



Environmental Justice Task Force Newsletter - September 2023

<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.

**JOIN THE MARCH TO
END FOSSIL FUELS**
SEPT 17TH - 1PM - NYC - 56TH & BROADWAY



Photo: Survival Media Agency

As world leaders prepare to attend the United Nations Secretary General’s Climate Ambition Summit, millions of people around the world will take to the streets to demand a rapid, just, and equitable end to fossil fuels. As part of this global wave of mobilizations, the "MARCH TO END FOSSIL FUELS" will take place in New York City on 9/17/2023. See <https://www.endfossilfuels.us> for information about the NYC march - transportation options are on the "Travel & Logistics" page. Marchers will gather at 56th Street and Broadway between 12 noon and 1:00 p.m., and the march will start at 1:00 p.m. Information about the worldwide "Global Fight to End Fossil Fuels - Fast, Fair, Forever" is available here: <https://fightfossilfuels.net>. Also see the Event on [p. 7](#).

Together, we are unstoppable as we build and imagine a fossil fuel-free world.

PLEASE JOIN US IN THIS HISTORIC MARCH!!

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UUFANJ GALA is 9/9/2023!! See [p. 5](#)

**PAID TEACHING AND CURRICULUM OPPORTUNITY -
CALLING PAST AND PRESENT NJ TEACHERS**

Join the SubjectToClimate Teacher Task Force!

Michael Skelly has represented EJTF in support of the initiative to teach climate change in NJ Schools. In 2020 NJ became the first state in the country to teach climate change in all grade levels K through 12 and all subjects in public schools. Now, EJTF is spreading the word and making connections to expand these climate education programs in NJ.

Here is an opportunity for any past or present NJ teachers to participate in a Task Force to create "New Jersey-based lesson plans for <https://njclimateeducation.org/> [the NJ Climate Change Education Hub] to inspire teachers to teach about climate change"

The SubjectToClimate Task Force members will be paid \$21/hour; the work schedule is remote and is flexible. Task Force members must be passionate about the mission, be able to create original content, have at least two years of formal teaching experience or two years in an educator role (e.g., in informal settings such as parks, zoos, aquariums, gardens, or community leadership); and have access to an Internet connection and a laptop or desktop computer. Auxiliary requirements include: knowledge of climate change topics; the ability to balance working independently and collaboratively; experience working in schools from overburdened and low-income communities (especially Title I schools); work experience in a variety of teaching positions including curriculum development; participation in hands-on, project-based, and/or problem-based learning; and experience with NJ Learning Standards

Additional information is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/56wzru68>. If you are interested, please contact EJTF Chair Peggy Middaugh at environment@uufaction.org.

FUTURE EVENTS - Virtual, In-person, and Hybrid

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

<p align="center">SEPTEMBER 2023 (with hyperlinks to details on the following pages)</p>						
<i>Sun.</i>	<i>Mon.</i>	<i>Tues.</i>	<i>Wed.</i>	<i>Thurs.</i>	<i>Fri.</i>	<i>Sat.</i>
					<p>1 "Media's Impact on Climate Action" - 2:30 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>MyCoast Madness KingTide Photo Contest</p>	<p>2 "Trees, Trees, Trees!" - 10:00 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p>MyCoast Madness KingTide Photo Contest</p>
<p>3 MyCoast Madness KingTide Photo Contest</p>	4	5	<p>6 i-Tree Open Academy - 1:00 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>Comments Due: NJBPU - Technical Conference on Reducing Emissions in the Natural Gas Sector</p>	<p>7 DRBC 3Q Business Meeting - 10:30 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p>NJDOT "NJ Safe Routes Academy" - 12:00 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>i-Tree Open Academy - 1:00 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>"Nuclear Power: Expensive Menace or Low-Carbon Solution?" - 7:30 p.m.</p>	8	<p>9 UUFANJ 2023 Gala - 12:00 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>Ethos Farm Project's "Farm Days Festival 2023"</p>
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Calendar continued from p. 2

<p>10 Ethos Farm Project's "Farm Days Festival 2023"</p>	<p>11 "Partnering with Nature and Technology to Address Climate Challenges" - 12:15 p.m.</p> <p>"Sequestering Carbon, Reducing Greenhouse Gases, and Building Climate Resilience through Organic Soil Health Practices" - 1:00 p.m.</p>	<p>12 "Climate-Smart Research for the Farms of the Future" - 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>NJDEP Salem County EJ Community Engagement Session - 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>"Chasing Carbon Zero" Film - 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Comments Due: NJBPU Energy Storage Incentive Program</p>	<p>13 i-Tree Open Academy - 1:00 p.m.</p>	<p>14 NJDOT "NJ Safe Routes Academy" - 12:00 p.m.</p> <p>"Forging a Future with Nature" - 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>"What's at Stake in the Farm Bill - Food Justice, the Climate, and Public Health" - 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 "Observing Nature: Inward and Outward" (NJSOC) - 9:00 a.m.</p>
<p>17 "Observing Nature: Inward and Outward" (NJSOC) - 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>March to End Fossil Fuels: New York, NY - 1:00 p.m.</p>	<p>18 "Overview of Energy Use in NJ and Renewable Energy's Role in Meeting NJ's Carbon Reduction Goals" - 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>"Hack Your Veggie Haul to Make the Most of Your Farmers' Market or CSA Goodies" - 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 NJ Clean Air Council - 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Pinelands Climate Committee - 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>"Kiss the Ground" Film & Discussion - 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>"Green Banks: Financing Climate Solutions" - 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>21 NJDEP Rulemaking - Advanced Clean Cars II Program - 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>NJDOT "NJ Safe Routes Academy" - 12:00 p.m.</p> <p>"Offshore Wind Development and the Structure and Function of Marine Ecosystems" - 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>"Balancing Lithium Production, Investment, and Policies for a Sustainable Energy Transition" - 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>NJ Woodlands Stewards Program</p>	<p>22 NJ Woodlands Stewards Program</p>	<p>23 "Bee Lining: The Exciting Sport of Bee Hunting" (NJSOC) - 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Howell Day & Green Fair EV Ride & Drive - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>NJ Woodlands Stewards Program</p>
<p>24 NJ Woodlands Stewards Program</p>	<p>25 "Residential Rooftop Solar for a Greener Garden State" - 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>26 "The Power of the People— Mobilizing for Climate Action" with Bill McKibben and Helen Mancini - 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 NJDOT "NJ Safe Routes Academy" - 12:00 p.m.</p> <p>"Creating Sustainable Systems: Soil, Carbon, and Food" - 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Delaware River Watershed Forum</p>	<p>29 Delaware River Watershed Forum</p>	<p>30 Tri County Sustainability Drive Electric Week EV Showcase - 10:00 a.m.</p>

FUTURE EVENTS

"Media's Impact on Climate Action" 9/1/2023, 2:30 p.m. - Webinar

"With 'climate change' a hot-button phrase that brings backlash and even death threats, how can reporters and meteorologists do their job - ensure that the public is engaged and informed?

Meteorologist Chris Gloninger didn't just want to warn people about the latest record-breaking storms. He wanted to talk about the science behind the changing weather. As scientists draw ever-clearer connections between climate change and extreme weather, Gloninger believes meteorologists should present this science to viewers. Bernadette Woods Placky and John Morales agree. Join the Samuel Lawrence Foundation as these award-winning meteorologists and climate defenders come together to describe the challenges the media faces when reporting on climate change, and envision how the media can bridge the gap between scientists and the public to drive climate literacy and civic action." Registration is available here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jeOywHzRQ_yi2eVeXNZi8A#/registration.

MyCoast Madness KingTide Photo Contest 9/1/2023 through 9/3/2023 - Online

"Calling All Citizen Scientists! The highest tides of 2023 are hitting our coast this summer. Submit photographs of flooding in your community for a chance to win prizes and be featured on our social media and websites." Enter by taking photos at high tide to capture the most extreme flooding. All photos submitted to the MyCoast High Water tool from August 28 – September 3 will be automatically entered. You can download the MyCoast app, or get additional information and upload to the website, here:

<https://mycoast.org/nj>.

"Trees, Trees, Trees!" 9/2/2023, 10:00 a.m. - In-person Bass River State Forest, Bass River Twp.

Join Junior Naturalist Finn for a hike, crafts and learning about the importance of all trees!

Meet at the Bass River State Forest Office at 10:00 a.m. for the hike, and meet at the Interpretive Center for crafts after the hike. Additional information is available here: <https://nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/education/calendar.html#sep-one>.

Comments Due 9/6/2023 on NJBPU - Technical Conference on Reducing Emissions in the Natural Gas Sector

On 2/15/2023, Gov. Murphy signed Executive Order 317, directing the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to develop recommendations regarding how the natural gas industry can reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to meet the Governor's goal of 50 percent reduction in GHG emissions below 2006 levels by 2030. Executive Order 317 further directs the BPU to engage with stakeholders regarding the development of natural gas utility plans consistent with the Governor's directive. The BPU held a Technical Conference to "begin the formal stakeholder engagement in the Future of the Natural Gas Utility Proceeding, as well as frame the policy and technical considerations that underpin this planning process." (The agenda showing areas that were covered is available here:

<https://www.nj.gov/bpu/pdf/publicnotice/8.7.23%20EO317%20Tech%20Conference%20Speakers.pdf>.)

Additional information, including topics under consideration and instructions for submitting any comments (**the comment deadline is 5:00 p.m. on 9/6/2023**) are available here: https://nj.gov/bpu/pdf/publicnotice/Notice_EO317TechConference.pdf

Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) Third Quarter 2023 Business Meeting 9/7/2023, 10:30 a.m. - via Zoom

The Business Meeting Agenda will be posted approximately ten days before the meeting at the website below. After all scheduled business has been completed and as time allows, the meeting will include up to one hour of Open Public Comment (in-person attendance and prior sign-up by 5 p.m. on 9/6/2023 is required). Additional information, including the link to register for the Zoom Webinar, is available here:

<https://www.state.nj.us/drbc/meetings/upcoming/#2>.



**NJDOT "NJ Safe Routes Academy"
9/7, 9/14, 9/21, and 9/28/2023,
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Online**

"The NJ Safe Routes Academy [SRTS], sponsored by the NJ Department of Transportation, features free online sessions to help participants make their communities more walk- and bike-friendly for all users of all abilities. The Safe Routes Academy is designed for parents, teachers, students, municipal leaders, local volunteers, and anyone else interested in improving conditions for walking and bicycling. Learn about the best practices and resources that you can use to increase safety and accessibility in your community." Sessions are as follows:

- 9/7/2023: Funding Your Bicycle & Pedestrian Project: NJ SRTS Infrastructure Grant Training;
- 9/14/2023: School Zone Safety Strategies;
- 9/21/2023: Safe Routes, Safe Roads, Safe Systems; and
- 9/28/2023: Safe Routes to High Schools.

Additional information is available here:

<https://www.saferoutesnj.org/safe-routes-academy/>.

**"Nuclear Power: Expensive Menace or Low-Carbon Solution?" - Webinar
9/7/2023, 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

Sponsored by Elders Climate Action, "this discussion will explore the question of whether next-generation nuclear technology should be a significant component of worldwide climate mitigation strategies. Kaylee Cunningham, MIT doctoral candidate in nuclear engineering and widely-recognized social media influencer - TikTok's "Ms. Nuclear Energy" - will present the pro-nuclear case. Vick Mohanka, Acting Chapter Director at the Massachusetts Sierra Club, will be articulating the continuing dangers and uncertainties of nukes." Additional information and the registration link are available here:

https://www.eldersclimateaction.org/event/9_7/.

**UUFANJ 2023 Gala
9/9/2023, 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Princeton, NJ - In-person**

The 2023 UU FaithAction NJ (UUFANJ) Annual Gala will be a luncheon at the beautiful Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton. The 2023 "Justice For All" Gala will honor the work and leadership that advances immigration justice and equity. Additional information and the link to purchase tickets are available here:

<https://www.uufaithaction.org/justice-for-all-2023-gala/>.

**Ethos Farm Project's
"Farm Days Festival 2023" - Hybrid
9/9/2023 - 9/10/2023
Long Valley, NJ - In-person
& Livestream of talks available**

"Ethos Farm Project in Long Valley is hosting a family-friendly 'Farm Days Festival' on September 9th & 10th. The Ethos Farm Project is a small non-profit with a big, important vision-regenerative, organic farming for the community. What is the festival all about? The interconnected nature of so many of the issues that our world is facing - global warming, declining human health, food insecurity, and the rapidly increasing toxicity of our air and water - are all issues that some of the finest speakers on these topics will discuss during this extraordinary two-day event. They will share simple and science-based solutions that will educate and inspire you....In addition to the speakers there will also be delicious food, all kinds of activities, local vendors, and opportunities to mingle with a vibrant community of people." Additional information and links to purchase tickets (Full Weekend Pass: \$135; Livestreaming Option for the Full Weekend: \$79 through 8/9, then going up to \$99; One Day Pass: \$75; food and parking additional) are available here:

<https://www.ethosfarmproject.org/farmdays>.

"Climate-Smart Research for the Farms of the Future" - Webinar
9/12/2023, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Part of the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) Briefing Series "Farm Bill in Focus," this webinar will explore "the latest advancements in agricultural research, technology, and practices....Research in areas ranging from drought-resistant crops to carbon sequestration and precision agriculture can provide new ways of mitigating and adapting to climate change....During this briefing, panelists will discuss innovations in agricultural research, as well as how to invest in, scale up, and evaluate effective practices. The briefing will also explore how new policies could further support ongoing agricultural research." Additional information and the registration link are available here: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/091223farmbill>.

NJDEP Salem County EJ Community Engagement Session - Hybrid
9/12/2023, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Salem, NJ - In-person & on Zoom

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) invites Salem County residents to attend an 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 Commissioner LaTourette and EPA Region 2 Administrator Garcia and discuss environmental justice issues in Salem County. It is one of a series being conducted by DEP in communities across NJ. Registration for in-person participation is voluntary, but recommended to assist communication. Registration is required for virtual attendance, to send the link for the Zoom livestream. Additional information including how to register to receive the Zoom link is available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/ej/salem-county-ej-event-20230912.pdf>.

"Chasing Carbon Zero" Film Showing
9/12/2023, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Newton, NJ - In-person

Join the Sierra Club NJ Skylands Group for an in-person showing of the PBS Nova film "Chasing Carbon Zero." Can the U.S. reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 and avoid the biggest impacts of climate change? Experts say it can be done. This event is free and open to the public. Additional information is available here: <https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7013q000001rO7oAAE&mapLinkHref=https://maps.google.com/maps&daddr=Chasing%20Carbon%20Zero@41.048775,-74.757778>.

Comments Due 9/12/2023 on NJBPU Energy Storage Incentive Program

The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) first proposed its Energy Storage Incentive Program (SIP) in 9/2022, and held three public stakeholder meetings from which it received more than 61 written comments. See the article on [p. 16](#). The BPU has issued a Request for Information containing questions it has developed after reviewing the comments. Stakeholders' answers to the questions will factor into an anticipated revised SIP. **The deadline for comments is 5:00 p.m. on 9/12/2023.** Additional information, including instructions for submitting comments, is available here: https://www.nj.gov/bpu/pdf/publicnotice/Notice_RFI_NJEnergyStorageIncentiveProgram.pdf.

"Forging a Future with Nature"
9/14/2023, 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- Webinar

This is the first of a "Beyond Pesticides" webinar series which will continue through October and November. "A future supported by the natural environment depends on our effective involvement in decisions in our homes, communities, states, and at the federal level to ensure that we are taking the steps necessary to protect against existential threats to health, biodiversity, and climate. The Forum is an important opportunity to hear from those working as scientists, advocates, land managers (from gardens, parks, play fields to farms), and public decision makers about steps being taken and action needed to prevent catastrophic collapse of

the natural systems that sustain life." Additional information and registration are available here: <https://nationalorganiccoalition.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2dcd31b9f740c722eb5d5f62d&id=5ebb92e8e4&e=906f8b6f26>

"What's at Stake in the Farm Bill -- Food Justice, the Climate, and Public Health"
9/14/2023, 8:00 p.m. - Webinar

This webinar sponsored by Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC) will be presented by Pamela Hess, Executive Director, Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture. In Pamela's words, "I will talk a little bit about the farm bill - and about an alternative farm bill proposed by Earl Blumenauer every year - but my strength is talking about the food system as it is, and how we are trying to make it more equitable and more sustainable. Before the layman can assess the farm bill, they need to understand the weaknesses (and strengths) of the current ag system." Additional information and the link to register are available here: <https://uujec.org/webinars>.

MARCH TO END FOSSIL FUELS
9/17/2023, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
New York, NY - In-person

Planned for just before the United Nations Climate Ambition Summit, this major climate march is being organized by a coalition of local and national organizations and has been endorsed by over 200 organizations so far, including the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), the Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ) and the UU Ministry for Earth (UUMFE). "We will demand that President Biden show real climate leadership by rejecting new fossil fuel projects and declaring a climate emergency." **Marchers will gather at 56th Street and Broadway between 12 noon and 1:00 p.m., and the march will start at 1:00 p.m.** Additional information is available here: <https://www.endfossilfuels.us>. Travel information (buses and trains) is on the "Travel & Logistics" tab. The Eco-Logic radio/internet program on WBAI (co-hosted by **EJTF member Sally Gellert**) show about the March is available here: <https://wbai.org/archive/program/episode/?id=44173>

"Overview of Energy Use in NJ and Renewable Energy's Role in Meeting NJ's Carbon Reduction Goals" - Webinar
9/18/2023, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

As part of the Rutgers "Earth Day Every Day" ReNew New Jersey webinar series, Dave Specca, Assistant Director of the Rutgers EcoComplex, will provide a summary of overall energy use, and the amount of clean energy currently produced in NJ. "A discussion of the future mix of renewable energy production in New Jersey, and the role it will play in meeting the State's greenhouse gas reduction goals, will be covered. The need to utilize renewable energy technologies that conserve our valuable land will also be discussed." Additional information and the registration link are available here: <https://envirostewards.rutgers.edu/earth-day-every-day/>.

"Hack Your Veggie Haul to Make the Most of Your Farmers' Market or CSA Goodies"
9/18/2023, 7:00 p.m. - Webinar

This webinar is sponsored by the Foodshed Alliance (of which **EJTF member Christine Dunbar** is the Paulins Kill Watershed Coordinator) and presented by Kate Munning, who "tends a small but mighty food forest on Schooley's Mountain and orchestrates farm dinners at the Community Supported Garden at Genesis Farm." She "has a trove of tips, tricks, and recipes to help you make the most of your farmers' market finds or CSA share. Learn to love challenging and unfamiliar produce, get insight on prep and storage, and make meals your family will enjoy. Impress your friends, eliminate waste, and get the most bang for your buck. All your questions answered!" Additional information and the registration link are available here: <https://foodshedalliance.org/kfkg-learn-more/>.

NJ Clean Air Council Meeting - Hybrid
9/20/2023, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Trenton, NJ - In-person & Virtual

The in-person meeting will be held at NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) headquarters in Trenton, NJ. For information about accessing the meeting virtually, contact Clean Air Council Liaison George Berdomas via email at George.Berdomas@dep.nj.gov. Additional information is available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/event/clean-air-council-meeting-20230920/>.

Pinelands Commission Climate Committee Meeting
9/20/2023, 9:30 a.m.
Location is forthcoming

Additional information on location, agenda, and other details will be available here, on the "Meetings" tab: <https://www.state.nj.us/pinelands/>.

"Kiss the Ground" Film & Discussion
9/20/2023 - 6:30 p.m. (film screening);
8:00 p.m. (discussion)
East Brunswick, NJ - In-person

The East Brunswick Public Library "Option Green" program is presenting a screening of the climate change documentary "Kiss the Ground," which portrays "the global movement of Regenerative Agriculture that could balance our climate, replenish our vast water supplies, and feed the world." A live discussion will take place afterwards with Dr. Joseph Heckman, Ph.D., a Professor of Soil Science, Rutgers University, who conducts research and extension programs on optimizing nutrition and soil quality in support of plant, animal, and human health. [Note: the film is also available on Netflix and for rent on Vimeo.] Additional information, including the film's trailer, is available here: <https://ilove.ebpl.org/adults/events/option-green-documentary-discussion-kiss-ground/2023-09-20-223000-2023-09-21-003000>.

"Green Banks: Financing Climate Solutions" - Webinar
9/20/2023, 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

This forum, sponsored by Elders Climate Action, "will be a full, informative discussion about green banks on the national level, the workings of an actual green bank, and the plans for the new green bank in Massachusetts." Speakers include: Paul Mark, State Senator from Western Mass., Nanya Young, Director of Policy and Network at the Coalition for Green Capital, and Eric Shrago, Vice President of Operations at the Connecticut Green Bank. Additional information and the registration link are available here: https://www.eldersclimateaction.org/event/9_20/.

Public Hearing: NJDEP Rulemaking - Advanced Clean Cars II Program
9/21/2023, 9:30 a.m. - Virtual

"The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is proposing the promulgation of new Air Pollution Control rules....The primary component of this rulemaking is the incorporation by reference of California's Advanced Clean Cars II (ACC II) regulation, which will require manufacturers of passenger cars and light-duty trucks to meet an annual zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) requirement intended to increase the percentage of ZEVs sold in New Jersey that meet the minimum technical requirements. Additionally, the ACC II regulation includes more stringent multi-pollutant exhaust emission standards that manufacturers of internal combustion engine passenger cars, light-duty trucks, and medium-duty vehicles must meet....A public hearing concerning the proposal will be conducted virtually via the Department's video conferencing software on September 21, 2023 at 9:30 A.M." Additional information, including the link to join the meeting and instructions for providing oral comments, is available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/rules/notice-of-rule-proposals/20230821a/>.

**"Balancing Lithium Production,
Investment, and Policies for a Sustainable
Energy Transition" - Hybrid
9/21/2023, 6:00 p.m.
New York, NY - In-person & Livestreamed**

"Join the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University's School of International Public Affairs (CGEP) and Columbia Electrochemical Energy Center (CEEC) along with other influential figures across the battery supply chain, environmental groups, civil society stakeholders, and analytical experts..." in this panel discussion. "One of the most pressing questions in the realm of global energy transition is, 'How should we ensure a secure, sufficient, and sustainable lithium supply?' This discussion encompasses multifaceted aspects, including production, investment, and regulation, which require a collective effort from diverse stakeholders....[and] delves into the complexities and challenges of lithium supply and its impact on the energy transition." Additional information and the links to register for the in-person event or for the livestream are available here:

<https://www.energypolicy.columbia.edu/events/balancing-lithium-production-investment-and-policies-for-a-sustainable-energy-transition/>.

**NJ Woodland Stewards Program
9/21/2023 - 9/24/2023
Sandyston, NJ - In-person**

"The New Jersey Woodland Stewards Program is a volunteer forestry education program sponsored by the NJ Forestry Association, Rutgers Cooperative Extension and the NJ Forest Service designed for those who embrace a forest stewardship ethic, who want to learn more about sustainable forest management, and are willing to share what they learn with others." The program starts on 9/21/2023 at 4:00 p.m. and ends on 9/24/2023 at 3:15 p.m. **The \$75 registration fee for the 3-1/2 day program includes all meals, lodging, supplies, handouts, indoor meeting areas, and study in the surrounding forest. In return, each participant agrees to volunteer 30 hours promoting forestry in New Jersey.** Additional information, including the reservation link, is available here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-new-jersey-woodland-stewards-program-registration-634805378977>.

**Howell Day & Green Fair EV Ride & Drive
9/23/2023, 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Howell, NJ - In-person**

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Township of Howell "are thrilled to offer a free, public EV Ride & Drive event during the annual Howell Day & Green Fair. Stop by Soldier Memorial Park on September 23rd to test drive a variety of EV makes and models from local dealerships and manufacturers. Stop by DEP's DriveGreen table to learn about valuable incentives, get your clean transportation questions answered, and score some of our signature DriveGreen giveaways." Howell Day will run from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., with the EV Ride & Drive from 3-7 p.m. In addition to the EV Ride & Drive, the fair will feature a variety of activities, including live music, vendor tables, inflatable and mechanical rides, and fireworks at dusk. Additional information is available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/event/howell-day-green-fair-ev-ride-drive/>.

**"Residential Rooftop Solar for a Greener
Garden State" - Webinar
9/25/2023, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

As part of the Rutgers "Earth Day Every Day" ReNew New Jersey webinar series, Dr. Dunbar Birnie, Rutgers University Department of Materials Science and Engineering, "will shed light on the technical, financial, and policy aspects of adding solar to your house in New Jersey. Is it a scam? What are your options? How should you move forward with new solar? Your big solar questions will be answered." Additional information and the registration link are available here: <https://envirostewards.rutgers.edu/earth-day-every-day/>.

**"The Power of the People—Mobilizing for
Climate Action" with Bill McKibben &
Youth Organizer Helen Mancini - Webinar
9/26/2023, 7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.**

Longtime climate activist Bill McKibben, youth organizer Helen Mancini, and a number of Elders who attended the "March to End Fossil Fuels" mass mobilization in NYC will join this Elders Climate Action monthly National Call to discuss

the impacts of the mobilization, the outcomes of the UN Climate Ambition, and look toward what comes next. Additional information and the registration link are available here: https://www.eldersclimateaction.org/event/nc_sept23/

**"Creating Sustainable Systems: Soil, Carbon, and Food" - Webinar
9/28/2023, 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

In this webinar sponsored by Elders Climate Action, "the panel will highlight some of the technical/economic/political/practical challenges and opportunities that we need to honestly face in order to make nature-based climate-improving strategies actually work at scale." Panelists include: David Montgomery, Professor of Geology at University of Washington and an expert on regenerative agriculture, who will focus on farming for soil quality as a way to both feed our growing population and reduce greenhouse gases; Walter Willett, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Professor of Epidemiology and Nutrition, currently the co-chair of the EAT-Lancet Commission on sustainable nutrition; and Ilan Zugman, 350.org's Latin America Director. Additional information and the registration link are available here: https://www.eldersclimateaction.org/event/9_28/.

**Delaware River Watershed Forum
9/28/2023 & 9/29/2023
Wilmington, DE - In-person**

The 11th Annual Delaware River Watershed Forum will take place 9/28/2023 and 9/29/2023 at The Chase Center On The Riverfront In Wilmington, DE. "The Delaware River Watershed Forum serves as a fun and meaningful opportunity for Coalition members, legislators, watershed advocates, environmental and community organizations, agencies, foundations and charitable trusts, constituents and residents, businesses, and students to convene and collaborate on protecting the Delaware River Watershed. Together, this working conference provides a platform to brainstorm solutions, identify gaps, improve skills, and build relationships to advance our shared goals....We are offering an early-bird special on our two-day registration...\$200 through August 25." Additional information, including the agenda and details

about registration, are available here (click "Register Now" to be taken to the page with details): <https://www.delriverwatershed.org/2023-forum>.

**Tri County Sustainability Drive Electric Week EV Showcase
9/30/2023, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Deptford, NJ - In-person**

"Join Tri County Sustainability as we host our 2023 EV Showcase for Drive Electric Week! Co-hosted by the South Jersey Electric Vehicle Club, The New Jersey Electric Vehicle Association, and the Delaware Valley Tesla Owners Club. We'll have many models of electric vehicles on display, and a chance to speak with current owners about the ease of going electric. Learn about NJ & Utility incentives from the NJDEP [NJ Department of Environmental Protection] Drive Green Team! Please join us for the family friendly free event!" Additional information is available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/event/tcs-drive-electric-week-ev-showcase/>.

**The NJ School of Conservation (NJSOC) Programs
Sandyston, NJ - In-person**

EJTF has been following the NJ School of Conservation's (NJSOC) situation over the past several years, and it is good to see that the NJSOC is continuing and providing programs. In September, the following programs may be of interest; additional programs, of a recreational nature, can be found here: <https://friendsofnjsoc.org/events/>.

**"Observing Nature: Inward and Outward" (NJSOC)
9/16/ - 9/17/2023, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- (either a ONE- or a TWO-DAY SESSION)
Sandyston, NJ - In-person**

"An intuitive and exciting program to enhance participants' lives with practical instruction on how to develop powers of observation. 'Observing Nature: Inward and Outward' is created and led by Peter Del Vecchio, a life coach, environmentalist, nature photographer, and former yogic monk. The weekend's activities are specifically designed to increase awareness of one's own abilities of observation, both internally

(perceptions and feelings) and externally (increased awareness of the natural world which surrounds). The very concept of 'observation' itself and how to strengthen one's awareness and daily application form the core of the program. The instructor-led activities will include simple, yet powerful, mindfulness techniques, deep relaxation instruction, nature observation walks (some silent), private journaling, cell phone nature photography, as well as fun 'camp' activities, such as a campfire with s'mores, stories, etc. This program is designed for ages 12 to adult, and no prior experience is required." Although this is a two-day program, single-day tickets are also available as space allows. Additional information including registration link (\$119.00 - \$199.00) is available here: <https://friendsofnjsoc.org/event/observing-nature-inward-and-outward-2/>.

**"Bee Lining: The Exciting Sport of Bee Hunting" (NJSOC)
9/23/2023, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
(rain date 9/24/2023)
Sandyston, NJ - In-person**

"Discover the lost art of Bee Lining! This once-popular sport is little known today. Bee careful as we're certain you'll get hooked! Join bee enthusiast, Kevin Roche, in this introduction to bee lining, a method used to locate a colony of wild honey bees. We'll learn how to distinguish honey bees from other pollinators (such as bumble bees, wasps, etc.), catch and mark foraging honey bees using a bee box, and use techniques to estimate the direction and distance to an active hive. This sport naturally provides us with opportunities to discuss the importance of pollinators, the numerous challenges they face including climate change, loss of habitat, varroa mites, and insecticide use, and how any of these may contribute to colony collapse disorder. It also provides a great opportunity to practice our orienteering skills!....There's sure to be a lot of buzz about this new SOC program!" This program is open to ages 14+. Participants under age 18 must be accompanied by a parent. Additional information including registration link (\$40.00) is available here: <https://friendsofnjsoc.org/event/bee-lining-the-exciting-sport-of-bee-hunting/>.

**i-Tree Open Academy - Virtual
Various dates, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

"i-Tree is a state-of-the-art, peer-reviewed software suite from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service that provides urban and rural forestry analysis and benefits assessment tools. The i-Tree tools can help strengthen forest management and advocacy efforts by quantifying forest structure and the environmental benefits that trees provide. Since the initial release of the i-Tree Tools in August 2006, thousands of communities, non-profit organizations, consultants, volunteers and students around the world have used i-Tree to report on individual trees, parcels, neighborhoods, cities, and even entire states. By understanding the local ecosystem services that trees provide, i-Tree users can link forest management activities with environmental quality and community livability. Whether your interest is a single tree or an entire forest, i-Tree provides data that you can use to demonstrate value and set priorities for more effective decision-making." The i-Tree Open Academy will provide a broad introduction to the i-Tree suite of tools. Several sessions have already taken place (i.e., "Introduction to i-Tree," "Online with MyTree, i-Tree Design, and i-Tree Planting," "The view from the top: i-Tree Canopy and OurTrees," and "i-Tree Landscape: Your data, maps, and equity portal") but recordings are available. Remaining sessions (i.e., **9/6/2023** - "i-Tree Eco - the flagship tool;" **9/7/2023** - Open office hours; and **9/13/2023** - "Putting i-Tree to Work") can be livestreamed or recordings may be viewed later. Additional information and links to register and to view recordings are available here: <https://www.itreetools.org/support/i-tree-open-academy-summer-2023>.

Rutgers Climate Institute Listing of Climate Seminars

Multiple online events are listed on this site. A sampling of September listings is below; check the site periodically for an updated list, here: <https://climatesociety.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/range.listevents/>.

"Partnering with Nature and Technology to Address Climate Challenges" - Hybrid 9/11/2023, 12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. Princeton, NJ - In-person & Livestreamed

This Princeton University Center for Policy Research on Energy and the Environment seminar will be presented by David J. Hayes, "a Lecturer in Law at Stanford Law School and a Senior Fellow at the Natural Resources Defense Council. Since returning to Stanford in January 2023, Hayes has been working through Stanford's Law School and the new Doerr Sustainability School on climate matters, with a special focus on climate resilience and nature-based climate solutions, including climate-smart agriculture and forestry practices." Additional information, including the link to the Livestream, is available here: <https://climatesociety.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/icalrepeat.detail/2023/09/11/7928/-/bradford-seminar-partnering-with-nature-and-technology-to-address-climate-challenges>.

"Sequestering Carbon, Reducing Greenhouse Gases, and Building Climate Resilience through Organic Soil Health Practices" - Webinar 9/11/2023, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

In this webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Mark Schonbeck, Research Associate with the Organic Farming Research Foundation, Santa Cruz, CA, "will review the latest research findings on Greenhouse Gas (GHG) mitigation and climate resilience potential of organic systems, and will provide practical tips on how organic producers and conservation professionals can work together toward the goal of climate-neutral farming." A link to additional information including how to register/join is available here:

<https://climatesociety.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/icalrepeat.detail/2023/09/11/7929/-/sequestering-carbon-reducing-greenhouse-gases-and-building-climate-resilience-through-organic-soil-health-practices>. [Note: this event uses Adobe Connect.]

"Offshore Wind Development and the Structure and Function of Marine Ecosystems" - Webinar 9/21/2023, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

This webinar, sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and presented by Jon Hare of the NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center, "will explore the potential interactions of this growing industry [i.e., offshore wind development] with the structure and function of marine ecosystems and what science is still needed to better understand these interactions." Additional information, including the registration link, is available here: <https://climatesociety.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/icalrepeat.detail/2023/09/21/7932/-/developing-offshore-wind-in-us-waters-part-2-offshore-wind-development-and-the-structure-and-function-of-marine-ecosystems>.

A graphic with the text "SAVE THE DATE!" in white capital letters on an orange rectangular background, framed by thin blue and yellow lines.

UU FaithAction NJ Fall Issues Conference 10/21/2023 - Hybrid Cherry Hill, NJ - In-person & online

All UUs in New Jersey are encouraged to attend UUFANJ's Fall Issues Conference, as we prepare for another year of UU education, advocacy and mobilization in the Garden State! Additional information is available here: <https://www.uufaithaction.org/event/faithaction-fall-issues-conference/>.

VIDEOS OF PAST EVENTS

"Unpacking the Farm Bill" - Video of Webinar

In this webinar sponsored by the Elders Climate Action Network, Scott Faber, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs at Environmental Working Group (EWG), unpacked the Farm Bill, "the next must-pass bill in Congress this year," including "what we need to know to protect critical funds that can help address the climate crisis." Scott Faber leads EWG's government affairs efforts, and has testified before Congress on food, farm, energy, water and chemical policy issues. The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAj3DipsrCA>.

New NJ Inland Flood Protection Rule Informational Webinar - Video of Webinar

This Association of NJ Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) webinar provided details on NJ's new Inland Flood Hazard Protection rules, which now are the most protective flood hazard rules in the country, and the first to use climate modeling to regulate land use to improve environmental protection, public health and safety. Representatives from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) were present to help answer questions and explain the requirements for municipalities. The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKMTlykq4ngR>.

"Availability, Production Challenges, and Producer Needs" - Video of Webinar

In this webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Jared Zystro, PhD, Research & Education Co-Director, Organic Seed Alliance, Arcata, CA, "describe[d] findings from Organic Seed Alliance's State of Organic Seed report. Trends in organic seed sourcing and availability, needs of organic seed producers, climate change impacts, and the importance of adapted varieties [were] highlighted." A link to register to view the webinar is available here:

<https://conservationwebinars.net/webinars/organic-seed-current-research-in-availability-production-challenges-and-producer-needs>.

"Wind Project Updates – Ørsted & Atlantic Shores" - Video of Webinar

In this webinar, part of the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) 2023 Climate Mini-Series, Ocean Wind 1 project Permit Manager Katharine Perry, along with a representative from the Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind project, provided updates on these two offshore wind projects. The video has now been posted on the ANJEC YouTube Channel and is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xq68Yu3RINc>.

2023 Watershed Congress - Videos of Sessions

The Watershed Congress is presented annually by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and its partner organizations as well as private individuals. It "brings together people working across different disciplines focused on protecting, restoring, and understanding our precious waterways. Experts in advocacy, science, policy, and many other fields share their knowledge....In 2023, the Watershed Congress was offered as a hybrid event....[and] Now everyone can watch select in-person presentations as well as all of the webinars..." Sessions that may be of interest include: "Tree Monitoring Standards in Action: Tree Checkers," "Vacant Lots and Urban Gardens," and "A Global and Local Look at How Plastics Enter Streams." The videos are available here:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3yVl0q9sFlzm04_kj8tDceJHGeowuROh.

"Climate Catalysts: Unveiling the Power of Regulatory Work" - Video of Webinar

In this webinar sponsored by the Elders Climate Action Network, Dani Hupper, Deputy Campaigns Director for Evergreen Action, shared "her expertise and firsthand experiences in navigating the complexities of regulatory initiatives, and exploring the potential of regulatory action to catalyze positive change in our fight against climate change." The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WKg6IkduERA>.

"Changing Climate, Changing Forests: Exploring the US Forest Service's 2020 RPA Assessment" - Video of Webinar

"Each decade, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service releases a report on US forest and rangeland conditions and trends. The 2020 Resources Planning Act (RPA) Assessment, released on July 24, [2023] uses new and improved analytical tools to assess the effects of socioeconomic and climate change on forest resources, water, natural disasters, wildlife, and more. Ultimately, the report finds that climate change and other factors are threatening critical landscapes across the United States." In this webinar, "Resources for the Future (RFF) and the USDA Forest Service unpacked the findings from the 2020 RPA Assessment...[and] Our panel of leading land use, climate, and policy experts explored the implications of our changing forest resources and discussed what can be done to strengthen forests in the United States. The event also featured an opening address by US Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment Homer Wilkes." The video is available here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=as6z_swIjPQ.

NEWS RELATED TO EJTF ISSUES

[covering 7/27/2023 – 8/26/2023]

Edward Lloyd, Pioneering Garden State Environmentalist, Dead at 74

The NJ environmental community mourned the death of Edward Lloyd on 8/5/2023. "A dedicated champion of climate action, Ed played an integral role in shaping and advancing my administration's crucial climate agenda, fighting to protect New Jersey's sensitive environmental resources, and holding polluters accountable," Gov. Phil Murphy said in a statement.

As stated in this article summarizing his career, he "had a role in advancing practically every major environmental initiative in New Jersey over the last half century."

<https://tinyurl.com/bp8c9sy7>

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Fighting Urban Heat Island Effects in Newark

According to this article, "Newark had the second-highest average urban heat island index, based upon total area, among 44 large cities in the U.S., according to a July 2023 analysis from Climate Central....Of the 705,936 people who live in Newark as of the 2020 U.S. census, 198,512 live in census tracts with 8 degrees Fahrenheit or more of urban heat island effect." [A 4-1/2-minute video of Climate Central's analysis, which includes a heat map of Newark neighborhoods, is available here:

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/heat-island-effect-drives-up-temperatures-in-nj-cities/>.] Urban heat islands can be shown to be a direct result of past redlining. NJ U.S. Representative Betsy Watson Coleman has introduced the "Stay Cool Act" which, among other things, creates a grant program for tree planting in overburdened communities, which has been shown to lower temperatures. A 3-minute video is included in the article, showing steps taken to reduce heat in the Ironbound Community Corporation's (ICC) community farm, "Down Bottom Farms."

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/08/feeling-urban-heat-island-effects-in-newark-nj-and-fighting-them-mental-health-redlining/>

NJ State Budget: Experts Worry About People of Color in Urban Communities

This article describes how "New Jersey's Clean Energy Fund was expected to be a life saver for urban communities of color in transitioning to sustainable sources of energy and upgrading costly infrastructure, [but] Gov. Phil Murphy's budget this year slashes millions from the program and diverts those funds to other areas, despite a state surplus."

<https://srhub.org/2023/07/21/nj-state-budget-experts-worry-about-people-of-color-in-urban-communities/>

FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE

Multiple State AGs, NJ Rate Counsel Join Environmental Groups in Challenging FERC's Flawed Approval of Unneeded REAE Fossil Fuel Project

As described in this article, "A coalition of environmental organizations are being backed by eight state Attorneys General and the New Jersey Ratepayer Advocate in their appeal of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) approval of a Williams Co. subsidiary's Regional Energy Access Expansion (REAE) project, which would expand natural gas compressor stations in Branchburg and Old Bridge and build a new natural gas compressor station in West Deptford, plus 36.1 miles of pipeline in PA." Multiple arguments against FERC's approval of the project are given, including the agency's ignoring NJ's findings that the project is not needed. See <https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/multiple-state-ag-s-nj-rate-counsel-join-environmental-groups-in-challenging-fercs-flawed-approval-of-unneeded-reae-fossil-fuel-project/>. Additional information is available in this article:

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/08/nj-attorney-general-joins-7-others-challenging-interstate-natural-gas-pipeline-expansion/>.

LAND MANAGEMENT/ AGRICULTURE/FOOD

Booker Introduces Legislation to Protect Farmland from Corporate Consolidation

This article describes the "Farmland for Farmers Act" introduced by NJ U.S. Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) "that would address rising rates of corporate farmland investment by limiting future ownership and leasing by corporate investors to ensure that farmland in the United States stays in the hands of farmers."

<https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/booker-introduces-legislation-to-protect-farmland-from-corporate-consolidation/>



"200" = the Number of Pick-Your-Own Farms in the Aptly Named Garden State

This article provides information and website links to lists of the close to 200 "pick-your-own" farms in NJ. The linked websites describe what's available at each farm, and one also includes a NJ growing season calendar.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/08/nj-has-200-pick-your-own-farms-fruit-vegetables/>

RENEWABLE RESOURCES (other than Offshore Wind)

BPU Bumps up Community Solar From Pilot to Full-Fledged Program

This article describes the permanent NJ community solar program approved by the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU), and gives the history of the program and its effects. (The BPU press release about the program, which includes a link to the "NJ Community Solar Project Finder" tool, is available here:

<https://www.nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/2023/approved/20230816.html>.) The permanent program addresses some issues that occurred during the program's pilot phase by allowing low- and moderate-income (LMI) residents to self-attest their income on community solar applications, and by including more simplified, consolidated billing.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/08/nj-bpu-doubles-down-on-community-solar-program/>

OFFSHORE WIND

GENERAL

What New Jersey's Community Solar Program Means for Renters and Low-Income Residents

According to this article, "In New Jersey, there are more than 1.2 million renter households, and many of them are rent- and energy-burdened (an excessive amount of the household income is spent on rent and energy expenses). The state's Community Solar Energy Program is intended to help address some of those burdens. Community solar programs in New Jersey must keep special considerations in play for low- and moderate-income (LMI) residents." The article describes benefits and challenges related to the program; also see the previous article on [p.15](#).

<https://srhub.org/2023/08/03/what-new-jerseys-community-solar-program-means-for-renters-and-low-income-residents/>

BPU Tries Another Tack to Drum up Investment in Energy Storage

"For the second time in a year, the [NJ] Board of Public Utilities [BPU] is soliciting input from industry executives, energy advocates and utility officials on a proposal to store power from renewable energy to keep the lights on for homes and businesses....One of the most contentious issues revolves around whether the state's utilities ought to be excluded from owning and operating energy-storage projects, a situation that would require their customers to fund the systems on their monthly bills....Under the program proposed by the agency staff, incentives would be available to energy-storage devices that are either grid-supply or customer-level projects. A portion of distributed storage projects would be set aside to serve overburdened communities, which have not benefited as much from the emerging clean-energy transition." **The deadline for comments is 5:00 p.m. on 9/12/2023; see p. 6.**

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/08/nj-bpu-offers-energy-storage-incentives-as-state-falls-well-behind-targets/>

Top Democrats Grow Wary About Unanswered Questions on Offshore Wind

As a likely response to recent developments in offshore wind such as the four new projects proposed for NJ (see article below), the subsidy recently awarded to Ørsted, and the contentiousness of the issue in light of the upcoming elections, "the Democratic Senate president and Assembly speaker...issued a joint statement expressing concerns about the state Board of Public Utilities' approach on promoting offshore wind projects, citing concerns about its potential cost to utility customers and its impact on New Jersey's lucrative tourism industry."

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/08/nj-democratic-leaders-express-concerns-about-offshore-wind-costs-and-impacts/>

NJ's Most Ambitious Pitch for Offshore Wind Power, Multiple Bids Expected

This article describes the latest solicitation for offshore wind projects in NJ. "The request by the Board of Public Utilities is for bids to develop between 1.2 gigawatts and 4 gigawatts of offshore wind capacity and has the potential to be significantly larger than either of two previous awards by the agency." Four proposals were ultimately received (see article below).

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/08/njs-solicits-major-offshore-wind-power-projects-multiple-bids-expected/>

Four New Offshore Wind Projects Proposed for NJ

This 1-minute news video describes the "Proposals for four new wind farm projects [that] were submitted to the state on Friday [8/4/2023]....from a combination of U.S. and European-based companies....[T]wo of the new proposals would place the wind turbines beyond the view of the coast. That's twice as far as some of the projects that've already been approved by the state. If all four proposals are approved, it

would more than double the wind energy projects planned for New Jersey."

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/four-new-offshore-wind-projects-proposed-for-nj/>

OCEAN WIND 1 PROJECT

Ørsted to Be First Tenant of NJ Wind Port

This 1-1/2-minute news video describes the NJ Economic Development Authority's (EDA) approval of a 2-year, \$25 million lease with Ørsted for 34 acres at the NJ Wind Port in Salem County, in support of its Ocean Wind 1 offshore wind project. The video also describes a lawsuit filed by offshore wind opponents that challenges the constitutionality of NJ's awarding hundreds of millions of dollars of Federal tax credits to Ørsted (see article below).

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/orsted-to-be-first-tenant-of-nj-wind-port/>



Defend Brigantine Beach, Protect Our Coast NJ Sue to Stop Ørsted Subsidies

"In a court filing announced today [7/28/2023], opponents of Ørsted's offshore wind turbine project asked NJ Superior Court to strike down Ørsted's nearly \$1 billion subsidy in violation of the New Jersey Constitution." They maintain that "In New Jersey, laws that favor a single private party are generally unconstitutional." The NJ Division of Rate Counsel had previously denounced the bill that provides the subsidy.

<https://www.downbeach.com/2023/07/28/defend-brigantine-beach-protect-our-coast-nj-sues-to-stop-orsted-subsidies/>

Cape May County to Appeal Court Order on Ørsted Easement

Cape May County was ordered by a Superior Court Assignment Judge to file an easement transferring county property interests to the Danish offshore wind company Ørsted's Ocean Wind One project. The County has stated that it will appeal the judge's decision.

<https://ocnjdaily.com/cape-may-county-appeal-court-order-orsted-easement/>

ATLANTIC SHORES PROJECT

Raucous Hearing on Offshore Wind Energy Route Through Atlantic City

"A large group of folks wearing shirts that said 'Wind Breakers' and holding signs saying 'Stop the Windmills' often interrupted Thursday night's [7/27/2023] 3½-hour scoping hearing at [Atlantic City] City Hall for a plan by Atlantic Shores to move electricity across the city from a planned offshore wind farm. It wasn't easy to hear the information from company representatives over their almost constant negative comments, but the plan eventually became clear." (See the article below.) EJTF Chair Peggy Middaugh and EJTF member Michael Skelly attended the meeting, and had planned to give oral statements, but opted to submit them only in writing due to the raucous nature of the meeting, in which about 60% of the participants were against wind farms; some of the pro-wind farm people were even pursued into the parking lot after the meeting.

<https://tinyurl.com/27zxht2el>

Wind Execs Catch Hell At Atlantic City Public Hearing

This article provides the viewpoint of the opponents to the Atlantic Shores wind farm, and includes a 9-minute video showing their testimony and some of the high-spirited portions of the hearing that was held 7/27/2023 in Atlantic City related to bringing cables onshore (see the article above).

<https://downbeachbuzz.com/wind-execs-catch-hell-at-atlantic-city-public-hearing/>

OFFSHORE WIND and MARINE LIFE

Fishermen's Alliance Highlights Offshore Wind Threat to Haddock, Lobster Fisheries

Although this article focuses on the Gulf of Maine, the alliance of 9 Northeast fishermen's groups has sent a letter (available here:

<https://subscriber.politicopro.com/f/?id=00000189-cce4-d1b8-adff-fde6ffdd0000>) to governors and U.S.

Senators from seven states, including NJ, to protest the buildout of offshore wind prior to "A more robust and thorough evaluation of environmental concerns." The letter transmits an "Offshore Wind Research Summary" report by one of the groups (available here:

<https://subscriber.politicopro.com/f/?id=00000189-cce5-dee7-a7ab-ecfdee740000>), which includes

descriptions of potential wind farm impacts on marine life.

<https://www.nefishermen.org/post/fishermen-s-alliance-highlights-offshore-wind-threat-to-haddock-lobster-fisheries-in-gulf-of-maine>

NJDEP Statement on August 12, 2023 Whale Stranding

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) issued the following statement: "A juvenile humpback whale stranded on a Long Branch beach Saturday 8/12 was observed to have significant injuries to its head, suggesting another vessel strike, adding to an ongoing unusual mortality event affecting whales since 2016."

https://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2023/23_00815.htm

CLIMATE CHANGE

New Jersey Advocates Launch "Clean Energy Action Now"

A group of NJ environmental advocates have launched the Clean Energy Action Now (CLEAN) campaign to "raise awareness of the health, economic and climate benefits of an equitable clean energy future for New Jersey." They will work to provide fact-based information to policymakers as well as to correct misinformation.

The following organizations are founding members: Acadia Center, Environmental Defense Fund; Natural Resources Defense Council; New Jersey Conservation Foundation; New Jersey League of Conservation Voters; ReThink Energy NJ; Sierra Club New Jersey Chapter; New Jersey Progressive Equitable Energy Coalition; and MnM Consulting.

<https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/new-jersey-advocates-launch-clean-energy-action-now/>

Fuel Cell Task Force Releases Report on Fuel Cell Use in New Jersey

"The New Jersey Fuel Cell Task Force has issued its Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technology Towards Clean Energy Goals report (Report) [available here:

<https://www.nj.gov/bpu/pdf/reports/Fuel%20Cell%20Task%20Force-FInal.pdf>], which outlines strategies

to increase the use of fuel cells in New Jersey.

The Report, which was produced in conjunction with Montclair State University's Clean Energy and Sustainability Analytics Center, is intended to serve as an introduction to fuel cell technology and resources to policymakers and the public."

<https://www.nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/2023/approved/20230809.html>

Opinion: Lofty Clean-Energy Goals Versus the Realities of Infrastructure and Economics

In this piece by Dave Rible, executive director of the Utility and Transportation Contractors Association of NJ, the author expands on the premise that "the current pace to adopt clean energy in New Jersey and beyond is incompatible with today's infrastructure and economic realities" by citing issues with the electric vehicle and the offshore wind sectors, and with transparency.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/08/op-ed-nj-clean-energy-goals-meet-harsh-economic-and-infrastructure-realities/>

LEAD REDUCTION IN HOUSEHOLDS

NJ American Water Reports Progress on Lead Service Line Replacement

This 1-minute news video describes the progress the NJ American Water utility has made in

replacing 4,000 lead service lines, with at least 24,000 yet to be replaced. The video includes information about an interactive map the company created that customers can use to assist it, by viewing the service line material at their property and reporting it.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/nj-american-water-reports-progress-on-lead-service-line-replacement/>

First Ever Joint Membership Meeting Held by Jersey Water Works & Lead-Free New Jersey

"Members of Jersey Water Works [JWW], Lead-Free New Jersey [LFNJ], and water and lead advocates convened on July 12, 2023, for the first-ever Joint Membership Meeting to connect on water issues and the collective need for community input....Much of the work that JWW and LFNJ do is complementary, addressing public health issues such as lead in drinking water, and so bringing together stakeholders to advance their initiative is momentous."

<https://www.jerseywaterworks.org/latest-news/first-ever-joint-membership-meeting-held-by-jersey-water-works-lead-free-new-jersey/>

DRINKING WATER-RELATED ISSUES (other than lead)

Middlesex Water \$52 Million Plant to Treat Ground Water for PFAS Compounds Now in Service

This Middlesex Water Company news release describes its completion of an upgraded water treatment plant that was constructed in response to the utility's failure to meet the new standards adopted by NJ in 2021 for some PFAS ("forever chemicals"). See

<https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2023/07/25/2710839/0/en/Middlesex-Water-52-Million-Plant-to-Treat-Ground-Water-for-PFAS-Compounds-Now-in-Service.html>. Background about the issue, including a description of a lawsuit filed by Middlesex Water customers in 2021, is available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2021/12/middlesex-water-uses-alternative-well-field-customers-lawsuit-pfoa-contamination/>.



22 Attorneys General, Including Pa. And N.J., Oppose 3M Settlement Over Water Systems Contamination With 'Forever Chemicals'

The attorneys general of NJ, PA, 17 other states, Washington, D.C., and two territories filed a "Memorandum of Law in Support of the Sovereigns' Motion to Intervene," (available here: <https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/attachments/press-docs/Motion%20to%20Intervene.pdf>) with the U.S. District Court, related to the *City of Camden, et al. v. 3M Company* \$10.3 billion settlement proposal over contamination of U.S. public drinking water systems with PFAS ("forever chemicals"). "...[T]he attorneys general said it would force nearly all public water providers nationwide to participate unless they withdraw individually - even those that haven't filed suits or tested for PFAS....they would have to make their opt-out decisions without knowing how much they would actually receive and, in many cases, before knowing the extent of contamination in their water supplies and the cost of remediating it....[and] the proposed deal would shift liability from 3M to water suppliers that don't opt out....[which] could enable the company to seek compensation from providers if sued over cancer or other illnesses in PFAS-affected communities." <https://whyy.org/articles/pa-nj-attorneys-general-oppose-3m-settlement-water-systems-contamination-forever-chemicals/>

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

NJ Moves to Cut Fossil Fuels From Homes, Businesses

The NJ Board of Public Utilities ("Board") approved its framework for the second 3-year cycle of energy efficiency programs, including decarbonization start-up programs for buildings. It mandates electric utilities, and encourages gas utilities, to begin offering incentives for voluntary replacement of gas stoves and heaters with electric ones, providing funding of up to \$350 million over 3 years for various aspects of the program. This was the program that the BPU pulled from the agenda at a previous meeting; it was opposed by the NJ Division of Rate Counsel, legislators and some business lobbyists (see

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/07/nj-bpu-pushes-decarbonization-of-buildings-despite-opposition/> for a description of the issues). One issue cited was that the BPU does not have the authority to set environmental policy or to regulate carbon emissions, which would be a result of implementing this plan. Misinformation about the program includes an incorrect belief by some that it would result in gas stoves being taken away.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/07/nj-bpu-denies-it-plans-to-prevent-residents-from-keeping-their-gas-stoves/>

Additional related articles are:

- **NJ Incentives Encourage Shift From Natural Gas Appliances** (4-minute news video)

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/nj-incentives-encourage-shift-from-natural-gas-appliances/>

- **How Would 'Clean Heat' Standard Impact NJ's Natural-Gas Utilities?**

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/08/nj-considers-clean-heat-standard/>

- **The Future of Natural Gas in New Jersey and New York**

<https://enviropolitics.com/the-future-of-natural-gas-in-new-jersey-and-new-york/>

- **Heat Pumps Are Key to a Clean-Energy Future, but How Do They Work?**

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/07/heat-pump-green-energy-how-they-work-nj-murphy-replace-furnace-ac/>

- **Opinion: Switching From Gas to Electric Can Save Money, Reduce Pollution** (by Anjuli Ramos-Busot, and Doug O'Malley)

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/08/op-ed-nj-must-invest-in-healthier-homes-clean-energy/>

POLLUTION

14 Attorneys General Urge EPA to Bolster Plastic Pollution Strategy

"A group of 14 attorneys general have urged the Biden administration to adopt a more comprehensive strategy to reduce plastic pollution, which they say should include reducing new plastic production and addressing fast-fashion waste. In a letter submitted on Monday [7/31/2023 - letter available here:

<https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/EPA-Draft-Plastics-Strategy-Comment-Letter-FinalBookmarks.pdf>] to the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency, the attorneys general of California, New York, the District Columbia and others called the plastic pollution crisis "one of the most pervasive challenges of our time."

<https://www.ban.org/news/2023/8/9/14-attorneys-general-urge-epa-to-bolster-plastic-pollution-strategy>

Westfield Green Team Encourages Residents to Reduce Plastic Waste

At Westfield's annual "Sweet Sounds Downtown Music Festival," Westfield's Green Team set up an information booth to spread awareness about plastic pollution, as part of the worldwide "Plastics Free July" initiative. To illustrate the impact of plastic pollution, one Green Team member wore a bodysuit of bags filled with single-use plastics to showcase what one person could produce in two weeks (see the photo in the article).

<https://www.tapinto.net/towns/westfield/sections/green/articles/westfield-green-team-encourages-residents-to-reduce-plastic-waste#>

Opinion: Striving for Plastic-Free Communities in NJ

In this opinion piece by Chris Tandazo, the Statewide Environmental Justice Organizer at New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance (NJEJA), and Jason Ajiake, the Communication and Education Manager at NJEJA, the authors describe how "Although it's typically posited as a consumer problem, reducing plastic output is the responsibility of producers - a situation that has a grave impact on environmental justice." They call

for the state to enact well-written Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) laws, such as those passed by CA and CO, that "shift plastic production, consumption, and disposal accountability from the consumer to the plastic producers while also preventing the push of false solutions like chemical recycling."

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/08/op-ed-striving-for-plastic-free-new-jersey-communities/>

OTHER

Toms River Cleanup Deal Nets More Money, Land

As described in this article, "New Jersey finalized a settlement with the chemical company BASF to compensate the state for damage to natural resources as a result of chemical leaks at Toms River by the company's predecessor, Ciba-Geigy. BASF will pay more money, designate more land and spend more time restoring formerly polluted lands at Toms River than was first proposed by the state, the Department of Environmental Protection [DEP] said....The DEP modified its original plan, proposed late last year, in response to public comments made as part of the settlement process. As a result, BASF will pay \$500,000 for damage to natural resources and project oversight costs, up from an original \$100,000." The DEP has a webpage dedicated to the settlement, available here:

<https://dep.nj.gov/cgrestoration/>. The proposed settlement is separate from BASF's environmental cleanup of contamination at the site, which is being supervised by the federal government. [See the article below for a video of the critical reaction of local residents and the "Save Barnegat Bay" group.]

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/08/toms-river-cleanup-settlement-finalized-ciba-geigy-basf/>

Toms River Group Rejects Ciba-Geigy Cleanup Settlement

This 4-minute news video shows a public meeting of the grassroots group "Save Barnegat Bay," regarding the Ciba-Geigy settlement (also see the

previous article). Local officials' and citizens' reactions are included, along with input from a legal team hired by "Save Barnegat Bay," which will likely file a lawsuit.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/toms-river-group-rejects-ciba-geigy-cleanup-settlement/>

New Tree Inventory Map Has Benefits For Area Residents

This article describes Princeton's Street Tree Inventory of over 18,000 trees (the inventory may be viewed here:

<https://princetonnj.treekeepersoftware.com>), in which "Residents can learn what trees they have in front of their houses, and they can learn the environmental benefits of the trees and how to care for them." The site also provides information about ecological and other benefits from the presence of the trees.

<https://www.towntopics.com/wordpress/2023/06/28/new-tree-inventory-map-has-benefits-for-area-residents/>

A Giant Step Forward for Capital Park in Trenton

This article gives the history of attempts to develop a park adjacent to the State House in Trenton, which finally seems to be on the road to becoming a reality. "New Jersey's 2024 fiscal year budget, adopted on June 30, contains a \$3 million appropriation for the design and engineering of Capital Park, an inviting green space that will serve Trenton residents while attracting visitors to the downtown area and providing opportunities for outdoor programs....In addition to the recreational and economic benefits Capital Park will bring to downtown Trenton, the park has the potential to help mitigate climate change and flooding. Infrastructure to absorb stormwater runoff is sorely needed along the Delaware River, as was seen by the recent deadly flooding at Washington's Crossing, a short distance upstream. If properly designed, Capital Park can become a shining example of state-of-the-art stormwater management."

<https://centraljersey.com/2023/07/31/a-giant-step-forward-for-capital-park-in-trenton/>

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 New Jersey 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).**
- 4. Advocating for better health and reducing climate change for all by protecting and expanding New Jersey's public and urban forests.**

UU FaithAction NJ - Environmental Justice Task Force - Peggy Middaugh, Chair
Visit <https://uufaithaction.org/environment/> for links and resources, and to 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. 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 NJ until there are rules in place to achieve 100% clean energy goals.