce low-carbon products and fuel, including hydrogen." Additional information and the registration link are available here:

<https://acee.princeton.edu/events/highlight-seminar-jennifer-wilcox/>

**"Increase Home Energy Efficiency, Value,
& Savings - Subscribe to Community
Solar!" - Webinar
2/16/2023, 7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.**

Presented by the Sierra Club NJ Chapter and NJ 50x30 Building Electrification Team, this webinar is part of a continuing Building Electrification series. Yvette Viasus, the Community Solar Engagement Manager for Solar Landscape (currently completing 45 NJ Community solar systems; see news article on [p. 13](#)) will describe current and future NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) plans for Community Solar in NJ. The registration link is available here:

<https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7013q000002NSBkAAO&mapLinkHref=>



**"Beans, Greens, Tomatoes: Food,
Accessibility and Justice in the Black
Diaspora" - In-person
2/19/2023, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Newark Museum of Art, Newark, NJ,**

This is the 43rd annual Marion Thompson Wright (MTW) Lecture Series presented by the Rutgers Clement A. Price Institute on Ethnicity, Culture, and the Modern Experience. This installment of the lecture series - "Beans, Greens, Tomatoes: Food and Justice in the Black Diaspora" - will reflect on food ways and food cultivation as vital pillars in Black familial and community life. It will explore the quest for food justice through resistance to land dispossession, collaborative gardening practice, and culinary traditions that preserve historical memory. The Annual Marion Thompson Wright Lecture (MTW) series was co-founded in 1981 by Rutgers University-Newark Professor Clement A. Price and Giles R. Wright of the New Jersey Historical Commission, with the belief that the rigorous exploration of the past, made accessible to a broad public of learners, would help guide the nation into a brighter future. The conference is named in honor of a native of East Orange, Marion Thompson Wright, who was arguably the first black female professional historian and a pioneer in Black NJ historiography. In her honor, the series brings together outstanding thinkers and doers of African and African American life and history. "Diverse, civically engaged, and devoted to life-long learners, the MTW Series is one of the nation's most distinguished and longest-running lectures. The Clement A. Price Institute is devoted to building deep historical justice in our region and beyond." The link to register for this free program, held at the Newark Museum of Art, is available here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-43rd-marion-thompson-wright-lecture-series-tickets-488698599667?aff=ebsoporgprofile>.

"Rain Garden 101" - Webinar
2/22/2023 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Join South Jersey Water Savers (a collaboration between 9 organizations working to protect water quality) for a virtual workshop to learn more about rain gardens and how you can build one at home. When you attend, you'll have the opportunity to sign up for a 30-minute consultation where you'll work one-on-one with a Rutgers landscape architect to plan a customized rain garden for your property. Participants who build a rain garden as part of this program may be eligible for a rebate (rebate availability varies) of up to \$650, or help from Rutgers with installation. Additional information and the links to register for one of the webinars are available here:

<https://www.sjwatersavers.org/makeover-sessions/>.

"Climate Adaptation for Forest-Dependent Wildlife Webinar Series"
2/21/2023, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

This 12-part series sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) tells a story about climate change and its impacts on forest ecosystems and forest-dependent wildlife species. It examines forest ecosystems and their composition and structure under a changing climate, and the influence on wildlife populations and carbon dynamics. Tools and management approaches to help facilitate forest and wildlife climate adaptation at both landscape and stand scales will be addressed. The webinar series, which began in March 2022, takes place on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. through April 2023. Attendance at all presentations is highly recommended as each month's topic builds upon the prior webinar, however, videos of all previous presentations are available here:

<https://forestadaptation.org/learn/climate-adaptation-forest-dependent-wildlife-webinar-series>. Additional information and registration are available here: https://doitalent.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_hz6jP44-R_y-boTiyMqUWg.

"Building Efficiency" - Webinar
2/23/2023, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

This webinar is part of the Sustainability Speaker Series (S3) developed by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Bureau of Energy and Sustainability's Sustainable Business Initiative (SBI). "This speaker series provides a forum to share ideas and strategies to expand social, environmental and economic sustainability within NJ. It brings together sustainability experts and NJ leaders from diverse sectors to discuss how organizations can incorporate sustainability into business decisions. It is open to everyone: businesses, colleges, government officials, schools, nonprofits and residents." Additional information, including links to the meeting agenda (which includes "Passive House" and "Heat Pumps and Electrification") and to register, are available here:

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/aqes/s3.html>.

"Non-CO2 Greenhouse Gases"
2/23/2023, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Webinar

This webinar is part of the Environmental and Energy Study Institute's (EESI) Congressional Climate Camp series. "Although carbon dioxide (CO2) is the most commonly discussed greenhouse gas, there are many other gases that also contribute to global warming, including methane, nitrous oxides, and fluorinated gases." This webinar will examine how these gases play a part in climate change, as well as presenting solutions for limiting their effects. Presenters will highlight federal and international policy actions, including the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, that address the warming potential of non-CO2 greenhouse gases. Additional information and the link to RSVP are available here:

<https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/022323camp>.

Keasbey Energy Center Public Hearing 2/28/2023, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Virtual

As required by the NJ Environmental Justice Law, the developer proposing to construct the Keasbey Energy Center is holding a public information session. The project is "a proposed 657-megawatt natural gas electric generating facility, located on a brownfield site... in the Keasbey section of Woodbridge, NJ." A number of local government bodies, and environmental advocates, oppose the project, stating that it "would make the climate crisis even worse and would further pollute a low income community of color that already suffers from failing air quality due to the disproportionate burden of polluting facilities already operating in their community" (see news article on [p. 12](#)). The public notice providing details is available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/ej/docs/cpv-keasbey-notice-20230228.pdf>.

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 February 2023 (a sampling is listed below), 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/>.

"Biological Nutrient Management: Best Organic Practices for Soil Fertility and Resource Stewardship" - Webinar 2/6/2023, 1:00 p.m.

This webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) gets pretty far into the weeds on nutrient management in organic agriculture, "using a resource-conserving approach... that builds soil nutrient retention, cycling, and delivery capacity... This webinar will include the importance of soil nutrient dynamics, the impact of soil organisms, and the functions of each, as well as guidelines for optimizing practices and outcomes." It also will provide the history of approaches to nutrient management in organic farming. (The very detailed presentation notes for the webinar are available here:

<file:///C:/Users/chemi/Downloads/Webinar-3-Nutrient-Mgmt-presentation-notes.docx.pdf>.) A link to additional information including how to register/join is available here: <https://climatechange.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/icalrepeat.detail/2023/02/06/7486/-/webinar-biological-nutrient-management-best-organic-practices-for-soil-fertility-and-resource-stewardship>. [Note: this event uses Adobe Connect.]

"Fundamentals of Food Labels: Organic, Certified Naturally Grown, Salmon Safe, Bee Better" - Webinar 2/7/2023, 3:00 p.m.

This webinar is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). For additional information, email Jennifer Ryan at jennifer.ryan2@usda.gov. A link to some additional information including how to register/join is available here: <https://climatesociety.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/icalrepeat.detail/2023/02/07/7487/-/webinar-fundamentals-of-food-labels-organic-certified-naturally-grown-salmon-safe-bee-better>. [Note: this event uses Adobe Connect.]



"34th-annual Pinelands Short Course" 3/12/2022, 9:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. Galloway, NJ (In-person)

Registration is open for the "Pinelands Short Course," a much-touted daylong event featuring educational presentations that explore the unique history, ecology, and culture of the Pinelands. This year's event will feature 21 new programs. A brochure describing course offerings and excursions is available here: https://www.stockton.edu/continuing-studies/documents/PSC_Brochure_2023_Web.pdf; and registration information including course sign-up is available here: <https://stockton.gosignmeup.com/public/Course/browse?courseid=3217>. The course costs \$50.00 (\$45.00 for Seniors and Students, with the coupon code provided in brochure).

VIDEOS+ OF PAST EVENTS

"Forest Preservation: Climate is Heating Up - Forests Can Cool It Down" Recording of Radio Show

The Eco-Logic radio/internet program on WBAI (co-hosted by **EJTF member Sally Gellert**) presented a program with guest Joe Attamante, a member of the NJ Forestry Task Force addressing forest management on NJ public lands, which was convened by Senator Bob Smith, chairperson of the NJ Senate Environment and Energy Committee. (**EJTF Co-Chair Peggy Middaugh** is also a member of the Task Force.) In this Eco-Logic show, topics included: importance of forests and the role of old growth forests; carbon storage in forests; habitat fragmentation; Native American forest management; invasive species; deer "management;" logging; and "Proforestation" (i.e., growing existing forests intact to their ecological potential). The recording is available here (the forestry portion is from minute 30:00 to 53:00):
<https://wbai.org/archive/program/episode/?id=38228>.

ANJEC Climate Mini Series Videos of Webinars

The Association of NJ Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) held a 3-session webinar mini series which included climate change impacts in NJ, and presentations related to responsible wind energy projects off NJ's coast by University researchers and representatives of the wind companies. The sessions, which include currently relevant information related to whales, were:
"The Arctic Meltdown, Why it Matters in NJ" (video available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jUSC9NG4OcU>);
"Ocean & Wildlife Science, Avian & Mammal Research" (video available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0WnSdY7cf4>);
and "Wind Project Updates" (video available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Me86cBSpKz0>).

"Bringing Community Perspectives to Community Solar" Video of Webinar

"Not all community solar is created equal. As part of their effort to ensure that community solar implementation can serve all communities, Energy Allies (formerly Solstice Initiative) has been pioneering research... to gain perspective on how the public views community solar product offerings. Funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Allies collected survey data across eight states to understand preferences and expectations for community-solar projects. In this webinar, hosted by the Clean Energy States Alliance, representatives from Energy Allies presented their research findings with commentary from Energy Outreach Colorado and Loyola University Chicago, and NYC Environmental Justice Alliance. There was a moderated discussion and audience questions were addressed." The video is available here: <https://www.cesa.org/event/bringing-community-perspectives-to-community-solar/>.

"What Isn't Measured, Isn't Managed: Improving Embodied Emissions Reporting" - Video of Webinar

This webinar was sponsored by the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES). "As clean procurement (or 'Buy Clean') policies and company-led efforts to reduce supply chain emissions gain traction, the need to accurately report on emissions from the various stages of a product's life cycle - also known as 'embodied carbon' - will only increase. However, environmental product declarations (EPDs) - the most common way to label embodied emissions, which form the backbone of private and public sector clean procurement efforts - often lack the detail and consistency needed to give the confidence that procurement decisions will lead to emissions reductions. In this webinar, an expert panel explored the current state of the knowledge infrastructure around embodied emissions reporting, the challenges in developing a robust system of reporting, and what can be done to get there. It drew on

insights from C2ES's recent brief, 'A Building Block for Climate Action: Reporting on Embodied Emissions,' and included an expert panel discussion." The video is available here: <https://www.c2es.org/event/what-isnt-measured-isnt-managed-improving-embodied-emissions-reporting/>.

NJDEP Appliance Standards Law Rulemaking: Stakeholder Meeting **Video of Meeting**

Signed in 1/2022, the NJ Appliance Standards Law established minimum energy and water efficiency standards for several categories of residential and commercial appliances. Beginning on 1/18/2023 the sale, offer for sale, or lease of appliances in NJ that do not meet these specific efficiency standards will be prohibited. Additionally, products listed in the law, unless otherwise noted, will need to be labeled and certified that they meet the standards contained in the law. The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) held a stakeholder meeting on 1/10/2023 to discuss and receive feedback on the drafting of a rule to implement the Appliance Standards Law. The rulemaking will seek to implement the minimum standards and establish requirements for testing, certification and marking of the products. Additionally, the DEP is interested in public input on ways to improve compliance and enforcement. Additional information and links to view the webinar, the slides from the webinar, or to provide **comments (which will be accepted through 2/13/2023)** are available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/appliancestandards/>.

NJDEP Public Hearing on Proposed Inland Flood Protection Rule **Video of Meeting**

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) held a virtual public hearing on the proposed Inland Flood Protection Rule. After much back-and-forth between the Murphy administration and groups such as those representing business and those advocating for immediate rule issuance due to urgency related to climate change, the proposed Inland Flood Protection Rule was published on 12/5/2022. The rule requires 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." Environmental advocates have asked 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 the news article:

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2022/11/nj-flood-rule-relaunched-businessconcerns-environmental-concerns-gov-phil-murphy-shawn-latourette-dep/>). Additional information and links to the rule proposal and for submitting written comments are available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/inland-flood-protection-rule/>. **The comment period ends on 2/3/2023.** The link to the video of 1/11/2023 public hearing, as well as links to videos and presentations of two previous public meetings, are (or will soon be) available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/inland-flood-protection-rule/engagement-sessions/>.

"Report on COP27" from UUJEC Board Member Cindy Piester - Video of Webinar

Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC) Board member Cindy Piester presented a report on the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, which was the 27th such conference, commonly referred to as COP27. It was held from November 6 - 20, 2022 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5IhJanrRpk>.

EJTF's GOALS for 2022/2023

- 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 12/27/2022 – 1/26/2023]

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Biden-Harris Administration Announces Availability of \$100M for EJ IRA Grants

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will offer \$100 million in Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)-funded grants for environmental justice, in two categories: \$30 million to community-based nonprofits through its EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Program; and \$70 million to state, local and tribal governments that work with nonprofits. Projects that address climate change or disaster resiliency, conduct health impact assessments, or are located in rural areas, are to be given special consideration. Applications are due 4/10/2023.

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-availability-100-million-through-inflation>

proposal was updated and reissued. The reissued Proposal includes previous provisions, and adds private fleet charging depots located in or primarily operating in Overburdened Municipalities. [See <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/01/nj-moves-to-electrify-transportation-sector-charging-infrastructure/>.] A public meeting was held describing the updated plan (links to the updated plan and the meeting presentation explaining the changes; and an audio replay of the meeting, are available here:

<https://www.nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/public/> on the line entitled "Stakeholder Meeting Notice, Medium Heavy Duty Straw.") At the public meeting, although adequacy of some portions of the proposal were questioned, its focus on curbing pollution in communities suffering from poor air quality bolstered its acceptability with clean-energy advocates.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/01/nj-clean-energy-advocates-praise-proposal-for-electric-truck-charging-system/>

ELECTRIC VEHICLES/VEHICLE EMISSION REDUCTION

NJ to Accelerate Electric Truck Transition by Building Out Charging Infrastructure

In 2021, the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) had issued a Straw Proposal on the "Medium and Heavy Duty (MHD) Electric Vehicle (EV) Ecosystem." Technical panels were held and the

BPU Accepting Applications for Medium- and Heavy-Duty EV Charging Program

The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) has opened the application window for the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)-funded Medium- and Heavy-Duty electric vehicle (EV) charging program. The \$16.1 million program will focus on funding of projects based on two charging models: community charging, for projects within Overburdened Communities; and private fleet charging, for businesses participating in the New Jersey Zero-Emission Incentive Program. Applications are due by 5/12/2023.

<https://nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/2022/approved/20230112.html>

FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE

Expansion of Transco Natural Gas Pipeline Gets Federal Go-Ahead

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved expanding the Transco pipeline through NJ, despite the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) and the NJ Division of Rate Counsel's filing a "Motion to Lodge" additional information showing that NJ is not in need of an additional natural gas pipeline. It had been speculated that NJ's filing of the additional information might impact FERC's decision-making process, but this did not take place. A coalition of environmental groups plans to file a motion for a FERC rehearing, and want NJ and PA to deny the project using state authority.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/01/nj-approves-natural-gas-pipeline-expansion/>

Woodlynne Votes to Oppose Gibbstown Fracked Gas Terminal

The Borough of Woodlynne, NJ has passed a resolution opposing the plan for an liquified natural gas (LNG) terminal in Gibbstown, NJ, calling on Gov. Murphy to reject the required permits and for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project. This brings to 18 the number of NJ municipalities opposing the plan.

<https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/2023/01/13/woodlynne-votes-to-oppose-gibbstown-fracked-gas-terminal/>

Cranbury Passes Resolution Opposing Woodbridge Gas Plant

Cranbury Township became the eleventh elected government body to oppose the Competitive Power Ventures (CPV) proposed 960 megawatt gas-powered power plant intended to be constructed in the Keasbey section of Woodbridge. A public information session on the project, as required under NJ's Environmental Justice Law, will be held on 2/28/2023 (see "Future Events" section, [p. 8](#)).

<https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/2023/01/10/cranbury-passes-resolution-opposing-woodbridge-gas-plant/>

LAND MANAGEMENT / AGRICULTURE / FOOD



Supporters Hopeful NJ Will Curb Invasive Species

This article describes a bill (S2186) that "prohibits sale, distribution, or propagation of certain invasive plant species without permit from Department of Agriculture" and "establishes NJ Invasive Species Council." It has been voted out of the NJ Senate Environment and Energy Committee. An originally identical bill (A3677), without the amendments, has been introduced in the NJ Assembly and referred to the Agriculture and Food Security Committee. The Invasive Species Council would develop an invasive species management plan; a previous such council had been disbanded by Gov. Christie.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/01/invasive-species-native-plants-invasive-species-council-sen-linda-greenstein-senate-environment-and-energy-committee-nj-forest-task-force-mike-van-clef-new-jersey-invasive-species-strike-team-lori-je/>

RENEWABLE RESOURCES

Economic Challenges Stack Up for Offshore Wind

PSE&G is selling its 25% stake in Ocean Wind 1 to Ørsted, making Ørsted the 100% owner. PSE&G plans to focus on providing transmission infrastructure for offshore wind projects. Several additional challenges for the offshore wind industry are also described in this article, including the whale death controversy (see box on [p. 2](#)). <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/01/offshore-wind-pseg-orsted-rate-counsel-brian-lipman-inflation-supply-chain-bpu-glenrock-associates-energy-master-plan-environment-new-jersey/>

EDA Lures New Offshore-Wind Developer to NJ Wind Port

Atlantic Shores has joined Ørsted in becoming the second tenant to sign a letter of intent to lease space at the NJ Wind Port in Salem County. Atlantic Shores estimates that more than 200 jobs will be created at the Port. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/01/atlantic-shores-offshore-wind-llc-orsted-new-jersey-wind-port-offshore-wind-farm-lower-alloways-creek-shell-new-energies-u-s-edf-renewables-gov-phil-murphy-salem-county/>

Immediate Collaborative Planning Needed for Bringing Offshore Power Onshore

In a new report commissioned by several climate and clean energy-focused organizations, the Brattle Group consultants found that "there is an urgent need for states, federal agencies, and regional grid operators to act quickly to identify cost-effective transmission solutions to bring that power to shore..." A summary of the report with its recommendations is available here: https://www.brattle.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2023-01-24-OSW-Transmission-Report_Webinar-slides.pdf. The report notes that NJ has followed a number of the recommendations in its "State Agreement Approach" (SAA) process. In 2020, NJ became the first state to integrate its offshore wind transmission objectives with the regional grid's planning and development process through the

SAA process, 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. The report notes that even greater benefits would have been realized if the process had involved more states than just NJ. The report emphasizes that just a five-year delay in coordinated planning may cut benefits of good planning in half; new transmission development takes about a decade or more to come online. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/01/experts-say-planning-and-coordination-urgently-needed-to-get-offshore-power-to-shore/>



Solar Landscape Energizes Award-Winning Extra Space Storage Community Solar Project in New Jersey

The second project approved in Year 2 of NJ's Community Solar Energy Pilot Program has been connected. It is the Solar Landscape company's installation on roofs of the Extra Space Storage Facility in Neptune, NJ. The project was named Solar Builder's "U.S. Community Solar Project of the Year," and it will power more than 1,400 homes, most of which are occupied by low- and moderate-income families. <https://solarbuildermag.com/projects/solar-landscape-energizes-extra-space-storage-solar-project-new-jersey/>

A SAMPLING OF RECENT NEWS STORIES ON UNEXPLAINED NJ WHALE DEATHS:

"Following the Clues to Why More Beached Whales Along Jersey Shore" -

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/01/nj-whale-deaths-prompt-questions/>

"Unexplained Deaths of Whales on Beaches Lead To Call of Halt in Offshore Wind Development" -

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/01/nj-conservationists-call-for-halt-to-offshore-wind-projects-after-dead-whales-wash-ashore/>

"NJ Environmental Orgs United in Support for Responsibly Developed OSW"

- <https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/nj-environmental-orgs-united-in-support-for-responsibly-developed-osw/>

"Offshore Wind Work Will Continue Despite 7 Dead Whales and Investigation, Murphy Says" -

<https://www.nj.com/news/2023/01/offshore-wind-work-will-continue-despite-7-dead-whales-and-investigation-murphy-says.html>

"Sierra Club: Unfounded and Premature: Correlating Wind Turbine Construction with Whale Mortalities" -

<https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/sierra-club-unfounded-and-premature-correlating-wind-turbine-construction-with-whale-mortalities/>

"Ørsted: No Sound Surveys Have Been Part of Wind Project Work Since the Summer" -

https://pressofatlanticcity.com/news/local/rsted-no-sound-surveys-have-been-part-of-wind-project-work-since-the-summer/article_be172d06-9847-11ed-8aad-6f07b3c71808.html#tracking-source=home-top-story

[Also see box on [p. 2](#) and videos on [p. 9](#).]

Murphy Postpones Public Hearings on State's New Energy Master Plan

Canceling the three scheduled public hearings on a proposed update to the 2019 NJ Energy Master Plan (EMP), Gov. Murphy announced that instead of updating the existing EMP, planning is to begin for a new EMP scheduled for release in 2024. In his press release (available here:

<https://www.state.nj.us/governor/news/news/562023/approved/2023020a.shtml>), Gov. Murphy stated, "In addition to taking into consideration the implications of new state and federal policies, the 2024 Energy Master Plan will seek to better capture economic costs and benefits, as well as ratepayer impacts..." It is speculated that the change in course may be tied to the possibility of not wanting the EMP debate to take place during an election year, and also to the desire to reflect recent changes in Federal policies and potential support.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/01/gov-phil-murphy-energy-master-plan-emp-hearings-postponed/>

DEP Urged to Implement Proposed Inland Flood Protection Rule

In this 4-1/2-minute news video, representatives of a group of 49 advocates, including **EJTF partner Kim Gaddy**, National EJ Director of Clean Water Action, describe the effects of inland flooding and urge the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to implement the proposed Inland Flood Protection Rule immediately, and impose a moratorium on permit approval until it is adopted. The NJ Business and Industry Association responds that this would unfairly punish developers who have proceeded based on existing flood zone definitions. [See <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/inland-flood-protection-rule-looks-to-revamp/>.] Also see:

"Advocates Say Hold Development Permits Until Flood Rule Adopted," available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/01/advocates-urge-officials-to-hold-development-permits-until-inland-flood-rule-adopted/> and **"Residents Say NJ Can Save Lives by Implementing Flood Rule Now,"** available here:

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/01/inland-flood-protection-rule-dep-njbia-tropical-storm-ida-richard-onderko-hurricane-floyd/>.

NJ Awards \$24.3 Million Through Its Natural Climate Solutions Grant Program

The Murphy Administration's press release (available here: https://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2023/23_0003.htm) for award of \$24 million in grants to local governments and nonprofits to create, restore, and enhance New Jersey's green spaces and tree canopies in urban areas, salt marshes and forests, includes a map and list of projects along with their funding amounts. The projects focus on "investing in natural solutions that sequester carbon causing the extreme heat and flooding repeatedly striking our communities." This is one of the first programs of its kind in the U.S., and is being funded with Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) funds. Descriptions of the program and major projects are included in this article: "**NJ Invests in Nature to Fight the Effects of Climate Change**," available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/01/nj-grant-program-uses-natural-climate-solutions/>, and one emphasis of the program on planting trees in overburdened communities is described in this 4-minute news video: "**NJ Awards Grants for Planting More Trees**," available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/nj-awards-grants-for-planting-more-trees/>.

LEAD REDUCTION IN HOUSEHOLDS

NJ American Water Asking for Surcharge for State Lead-Regulation Costs

As allowed by the 2021 NJ law requiring mandatory lead service line replacement, NJ American has petitioned the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) for authorization to impose a new surcharge as part of a cost-recovery plan. The law requires public water utilities to replace all their lead service lines over the next decade. Under the NJ law, publicly traded utility companies can recoup the costs of the required lead service line replacements by petitioning the BPU for the authority to impose a surcharge on its customers. In its petition, NJ American Water states that it will adjust its surcharge on a semi-annual basis, with the surcharge being based on the expected costs of the lead-line replacements, the rate schedule, and related long-term debt-service

costs. The rate could also be affected by the number of customers the company has. https://pressofatlanticcity.com/news/local/new-jersey-american-water-looks-to-impose-new-surcharge-to-cover-state-lead-regulation-costs/article_2c83050e-9879-11ed-8245-f3c713737a95.html#tracking-source=home-top-story

EPA Announces \$500M Loan to Modernize NJ Water Infrastructure

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced a \$500 million loan to NJ, as its first loan issued through its State Infrastructure Financing Authority Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (SWIFIA) program, which provides loans exclusively to state infrastructure financing authority borrowers, commonly known as state revolving fund programs. NJ plans to use the funds in over 90 communities and create about 16,000 jobs while saving approximately \$62.5 million. Funds will be used for remediating contaminated groundwater, replacing lead service lines, and installing filtration systems to protect drinking water from PFAS contamination. Projects are located throughout the state, including in 36 small communities and 39 disadvantaged communities. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-500-million-loan-modernize-wastewater-and-drinking-water-infrastructure>

NJ's Expanded "Potential Lead Exposure Mapping" (PLEM) Tool Launched

The NJ Department of Community Affairs (DCA), in partnership with the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), have launched an expanded version of the Potential Lead Exposure Mapping or PLEM tool, which provides new publicly available data that indicate potential sources of lead exposure. "The tool may be used by local health officers, community groups, and other members of the public to help identify the potential sources of lead exposure. The PLEM tool also will have multiple uses that will be phased in over time. Phase 1 will look specifically at lead paint in housing as a source of exposure while future phases will examine other indicators of childhood blood lead poisoning risk." https://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2023/23_0124.htm

Fair Lawn to Receive \$3.4M to Remediate Drinking Water and Keep Pipes Lead Free

The Borough of Fair Lawn, NJ will use \$3.4 million in federal funds, some from the federal infrastructure bill, for projects such as reducing contaminants in drinking water, including PFAS ("forever chemicals"), and for safety of water fountains, especially in schools, ensuring that pipes are lead-free.

<https://www.tapinto.net/towns/hawthorne/sections/other-nj-news/articles/fair-lawn-to-receive-3-4m-to-remediate-drinking-water-contaminants-and-keep-pipes-lead-free-2>

POLLUTION



Middle Schoolers Participate in Recycling Challenge

The Manchester Essex Regional Middle School Green Team students are participating in the Trex Plastic Film Recycling Challenge, a campaign designed to reduce the use of soft plastics. Soft plastics are collected, and at the end of the project the students plan to build an ocean-themed structure from the collected plastics.

https://www.gloucestertimes.com/news/middle-schoolers-participate-in-recycling-challenge/article_3a1f0790-8c70-11ed-9826-a3642433c804.html

OTHER

State Diverted \$2B From Clean Energy Fund to NJ Transit, Other Needs

The nonpartisan think tank "New Jersey Policy Perspective" (NJPP) released a report (available here: <https://www.njpp.org/publications/report/stop-the-raids-the-clean-energy-fund-should-fund-clean-energy/>) that describes \$2 billion that has been

diverted from the NJ Clean Energy Fund since 2010. The funds, which originally come from the societal benefits charge paid by utilities' customers, were used for things like NJ Transit operations, state park maintenance, and utility bills for state buildings. See <https://newjerseymonitor.com/2023/01/13/state-diverted-2b-from-clean-energy-fund-to-nj-transit-other-needs-report-finds/>. Also see the video about a rally to forestall such diversions in the NJ 2023/24 budget, linked in the article below.

Environmental Advocates Demand End to Raids on Clean Energy Fund

This 4-1/2-minute news video reports on a rally at the State House in Trenton in advance of formulation of the NJ 2023/24 budget. At the rally environmental advocates, including **EJTF partner Kim Gaddy**, focused on preventing any more diversions of Clean Energy Funds from the Society Benefit Charges Fund to fill gaps elsewhere in the NJ Budget. The Clean Energy Funds are supposed to support the Clean Energy Program, which is to pay for items such as retrofitting buildings with clean-energy technology and energy-efficient appliances, as well as the development of solar technology and the offshore wind industry. During Gov. Murphy's time in office, more than \$533 million has been diverted, with \$82.5 million going to NJ Transit in 2022/23 (see article above).

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/environmental-advocates-demand-end-to-raids-on-clean-energy-fund/>

Murphy Loses NJLCV's Title of 'America's Greenest Governor' for 2022

The NJ League of Conservation Voters (LCV) had declared Gov. Murphy "America's Greenest Governor" during his first term, but during the first year of his second term other states have surpassed NJ with their more aggressive environmental policies. Although Gov. Murphy earned an "A" grade in 2021, he received a "B+" for 2022. This article describes some of those policies, and lists steps Gov. Murphy could take to regain an "A" rating.

<https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/murphy-makes-progress-but-loses-title-of-americas-greenest-governor-in-new-jersey-lcvs-environmental-2022-report-card/>

Assessing Murphy's Environmental Record

In this video chat, Anjuli Ramos-Busot, director of the Sierra Club NJ chapter and Doug O'Malley, director of Environment New Jersey join NJ Spotlight News' Chat Box to discuss Gov. Murphy's environmental record, as well as the controversies related to recent whale deaths and gas stoves. The environmental portion of the video is from minute 13:15 to 30:15.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/01/assessing-gov-phil-murphys-environmental-record-chat-box/>

Study: Deal Lake Caught in Seasonal Cycle of Harmful Algal Blooms

"A Monmouth University-led study published in the journal Urban Naturalist finds that Deal Lake is locked in a seasonal cycle that sees the system loaded with nutrients in the cold winter and early spring months, fueling bursts of cyanobacteria growth in the summer and early fall." This article describes the details of the cycle fueling harmful algal blooms (HABs) in Deal Lake, and the steps that need to be taken to address them.

<https://phys.org/news/2023-01-lake-caught-seasonal-algal-blooms.html>

Loss of Tree Canopy in Madison Highlighted at Council Meeting

Madison Borough experienced a net loss of 236 shade trees during 2022, with the main cause of loss being invasive insects. Borough residents are being encouraged to plant native hardwood trees on their property, and to report any potential spaces for public trees to be planted.

<https://patch.com/new-jersey/madison/loss-tree-canopy-madison-highlighted-council-meeting>

Unease in Toms River Over Settlement to Turn Superfund Site Into a Park

In this 5-minute news video, the recent settlement regarding the former Ciba-Geigy Superfund site, which turns most of the site into a park and requires a payment of \$100,000 from Ciba-Geigy's successor company is described. Interviews with an area resident and the mayor of Toms River put forth doubts about that settlement, including the

small size of the payment, and questions about who will ultimately pay for upkeep of the park and a planned environmental center.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/unease-in-toms-river-over-settlement-to-turn-superfund-site-into-a-park/> Another news video (4 minutes),

"Opposition in Toms River to Ciba-Geigy Superfund Site Proposal,"

shows a public meeting held by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) with Toms River residents, in which they express their opposition to the settlement, citing a lack of transparency and lack of public involvement.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/opposition-in-toms-river-to-ciba-geigy-superfund-site-settlement-proposal/>

Biden-Harris Administration Releases Inflation Reduction Act Guidebook for Clean Energy and Climate Programs

The White House has released the first edition of "Building a Clean Energy Economy: A Guidebook to the Inflation Reduction Act's Investments in Clean Energy and Climate Action" (available here:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Inflation-Reduction-Act-Guidebook.pdf>), which describes the law's tax

incentives and funding programs. The Guidebook is designed "to help state, local, territorial, and Tribal leaders, the private sector, non-profit organizations, homeowners, and communities better understand how they can benefit from these investments and unlock the full potential of the law. The Guidebook walks through the law program-by-program and provides background on each program's purpose, eligibility requirements, period of availability, and other key details."

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/12/15/biden-harris-administration-releases-inflation-reduction-act-guidebook-for-clean-energy-and-climate-programs/>



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
