



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

EJTF and CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

EJTF and other UUFANJ members joined with 75,000 marchers in the "MARCH TO END FOSSIL FUELS" in NYC on 9/17/2023 (see [p. 19](#)). The march was uplifting,

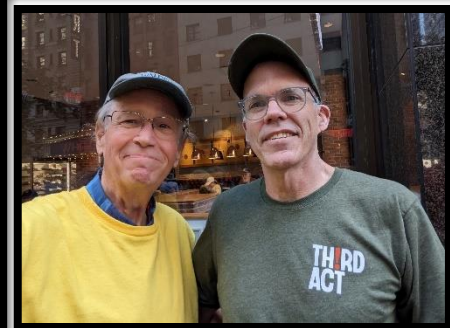
and reflected a diversity of ages and issues, with the main theme being a call to President Biden to end fossil fuels NOW!



Above, from left: EJTF members Michael Skelly and Ray Nichols; EJTF Chair Peggy Middaugh; and UUFANJ Executive Director Charles Loflin



Photography by Michael Skelly



Above: Michael Skelly of EJTF and Dorothea Dix UU Community (left) with Bill McKibben (right)

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UUFANJ ISSUES CONFERENCE
10/21/2023 - see [p. 9](#)

EJTF and CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES (continued)

- **Morristown Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (MUUF)**



Three members of the Green Earth Ministry (on left in the photo above, including **EJTF member Jo Sippie-Gora**, third from left) of the Morristown Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (MUUF) rallied at the Morristown Train Station on 9/17/2023. Displaying signs and good cheer, they sent off MUUF youth Miles Gorman, climate activist/organizer (in rear), and others as they boarded the train for the March to End Fossil Fuels in NYC (see [p. 1](#)).

- **Unitarian Universalist Church at Washington Crossing (UUCWC)**

The Unitarian Universalist Church at Washington Crossing (UUCWC) is hosting a "Green Amendment" event with Maya K. van Rossum on 10/26/2023 at 7:00 p.m. (see [p. 10](#)).

- **EJTF member Walter Nadolny** had an opinion piece, "Whales a Weapon Against Offshore Wind," published in the "Press of Atlantic City" (see [p. 19](#) and the UUFANJ/EJTF web page, here:

<https://www.uufaithaction.org/policy-briefs-and-positions/>).

- Eco-Logic, the radio show co-hosted by **EJTF member Sally Gellert**, is now broadcast at a new time on WBAI (99.5 fm), on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m., and is now a full hour long. It is also available on the WBAI website, either live or in the archives, here:

<https://www.wbai.org/program.php?program=104>

- **EJTF member Christine Dunbar** participated in a meeting at Senator Cory Booker's office with fellow employees and volunteers from the Foodshed Alliance (for which Christine, second from right in the photo below, is the Paulins Kill Watershed Coordinator). They met with Senator Booker's Deputy State Director, Zach McCue. During the hour-long meeting, they discussed items such as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) farmer recruitment, training, land acquisition and getting healthy food out to more people. Senator Booker is also central to the Farm Bill, and is a sponsor of the Justice for Black Farmers Bill, and of marker bills related to the Farm Bill (i.e., bills created to show support for particular topics related to large federal packages such as the Farm Bill).



- **EJTF** made substantive comments (thanks to **EJTF member Nancy Griffeth**) on the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) recommendations implementing Governor Murphy's Executive Order 317, which directs the BPU to develop such 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. The EJTF comments are available here: <https://www.uufaithaction.org/policy-briefs-and-positions/>

EJTF Loves Local Farm Markets and Organic Farms!



One of the best ways to support local businesses and safe healthy land is to buy food from your local farm markets and organic farms. This is a good way to live your UU principles and have some healthy food and safe neighbors in your area.



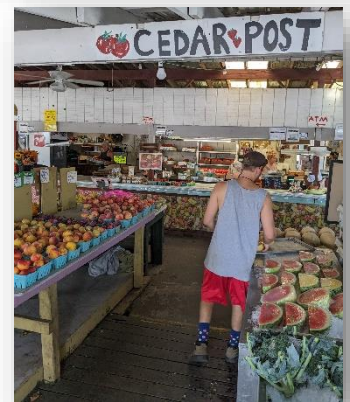
The pictures here show two of **EJTF Chair Peggy Midaugh's** favorite local farm businesses. One is Cedar Post Farm Market on Route 70 in Lakehurst, NJ. Her other favorite is the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) called Rancocas Farm at Pinelands Preservation Alliance, where they practice regenerative, organic agriculture. It is located at 17 Pemberton Road, Southampton Township, NJ. Farmer Jeff Tober is shown in the blue t-shirt with the squash in the photo at right above.



Please send in photos and a brief story to our newsletter of your favorite local farms and markets!



**Let's keep New Jersey
"The Garden State"!**



Photos by Michael Skelly

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

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

OCTOBER 2023						
(with hyperlinks to details on the following pages)						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
1	2 "Using Locally Sourced Herbs for Good Taste and Good Health" - 7:00 p.m.	3	4 "Securing Climate Justice Through Green Amendments: The Held v. Montana Victory" - 3:00 p.m.	5 "Collaborative Sustainability Research for Enhanced Societal Impact" - 12:30 p.m. "Unlocking the Value of Green Infrastructure Incentive Programs for Urban Agriculture" - 1:30 p.m.	6 Comments Due: NJSADC Proposed Soil Disturbance Rules	7 "Autumn Wild Edibles Information Walk" (NJSOC) - 11:00 a.m.
8	9	10	11 "The 1973 Energy Crisis: The Arab Oil Embargo and the New Age of Energy" - 5:00 p.m. "Winds of Change" Documentary Screening - 6:00 p.m.	12 "America 2050: Our Most-Likely Climate Future" - 8:00 p.m.	13 ANJEC Environmental Congress	14
15	16 "Educators' Open House" (NJSOC) - 9:00 a.m.	17 LWVNJ "Having Nonpartisan Voting Conversations" - 6:00 p.m. ANJEC Environmental Congress	18 Clean Air Council - 9:30 a.m. "In the Vault: The Roles of Public Green Banks in the Transition to Net-zero Emissions" - 12:00 p.m. "Option Green: Invasive Plants" - 7:00 p.m. "Get Plugged in With Electric Vehicles" - 7:00 p.m. Comments Due: NJDEP Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan ANJEC Environmental Congress	19 Comments Due: NJDEP Strategic Climate Action Plan ANJEC Environmental Congress	20 Comments Due: NJDEP Advanced Clean Cars II Comments Due: NJBPU Winter Termination Program	21 UU FaithAction NJ Fall Issues Conference - 10:00 a.m.

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22	<p>23 "What's Happening with Offshore Wind Off New Jersey?" - 6:30 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>"Renewable Energy Justice" - 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>24 "Forging a Future with Nature" - 2:00 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>LWVNJ "Testimony at Public Meetings" - 6:00 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>"Mobilizing Voters" with Environmental Voter Project's Nathaniel Stinnett - 7:00 p.m.</p>	25	<p>26 UUCWC "The Green Amendment" - Discussion with Maya K. van Rossum - 7:00 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>NJ Shade Tree Federation Annual Conference</p>	<p>27 "Next Decade Technologies for the Energy Transition" - 8:30 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p>NJ Shade Tree Federation Annual Conference</p>	28
29	<p>30 "Bioenergy/Biofuels as a Renewable Energy Source in New Jersey" - 6:30 p.m.</p>	31				

FUTURE EVENTS

**"Using Locally Sourced Herbs for Good Taste and Good Health" - Webinar
10/2/2023, 7:00 p.m.**

In this webinar sponsored by the Foodshed Alliance (of which **EJTF member Christine Dunbar** is the Paulins Kill Watershed Coordinator), "herbalist and forager Reid Giacomarra will showcase the benefits of using seasonal herbs from local farms in your cooking as well as in creating tinctures, infusions, and balms. If you've ever wondered how you can use herbs for good health, this webinar is for you." Registration is available here: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_G-7zpL9bQcCi8KhMI8oMgw#/registration.

**"Securing Climate Justice Through Green Amendments:
The Held v. Montana Victory and What It Means for the Nationwide Movement"
10/4/2023, 3:00 p.m. - Webinar**

In the *Held v. Montana* case, a Montana District Court Judge ruled in favor of the sixteen youth plaintiffs, finding that the limitations on considering environmental factors when deciding oil and gas permits violated their right to a safe environment included in Montana's constitution (its "Green Amendment"). The case "set a huge

precedent, affirming Montanan's constitutional right to a clean and healthful environment. For the first time ever, it declared that their fundamental right includes the right to a safe and stable climate." In this webinar, leading environmental minds, including Maya K. van Rossum, the founder of the national Green Amendment movement and the Green Amendments For The Generations, will discuss how *Held v. Montana* and Green Amendments intersect to provide unparalleled protections for present and future generations. Additional information and the link to register are available here: <https://forthegenerations.org/events/securing-climate-justice-through-green-amendments-the-held-v-montana-victory-what-it-means-for-the-nationwide-movement/>.

**"Collaborative Sustainability Research for Enhanced Societal Impact"
10/5/2023, 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Princeton, NJ - In-person**

This seminar is hosted by the Princeton University Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment, and will be presented by Dr. Monica Contestabile, Chief Editor of "Nature Sustainability." The seminar will cover "why interdisciplinary, cross-domain, multisector, and integrated systems thinking are all needed approaches to address the most pressing sustainability challenges society is facing; it will also cover the extent to which the education and research communities, funding

agencies, and the publishing landscape are transforming their visions, priorities, and practices to respond adequately. The seminar will then go through the inherent challenges and advantages of going beyond conventional disciplinary research, including from the point of view of publishing such more complex research outputs. It will consist of examples of editorial practices adopted at Nature Sustainability to promote inter-disciplinarity and trans-disciplinarity followed by questions and answers and a general discussion." Note: lunch will be provided at 12:00 noon. Additional information is available here:

<https://acee.princeton.edu/events/highlight-seminar-monica-contestabile-2023/>.

NJSADC Proposed Soil Disturbance Rules Comments Due 10/6/2023

The New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) under the NJ Department of Agriculture (NJDA) is proposing new rules "defining what activities on preserved farmland constitute soil disturbance, establishing a soil disturbance limitation on preserved farms, allowing for waivers of the soil disturbance limit under certain conditions, providing preserved farm landowners written notice of and an opportunity to be heard on mapped soil disturbances, and promulgating technical standards for certain agricultural practices for compliance with the soil disturbance limitation." Additional information, including the proposed rules and instructions for commenting (**comments are due 10/6/2023**), is available here:

https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/documents/ruleprop/PRN_2023-079_SADC_2_76-25.pdf.

"The 1973 Energy Crisis: The Arab Oil Embargo and the New Age of Energy"

- Hybrid

10/11/2023, 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

New York, NY - In-person & Livestreamed

In this event, the Center on Global Energy Policy (CGEP) and the Institute of Global Politics at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Arab Oil Embargo. There will be a keynote address by Pulitzer Prize-winning

author Dr. Daniel Yergin that will examine the historical significance of the Embargo. Then, a panel discussion will examine the details of the Embargo, how it shook up geopolitics and the global economy including producing lasting effects that have guided policymakers in the decades since, and what lessons it holds for the current geopolitical situation. Additional information and the links to register for either the in-person event or the livestream are available here:

<https://www.energypolicy.columbia.edu/events/the-1973-energy-crisis-the-oil-embargo-and-the-new-age-of-energy/>.

"Winds of Change" Documentary Screening - Virtual

10/11/2023, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

The NJ League of Conservation Voters is sponsoring (**and UUFANJ is co-sponsoring**) a virtual film screening of "Winds of Change," a "thought-provoking documentary that delves into the potential impact and benefits of Offshore Wind farms in the state of New Jersey. This groundbreaking audiovisual masterpiece aims to bridge the communication divide between developers and our local communities, shedding light on the transformative power of renewable energy." After the screening, there will be Q&A discussion with panelists Capt. Paul Eidman, Sunni Vargas, and Dr. Pankaj Lal. Additional information and the link to register are available here: <https://www.mobilize.us/njlcvc/event/582111/>.

"America 2050: Our Most-Likely Climate Future" - Webinar

10/12/2023, 8:00 p.m.

This webinar, sponsored by Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economy (UUJEC), will be presented by Dr. Emily Schoerning, an internationally recognized educator whose research on socially controversial science helps bring people together. She is the founder of American Resiliency, the first nonprofit focused on communicating climate resilience information to the general public. "Do you want to know how the climate is likely to change where you live? When we understand what's coming, we can get ready for a future that contains opportunities as well as challenges. Using high-

consensus federal resources, this conversation helps you understand America's projected climate by 2050 in terms of changes to summers, winters, precipitation patterns, and where people may want to move." Additional information and links to register for Zoom or to view on Facebook are available here: <https://uujec.org/webinars>.

**ANJEC Environmental Congress - Hybrid
10/13/2023, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - In-person - West Windsor, NJ
10/17 - 10/19/2023, various times - Virtual**

The 50th Association of NJ Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) Environmental Congress will take place in a hybrid format. The in-person portion will be held on 10/13/2023 in West Windsor, NJ, and will feature keynote speaker Lisa Flavia Garcia, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 2 Administrator, featured speaker Shawn LaTourette, NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner, an art exhibit, workshop sessions, awards presentation, and exhibit area. The virtual sessions will be held 10/17/2023 through 10/19/2023. The schedule is as follows:

**10/13/2023, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - In-person, West Windsor, NJ;
10/17/2023, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Virtual;
10/18/2023, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. and
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Virtual**

Additional information, including links to the agenda and to register (**ranging from \$50 for non-member for virtual only to \$150 for non-member for virtual and in-person**) are available here:

<https://anjec.org/environmental-congress-2/>.

**NJ Clean Air Council Meeting - Hybrid
10/18/2023, 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-20231018/>.

**"In the Vault: The Roles of Public Green Banks in the Transition to Net-zero Emissions"
Case Studies of Australia, New Zealand, and the United States
10/18/2023, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

This webinar, part of the Dartmouth "New Energy Series," will be presented by Chell Lyons, Sir Roland Wilson PhD Scholar at Australian National University. "Decarbonizing the global economy requires a significant increase in funding for low-carbon, climate-resilient infrastructure. It is widely recognized that current levels of investment are insufficient, and need to scale up rapidly to meet the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement. Green Banks, a relatively new form of public financial institution, were developed to address this issue by accelerating investment and 'crowding in' private finance. This presentation adopts a case study approach drawing on expert interviews, to elicit information on the investment governance and evaluation processes of four Green Banks; Australia's Clean Energy Finance Corporation, New Zealand Green Investment Finance, the New York Green Bank and the Montgomery County Green Bank. It concludes with lessons for other public financial institutions seeking to leverage private finance in the investment transition to net zero emissions." Additional information and the link to register are available here: <https://irving.dartmouth.edu/news-events/news-events/new-energy-series>.

**"Option Green: Invasive Plants" - Hybrid
10/18/2023, 7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
East Brunswick, NJ - In-person & via Zoom**

As part of the East Brunswick Public Library's "Option Green" series, Hubert Ling, Ph.D., of the Native Plant Society of NJ, will discuss what the government and scientists are doing, and what you as an individual can do, to address invasive plants. "Invasive plants decrease the ecological health of our world, decrease available food and nesting areas, reduce biological diversity, and are 130 billion dollar problem for the US Some of the common invasives in NJ will be covered and alternative noninvasive native replacements will be given. We will also give you an introduction into the unique world of native plants and show

you how to add novelty and interest to your garden." This event is co-sponsored by the Highland Park Chapter of the Native Plant Society of NJ. Additional information and the link to register for Zoom viewing are available here: <https://ilove.ebpl.org/adults/events/option-green-invasive-plants-hybrid/2023-10-18-230000-2023-10-19-001500>.

**"Get Plugged in With Electric Vehicles" - Hybrid
10/18/2023, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Clifton, NJ - In-person & via Zoom**

In this event organized by the Hunterdon Warren Group of the Sierra Club NJ Chapter, "NJ Electric Vehicle Association (NJEVA) President and Co-Founder Stan Jaracz, and Secretary and Program Manager Andi Sjamsu, will discuss the environmental benefits of owning an EV and the NJEVA mission which includes accelerating the widespread adoption of EVs through education and infrastructure support.... The discussion includes information and resources on how to car shop for an EV." Additional information and the link to register are available here: <https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7013q000001rMQ7AAM&mapLinkHref=https://maps.google.com/maps&daddr=Get%20Plugged%20in%20With%20Electric%20Vehicles%20EV@40.643507,-74.912382>.

**NJDEP Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
Comments Due 10/18/2023**

Updated every five years, NJ's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) identifies statewide recreation needs and opportunities and sets forth a program to implement measures to address them. The next update is due to be submitted December 2023 to the National Park Service (NPS), in order to continue NJ's eligibility for federal grants. This past February, the DEP launched an online survey to identify how best to enhance and expand outdoor recreation and open space opportunities that focus on the needs of the public, especially those in overburdened communities. 15,000 responses were received, and the response showed that a majority of residents place a high priority on outdoor recreation. **The SCORP is**

open for public comment until 10/18/2023. Additional information, including links to the report and to submit comments, are available here: https://dep.nj.gov/outside-together/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelive.

**NJDEP Strategic Climate Action Plan
Comments Due 10/19/2023**

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has released a draft of its "Strategic Climate Action Plan," in response to state requirements that direct the DEP to identify specific rules, guidance documents, and other regulatory mechanisms that will better integrate climate change considerations into the DEP's regulatory and permitting programs. It includes actions, timeframes and milestones in seven areas: 1) Reducing climate pollutant emissions; 2) Building climate resilience; 3) Securing and protecting natural and working lands; 4) Ensuring climate equity and justice; 5) Developing and sharing climate science information; 6) Managing waste and recycling materials; and 7) Committing to and sustaining protective actions. Links to the document and to comment are available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/strategic-climate-action-plan/>. **Comments are due 10/19/2023 at 4:00 p.m.** Also see the news article on [p. 19](#).

**NJDEP Advanced Clean Cars II Program - Rulemaking
Comments Due 10/20/2023**

"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." One public hearing concerning the proposal was

held (see news article on [p. 15](#)). A link to the proposed rules and information on commenting are available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/rules/notice-of-rule-proposals/20230821a/>. **Comments are due 10/20/2023.**

NJBPU Winter Termination Program Proposed Amendments/New Rules Comments Due 10/20/2023

The NJ Board of Public Utilities has approved a "notice of proposal to adopt proposed amendments and new rules regarding the Winter Termination Program, notice of infrastructure projects and main extensions." The Winter Termination Program rules govern when a water utility, among others, can terminate service - called a moratorium on shutoffs - during the cold winter months. However, it does not include a summer moratorium on termination of electricity service, which would preclude shutting off what has become a virtual life-saving necessity - air-conditioning. **Comments are due 10/20/2023.** The notice of the proposal is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/4hx83xwu>.



UU FaithAction NJ Fall Issues Conference 10/21/2023, 10:00 a.m. - 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! The Issues Conference will be held at the UU Church in Cherry Hill, (<https://uucch.org/>). Additional information is available here: <https://www.uufaithaction.org/event/faithaction-fall-issues-conference/>.

"What's Happening with Offshore Wind Off New Jersey?" - Webinar 10/23/2023, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

As part of Rutgers' "Earth Day Every Day" webinar series, Dr. Douglas Zemeckis of Rutgers Cooperative Extension, and Dr. Josh Kohut of Rutgers University, Department of Marine and Coastal Sciences, will provide an overview of offshore wind energy development off the coast of NJ, including information about individual windfarms. A summary of related research, education, and workforce development initiatives at Rutgers University will also be provided. Additional information and the link to register are available here: <https://envirostewards.rutgers.edu/earth-day-every-day/>.

"Renewable Energy Justice" 10/23/2023, 6:30 p.m. Lincroft, NJ - In-person

In this event organized by the Jersey Shore Group of the Sierra Club NJ Chapter, "Dr. David Hughes will discuss the necessity for just and fair forms of renewable energy. Hughes, an anthropology professor at Rutgers University, is the author of 'Who Owns the Wind? Climate Crisis and the Hope of Renewable Energy.' He has studied the evolution and support for wind farms in Spain.... As a public scholar, Hughes serves on the Climate Justice Task Force of the American Federation of Teachers." Additional information is available here: <https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7013q000001rcozAAA&mapLinkHref=https://maps.google.com/maps&daddr=Science%20Monday:%20Renewable%20Energy%20Justice@40.32705,-74.133997>.

"Forging a Future with Nature" 10/24/2023, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Webinar

This is the second of a "Beyond Pesticides" webinar series which will continue through November. (A link to the video of the first webinar is available on [p. 13](#).) "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>.

**"Mobilizing Voters" - Webinar
with Environmental Voter Project's
Nathaniel Stinnett
10/24/2023, 7:00 p.m.**

Sponsored by Elders Climate Action, in this webinar Nathaniel Stinnett from the Environmental Voter Project (EVP) will discuss how EVP identifies inactive environmentalists and transforms them into consistent voters to build the power of the environmental movement. Nathaniel Stinnett is the Founder and Executive Director of EVP, a non-partisan nonprofit using data analytics and behavioral science to identify and mobilize non-voting environmentalists. Additional information and the link to register are available here: https://www.eldersclimateaction.org/event/nc_oct23/.

**UUCWC "The Green Amendment" -
Discussion with Maya K. van Rossum -
Hybrid
10/26/2023, 7:00 p.m.
UUCWC, Titusville, NJ - In-person & via
Zoom**

The Unitarian Universalist Church at Washington Crossing (UUCWC) is hosting this discussion, in-person and on Zoom. "If you have been curious about 'the Green Amendment,' here's the perfect opportunity to learn about it: Maya K. van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, founder of the Green Amendment for the Generations Movement and author of 'The Green Amendment, The People's Fight For A Clean, Safe & Healthy Environment,' will present a talk on Thursday, October 26th at 7:00 p.m. in the UUCWC Sanctuary. Hosted by the Earth & Climate

Ministry, the event will include opportunities to buy her book, enjoy refreshments, and ask questions about such an amendment in NJ and PA. The presentation will also be accessible by Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3959677233>." For additional information, email earthministry@uucwc.org.

**NJ Shade Tree Federation Annual
Conference
10/26/2023 & 10/27/2023,
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Cherry Hill, NJ - In-person**

Although primarily geared toward those seeking to attain or maintain New Jersey Urban & Community Forestry (NJUCF) accreditation, this conference may be of interest to others seeking to learn about trees, particularly urban trees. One of the sponsors is the NJ Tree Foundation, of which **EJTF Co-Chair Peggy Middaugh** is a Trustee. Additional information including links to the agenda with detailed descriptions of sessions, and to register (**\$160 for each single day; \$320 for both days**) is available here: <https://www.njstf.org/upcoming-conference.php>.

**"Next Decade Technologies for the Energy
Transition"
- The Andlinger Center for Energy and the
Environment 2023 Annual Meeting
10/27/2023, 8:30 a.m. - 6:15 p.m.
Princeton, NJ - In-person**

"Ensuring a robust pathway to global decarbonization will require the rapid deployment of established clean energy technologies, as well as the swift research, development, and deployment of new and emerging technological solutions. This year's Annual Meeting will convene experts from the academic, public, and private sectors to discuss the challenges and opportunities of three such technologies - fusion; carbon capture, utilization, and storage; and hydrogen - that could play a critical role in securing a sustainable shared future." Additional information and the registration link (**Regular Attendee - \$195; Non-Profit Organization - \$100; Small Business \$150**) are available here: <https://acee.princeton.edu/2023-annual-meeting/>.

**"Bioenergy/Biofuels as a Renewable Energy Source in New Jersey" - Webinar
10/30/2023, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

As part of Rutgers' "Earth Day Every Day" webinar series, "Dr. Serpil Guran, Director of the Rutgers EcoComplex, will discuss renewable energy resources such as solar, wind and offshore wind [which] play an important role in mitigating climate change. Biomass also has long been considered as a renewable energy source. However, attention needs to be paid on which biomass resources may provide New Jersey needed carbon reduction and climate change mitigation benefits. Dr. Gura[n] will cover available biomass types and suitable technologies to convert them into renewable energy and achieve circular carbon economy in New Jersey." Additional information and the link to register are available here: <https://envirostewards.rutgers.edu/earth-day-every-day/>.

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

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey (LWVNJ) (of which **EJTF member Nancy Griffeth** is co-chair of the Natural Resources Committee) is presenting a public series of virtual activist training sessions designed to equip participants "with the knowledge and skills needed to carry out dynamic organizing strategies that can effectively influence public policy and the state of democracy in New Jersey." The sessions scheduled for October 2023 are listed below; descriptions of these and additional sessions, along with the links to register for all sessions, are available here: <https://www.lwvnj.org/training>.

**LWVNJ "Having Nonpartisan Voting Conversations" - Via Zoom
10/17/2023, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

"In this hyperpartisan era it can be difficult to have nonpartisan conversations around voting. What does a successful voter education conversation look like? How can we invite community members to build consistent voting habits? How do we combat mis/disinformation? What are the most important things that a voter

needs to know about casting their ballot? Together, we will explore strategies for breaking down hyperpartisan barriers and connecting with voters." Registration is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/4vmhj9m6>.

**LWVNJ "Testimony at Public Meetings" - Via Zoom
10/24/2023, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

"Are you passionate about advocating for change and making your voice heard? One of the most impactful ways you can do that is to make your voice heard to state lawmakers and other public officials by testifying at public hearings and meetings. Join this training to learn how to craft compelling testimonies, engage decision-makers, and navigate the rules and protocols of public hearings. Make your voice heard and advocate for change with confidence!" Registration is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/38spusc3>.

**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 October, the following programs may be of interest; additional programs can be found here: <https://friendsofnjsoc.org/events/>.

**"Autumn Wild Edibles Information Walk" Friends of the NJ School of Conservation (NJSOC) Program
10/7/2023, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Sandyston, NJ - In-person**

"Jumpstart a foraging habit for your soups, stews, salads, pestos and fritters! Your program leader, Joanne White, will lead you on a hike to discuss and take photos of whatever is available in woods and meadow-like areas. Although this is not an eating event, lots of follow-up information will be available including an email with photos and descriptions of items covered on the walk. There will be references to dichotomous keys, books, nutrition, safety, ethics, gastronomy, survival and fun science. Joanne is a former science teacher with over 40 years of teaching experience, and

decades of enjoying wild edibles. This program is for older teens (age 16 and up) and adults. Registration (**\$12.00**) is REQUIRED." Additional information and the registration link are available here: <https://friendsofnjsoc.org/event/autumn-wild-edibles-information-walk/>.

"Educators' Open House"
Friends of the NJ School of Conservation
(NJSOC) Program
10/16/2023, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Sandyston, NJ - In-person

"Spend a day at the NJ School of Conservation learning about the outdoor field experiences we have to offer to you and your students. We'll highlight upcoming professional development workshops, online resources and volunteer opportunities. Then, you'll get to ... participate in several of our most popular field experiences Classes will include Nature Art & Poetry (with climate change emphasis), Metalsmithing, Water Ecology, and Archery." Lunch will be provided, and the ticket fee (**\$20.00**) is a deposit that will be refunded after attending the program. Additional information and the registration link are available here:

<https://friendsofnjsoc.org/event/educators-open-house-2/>.

Rutgers Climate Institute Listing of Climate Seminars

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

"Unlocking the Value of Green Infrastructure Incentive Programs for Urban Agriculture"
by Leveraging Public and Private Investment - Webinar
10/5/2023, 1:30 p.m.

This webinar is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Science and Technology. "As landowners in cities across the U.S seek to innovatively reimagine portions of their sites, nature-based solutions like green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) and urban

agriculture (urban ag) present an opportunity to improve community well-being while addressing critical issues such as flooding and food insecurity. Participate to learn about Greenprint Partners, the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT), and Quantified Ventures' (QV) pilot model for co-locating GSI and urban ag practices on urban lands. Working closely with an Urban Agriculture Advisory Group (UAAG) comprised of producers across the country, the project team developed an approach for a holistic edible rainscapes program - particularly for schoolyards - that designs and implements urban ag and GSI in tandem via funding through a stacked incentive model, vetted that model with stakeholders and potential payors, and quantified the impacts of implementing such a program at a national scale." Additional information and the link to register are available here: <https://climatesociety.rutgers.edu/events/all-climate-events/icalrepeat.detail/2023/10/05/7950/-/unlocking-the-value-of-green-infrastructure-incentive-programs-for-urban-agriculture-by-leveraging-public-and-private-investment>. [Note: this event uses Adobe Connect.]

VIDEOS OF PAST EVENTS

"Offshore Wind Development and the Structure and Function of Marine Ecosystems" - Video of Webinar

This webinar, sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and presented by Jon Hare of the NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center, explored "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." The video is available here: <https://octogroup.org/developing-offshore-wind-in-us-waters-part-2-offshore-wind-development-and-the-structure-and-function-of-marine-ecosystems/>.

NJDOT "NJ Safe Routes Academy"
- Videos of Webinars

The NJ Safe Routes Academy (SRTS), sponsored by the NJ Department of Transportation, featured free online sessions to help participants make

their communities more walk- and bike-friendly for all users of all abilities. The Safe Routes Academy, designed for parents, teachers, students, municipal leaders, local volunteers, and anyone else interested in improving conditions for walking and bicycling, presented four webinars of the best practices and resources for increasing safety and accessibility in communities. Sessions were as follows: Funding Your Bicycle & Pedestrian Project: NJ SRTS Infrastructure Grant Training; School Zone Safety Strategies; Safe Routes, Safe Roads, Safe Systems; and Safe Routes to High Schools. Links to the videos are available here: <https://www.saferoutesnj.org/safe-routes-academy/>.

"Nuclear Power: Expensive Menace or Low-Carbon Solution?" - Video of Webinar

Sponsored by Elders Climate Action, this webinar explored 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'" presented the pro-nuclear case. Vick Mohanka, Acting Chapter Director at the Massachusetts Sierra Club, articulated the continuing dangers and uncertainties. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xsF5BU-NATs>.

"Climate-Smart Research for the Farms of the Future" - Video of Webinar

Part of the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) Briefing Series "Farm Bill in Focus," this webinar explored "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." Panelists discussed innovations in agricultural research, as well as how to invest in, scale up, and evaluate effective practices. The briefing also explored how new policies could further support ongoing agricultural research. The link to the video is available here: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/091223farmbill>.

"Forging a Future with Nature" - Video of Webinar

This was 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." The video of the first webinar is available here: <https://www.beyondpesticides.org/programs/national-pesticide-forum/2023-national-forum-series/session-recordings-and-materials>.

"What's at Stake in the Farm Bill -- Food Justice, the Climate, and Public Health" - Video of Webinar

This webinar sponsored by Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC) was presented by Pamela Hess, Executive Director, Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture. In Pamela's words, she talked "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." The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVXiNMnhaq0>.

"Fresh Local Food as Medicine: Connecting the Soil & Human Health" - Webinar Video & Slides

This webinar, sponsored by the Foodshed Alliance (of which **EJTF member Christine Dunbar** is the Paulins Kill Watershed Coordinator), was presented by Dr. Saul Bautista of Ethos Farm Project. "We are what we eat... but we also are

what our food eats! Learn about how the health of the soil is deeply connected to our overall health, and how to choose fresh, healthy foods to support your body's immune system." This webinar explored the importance of food in keeping our bodies healthy and in healing. The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZWQGIPZQO8>; slides from the presentation are available here: <https://foodshedalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Connecting-the-soil-and-human-health.pdf>.

"Hack Your Veggie Haul to Make the Most of Your Farmers' Market or CSA Goodies" - Video of Webinar & Link to Resources

This webinar was 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!" The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-jrmfcyxE>; resources covered in the webinar are available here: <https://foodshedalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Veggie-Haul-resource-list.pdf>.

"How Do Our Food Choices Affect the Climate?" - Video of Webinar

In this webinar, sponsored by the Foodshed Alliance (of which **EJTF member Christine Dunbar** is the Paulins Kill Watershed Coordinator), "two seasoned farmers and local food enthusiasts, Aslynn Parzanese of Rodale Institute, and Tomia MacQueen of Wildflower Farm & NOFA-NJ" discussed how we can all make informed choices about the foods we eat to make positive changes at the local level. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wjdfb3-KrLw&t=1s>.

"Balancing Lithium Production, Investment, and Policies for a Sustainable Energy Transition" - Video of Panel

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, held a panel discussion on lithium production. "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 encompassed production, investment, and regulation, which require a collective effort, and addressed the complexities and challenges of lithium supply and its impact on the energy transition. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8VMnkkwWVU>.

i-Tree Open Academy - Videos of Sessions

"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 provided a broad introduction to the i-Tree suite of tools. Recordings of the sessions are available here: <https://www.itreetools.org/support/i-tree-open-academy-summer-2023>.

"Sequestering Carbon, Reducing Greenhouse Gases, and Building Climate Resilience through Organic Soil Health Practices" - Video of Webinar

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, reviewed "the latest research findings on Greenhouse Gas (GHG) mitigation and climate resilience potential of organic systems," and provided "practical tips on how organic producers and conservation professionals can work together toward the goal of climate-neutral farming." A link to register to view the webinar is available here:

<https://climatewebinars.net/webinars/sequestering-carbon-reducing-greenhouse-gases-and-building-climate-resilience-through-organic-soil-health-practices/view>.

NEWS RELATED TO EJTF ISSUES

[covering 8/27/2023 – 9/26/2023]

ELECTRIC VEHICLES & VEHICLE EMISSION REDUCTION

DEP Will Require All New Car Sales to Be Electric by 2035

This *NJ Spotlight* article titled "DEP Wants to Shut Down Sales of New Gas-Powered Cars Starting in 2035" describes the sole public hearing held by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on NJ's proposed new Air Pollution Control rules that would be based on California's Advanced Clean Cars II (ACC II) regulations, under which vehicle manufacturers would be required to produce only zero-emission vehicles by 2035. In addition, manufacturers of internal combustion engine passenger cars, light-duty trucks, and medium-duty vehicles would have to meet stricter emission standards. (**Comments on the rules are due 10/20/2023**; see "Future Events" on [p. 8](#).) At the public hearing, environmentalists supported the plan but industry representatives opposed it both for its cost to

consumers and perceived difficulty in meeting its goals.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/09/nj-dep-wants-to-shut-down-sales-of-new-gas-powered-cars-starting-2035/>

Coalition Aims to Derail Move to Restrict New Sales of Fossil-Fuel Vehicles

"A coalition of nearly 100 business and trade groups is urging top state officials to shelve proposed restrictions on the sale of new gasoline-powered vehicles over the next dozen years. In a letter to Senate President Nicholas Scutari and Assembly Leader Craig Coughlin [letter available here: <https://njbja.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/NJBC-EV-Letter-9.12.23.pdf?>] ... the group said the move was both impractical and misguided. Expressing support for the concept of clean vehicles, the New Jersey Business Coalition warned that the plan would financially overburden residents due to higher EV costs." A sponsored opinion piece in *NJ Spotlight News* by Ray Cantor, the deputy chief government affairs officer with the New Jersey Business and Industry Association (available here:

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/09/njbja-sponsored-content-against-murphy-ev-mandate/>), further describes the group's objections. (Written **comments to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) are due by 10/20/2023**; see "Future Events" on [p. 8](#) for additional information.)

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/09/nj-coalitions-tries-to-stymie-proposed-ban-on-gasoline-powered-cars-by-2035/>

FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE

Banks Use "Net Zero by 2050" as a Smoke Screen to Conceal Support for Dirty Coal

This article, from "Sierra, the Magazine of the Sierra Club," describes how a new Sierra Club report "reveals how the biggest banks are propping up the fossil fuel status quo," stating that "Many major banks have high-profile net-zero climate commitments that feature a pledge to zero out support for projects explicitly within

the fossil fuel sector. But there are glaring loopholes in those pledges."

<https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/banks-use-net-zero-2050-smoke-screen-conceal-support-dirty-coal>



Controversial N.J. Gas Pipeline Project in Question After Court Victory for Environmentalists

Members of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sussex County (UUFSC) Social Action Team, including **EJTF member Christine Dunbar** (third from left in the photo above, taken at a public hearing in 2022) have been active with the coalition fighting the Tennessee Gas Pipeline (TGP) Company's compressor expansion in North Jersey for a number of years. NJ Superior Court Appellate Division judges have now invalidated an exemption to Highlands Preservation Area regulations that had been granted by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to allow this project to proceed (the decision is available here:

<https://www.njcourts.gov/system/files/court-opinions/2023/a3616-20.pdf>.) The exemption was granted on the grounds that the proposed \$108 million compressor station in the Highlands Preservation Area was a "routine upgrade" to the existing pipeline system. The DEP has been tasked with reconsidering the exemption, but in the meantime construction is continuing illegally. The coalition fighting the project is asking that Gov. Murphy be contacted to ask him to issue a stop work order for the project (**UUFANJ** has signed on to such a letter with other Environmental Advocates), and it is considering filing a second lawsuit; their previous lawsuit had argued that the expansion project was anything but "routine." <https://www.nj.com/passaic->

[county/2023/09/controversial-nj-gas-pipeline-project-in-question-after-court-victory-for-environmentalists.html](https://www.nj.com/passaic-county/2023/09/controversial-nj-gas-pipeline-project-in-question-after-court-victory-for-environmentalists.html)

Another Blow to Plan For LNG Export Terminal in South Jersey

"The U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration blocked the Trump-era rule that lifted a long-standing national ban on the transport of LNG [liquefied natural gas] by rail. The rule would have allowed the fuel to be shipped by train, as planned by the developer New Fortress Energy, from a town in northeast Pennsylvania to a planned terminal at the Gloucester County town where it would be loaded onto ocean-going tankers and sent overseas. But the agency last week suspended the rule until it writes a substitute, or until June 30, 2025, whichever comes first." However, while this is only the latest in a series of setbacks to the project, opponents of the project are concerned that the developer is waiting to see whether the federal agency, in its new rule, will impose a permanent ban on shipping LNG by rail or not. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/09/nj-lng-natural-gas-export-terminal-federal-agency-setback-gibbstown/>

LAND MANAGEMENT / AGRICULTURE / FOOD

5 Ways the Farm Bill Can Help Fix America's Ag System

This article, from "Sierra, the Magazine of the Sierra Club," describes "what land and climate advocates say can be done to make farming more sustainable and equitable," stating that "The Farm Bill ... funds everything from food assistance and crop insurance to ag research and conservation programs. The bill is reauthorized every five years, and advocates have been working with lawmakers on a host of reforms, including efforts can help steer the United States away from the 'factory farm' model and in a better, more sustainable direction that is better for people, climate, the land, and wildlife." <https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/5-ways-farm-bill-can-help-fix-america-s-ag-system?>

OFFSHORE WIND

GENERAL

State Governors Seeking Federal Help for Offshore Wind Industry

Governors of six northeastern "states leading on offshore wind development" (i.e., NJ, NY, CT, MA, RI, and MD) have written a letter to Pres. Biden requesting relief for the "extraordinary economic challenges" related to offshore wind development (the letter is available here: https://www.wind-watch.org/news/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Governors-Offshore-Wind-Letter_ACP.pdf). The three areas in which they are asking for relief are: clean energy tax credits; a revenue-sharing program that includes the states; and expedited permitting. <https://www.wind-watch.org/news/2023/09/20/state-governors-seeking-federal-help-for-offshore-wind-industry/>

Public Support for Offshore Wind Energy Slipping in New Jersey

"Although a majority of New Jerseyans support the development of offshore wind, that endorsement has fallen dramatically, according to a new poll ... by the Monmouth University Polling Institute [available here: https://www.monmouth.edu/polling-institute/reports/monmouthpoll_nj_082923/]. The survey found that just over half of residents (54%) are in favor of developing wind farms off the state's coast versus 40% who oppose them. That's a stark plunge in support from a 2019 Monmouth poll on this topic when favorability stood at 76% with just 15% opposed. From 2008 to 2011, that support was more than 80%." The support dropped significantly among those who believe there has been an impact on whale deaths. There has also been an increase since 2019 in support of other sources of energy such as nuclear and offshore drilling. All areas show a distinct difference in support on a partisan basis. There has been an intense disinformation campaign on this topic, using methods that sow doubt without proof. The report "Discourses of Climate Delay in the Campaign Against

Offshore Wind: A Case Study from Rhode Island" (available here: https://ecori.org/wpcontent/uploads/2023/04/delay_and_misinformation_tactics_in_anti_osw_campaigns-ri_case_study_4-10-23.pdf) examines in detail the misinformation methods used by anti-wind groups. <https://enviropolitics.com/public-support-for-offshore-wind-energy-slipping-in-new-jersey/>



Partisan Divide Intensifies Over Offshore Wind Energy

In this 4-1/2-minute news video, protestors in Ocean City were arrested ... after trying to block construction of an underground power cable that would connect to offshore wind turbines in a project being developed by Ørsted. Polls show Democrats and environmental advocates seem to be losing some of their former edge in the debate over offshore wind. Also covered in the video: an arm of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration published a final rule governing marine mammals during Ørsted's construction of wind turbines off the New Jersey Shore (available here:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/09/13/2023-19351/takes-of-marine-mammals-incident-to-specified-activities-taking-marine-mammals-incident-to-the>).

Under the rule, no serious injury or mortality of the animals is anticipated. The video also covers positive and negative reactions to Gov. Murphy's selection of a new head of the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU); see news article on [p. 24](https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/partisan-divide-intensifies-over-offshore-wind-energy/). <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/partisan-divide-intensifies-over-offshore-wind-energy/>

Biden-Harris Administration Releases Roadmap to Accelerate Offshore Wind Transmission and Improve Grid Resilience and Reliability

The U.S. Departments of the Interior (USDO I) and Energy (USDOE) released "An Action Plan for Offshore Wind Transmission Development in the U.S. Atlantic Region" (available here: [https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/stakeholder-engagement/Atlantic Offshore Wind Transmission Plan Report.pdf](https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/renewable-energy/stakeholder-engagement/Atlantic%20Offshore%20Wind%20Transmission%20Plan%20Report.pdf)), "a set of bold actions that will catalyze offshore wind energy, strengthen the domestic supply chain, and create good-paying, union jobs." The plan "details how wind resources could efficiently be captured off the Atlantic Coast of the United States and delivered to communities as clean, reliable power. It outlines immediate actions needed to connect the first generation of Atlantic offshore wind projects to the electric grid, as well as longer-term efforts to increase transmission over the next several decades." It provides recommendations for federal, state and local governments, industry, and other stakeholders.

<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/biden-harris-administration-releases-roadmap-accelerate-offshore-wind-transmission-and>

Opinion: Offshore Wind – Another Dust Bowl in the Making?

In this opinion piece, Fred Fastiggi, principal and managing director of Shoreline Energy Advisors, LLC, puts forth a number of questions related to offshore wind development and supports a more diversified approach in the transition to clean energy.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/09/op-ed-push-for-offshore-wind-energy-could-mean-disaster-for-stakeholders-investors-environment/>

OCEAN WIND 1 PROJECT

Energy Giant's Stock Sags After It Pushes Back Deadline for NJ Offshore

"Ørsted, a leading developer of offshore wind projects in New Jersey and elsewhere, faces new fiscal challenges for projects off the Eastern Seaboard, which could possibly delay New

Jersey's initial undertaking off Atlantic City until 2026. In a statement issued by the Danish energy giant, the company blamed supply-chain constraints, high interest costs and lack of progress in obtaining more help from the U.S. government. Those issues could reduce the value of the projects by 16 billion Danish crowns, or more than \$2.3 billion, according to the company." Offshore wind advocates minimized the significance of the announcement, stating that it is not unusual for companies to go through something like this before making final decisions. In a subsequent call, Ørsted clarified that a major delay from the original timeline was due to the Trump administration delaying the permits by 14 months.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/08/orsted-blames-supply-chain-interest-costs-lack-of-progress-in-federal-help-for-delaying-nj-offshore-wind-project/>

Opponents Call Offshore Wind Farm Delay a 'Victory'

This article describes the reaction of offshore wind farm opponents, primarily in Ocean City and Cape May County, to the reported Ocean Wind 1 "delay announcement" by Ørsted (see article above). Also included is a video interview with Michael Shellenberger, "A self-described ecomodernist ... [who] believes that economic growth can continue without negative environmental impacts through technological research and development" (Wikipedia).

<https://www.downbeach.com/2023/09/02/opponents-call-offshore-wind-farm-delay-a-victory/>

"A New American Workforce - Building a Diverse, Skilled Offshore Wind Workforce"

In this 1-1/2-minute promotional video, Ørsted describes how they "aim to define quality standards for offshore wind jobs, creating good jobs for skilled workers in construction, manufacturing, and maritime work."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pfv6VgcGIw4>

OFFSHORE WIND and MARINE LIFE

Biden-Harris Administration Announces Historic \$82 Million for Endangered North Atlantic Right Whales

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced next steps to conserve and recover endangered North Atlantic right whales with \$82 million in funding from the Inflation Reduction Act. "New funding will support the application of existing technologies - such as passive acoustic monitoring - and the development and implementation of technologies to enable vessels to detect and avoid North Atlantic right whales and other large whales. Additionally, NOAA Fisheries will continue to develop and evaluate new technologies - such as those that use high-resolution satellite information - to transform North Atlantic right whale monitoring and improve understanding of the whales' distribution and habitat use."

<https://www.noaa.gov/news-release/historic-82-million-for-critically-endangered-north-atlantic-right-whales>

Opinion: Whales a Weapon Against Offshore Wind

In this piece, **EJTF member Walt Nadolny**, a professor emeritus at SUNY Maritime College in NY, describes how politicians are utilizing the existing marine unusual mortality event (UME) related to whales to try to further their political aims in opposing offshore wind, and emphasizes how clean energy development will help, not hurt whale populations.

https://pressofatlanticcity.com/whales-a-weapon-against-offshore-wind/article_234adac3-919c-5854-9523-fafdcd9f2abf.html

CLIMATE CHANGE



Photo by Michael Skelly

Tens of Thousands in NYC March Against Fossil Fuels as AOC Hails Powerful Message

An estimated 75,000 people joined the March to End Fossil Fuels in New York City urging President Biden to stop the expansion of fossil fuels and declare a climate emergency. The march was endorsed by over 700 organizations, and finished its route at the United Nations Headquarters where world leaders were convening for Climate Week. As noted by "The Guardian," "(t)he veteran environmental activist Bill McKibben travelled to New York City to attend the march. [See his photo with **EJTF member Michael Skelly** on [p. 1](#).] 'I think it's a real restart moment after the pandemic for the big in-the-streets climate movement,' he said. 'It's good to see people get back out there.' The crowd, he said, reflected the diversity of New York City. 'I'm glad to see there's a lot of old people like me here,' said McKibben, who founded Third Act, an activist group aimed at elders.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/sep/17/march-to-end-fossil-fuels-new-york-city>

DEP Unveils Draft Agency-Wide Strategic Climate Action Plan For Advancing Climate Work

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has released a draft Strategic Climate Action Plan (available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/strategic-climate-action-plan/>) that "will set DEP's course for continuing to address climate change impacts and inform the public about short-term and long-term climate actions to implement the recommendations developed and expand upon the actions taken as part of its New Jersey Protecting Against Climate Impacts (NJPACT) initiative." It identifies specific resilience, emissions, climate equity and sustainability plans. The plan does not back down on two of the most controversial aspects of NJ's clean-energy agenda: electrifying both the transportation sector and the state's buildings and homes (see article available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/09/nj-murphy-administration-wont-back-down-clean-energy-goals/> and 5-minute news interview with the DEP Commissioner available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/threat-of-climate-change-too-urgent-to-allow-clean-energy-plans-be-curbed-latourette-says/>). The plan is being issued in draft form for public comment (see "Future Events" on [p. 8](#)); **comments are due 10/19/2023**.
https://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2023/23_0048.htm

Murphy Administration Announces \$3 Million Budget Boost to DEP's Forest Fire Service as State Faces Increasing Wildfire Risks From Climate Change

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has announced a \$3 million increase in the budget for the NJ Forest Fire Service, saying the move is necessitated by an increase in wildfires due to climate change. To date in 2023, the Forest Fire Service has responded to 1,034 wildfires which have burned 17,979 acres, with 14 considered to be major wildfires burning in excess of 100 acres, making 2023 the busiest fire season in more than a decade. The funding will help to upgrade aging firetrucks, all of which are constructed and modified in-house.
https://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2023/23_0050.htm

Milestones in Resilience: New Jersey Marks Climate Week by Announcing Nearly \$298 Million in Construction Contracts for Landmark Flood-Resilience Projects for Hudson River and Meadowlands

After Hurricane Sandy, President Obama's Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force launched an innovative design competition under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Rebuild by Design (RBD), that "coupled innovation and global expertise with community insight to develop implementable solutions to the region's most complex needs." Two RBD projects are ongoing in NJ: Rebuild By Design Meadowlands and Rebuild By Design Hudson River. Major construction contracts totaling close to \$300 million have just been awarded for these projects, that aim to protect these regions from flooding resulting from more severe storms and sea-level rise associated with climate change.
https://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2023/23_0049.htm

High-Tide Flooding More Frequent at Shore, Report Says

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has released its "Annual High Tide Flooding Outlook Report" (available here: <https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/high-tide-flooding/annual-outlook.html> - click on "Mid-Atlantic" Region for NJ information) that shows how high-tide flooding is expected to increase in this region. Already, the number of flooding days has increased 350% from 2000 to 2023.
<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/08/high-tide-flooding-frequent-at-new-jersey-shore/>

DEP Launches Online Mapping Tool to Target and Coordinate Coastal Resilience Projects

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has launched an online mapping tool, the "Coastal Ecological Restoration and Adaptation Planning (CERAP) Explorer" (available here: <https://njrestors.rutgers.edu/nj-cerap/>) that "provides the locations of at-risk areas, coastal resource restoration sites, and other data that will greatly assist in the targeting, development and coordination of projects needed to adapt

communities to rising sea levels, increased flooding and more severe storms associated with climate change."

https://nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2023/23_0045.htm

Hydrogen Fuel Cells Can Speed NJ's Transition From Fossil Fuels, New Report Claims

The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) has released a report, "Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technology Towards Clean Energy Goals" (available here: <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/pdf/reports/Fuel%20Cell%20Task%20Force-FInal.pdf>), that recommends NJ invest more into exploring how fuel cells, using clean hydrogen, can play a role in the clean energy transition. Environmental groups have reservations about the technology, viewing it as primarily a means for fossil fuel companies to use their existing pipelines.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/09/hydrogen-fuel-cells-speed-nj-transition-from-fossil-fuels/>

DEP Launches Project to Help Burlington County Municipalities Assess and Become More Resilient to Climate Change Hazards

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is providing \$760,000 in funding through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for eleven contiguous Burlington County municipalities to "assess climate change-related hazards and develop planning efforts that will make them more resilient to the impacts of flooding and severe storms." Nine of the municipalities meet NJ's criteria as overburdened communities. (A video about the program is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWViqDZ5IXE>.)

The funding will provide for a team of consultants to evaluate vulnerability to current and future hazards including rising temperatures, flooding and sea-level rise, and hurricanes, among others.

https://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2023/23_0051.htm

What Can the Rest of NJ Learn From Dunellen's Climate Resiliency Plan?

This article describes the Borough of Dunellen's "Climate Resiliency Plan" (available here: <https://cms1files.revize.com/dunellennj/Climate%20Resiliency%20Plan%2005.2023,%20for%20May%201,%202023.pdf>), the first of its kind in NJ. The plan takes a holistic approach, and one of the things included is the recognition of street trees' importance, both for their water management and cooling properties.

<https://www.northjersey.com/story/opinion/2023/08/25/dunellen-nj-climate-resiliency-plan-what-can-the-rest-of-nj-learn/70641700007/>

Opinion: Murphy's Electrification Plan Exceeds Limits of Executive Authority

This opinion piece by Eric DeGesero, executive vice president of the Fuel Merchants Association of New Jersey, and on behalf of the Fuel Merchants Association of New Jersey and the New Jersey Propane Gas Association, delineates the view that Gov. Murphy and the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) have overstepped their authority related to building electrification. The BPU's proposed building-electrification incentive program was included its framework for the second 3-year cycle of energy efficiency programs. (Note: the director of the NJ Division of Rate Counsel has previously stated that the BPU does not have the authority for this program.) The author maintains that the only the legislature can authorize such programs.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/09/op-ed-murphy-electrification-plan-exceeds-executive-authority-limits/>

FOREST HEALTH

Conservationists Clash Over Plan to Save a Rare Bird in a Public Forest

This article describes the various sides in the ongoing debate about how to best manage NJ's forests between proforestation (i.e., protecting existing forests) and logging, even for "ecological purposes" - in this case to provide habitat for the

NJ-endangered golden-winged warbler. Opinions on all sides of the issue are provided. The article also mentions a "comprehensive forestry management" bill that NJ Senator Bob Smith has said he plans to file before the end of the current legislative session, although its contents have not yet been finalized.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/09/highlands-act-highlands-council-sparta-mountain-wildlife-management-area-golden-winged-warbler-sen-bob-smith-d-middlesex-80x50-report-protection-act-of-1979-freshwater-wetlands-protection-act-of-19/>



Commissioner LaTourette Congratulates Communities That Received \$22 Million in Federal Urban Forestry Funding as DEP Caps Climate Week

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded more than \$1 billion in grants through the Inflation Reduction Act for nearly 400 projects to expand access to trees and green spaces in U.S. communities and neighborhoods. NJ communities received \$22 million in 10 grants (a list of the grants is available here:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf/2023-grant-funding>), ranging from \$548,280 to Kearny in Hudson County, to increase shade and green spaces, to \$8 million to The Nature Conservancy for development of a long-term tree maintenance program in Newark to optimize tree health.

https://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2023/23_0053.htm

Marking Climate Week, DEP, TCNJ and Sustainable Jersey Announce Award of \$4.55 Million in Trees for Schools Grants

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Sustainable Jersey and The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) have announced the award of \$4.55 million in grants to fund the planting of trees at 34 NJ public schools, colleges, and universities. Funded by Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) auction proceeds, the Trees for Schools grant program will help mitigate climate change through the planting of more than 3,000 trees, with 75% of the sites being in overburdened communities, and with many of the trees to be planted in urban communities where excessive paving and deficient tree cover results in higher temperatures, a condition known as the heat-island effect. Grants range from \$12,000 to \$250,000 and will fund costs associated with planning, site preparation, trees, planting, watering, monitoring, and related expenses over a three-year period. A list of the awardees is available here:

https://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2023/23_0052.htm.

DRINKING WATER-RELATED ISSUES (other than lead)

EPA Finds More 'Forever Chemicals' in New Jersey Water Systems

As part of a federal process for testing water systems of all sizes over the next three years, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found some of the 29 toxic chemicals they were testing for in 28 NJ utilities. Levels were found in some that would not comply with new standards that have been proposed by EPA for PFAS ("forever chemicals"). "The new requirements would mean utilities would have to install a higher standard of filtration on their water supplies, resulting in higher costs that could be passed on to ratepayers."

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/09/epa-finds-more-forever-chemicals-in-new-jersey-water-systems/>

POLLUTION

Majority Continues to Back Plastic Bag Ban, but at a Slightly Lower Level

A Monmouth University poll found that, although support has dropped slightly, a majority of people still support NJ's plastic bag ban and Styrofoam container ban. Half support the ban on plastic straws, and a significant number of people (i.e., 44%) support supermarkets supplying paper bags. Over 50% of the people polled have accumulated more than 10 reusable bags since the plastic bag ban went into effect.

https://www.monmouth.edu/polling-institute/reports/monmouthpoll_nj_090623/

N.J. Energy Rebate [Appliance Recycling] Program on Hold, Customers Warned Not to Deposit Checks

"New Jersey's largest utility companies have canceled or put their appliance recycling programs on hold after the contractor they were using to pick up the recycled items from homeowners is not operating. The program, which pays residents up to \$50 to recycle old refrigerators, air conditioners and other appliances, has recycled tens of thousands of appliances over the past several years." On the website of one of the affected utilities, PSE&G, it is stated that a relaunch of the recycling program is being evaluated for 2024.

<https://www.nj.com/news/2023/08/nj-energy-rebate-program-on-hold-customers-warned-not-to-deposit-checks.html>

EDUCATIONAL and YOUTH-RELATED

Governor, First Lady Tammy Murphy and New Jersey Department of Education Establish First-In-The-Nation Office of Climate Change Education

The Murphy administration has announced the establishment of the first-in-the-nation Office of Climate Change Education within the NJ Department of Education's (DOE) Office of Innovation "to further climate literacy and environmental awareness among students and educators across the state and to prepare

students for the future jobs created by the green economy." Sarah Sterling-Laldee has been hired as Senior Climate Change Education Advisor to lead the Office, and she will lead a team of Climate Awareness Innovation Specialists that will oversee NJ's climate change education work "to ensure our state continues to serve as a model for the rest of the nation.... Through collaboration with educators and additional stakeholders across the state, this team will leverage feedback and insights to inform professional development opportunities, technical assistance, as well as guidance and resources to facilitate high-quality and innovative learning opportunities for all students."

<https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562023/approved/20230926a.shtml>

Murphy Administration Launches Resource to Help Teachers Incorporate Climate Change Into Lesson Plans

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has issued a guidance document for NJ teachers entitled "Summary of Climate Change in New Jersey" (available here: https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/seeds/climatechangesummary_teachers.pdf). It is based on the "2020 NJ Scientific Report on Climate Change" and the "2022 Health Addendum: Climate Change Impacts on Health and Communities," and it is meant to provide teachers with basic background and resources for teaching about climate change. Since NJ is the first state with learning standards that require schools to teach about climate change across content areas in K-12 schools, not just in science classes, there undoubtedly are teachers who have not encountered climate change topics related to their subjects before. The document also includes a QR code with links to more climate change teaching resources. A summary of the document and its relevance to NJ educators is available in this article:

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/09/nj-dep-gives-guidance-about-how-to-teach-about-climate-change/>. The DEP news release provides more details here:

https://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2023/23_0046.htm.



DEP Commissioner Latourette Marks Climate Week by Unveiling Climate Change Learning Stations in Four State Parks

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has installed "Climate Change Learning Stations" which educate park visitors about climate change, changing shorelines, and coastal resilience and defense. They are located on a diversity of shorelines: oceanfront coastlines with sand dunes on Island Beach State Park and Cape May Point State Park; the bayside of Island Beach State Park; along a salt marsh at Cheesequake State Park; and overlooking a partially-built urban shoreline at Liberty State Park. A 1-1/2-minute video about the stations is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=49PNtSrtfHE>. The video describes the "MyCoast" photo documentation portion of each station that enables visitors to participate in a citizen science project to chronicle climate change impacts over time, using photos on their phones. https://www.nj.gov/dep/newsrel/2023/23_0047.htm

Commentary: How the New Jersey School of Conservation Got a New Lease on Life

In this piece Kerry Kirk Pflugh, president of the Friends of the New Jersey School of Conservation (NJSOC), describes the history of how the NJSOC was saved from being permanently closed. He also describes areas that will need additional funding in order for it to continue operating in its present state, including more than a million dollars needed to update a 1930s dam on Lake Wapalanne. <https://newjerseymonitor.com/2023/08/22/how-the-new-jersey-school-of-conservation-got-a-new-lease-on-life/>

OTHER

Will Feds Cover Some Costs of Keeping NJ's Nuclear Plants Open?

Starting in 2019, the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) has approved customer subsidies of NJ's three nuclear power plants of up to \$300 million a year. The process of approving the three-year subsidy program is beginning again, but this time the plants' operator is seeking federal funding from the Inflation Reduction Act, in the form of Production Tax Credits (PTC). NJ law requires that any such federal aid be used to offset what customers have paid for the subsidies. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/08/pseq-is-looking-to-njbpu-board-of-public-utilities-for-its-annual-300m-nuclear-subsidy/>

Clean-Energy Jobs Powering Growth in National Economy and NJ

A report "Clean Jobs America 2023" (available here: <https://e2.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/E2-2023-Clean-Jobs-America-Report.pdf>) by E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs), "a national, nonpartisan group of business leaders, investors, and professionals from every sector of the economy who advocate for smart policies that are good for the economy and good for the environment," found that the clean-energy sector added jobs 53% faster than the overall U.S. economy, with NJ being one of five states with growth over 6%. The largest growth was in clean-vehicle manufacturing, while energy efficiency remained the single largest employer in the sector. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/09/clean-energy-jobs-powering-growth-in-national-economy-and-nj/>

Murphy Names New BPU President

Upon the sudden death of Joseph Fiordaliso, who had been the NJ Board of Public Utilities' (BPU) president since the beginning of Gov. Murphy's first term in 2018, and was a staunch supporter of the governor's clean energy goals (see article here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/09/joseph-fiordaliso-new-jersey-bpu-president-has-died/>), Gov.

Murphy has appointed Christine Guhl-Sadovy, a former cabinet secretary and BPU chief of staff to the BPU, as its president. She has worked at the NJ branch of the Sierra Club, and the Planned Parenthood Action Fund of NJ. She shares Gov. Murphy's clean energy vision, and is supported by clean-energy advocates; however, others would have liked to have seen someone with "more balanced" views given the position (see minute 1:18 - 2:30 of the video available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/partisan-divide-intensifies-over-offshore-wind-energy/>.) Gov. Murphy has the ability name the BPU president without the need for confirmation by the Senate. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2023/09/gov-phil-murphy-announces-christine-guhl-sadovy-to-helm-bpu-following-joseph-fiordalisos-death/>

NJIT Researchers Harvesting the Toxic Blooms of Summer

This article describes how the NJ Institute of Technology (NJIT) is removing toxic algae blooms that "float on lakes and streams, killing fish, gobbling oxygen from the water and chasing away swimmers." NJIT is using a custom-designed boat on NJ's Deal Lake to scoop up algae-laden water for treatment on board. "Central to the technology is a device that injects

nano- and microbubbles of air into the lake, lifting algae from as deep as four feet to the surface for collection by skimmers." <https://news.njit.edu/harvesting-toxic-blooms-summer>

Pine Barrens Preserve Expands by 691 Acres

Utilizing funding from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Green Acres Program, Open Space Institute (OSI), and a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service North American Wetlands Conservation Act - Ducks Unlimited grant, the NJ Conservation Foundation has acquired a 691-acre former cranberry farm. This acquisition will result in the Michael Huber Prairie Warbler Preserve in the Pine Barrens growing 50 percent larger, thanks to the acquisition of an adjacent 691-acre former cranberry farm. This article describes the beauty of this property, and the impact of the acquisition. https://www.njconservation.org/press_release/pine-barrens-preserve-expands-by-691-acres/ [Note: there are many uplifting news articles on the NJ Conservation Foundation's website, under "News" at the "Who We Are" tab.]

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**

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.