

**SAVE THE DATE! UUFANJ ANNUAL MEETING
 5/31/2025 - See [p. 18](#).**

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

EJTF and CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES



UUFANJ at NJ Climate Superfund Act Rally and Successful Hearing!

On February 10, 2025 at the State House in Trenton, UU FaithAction NJ (UUFANJ) members attended a rally led by EmpowerNJ in support of the NJ Climate Superfund Act, followed by a public hearing of the bill by the Assembly Environment and Natural Resources Committee. Pictured above, holding the UUFANJ banner, are (L to R) EJTF member Peggy Middaugh, UUFANJ Executive Director Rev. Charles Loflin, and UUFANJ Board member Susan Druckenbröd. EJTF members Ray Nichols and Mike Skelly also attended. The bill was successfully passed out of the Committee!

The NJ Climate Superfund Act would make NJ more affordable by shifting the costs of climate destruction from consumers, taxpayers and ratepayers to the corporate polluters most responsible for the emissions causing the damage. We will continue to make this a priority, following the lead of EmpowerNJ, asking our members to meet with legislators, and to get resolutions from municipalities in favor of the bill. Also see the articles on [p. 22](#) and p. 23 [here](#) and [here](#).

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EJTF and CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES (cont.)

Morristown Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (MUUF)

Let's Go Solar Together! The Morristown Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (MUUF) is going solar. In addition to adding solar panels to the roof of their new addition, they are taking action to reduce the carbon footprint of their residences. MUUF member Dori Wolfe is a long-time solar homeowner who has conducted Solarize campaigns in VT and TX and works part-time for the non-profit Solar United Neighbors. She just moved to the area and wants to get solar on her new home, while helping neighbors and friends to do the same.

Dori Wolfe and other members of Green Earth Ministry will guide a group of interested homeowners through the process of going solar, saving money and hassle for all. "Whether you rent or own your home, whether you have good solar exposure or lots of lovely trees, Dori is willing to help you find a solar solution." If you're interested in exploring the idea further, you can sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/28ptbfw3>.

Let's go solar
Together with your neighbors!

 Morristown
Unitarian
Universalist
Fellowship

MUUF is going solar -
we can too!
With support from
Green Earth Ministry

Whether you own or rent your home
we will find a solution for you

MUUF member Dori Wolfe is a long-time solar homeowner who has conducted Solarize campaigns in VT and TX and works part-time for Solar United Neighbors. She just moved to the area and wants to get solar on her new home. She will guide the group through the process of going solar, saving money and hassle for all.

Email dori.wolfe@gmail.com to join the group - free to join and no obligation to purchase - a great way to learn!

REPAIR CAFE

YOUR BROKEN ITEMS FIXED FOR FREE!

EJTF member Cynthia Gutierrez Bernstein alerted us to this resource regarding "micro" level eco-friendly actions we can take. The "Repair Cafe Garden State" website (available here: <https://www.repaircafegs.org>) states: "Why throw away broken items? A simple fix may make them good as new, and keep them from filling our landfills. Sustainability can be taught while building social bonds within our communities at every Repair Cafe event." **The website includes a calendar of Repair Cafe events in NJ in the coming months.** Two events are taking place in April:

Madison Repair Cafe - 4/12/2025, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Madison, NJ - In-person -

Additional information, including a link to the flyer, is available here: <https://www.repaircafegs.org/our-locations/madison>). Repair Services available at this event include: Lamps; Fabrics; Bicycles; Jewelry; Toys; Wooden Items; Small Furniture; Knife Sharpening; Small Appliances; Tech Support: Cell Phones, Computers & More; General Repairs; and featuring a Kids' Take-Apart Table to "See what's inside common things!"

Maplewood/South Orange Repair Cafe on 4/27/2025, 2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., South Orange, NJ - In-person - Additional information is available here: <https://www.repaircafegs.org/our-locations/soma>.

NJ Energy Master Plan (EMP)

[Note: According to the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU), "The... EMP will serve as a whole-of-government progress report on the goals and strategies in the 2019 EMP, outline the changing landscape of State and federal support for climate action, and determine the basis for the development of actionable next steps to reduce GHG [greenhouse gas] emissions and maximize clean energy uptake economy-wide. The... EMP will be a public-facing document that incorporates progress information acquired through inter-agency collaboration and stakeholder feedback to build upon the 2019 EMP and will help New Jersey reach its goal of 100% clean energy by 2035, amongst other key clean energy and climate goals and benchmarks including health impact analyses and data center growth assessments."]

UUFANJ/EJTF member Mike Skelly presented verbal* and preliminary written testimony to the BPU regarding the NJ Energy Master Plan (EMP). Text of his 3-minute verbal presentation delivered March 13, 2025 is available to download here: <https://www.uufathaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/EMP-Comments-Testimony-March-13-2025-Mike-Skelly.docx>. The preliminary written testimony is below; UUFANJ will also be submitting detailed written testimony.

UUFANJ Testimony - by Mike Skelly

UU Faith Action urgently calls for a rapid and comprehensive transition away from fossil fuel-based energy consumption, directly addressing the core issues of rampant materialism and the exploitation of all living beings. To achieve this, we advocate for a two-thirds reduction of all energy consumption. This stance is rooted in our profound moral and strategic commitment to protecting the interconnected web of life, safeguarding human health and economic well-being, and ensuring a just and sustainable future for all.

Our recommendations are based on the following key considerations:

- **Realistic Energy Transition Timelines:** While we support the development of offshore wind energy, we recognize that its full contribution to New Jersey's energy needs will likely take more than a decade. Therefore, immediate and substantial reductions in energy demand are essential.
- **Accelerating Electrification of Transportation:** We believe that the market forces driving the adoption of electric vehicles, including economic advantages for manufacturers and consumers, will lead to widespread adoption within the next ten years.
- **Optimizing Building Electrification:** We emphasize the immediate technical and financial benefits of electrifying building lighting, heating, and cooling systems. Solar energy and heat pump technology offer cost-effective and efficient alternatives to traditional fossil fuel-based systems.
- **Policy and Social Change:** We recognize that achieving a sustainable energy future requires a multi-faceted approach, including:
 - **Strengthening political will:** Encouraging policymakers to prioritize clean energy solutions.
 - **Promoting social adoption:** Educating the public about the benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy.
 - **Addressing vested interests:** Advocating for policies that reduce the influence of fossil fuel industries.
 - **Educating the public:** Promoting a shift in consumer behavior towards sustainability.

We will offer detailed written testimony to the Board of Public Utilities and Governor to consider our recommendations as they finalize the Energy Master Plan. We believe that a bold and decisive commitment to squeaky clean energy is essential for the health and prosperity of New Jersey's communities and future generations. We are committed to working to achieve a just and sustainable energy transition.

***Also see the article "NJ Needs 'Steep Ramp-Up' to Reach Clean-Energy Targets" on [p. 23](#), which includes a link to Mike Skelly's recorded verbal presentation at the BPU hearing.**

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

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

APRIL 2025 (with hyperlinks to details on the following pages)						
<i>Sun.</i>	<i>Mon.</i>	<i>Tues.</i>	<i>Wed.</i>	<i>Thurs.</i>	<i>Fri.</i>	<i>Sat.</i>
		<p>1 NJBP "Addressing NJ Energy Affordability for LMI Households" Straw Proposal Meeting - 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>NJ Plan Mtg. - Bergen County - 12:00 p.m.</p> <p>"2025 Sustainable Energy in America Factbook" - 3:00 p.m.</p>	<p>2 "The New Jersey Pinelands: Understanding & Advocating for a Unique Ecosystem" - 12:00 p.m.</p> <p>Part I "Navigating the DEP System: Explaining Enforcement" - 6:00 p.m.</p>			<p>5 NOFA-NJ Organic Gardening Course - 9:00 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">EARTH DAY</p> <p>Hunterdon County Earth Day Festival - 9:30 a.m.</p>
<p>6 "Organic Rising" Film Screening Plus Panel Discussion - 3:00 p.m.</p>	<p>7 "What Is Possible in the Age of Climate Change" - 2:55 p.m.</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 "Energy Security & the Transition Amid Geopolitical Turbulence" Summit - 8:30 a.m.</p> <p>NJDEP Environmental Justice Advisory Council (EJAC) Public Meeting - 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>NJ Plan Mtg. - Hudson County - 5:00 p.m.</p> <p>Part II "Navigating the DEP System: Explaining Enforcement" - 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Environmental Voter Project Briefing for NJ UUs - 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>10 "Exposing the Unspoken": Film Screening & Conversation on Energy and Environmental Justice - 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>"Just Peace on a Burning Planet: Why Our Collective Survival Depends on Rethinking the Military" - 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>Comments Due 5:00 p.m.: NJBP "Addressing NJ Energy Affordability for LMI Households" Straw Proposal</p>	<p>11 NJ Tree Foundation Tree Planting - 1:30 p.m.</p>	<p>12 Newark South Ward Environmental Alliance (SWEA) 4th Annual Environmental Summit - 8:30 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p>Madison Repair Cafe - 12:00 p.m.</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>14 "Forestry Success in the Pinelands" Earth Day Every Day Webinar - 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 Public Hearing on NJDEP Proposed Mitigation Rules - 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>"Procedural Justice in EJ Decision-making" - 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>17 PVSC Board Meeting - 12:00 p.m.</p> <p>"Repairing the Social Fabric...In an Age of Misinformation" - 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 NJ Tree Foundation Tree Planting - 9:00 a.m.</p>

Calendar continues on p. 5.

Calendar continued from p. 4.

			<p>4/16 (cont.) Part III "Navigating the DEP System: Explaining Enforcement" - 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Option Green: "Sustainability Basics in the Home" - 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>4/17 (cont.)</p> <p>Comments Due: Establishment of an Urban Heat Island ("UHI") Mitigation Program by NJBPU</p>		
<p>20</p>	<p>21 "Plastic Reductions in NJ" Earth Day Every Day Webinar - 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>22 Hackensack River Nation Summit - 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>"Make Polluters Pay: Holding Big Oil Accountable for Climate Damages" - 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>EARTH DAY UUMFE Earth Day Worship Celebration - 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>23 "The Jungle": Film Screening & Director Talkback - 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Applications Due: To Join the NJDEP Environmental Justice Advisory Council (EJAC)</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 NJ Tree Foundation Tree Planting - 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p>26 EARTH DAY EV Expo in Madison - 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>Northeast Earth Coalition Celebration - Montclair - 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>NJDEP Earth Day - Jersey City - 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Cape May County - 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Friends of Princeton Open Space Volunteer Event - 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>Earth Day Green Fair, Somerville - 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Drive Electric and Earth Day - Point Pleasant - 11:30 a.m.</p>
<p>27 Maplewood/South Orange Repair Cafe - 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>EARTH DAY ACUA Festival - 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Drive Electric @ Wild Earth Fest - Mountainside - 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>Essex County Celebration - 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Burlington County Fair & EV Showcase - 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Hoboken Celebration & Music Festival - 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Montclair Earth Day and EV Expo - 12:00 p.m.</p>	<p>28 "Ocean Observation along the Jersey Shore" Earth Day Every Day Webinar - 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>29 DRBC Advisory Committee on Climate Change Meeting - 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) Grassroots Organizing Training - 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) Green Amendment Town Hall - 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>HAPPY EARTH DAY 2025!</p> <p>Link to information and map of additional EARTH DAY EVENTS</p> <hr/> <p>SAVE THE DATE: UUFANJ ANNUAL MEETING 5/31/2025 See p. 18</p>		

FUTURE EVENTS

HAPPY EARTH DAY 2025!



For Earth Day 2025, EARTHDAY.ORG's theme is "Our Power, Our Planet." As stated on their website, EARTHDAY.ORG is "inviting everyone around the globe to unite behind renewable energy, and to triple the global generation of clean electricity by 2030." **See the "EARTH DAY" events shown on the "Future Events" calendar.** Additional events, including several "clean-ups," are listed on the "Find an Event Near You" map on the EARTHDAY.ORG website available here: <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2025/>.

NJBPU "Addressing New Jersey Energy Affordability for Low and Moderate-Income Households" Straw Proposal Stakeholder Meeting - Virtual **4/1/2025, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

"The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("BPU" or "Board") hereby gives notice of a virtual stakeholder meeting to discuss the BPU's "Addressing New Jersey Energy Affordability for Low and Moderate-Income Households" Straw Proposal ("Straw").... As New Jersey continues to make investments in energy systems, it is imperative that special attention be paid to potential impacts on energy users, especially low- and moderate-income ("LMI") customers. By the Straw, Board Staff ("Staff") proposes to address energy affordability for LMI customers by: 1) increasing minimum and maximum benefits provided to residential gas and electric customers through the Board's Universal Service Fund ("USF") energy assistance program; 2) increasing utility engagement with their low- and moderate-income customers through targeted outreach and enrollment efforts; and 3) requiring the Utilities to promote the USF program to households

receiving Comfort Partners assistance and require the Utilities to promote the Comfort Partners program to USF-participating households that meet specific Comfort Partners priority targets....

In an effort to balance the clean energy needs of the State with the needs of low-and-moderate income customers, the Board commissioned the Brattle Group ("Brattle") to conduct a study of its energy assistance programs that included a jurisdictional scan of residential energy assistance programs across the United States to provide context for New Jersey's programs in light of the State's clean energy goals. By the report, **An Assessment of Energy Affordability in New Jersey and Alternative Policy and Rate Options** [available here:

<https://tinyurl.com/628vuzxd>]... Brattle concluded that, while New Jersey is positioned ahead of many of its peers... there exist more opportunities for New Jersey to improve its assistance programs." **Comments are due by 5:00 p.m. on 4/10/2025.** Additional information, including the Straw Proposal and instructions on how to access the meeting and to comment, are available here:

https://www.nj.gov/bpu/pdf/publicnotice/Notice_Stakh_olderMeeting_Comment_AffordabilityStraw.pdf.

"2025 Sustainable Energy in America Factbook" - Livestream **4/1/2025, 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

"This webinar is hosted in coordination with the House and Senate Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucuses and the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition. The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) and the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) invite you to a briefing about the 13th edition of the Sustainable Energy in America Factbook. The Factbook provides valuable year-over-year data and insights on the U.S. energy transformation, featuring an in-depth look at the energy efficiency, renewable energy, and natural gas sectors, as well as transmission, digitalization, microgrids, offshore wind, hydrogen, and renewable natural gas. This year, the Factbook dives into the growing energy demand driven by data centers and artificial intelligence. It examines trends in clean energy supply chains, growth in domestic manufacturing, and the ways in which permitting and siting impact the deployment of renewable energy....

The Factbook, published by BloombergNEF and BCSE, is available to download for free at <https://bcse.org/market-trends/>. Additional information and the link to RSVP are available here: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/040125factbook>.

NJ State Development and Redevelopment Plan Public Meetings - In-person
Bergen County, Hackensack NJ - 4/1/2025, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Hudson County, Jersey City, NJ - 4/9/2025, 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

The State Planning Commission has been hosting public meetings in the 21 NJ counties between February 12 and April 16, 2025. The purpose of these public meetings is to educate the public on how the Cross-acceptance process of the Draft Preliminary NJ State Development and Redevelopment Plan will work and to give members of the public; state, local, and county officials; and all other interested parties an opportunity to learn about, comment on, and discuss the proposed changes to the Plan. Additional information about the Plan, including a link to the it, is available here: <https://www.nj.gov/state/bac/planning/state-plan/development/index.shtml>. The detailed schedule for public meetings in April is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/2r3f8pkz>.



"Navigating the DEP System: Explaining Enforcement" - Hybrid
Part I - 4/2/2025, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - via Zoom
Part II - 4/9/2025, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Newark, NJ - In-person

Part III- 4/16/2025, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Camden, NJ - In-person

From the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) public notice: "Building on the success of the Navigating the DEP System Environmental Justice Seminar Series, OEJ's first seminar of 2025 will take place during the first three weeks of April! The 3-part seminar will focus on enforcement issues: What DEP enforces, how the processes work, and how you can get involved."

Part I - 4/2/2025 (via Zoom) - "Explaining Enforcement.... will provide an overview of how DEP's Air, Water, Solid Waste, and Land Use programs enforce environmental regulations, rules, and permits. Sessions will discuss the agency's existing enforcement authority within each program, exploring what constitutes a violation under state law, what actions DEP can take to ensure compliance, and how environmental justice communities can engage with DEP to expand enforcement efforts that effectively and equitably protect public health and the environment.

Topics include:

- Overview of the Office of Enforcement Policy
- What are DEP's enforcement mechanisms?
- How to look up enforcement reports on EJMAP
- How to report odors and other issues to the WARN-DEP Hotline
- Case studies of enforcement actions from different DEP programs
- How to get involved"

Part II - 4/9/2025 (in Newark, NJ) - "Odors 101 and Air Enforcement.... Join Ironbound Community Corporation & DEP's Division of Air Enforcement to learn about key differences in how odors and air quality regulations are enforced."

Part III - 4/16/2025 (in Camden, NJ) - "Solid Waste, Water, and Coastal Land Use.... This training will explore enforcement processes for the Solid Waste, Land Use, and Water programs. Dive deep into what enforcement power DEP has to regulate landfills and scrap yards and learn how residents can get involved."

Additional information, including registration links, is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/46u98sbu>.

**"The New Jersey Pinelands: Understanding
& Advocating for a Unique Ecosystem"
4/2/2025, 12:00 p.m. - Webinar**

The Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) is starting a monthly webinar series "exploring the vital work of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) and how you can help protect this unique ecosystem. In our first session [led by Heidi Yeh, PPA Policy Director], you will:

- Gain insight into the rare ecology of the New Jersey Pinelands and the innovative Comprehensive Management Plan that safeguards it.
- Learn about PPA's 35-year legacy of advocacy, as well as our initiatives promoting sustainable farming, native landscaping, and greater accessibility to public lands.
- Discover ways to get involved and make a difference as a Pinelands advocate."

The link to register is available here:

<https://engage.pinelandsalliance.org/webinar1>.

**NOFA-NJ Organic Gardening Course
4/5/2025, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Newark, NJ - In-person**

This one-day course is co-sponsored by the Northeast Organic Farming Association of NJ (NOFA-NJ) and the Greater Newark Conservancy.

"Whether you are a gardening newbie or a veteran, NOFA-NJ's Organic Gardening Course for Food Production will provide you with time-tested information as well as opportunities to discuss specific questions about your garden. Learn how to improve your soil and how to plan, prepare, and plant your own plot. Where there are gardens, there are weeds, diseases, pests, and hungry critters and you will discover methods to manage these challenges. Instructor Al Johnson has farmed and gardened Organically for over 50 years. Lunch and refreshments will be provided."

Additional information and the link to register (**\$20.00 - NOFA-NJ Member or Newark Resident; \$30.00 - General Public Admission**) are available here:

<https://nofanj.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/nofanj/event.jsp?event=6250&>

**Hunterdon County Earth Day Festival
4/5/2025, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Flemington, NJ - In-person**

"Join us for our Earth Day Festival! Celebrate our planet with a day full of fun and learning, engaging local environmental organizations. Learn about what problems the earth is facing and what everyday solutions you can do to be part of the solution. Enjoy arts and crafts projects, storytelling and more. The event is free and open to the community. We cannot wait to see you there! The schedule is as follows:

- 9:30 AM Join us for a litter cleanup and help make your park shine!
- 11:00-12:00 The Grand Falloons, Professor W's Earth Science assembly
- 12:00-12:30 Hike with the Hunterdon Hiking Club
- 1:00-2:00 Eyes of the Wild
- 2:00-2:30 Tree planting and story telling
- All day - Free tree give away, while supplies last; Farm Fun with 4-H Animals; Stream Critters; Creative Recycled Crafts; Exciting Games and Info Booths from Local Environmental Groups; Fishing Toss Challenge."

Additional information is available here:

<https://co.hunterdon.nj.us/2636/Earth-Day-Festival>.

**"Organic Rising" Film Screening Plus Panel
Discussion - In-person
4/6/2025, 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Lambertville, NJ**

"Organic Rising is a solutions-focused documentary that helps consumers navigate America's current foodscape and make decisions based on understanding rather than default acceptance of the status quo. Sponsored by NOFA-NJ [the Northeast Organic Farming Association of NJ]. Join us after the film for a discussion with Jess Niederer of Chickadee Creek Farm, Scott Morgan of Morganics Family Farm and Joseph Heckman of Neshanic Pastures LLC." The link to purchase tickets (**film + discussion Adult: \$17.00; Student: \$14.00**) is available here:

<https://www.acmescreeningroom.org/now-playing/organic-rising>.

"What Is Possible in the Age of Climate Change" - Webinar
4/7/2025, 2:55 p.m. - 4:10 p.m.

This webinar, part of the Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability "Perspectives on the Climate Change Challenge" Seminars, will be presented by Anne Thompson, NBC News' Chief Environmental Affairs correspondent.... Most recently, Thompson led coverage on the Gulf oil spill, covering all aspects of the crisis from the beginning to when the well was finally killed.... She has traveled to Copenhagen to cover climate change negotiations, Greenland, Costa Rica, the Amazon, Australia and Europe to cover such issues as alternative fuels, global warming, land usage, and new technologies." Additional information and the Zoom link are available here: <https://www.atkinson.cornell.edu/news-events/climate-change-seminar/>.

"Energy Security and the Transition Amid Geopolitical Turbulence" Summit - Livestream
4/9/2025, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

"The Columbia Global Energy Summit 2025, hosted by the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University SIPA [School of International and Public Affairs], is an annual event dedicated to thought-provoking discussions around the critical energy and climate challenges facing the global community. The Summit brings together some of the world's foremost thought leaders and decision makers for thought-provoking conversations focused on the nexus of geopolitics, energy, security, and climate.... Speakers from around the world.... will.... participate in high-level conversations focused on the energy and security demands of the growing artificial intelligence industry, critical minerals security and supply chain dynamics, the impacts of rising trade tensions, industrial policies, and Great Power competition on the energy sector and the clean energy transition...." Additional information and the link to register for the livestream are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/3j8vtd7w>.

NJDEP Environmental Justice Advisory Council (EJAC) Public Meeting
4/9/2025, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - **Virtual**

From the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) public notice: "The Environmental Justice Advisory Council (EJAC) [website available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/ej/ej-council/>] uses its diverse expertise to advise DEP on how best to integrate Environmental Justice into agency-wide programs, policies, and activities, and build agency capacity. In addition to their advisory role, members also identify priority issues in NJ's environmental justice communities and work to address them through EJAC's established Air, Land, Water, and Environmental Education & Communication Working Groups.... The purpose of these public meetings is to receive input on how EJAC can advise NJDEP on various environmental justice initiatives." **The discussion topic for the public meeting is: What environmental issues in overburdened communities require more attention from NJDEP?** Additional information and the link to register are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/bdhsskhh>.

Briefing:
Environmental Voter Project
briefing for New Jersey
Unitarian Universalists

Join EVP's Executive Director, Nathaniel Stinnett, for an overview of the Environmental Voter Project.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9 7PM - 8PM ET

Environmental Voter Project

Environmental Voter Project Briefing for NJ Unitarian Universalists - via Zoom
4/9/2025, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

EJTF member Nadine Sapirman, a supporter of the Environmental Voter Project (EVP), has arranged with its Executive Director to hold an information webinar for NJ Unitarian Universalists. The EVF is a non-partisan organization whose mission is to "identify inactive environmentalists and transform them into consistent voters to build the power of the environmental movement"

(additional information about EVP is available here: <https://www.environmentalvoter.org>.) They do this through scientifically tested messaging in phone calls, postcards, targeted online ads and in-person canvassing. This webinar will review what the Environmental Voter Project is, how they identify and mobilize voters, and ways that UUs can support their important work. The EVP has just started working in NJ, which is great news for the state, with a gubernatorial election this year. Registration is available here:

<https://www.environmentalvoter.org/get-involved/environmental-voter-project-briefing-new-jersey-unitarian-universalists/2025-04-09>. Any questions may be directed to Nadine Sapirman, Green Sanctuary Chair at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Somerset Hills, greensanctuary@uucsh.org.

"Exposing the Unspoken": Film Screening & Conversation on Energy and Environmental Justice - Webinar
4/10/2025, 7:00 p.m.

This webinar is presented by Elders Climate Action. "Join us for a screening of "Exposing the Unspoken," a powerful documentary produced by Arm and Arm and the People's Justice Council. This eye-opening film sheds light on corporate greed, environmental injustice, and the real cost of Southern Company's continued reliance on dirty energy sources. Through compelling storytelling and firsthand accounts, the documentary reveals how frontline communities are bearing the brunt of pollution, economic exploitation, and political obstruction from powerful fossil fuel interests. Following the screening, we will engage in a community discussion, featuring the filmmakers, about the film's themes, the role of grassroots activism, and ways we can take action to demand accountability from major polluters like Southern Company." Additional information and the link to register (**suggested donation \$10.00**) are available here:

https://www.eldersclimateaction.org/event/film_sopeoplenotsoco/.

"Just Peace on a Burning Planet: Why Our Collective Survival Depends on Rethinking the Military" - Webinar
4/10/2025, 8:00 p.m.

"As the horrific LA fires have shown, being prepared for climate instability must be one of the top priorities for communities, states and nations in the next decade. One of the few institutions that has long been thinking about adaptation to climate change is the military." This Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC) webinar will be presented by Nick Buxton, "an activist, communications specialist, and researcher on militarism and climate change. He currently works as Knowledge Hub Coordinator for Transnational Institute, an international research thinktank that works with social movements globally. He is co-editor of the influential book, *The Secure and the Dispossessed - How the military and corporations are seeking to shape a climate-changed world* (Pluto Press, 2015) and regularly produces research on the impact of military spending on climate action. His latest report, *Climate Crossfire*, explores how NATO's 2% military spending targets contribute to climate breakdown. Additional information and the registration link are available here: <https://uujec.org/webinars>.

Newark South Ward Environmental Alliance (SWEA) 4th Annual Environmental Summit
4/12/2025, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Newark, NJ - In-person

The South Ward Environmental Alliance (SWEA) was founded in 2015 by **EJTF partner Kim Gaddy** "to cultivate healthy and vibrant neighborhoods by ensuring residents' voices are heard and they are active participants in decision making policies that impact their neighborhood." This year's summit focuses on "South Ward Strong: Creating Sustainable EcoVillages and Thriving Neighborhoods." In the past, this summit has provided a very interesting networking opportunity. Additional information and the link to register are available here:

<https://www.southwardea.com>.

**Public Hearing on NJDEP Proposed Wetlands Mitigation Rules - Virtual
4/16/2025, 10:00 a.m.**

From the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP): "...the NJ Department of Environmental Protection is proposing a rule [available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/rules/proposals/proposal-20250317a.pdf>] that combines repeals, amendments, and recodifications with amendments to the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) rules,... Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act (FWPA) rules,... and Flood Hazard Area Control Act (FHACA) rules,... all relating to mitigation. Mitigation is a tool used to replace environmental resources when the determination is made that a proposed activity meets the standards and conditions to be granted a permit that will result in the loss of coastal or freshwater wetlands, intertidal/subtidal shallows, or riparian zone. The proposal encompasses the three land use rules as follows:

- Within the CZM rules, this proposal would allow applicants who need to mitigate for intertidal/subtidal shallows (ISS) impacts to use a mitigation bank.
- The proposal adds the ability to preserve wetlands as a form of mitigation to both the CZM and FWPA rules.
- The FWPA rules are being amended to change the mitigation hierarchy for a 'larger' disturbance and make it the same as the hierarchy for a 'smaller' disturbance.
- The proposal would repeal the option to make a 'single family contribution' to the Wetlands Mitigation Council for impacts resulting from general permits.
- In the Flood Hazard Area rules, the proposal would allow applicants to use the full range of mitigation options, including a mitigation bank, if mitigation along the same water or upstream is not feasible for major developments proposed along C-1 waterways."

A virtual public hearing will be held 4/16/2025; the link to join and additional information is available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/wlm/proposals/>.

Comments are due 5/16/2025; instructions for submitting comments are in the proposed rule, linked above.

**"Procedural Justice in Environmental Justice Decision-making" - Virtual
4/16/2025, 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

From the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) public notice: "Join WE ACT's EPA Region 2 Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center [TCTAC] on April 16th from 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm for the fourth installment of their Environmental Justice Law and Policy series. This session, presented in partnership with the Institute for Policy Integrity, will explore the complex activities that public utility or public service commissions (PUCs) undertake in the name of climate and energy policy. Participants will learn what PUCs are, the kinds of decisions they make, common PUC procedural processes, and how environmental justice communities can engage with PUCs to inform equitable decision-making." Registration is available here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/IYGvpbvhT_a26POR4CDDM_g.

**Option Green: "Sustainability Basics in the Home" - Hybrid
4/16/2025, 7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
East Brunswick, NJ - In-person & via Zoom**

"Join Lynn Ust and Briane Peters of Middlesex County's Solid Waste Management and Environmental Health Division for a presentation on 'Sustainability Basics in the Home through Solid Waste Management, Recycling, & Getting Food Smart'. Learn about proper waste disposal, recycling guidance (including batteries), and eating beyond the 'best buy' date in our community. This event is part of Option Green series co-sponsored by the East Brunswick Library and the Friends of East Brunswick Environmental Commission. Additional information and the link to register for the online event are available here:

<https://ilove.ebpl.org/adults/events/option-green-sustainability-basics-home-hybrid/2025-04-16-230000-2025-04-17-001500>.

**Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission
(PVSC) Board Meeting - Virtual
4/17/2025, 12:00 p.m.**

From the **EJTF partner** NJ Environmental Justice Alliance (NJEJA): "Join the [**EJTF partner**] Ironbound Community Corporation at the next Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) board meeting on Thursday, April 17 at 12 pm to speak out against the proposed 4th power plant in Newark and push for cleaner alternatives." The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has given approval to PVSC to begin construction of its controversial gas-fired power plant. Only one more final permit is needed - a federal air permit - which is now under a 45-day review by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). If the federal air permit is granted, DEP can issue a final decision to proceed. However, the PVSC Board can still vote not to proceed with the plant. The zoom link is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/yc7nesyw>.

**Establishment of an Urban Heat Island
("UHI") Mitigation Program by NJBPU
Comments Due 4/17/2025**

The "New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ('Board') Staff ('Staff') hereby invites all interested parties and members of the public to submit comments on the establishment and proposed funding structure of an UHI Mitigation Program.... The proposed UHI Mitigation Program ('UHI Program') is a comprehensive approach to address extreme heat impacts and enhance resilience in overburdened communities ('OBCs'). The UHI Program will employ interventions proposed by community-based organizations ('CBOs') and will be supported by interventions described in the following state plans: 2019 State Energy Master Plan ('EMP'), Community Energy Plans, NJ Extreme Heat Resilience Action Plan, Priority Climate Action Plan ('PCAP'), and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative ('RGGI") Strategic Funding Plan." **Comments are due by 5:00 p.m. on 4/17/2025.** Additional information and instructions to provide comments are available here: https://nj.gov/bpu/pdf/publicnotice/Webposting-Notice_RequestforComments_UHIMitigationProgram.pdf

**"Repairing the Social Fabric in an Age of
Misinformation" - Webinar
4/17/2025, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

This webinar is organized by The Campaign for Peace, Disarmament & Common Security. "We are living through a period of tremendous changes to our information ecosystem, resulting in growing concerns about misinformation and its effect on our society. While dominant discourse frames this issue as one mainly of false belief, and exclusively affecting the other side (which varies depending on your affiliation), this is misinformation in itself. This webinar, led by Nick Rabb, will complicate the concept of misinformation, show how it affects us all regardless of political orientation, and share strategies we all can use to mend its damage to our social fabric. Nick Rabb is a thinker and organizer who is motivated to help people think critically about politics and social life, as well as to develop strategies to move towards a more just, cooperative and live-giving society. He is a postdoctoral researcher at California State University, Los Angeles." The registration link is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/56p44x3u>.

**"Make Polluters Pay: Holding Big Oil
Accountable for Climate Damages"
4/22/2025, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
& "Climate Action Now" App Action Party
8:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
- Webinar**

This webinar sponsored by Elders Climate Action will be presented by Jamie Henn, the executive director of Fossil Free Media, the home of the Make Polluters Pay campaign. "Big Oil has known about the climate crisis for decades - and they lied about it to protect their profits. Now, a growing movement is demanding justice. Across the country, states and communities are turning to the courts to make polluters pay for the damage they've caused. New York and Vermont have passed first-of-their-kind Climate Superfund laws.... At the same time, lawsuits against Big Oil are gaining momentum.... As Trump and the fossil fuel industry push an agenda of more handouts to polluters, we have an opportunity to take a powerful, populist stand.... Jamie Henn joins us to share what's happening and what we can do in our states and beyond to support the effort." After the webinar, there will be a 15-minute Action Party on

the Climate Action Now app, which "gives individuals the ability to take planet-saving actions from their phone in seconds." Additional information, including the registration link and a QR code to set up the Climate Action Now app in advance, is available here:

https://www.eldersclimateaction.org/event/nc_apr2025/.

UUMFE Earth Day Worship Celebration
4/22/2025, 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
- Virtual

"As Unitarian Universalists, we are positioned to be faith leaders at this critical time in our country's history. And it can feel overwhelming. Where do we start? We run the risk of becoming quick to act without listening to each other and the communities most impacted by climate disruption. This Earth Day, UU Ministry for Earth will help us deepen practices that put Love at the center of our climate justice work. Not to avoid acting, but to prepare us for action.... We will hold the service online, and we can also provide written worship materials for your congregation's or group's use. We ask for a donation for those materials. Register for the online service and/or the written materials here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScbyWeoEjFYIWgJNL5Gnjx9_j3g7EeHBXzX0moGaP0wodJCEA/view_form."

Hackensack River Nation Summit
4/22/2025, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Teaneck, NJ - In-person

The Hackensack River Nation Summit is "A gathering of environmental leaders, public officials and others working to protect the health of the Hackensack River Watershed and connect more people to the Hackensack River. Featuring presentations and workshops on: Cleaning up the Hackensack River Superfund site; Stormwater management planning; Building strong watershed alliances; Building trails in urban and suburban communities." Additional information, including links to the agenda and to register (**Tickets: General public – \$80; Government & Nonprofit, Environmental Commission and Green Team members – \$40**) are available here: <https://www.nnjcf.org/hrn/>.

"The Jungle": Film Screening & Director Talkback - Virtual
4/23/2025, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

"Join Food & Water Watch for a film screening of 'The Jungle' followed by a talkback with director Matt Wechsler. Unraveling centuries of greed and exploitation in America's meat industry, this modern-day take on Upton Sinclair's shocking 1906 novel calls into question the profiteering of ecosystems and reveals how Indigenous knowledge may hold the key to creating an equitable food system for both people and the planet." Additional information and the link to register to attend are available here:

<https://www.mobilize.us/fww/event/763640/>

Apply to Join the NJDEP Environmental Justice Advisory Council (EJAC)
Applications Due 4/23/2025

From the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) public notice: "Join the Environmental Justice Advisory Council (EJAC) and make a difference in New Jersey's environmental justice initiatives! NJDEP is seeking applications to fill seven (7) vacancies for 3-year terms through 2028. EJAC advises the DEP Commissioner on environmental justice matters, coordinates with the Department's Office of Environmental Justice, and provides guidance to Executive Branch departments and agencies. Members represent diverse sectors and have contributed to crucial initiatives like the Environmental Justice Law, the Environmental Justice Seminar series and the What's in My Community Tool.... To apply, you must have a current connection to the sector you're interested in. Submit your application, resume/CV, outside employment questionnaire, and one letter of recommendation by April 23, 2025." Additional information is available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/ej/ejac-membership-application/>.

Drive Electric Earth Month EV Expo in Madison, NJ
4/26/2025, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Madison, NJ - In-person

"The Environmental Commissions of Madison, Chatham Borough and Chatham Township are sponsoring the fifth annual EV Expo across the

street from the Madison Train Station on Saturday, April 26 from 9 until 2. Models already signed up include Tesla, Lucid, Porsche, VW (ID.BUZZ), Honda, Ford, Chevrolet (Blazer, Equinox, BriteDrop, Silverado), Karma, Polestar, Volvo, Mercedes and Hundai. Representatives from dealers and from the Electrical Vehicle Association (EVA) will be present to answer questions and food will be for sale. Some dealers will likely offer test drives." Additional information and the links to register to attend, exhibit your EV, or to volunteer are available here:

<https://driveelectricearthmonth.org/event?eventid=4634>.

Northeast Earth Coalition Earth Day Celebration 2025

4/26/2025, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Montclair, NJ - In-person

The Northeast Earth Coalition (NEEC), invites you to join their 2025 Earth Day Celebration. "On Saturday April 26th we will have live music by local performers, environmental displays, and volunteer opportunities for parks cleanups and community gardens. Free event!" Additional information, including descriptions of activities taking place throughout Earth Week, and a registration link, are available here:

<https://neearth.org/events/earth-day-celebration-2025/>.

NJDEP Earth Day 2025 - "Our Power, Our Planet"

4/26/2025, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Liberty State Park, Jersey City, NJ

Rain or Shine - In-person

"This family-friendly event will take place rain or shine. We'll celebrate our planet with fun activities, eco-friendly organizations, and much more. Whether you're looking to learn about New Jersey's environmental protection efforts, meet local artists, or simply enjoy a day outdoors with your loved ones, there's something for everyone! Event Highlights: Park clean up; Family activities and games; Eco exhibitors; Bird Watching; Giveaways; Arts and crafts; Food trucks; And more!" Additional information and the RSVP link are available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/event/earth-day-2025/>.

Cape May County Earth Day Celebration

4/26/2025, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Cape May Court House, NJ - In-person

"The Cape May County Park and Zoo is the perfect location for this day of fun and learning. Hands on educational exhibits, children's amusements, live entertainment, a variety of environmental eco-shops, scavenger hunt; all which will guarantee a day of earth friendly fun. Large tents on the center field will showcase educational exhibits. The Bandstand nearby will feature the entertainment for the day. Crafters, wares, and a food court surround the field and complete the venue."

Additional information is available here:

<https://www.capemaycountynj.gov/1614/Earth-Day-Celebration-2025>.

Friends of Princeton Open Space Earth Day Land Stewardship Volunteer Event

4/26/2025, Two Sessions -

Session I: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Session II: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Princeton, NJ - In-person

Join the Friends of Princeton Open Space (FOPOS) "for a special Earth Day Land Stewardship volunteer event at the Billy Johnson Mountain Lakes Nature Preserve in Princeton, NJ. Volunteers will work under the guidance of FOPOS' stewardship staff to perform riparian and forest restoration in the Billy Johnson Mountain Lakes Nature Preserve. Join us as we head out to one of our restoration project sites for critical tasks such as invasive species removal, spring planting, or installing cages around native plants to protect them from deer & beaver browse." Additional information and the link to register are available here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/earth-day-land-stewardship-volunteer-event-42625-tickets-1288912434789?aff=erelexpmlt>.

Earth Day Green Fair, Somerville

4/26/2025, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Somerville, NJ - In-person

"Whether you're interested in learning about beekeeping, solar energy, or browsing sustainable goods, this family-friendly event has something for everyone. You'll connect with various local organizations that put sustainability and our environment first. Meet the passionate folks from

the NJ Beekeepers Association, Revive Consign, Native Plant Society, and so many more. Explore their booths, engage in kid-friendly activities, and discover how you can make a positive impact on the planet, right here in our community!" The Sierra Club NJ's Raritan Valley Group also plans to participate. Additional information about this and other Earth Day-related events is available here: <https://www.somervillenj.org/save-the-dates-for-earth-day-2025/>.

Drive Electric and Earth Day Celebration in Point Pleasant
4/26/2025, 11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Point Pleasant, NJ - In-person

"Join NJEVA [NJ Electric Vehicle Association] and Point Pleasant Environmental Commission as they celebrate Earth Day. The theme of the event is 'Think globally, act locally.' This annual event brings local residents and many vendors as well as township and county officials." The event will include: Food Trucks, 30+ Vendors, Car Display, Petting Zoo, Free Kids Activities, Family Yoga and Live Music. Additional information, including the links to register to attend, exhibit your EV, or to volunteer are available here: <https://driveelectricearthmonth.org/event?eventid=4768>.

ACUA's 33rd Annual Earth Day Festival
4/27/2025, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.,
Rain or Shine
Egg Harbor Township, NJ - In-person

"Join us Sunday, April 27, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., at the ACUA [Atlantic County Utilities Authority] Environmental Park in Egg Harbor Township to celebrate our planet. The event features environmental tours, workshops, local vendors, food vendors, music, live entertainment, and more! There is something for all ages to enjoy." Additional information is available here: <https://www.acua.com/Community-Hub/Events-and-Classes/Earth-Day-Festival.aspx>.

Drive Electric Earth Month @ Wild Earth Fest in Mountainside
4/27/2025, 10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Mountainside, NJ - In-person

New Jersey Electric Vehicle Association (NJEVA) will be leading the EV show at the Wild Earth Fest at the Trailside Nature & Science Center in Mountainside, NJ. The show is expected to attract over 3000 visitors from Union County. Wild Earth Fest is an educational event to promote awareness and appreciation of global and local conservation issues, including energy, recycling, land and wildlife conservation and pollution. Wild Earth Fest will inform visitors about these issues through displays, talks, demonstrations, and fun family activities. Additional information and the links to register to attend, exhibit your EV, or to volunteer are available here: <https://driveelectricearthmonth.org/event?eventid=4713>.

Essex County Earth Day Celebration
4/27/2025, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (Rain Date 5/3/2025)
Roseland, NJ - In-person

This event will include: "Live Music • Eco-vendors and ECEC Crafts • Timed Nature Walks (pre-registration required) • Rutgers Master Gardeners of Essex County • Essex County 4-H Fair • Essex County Beekeepers • Rock Climbing Wall • Food and Refreshments • Essex County Turtle Back Zoo • Canoeing (weather and river level dependent) • New Jersey Woodturners." Additional information, including how to pre-register for Timed Nature Walks, is available here: <https://essexcountyparks.org/media/data/EssexResource/628-earth-day-2025-flyer-v2-print.pdf>.

Burlington County Earth Fair and TCS Drive Electric Month EV Showcase
4/27/2025, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Easthampton, NJ - In-person

"Historic Smithville Park will once again be transformed into a sanctuary of recycling, gardening, health, and wellness for Earth Fair 2025. Learn to care for nature, plants, the land, and yourself, and, be educated as you are

entertained by musicians, storytellers, presenters and artists." The very comprehensive list of activities is available here:

<https://www.co.burlington.nj.us/1958/Earth-Fair>.

Also, Tri County Sustainability (TCS) has partnered with Burlington County "to host our EV Showcase as part of the Burlington County Earth Fair. We'll have many makes & models of Electric Vehicles to see, and you'll hear from owners about their experience of driving electric!

Representatives from the South Jersey Electric Vehicle Club, The New Jersey Electric Vehicle Association, and other related organizations will be on hand with all the info you'll need to make the switch to driving electric!" Additional information and links to register to attend the EV portion, exhibit your EV, or to volunteer are available here: <https://driveelectricearthmonth.org/event?eventid=472> 3.

Hoboken Earth Day Celebration & Music Festival

4/27/2025, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Hoboken, NJ - In-person

"Celebrate our planet with live music, eco-friendly activities, green vendors and good vibes at the Earth Day Celebration & Music Festival This event will be held at Hoboken's beautiful Monroe Center Plaza at 770 Jackson St , where we will have live music from local bands, delicious food trucks, live animal encounters, upcycled arts & crafts, fitness demos and eco-friendly vendors showcasing their products. Let's celebrate our planet together and enjoy a day of green living and great tunes. Don't miss out on this exciting event!" Additional information is available here:

<https://mainstreetpops.com/?event=earth-day-celebration-music-festival>.

Montclair Earth Day and EV Expo

4/27/2025, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Montclair, NJ - In-person

"JOIN US for the second annual Earth Fest celebration made possible by Montclair Township's Office of Sustainability, the Montclair Center BID, Drive Electric, Sierra Club, and Montclair Climate Action.... The goal of Earth Fest is to unite the Montclair community in upholding environmentally conscious practices while educating residents

about the programs and initiatives we lead to build a more resilient community. Residents of all ages are able to participate in educational games, explore booths from local businesses and nonprofits championing sustainable practices, and discover eco-friendly alternatives they can demo such as electric vehicles, energy-efficient appliances, and more." Additional information about the Earth Fest is available here:

<https://www.montclairnjsa.org/Government/Departments/Office-of-Sustainability/EARTH-FEST-2025> and links to register to attend the EV portion, exhibit your EV, or to volunteer are available here: <https://driveelectricearthmonth.org/event?eventid=4662>.

Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) Advisory Committee on Climate Change Meeting - via Zoom

4/29/2025, 1:00 p.m.

For the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) Advisory Committee on Climate Change (ACCC) meeting, additional information, including the Zoom registration, will be available here:

<https://www.nj.gov/drbc/meetings/advisory/index.html>

Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) Grassroots Organizing Training & Green Amendment Town Hall

4/29/2025

Organizing Training: - 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Green Amendment Town Hall: 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Southampton, NJ - In-person

The Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) is holding two back-to-back events on 4/29/2025. "Join the Pinelands Preservation Alliance [PPA] for a discussion on securing our constitutional right to life's most basic necessities in New Jersey with the **Green Amendment**. Green Amendments establish a constitutional mandate recognizing pure water, clean air, a stable climate, and healthy environments as the inherent rights of all citizens. You will hear from experts, including community leaders, elected officials, and **founder of Green Amendments for the Generations: Maya van Rossum**.

We will have a **Grassroots Organizing Training** before the Town Hall for those interested in

learning a straightforward method to protect forests, farms, rivers, and communities through grassroots organizing. This training will take place at 6:00 PM and will last one hour. You can sign up for one or both of these events." Additional information and the link to register are available here: <https://pinelandsalliance.org/green-amendment/>.

NJ Tree Foundation Spring Tree Plantings Various dates and locations - In-person

"The NJ Tree Foundation [of which **EJTF member Peggy Middaugh is Board Secretary**] is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to planting trees in New Jersey's most urban neighborhoods, where the need is greatest. Through tree planting, volunteerism, and partnerships, [the NJ Tree Foundation] assist[s] numerous communities in improving their environment and quality of life." The spring plantings are beginning; April events are shown below (**All plantings are rain or shine, and are held from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted**). Tools and gloves will be provided.

Volunteer numbers are capped for each event; check here - https://njtrees.org/event_listing_type/tree-planting/ - to see if volunteers are still needed for the following events, (which were available as of 3/27/2025) and for additional events:

- 4/11 - CCMUA, Camden (1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)
- 4/19 - Chestnut Ave, Gloucester City
- 4/25 - Arbor Day Tree Planting at Military Park, Orange
- 5/3 - West State Street, Trenton
- 5/10 - Collingswood Meditation Garden

For additional information, contact Crystal at cwessel@njtreefoundation.org, or call (856)287-4488.

Earth Day Every Day Webinar Series "Some Good News: Environmental Success Stories in New Jersey" Various Dates (see below), 6:30 p.m.

This spring, the "Earth Day Every Day" webinar series will "highlight impactful programs that made a difference in protecting the Garden State. From shellfish habitat restoration to plastic reduction, these projects showcase the creativity, collaboration, and dedication of individuals, organizations, and communities working towards a greener future. Join us as we explore the stories behind these successes, learn about the challenges overcome, and discover how these initiatives can serve as models for environmental progress in New Jersey and beyond." The series is a collaboration between the Rutgers Earth Day Every Day (E2D2) Extension program and the Marine Extension Program Seminar Series (MEPSS). Additional information, including descriptions of future webinars, is available here: <https://envirostewards.rutgers.edu/earth-day-every-day/>.

April webinar dates and descriptions of the webinars are as follows:

4/14/25 – "Forestry Success in the Pinelands" – "Learn about the history of biocontrols in New Jersey forestry and about a new project in the Pinelands. The Pinelands project has a component of variable density thinning to promote diversity, as well as road maintenance and fire breaks to provide wildfire relief and provide an action point for the Forest Fire Service." Register: <https://tinyurl.com/k7y3zzkb>

4/21/25 – "Plastic Reductions in NJ" – "Discover how the Get Past Plastic Law and new Skip the Stuff ordinances are driving real change. Learn about zero-waste efforts, reduced litter rates, and how increased public awareness is creating momentum for a cleaner, healthier New Jersey. Most importantly, find out practical steps you can take personally to reduce plastic use and be part of the solution!" Register: <https://tinyurl.com/k7y3zzkb>

4/28/25 – "Ocean Observation along the Jersey Shore" – "Join us to learn about the successes achieved by the Rutgers University

Center for Ocean Observing Leadership (RUCOOL) to observe and understand the complex oceanography off New Jersey, and how results from their work have benefited fisheries science, weather and hurricane modeling, search and rescue, water quality monitoring, and so much more!" Register: <https://tinyurl.com/k7y3zzkb>



UU FaithAction NJ Annual Meeting - Hybrid
5/31/2025, time TBA
Titusville, NJ - In-person & Online

The UU FaithAction NJ (UUFANJ) Annual Meeting will be held on May 31st, 2025, at the Unitarian Universalist Church at Washington Crossing in Titusville, NJ and online. All New Jersey UUs are encouraged to attend! The meeting schedule and additional details will be available here: <https://www.uufaithaction.org>.

VIDEOS+ OF PAST EVENTS

"Trump's Second Act: Power, Resistance, and the Limits of Governance" **- Video of Webinar**

This webinar was sponsored by the Security and Sustainability Forum (SSF) and was presented by "one of the most respected voices in sustainability, energy, and societal resilience.... Richard Heinberg, Senior Fellow of Post Carbon Institute and author of many award-winning books on energy and the environment.... The 2024 presidential election has ushered in a political landscape that will shape the nation's trajectory for years. Donald Trump's return to the White House raises urgent questions about the future of democracy, governance, and institutional resilience in the United States. How will power be wielded? What are the implications for policy, social cohesion, and global stability?" The video is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/54x9c5t5>.

"Building Relationships with Elected Officials" - Video of Webinar

In this webinar presented by Elders Climate Action, Joe Simitian answered "some of our biggest questions about our advocacy efforts and their impacts. Joe [brought] a wide-ranging perspective with a background in nearly all levels of state and local government including School Board, CA State Senate and Assembly and Board of Supervisors in Santa Clara County, CA. Joe authored many environmental laws during his Senate and Assembly terms, including The California Clean Coast Act, The Sustainable Oceans Act, The Delta Reform Act, and the state's 33% by 2020 renewable portfolio standard. He also served as Chair of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee and routinely earned a 100% score from the California League of Conservation Voters. We [dug in] to talk with Joe and learn[ed] more about his strategies for building relationships and getting things done within local government." The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9WpMmsoXAY&t=4s>.

"Building Climate Resilience - the Latest on New Jersey" - Video of Webinar

This is the second session of a monthly event series sponsored by Rebuild by Design, which offers "an in-depth look at the updated findings from the NJ Atlas of Disaster [available here: <https://rebuildbydesign.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/NJ-Atlas-of-Disaster.pdf>], along with insights from guest speakers who are leading efforts to address climate challenges in New Jersey." This speaker event featured "New Jersey's Chief Resilience Officer, Nick Angarone, and Kate Boicourt, Director of Climate Resilient Coasts and Watersheds at Environmental Defense Fund.... [who discussed] NJDEP's latest efforts to help communities assess climate risks, strengthen resilience, and implement flood protection solutions." The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLE2z7st5To>.

NJBPU Energy Efficiency Stakeholder Meeting - Video of Webinar and Slides

The NJ Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) monthly Clean Energy Program Energy Efficiency Stakeholder meeting for February 2025 included an NJBPU presentation of building decarbonization updates and a Guest Presentation on a "Geothermal Case Study: Princeton University." The video is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/yrkv35tf>; the decarbonization presentation begins at minute 00:14:44 and the Guest Presentation begins at minute 01:31:31. Slides from the webinar are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/yyjnecr4>.

"The State of Electrify Everything" - Video of Online Presentation

This is a video of the keynote session of GreenBiz's 2022 online event, "VERGE Electrify - Amping Up the All-Electric Future," and was presented by Saul Griffith, an Australian-American inventor and renewable electricity advocate. **EJTF member Mike Skelly** recommended the video, stating: "As we head into EMP [NJ Energy Management Plan] season here's some food for thought. A presentation on electrification/ decarbonization by the leader of Electrify America in 2022. It looks at broad and long term trends that are still very much in force and applicable to New Jersey and its Energy Master Plan update in March 2025. Most interesting is how electrification/decarbonization is also a means to improve the economy of local communities. We will stop sending a huge amount of money outside of local communities (and New Jersey) to purchase energy imported from other parts of the country or even outside the country. We will install, maintain, generate, store energy locally and could even encourage local manufacturing (of solar, batteries, distribution tech, rack systems and hardware, etc. etc.). In addition to the clean air, reduced health costs, it could be a local economic driver supporting local schools, infrastructure, and local government services." The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ju01tzpk4QY>.

"Wake Up to the Climate Crisis - NO MAS – Veterans Call for UU Support in Addressing the Climate Impacts of Military Air Shows" - Video of Webinar

This webinar, presented by UUs for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC), "examin[ed] the US military's relationship to the climate crisis and what we can do to raise awareness as we move from Empire to Earth Community. Specifically, [it examined] the Veterans For Peace's "No MAS" (No Military Air Shows) initiative to end the polluting and wasteful Blue Angels and Thunderbirds aerial acrobatics over our cities.... Military air shows are a highly visible example of the Pentagon's exorbitant contribution TO the climate crisis.... Focusing on air shows is an effective way for activists to make the connection between the military and climate degradation." The presenter, Gary Butterfield, is a member of the First Unitarian Church of San Diego, where he is active in the Climate Justice Committee as well as being active in Veterans for Peace. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GJHegdrtvTQM>.

NEWS RELATED TO EJTF ISSUES [covering 2/26/2025 – 3/25/2025]

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

New Jersey Board of Public Utilities Releases Affordability and Rates Report

From the press release: "The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) today [3/20/2025] accepted a report entitled "An Assessment of Energy Affordability in New Jersey and Alternative Policy and Rate Options," [available here: <https://tinyurl.com/628vuzxd>] including its full set of recommendations, and authorized the public release of the report. In recommending the Board's acceptance of the report, the Report outlines a framework for increasing affordability and significantly improving the NJBPU's ability to assist low- and moderate-income (LMI) utility customers.... The study evaluates the effectiveness of the utility bill assistance programs in New Jersey (LIHEAP, USF, Lifeline, and New Jersey SHARES programs) based on how much they reduce energy burden for participating

households using a large data set covering more than 200,000 New Jersey households receiving assistance in the 2023-2024 timeframe. The report found that while New Jersey's energy assistance programs are effective in reducing energy burden for participants, New Jersey has opportunities to advance its programs and enhance its rate offerings to support a broader base of customers and safeguard LMI customers from potential future rate increases."

<https://www.nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/2025/approved/20250320a.html>

NJEJA Releases "A Roadmap to the NJ Environmental Justice Rule"

The **EJTF partner** NJ Environmental Justice Alliance (NJEJA) has released a comprehensive fact sheet that provides a roadmap to the NJ Environmental Justice Law. "As facilities begin to comply with the rules of the Environmental Justice Law (EJ Law), it is important for communities to know how the process works, which facilities are subject to the law, and where pathways for advocacy can be found. This fact sheet can shed light on these important topics. For questions and additional support, please reach out to us at **info@njeja.org**." The fact sheet is available here: <https://njeja.org/roadmap-to-nj-ej-rule/>.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES & VEHICLE EMISSION REDUCTION

EV Supporters Fear Murphy Budget Incentives Not Enough

This article describes potential impacts on electric vehicle (EV) purchases in NJ based on keeping state incentives the same as in previous years, although additional costs have been added (e.g., elimination of the tax exemption and an added registration fee) and federal incentives are being threatened.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/03/nj-gov-phil-murphy-budget-plan-maintains-same-ev-incentives-amid-washington-turmoil/>

Also see the 5-minute news video "**EV Advocates Warn NJ Likely to Miss 2025 Goal**" available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/ev-advocates-warn-nj-likely-to-miss-2025-goal/>.



EJTF member Deb Huber with her Prius at a 2024 EV event - photo courtesy of NJEVA.

Ten States Reach Goal to Put 3.3 Million Electric Vehicles on the Road by 2025

From Gov. Murphy's press release: "In a report [available here: https://www.nescaum.org/documents/NESCAUM_Report_ZEV_MOU_FINAL_03102025.pdf] released today [3/10/2025], NESCAUM announced that an ambitious goal set in 2013 to advance electric vehicles (EVs) has just been achieved. In a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed by ten state governors, a collective target was set to put 3.3 million electric vehicles on their roads by 2025. Based on NESCAUM's analysis of the data, over 3.3 million electric cars have been registered in these states as of December 31, 2024 – meeting and even exceeding the target on time." NESCAUM (Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit association of air quality agencies in the Northeast.

<https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562025/approved/20250310b.shtml>

FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE

Residents, Lawmakers Protest Planned New Power Plant in Newark

This 4-1/2-minute news video describes the history and status of the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) backup power plant, which has been protested by environmental and environmental justice advocates since its inception. The latest rally against the plant took place on the day of the PVSC Board meeting, asking the Board not to approve the plant, but a

vote was not taken at that meeting. The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has approved the start of construction and an Air Operating Permit for new plant, with the caveat that PVSC "can only operate the station in the event of a storm that disrupts power service" and requiring pollution controls to be installed as well as solar and battery storage to be added. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently reviewing the permit.
<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/residents-lawmakers-protest-planned-new-power-plant-in-newark/>.

LAND MANAGEMENT/ AGRICULTURE/FOOD

Elimination of Two Food Programs Will Hit NJ Residents and Farmers

This 5-minute news video describes two programs of great benefit to NJ that are being eliminated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) - the Local Food Purchase Assistance, or LFPA, and the Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement. These programs benefit local farmers as well as schools and food pantries in NJ by assisting farmers with providing fresh local food to them. The two-year programs provided \$26 million to NJ, and funding for both programs runs out in 10/2025. Also see Gov. Murphy's and Speaker Coughlin's statements in the article below.
<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/elimination-of-two-food-programs-will-hit-nj-residents-and-farmers/>

Governor Murphy and Speaker Craig Coughlin Condemn U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cancellation of \$26 Million in Funding for Local Food for Schools and Food Banks Across New Jersey

From Gov. Murphy's press release: "Governor Murphy and Speaker Craig Coughlin today condemned the U.S. Department of Agriculture's decision to eliminate the Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program and the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program. The USDA canceled over \$26 million in previously committed funding that would have supported producers across New Jersey in providing fresh, locally sourced food to schools

and food banks. The New Jersey Department Agriculture will not be receiving \$9.9 million in Local Food Purchase Assistance funding and over \$16.2 million in Local Food For Schools Cooperative Agreement funding for Fiscal Year 2025. In all, there are 46 producers across New Jersey participating in these programs, 32 of which are underserved producers." Also see the news video in [column 1](#) of this page.
<https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562025/approved/20250311b.shtml>

City Green's Statewide Good Food Bucks Program Doubles the Value of Snap Benefits When Buying Fruits and Vegetables at Food Retailers

City Green's statewide Good Food Bucks program doubles the value of SNAP benefits when buying fruits and vegetables at food retailers. Families First SNAP/EBT users automatically receive Good Food Bucks when shopping at participating locations. Additional information is available here: <https://www.goodfoodbucks.com/about> and a map of locations is available here: <https://www.goodfoodbucks.com>. City Green "is a 501(c)3 nonprofit farming and gardening organization, based in Clifton, New Jersey. Our programs offer practical, technical and financial resources to foster equitable access to local food and green spaces, in support of sustainable, healthy communities."
<https://jerseybee.org/2024/04/22/city-greens-statewide-good-food-bucks-program-doubles-the-value-of-snap-benefits-when-buying-fruits-and-vegetables-at-food-retailers/>

It's Official, Edison Adopts Ordinance Banning Planting Of Bamboo

The Edison Township Council has adopted an ordinance that bans planting bamboo trees on private property. Bamboo "can have negative impacts on the environment by reducing biodiversity and altering wildlife habitats," according to the ordinance. Residents who already have bamboo must contain it within their property, in an above-ground planter or vessel, and it is prohibited from being placed within 10 feet of any property line or right-of-way. Violators will be assessed a \$100 a day fine for each day the violation exists, and failure to comply can result in

township personnel, authorized by the zoning officer, entering the property to remove the bamboo, with the potential for a municipal lien being placed on the property for all costs incurred until the issue is resolved.

<https://patch.com/new-jersey/edison-metuchen/it-s-official-edison-adopts-ordinance-banning-planting-bamboo>

[Note: the Borough of Sayreville approved a similar ordinance (available here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8ye8ep>), with fines up to \$1,200 per day.]



DEP, TCNJ, and Sustainable Jersey Announce \$4.5 Million in Grants for Tree Plantings at Schools

From the press release: "The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection [DEP], in partnership with The College of New Jersey [TCNJ] and Sustainable Jersey, today [3/5/2025] announced the availability of \$4.5 million in grants for tree plantings at New Jersey public school districts, county colleges, and state colleges and universities through the Trees for Schools grant program. The program will award competitive grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$250,000 to fund the tree plantings and cover costs associated with planning, site preparation, tree purchases, planting, watering, monitoring, and maintenance over a three-year period. Schools located in overburdened communities seeking to expand their tree canopy are encouraged to apply." https://dep.nj.gov/newsrel/25_0011/

OFFSHORE WIND

EPA Pulls Permit From New Jersey Offshore Wind Project

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has "remanded" the Clean Air Act permit previously approved for the Atlantic Shores offshore wind projects, citing "the January 20, 2025 Presidential Memorandum entitled *Temporary Withdrawal of All Areas on the Outer Continental Shelf from Offshore Wind Leasing and Review of the Federal Government's Leasing and Permitting Practices for Wind Projects*. Atlantic Shores maintains that the permit does not fall under the requirements of that memorandum because it was already final. The EPA Environmental Appeals Board decision (available here: <https://tinyurl.com/4rtacn5h>) states that a petition was filed [by Save Long Beach Island, Inc.] challenging the Region's permit decision and the Region has now filed a motion to reconsider the permit application and permit decision in light of the Presidential Memorandum before the Permit becomes final agency action, which the Agency states will not occur "until the Regional Administrator issues a subsequent 'final permit decision' under section 124.19 after administrative review proceedings are exhausted." <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/03/nj-offshore-wind-industry-is-dealt-blow-epa-pulls-permit-from-atlantic-shores-projects/>

CLIMATE CHANGE

NJ Climate Superfund Act Clears Key Assembly Committee

On 3/10/2025, the NJ Assembly Environment Committee approved the NJ Climate Superfund Act (A4696) by a vote of 5-2, clearing a key hurdle in the bill's path to becoming law. Over 100 advocates, including UUFANJ (see [p. 1](#) for **UUFANJ's participation**), were joined by Senator Andrew Zwicker, Assemblywoman Alixon Collazos-Gill and Assemblyman John Allen at a rally in support of the bill, prior to the Committee's vote. The bill will make NJ more affordable and resilient by requiring corporate polluters to pay for

the damages caused by climate change rather than NJ municipalities and, ultimately, taxpayers paying. Also see the two articles below.

<https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/nj-climate-superfund-act-clears-key-assembly-committee/>

Young Environmentalists Show Up for Bill to Make Corporate Polluters Pay

This article describes the involvement of young environmentalists in the rally and legislative hearing at which the NJ Climate Superfund Act bill (S-3545/A-4696) was voted out of the Assembly Environment Committee. (See [p. 1](#) for **UUFANJ's participation**.) A link to a viral video encouraging participation in the rally and at the hearing, posted by the executive director of Climate Revolution Action Network - a pro-environment NJ Gen Z group - is included in the article.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/03/young-environmentalists-support-as-nj-bill-making-corporate-polluters-pay/>

20+ New Jersey Municipalities Now Support NJ Climate Superfund Act

Twenty-two NJ municipalities representing over a million residents now formally support the New Jersey Climate Superfund Act. They are: Jersey City, Edison, Franklin Township, Hoboken, Parsippany-Troy Hills, Hackensack, North Brunswick, Teaneck, Fort Lee, Livingston, Rahway, Maplewood, Maple Shade, South Orange, Haddon Township, Asbury Park, Highland Park, Red Bank, Ridgefield, Leonia, Rochelle Park and Atlantic Highlands. In the words of Matthew Smith, NJ State Director at Food & Water Watch, "For far too long, New Jersey communities have shouldered the ever-growing costs of climate change. The NJ Superfund Act takes the burden off everyday taxpayers and puts it on the massive corporations who are responsible for this mess."

<https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/20-new-jersey-municipalities-now-support-nj-climate-superfund-act/>

NJ Needs 'Steep Ramp-Up' to Reach Clean-Energy Targets

This article describes testimony presented at a NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) hearing about the NJ Energy Master Plan (EMP), which is being

revised for the first time since it was published in 2019. The article includes an 8-minute news video interview with Ed Potosnak, executive director of the NJ League of Conservation Voters (NJLCV) and Erick Ford, president of the NJ Energy Coalition, in which Potosnak gave a very cogent explanation of the problem of expediting renewable energy hookups on the grid. **See [p. 3](#) for a description and link to UUFANJ testimony on the EMP presented by EJTF member Michael Skelly.**

The BPU presentation slides from the meeting are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/2yadtwhy> and the recording of the meeting is available here:

<https://tinyurl.com/4fawet4a> - Michael Skelly's testimony is at minute 1:28:03 - 1:30:59.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/03/nj-must-have-steep-ramp-up-to-reach-clean-energy-targets/>

Interagency Council Report Highlights Murphy Administration's 2024 Climate Resilience Accomplishments

From the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) press release: "The Murphy Administration's Interagency Council on Climate Resilience today [3/25/2025] released its first annual report (available here:

<https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/climatechange/nj-iac-2024-annual-report.pdf>) highlighting progress made to make the state more resilient to the far-reaching impacts of climate change, from the public health dangers of extreme heat to the impacts of flooding caused by sea-level rise and increasing precipitation. Murphy Administration accomplishments include the release of New Jersey's Extreme Heat Resilience Action Plan, which focuses on mitigating the effects of extreme heat, one of the deadliest impacts of climate change; proposing land use rules to better protect coastal areas from sea-level rise; implementing a law to better inform property buyers of potential flood risk; advancing a series of actions to mitigate risk through building code updates and technical assistance for structure elevations and local mitigation planning; and integrating resilience into roadway planning, design and construction."

https://dep.nj.gov/newsrel/25_0014/

Biden Moved to Cut Methane Emissions. Republicans Say No Need

The Trump Administration has eliminated the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations that required industry sites with high levels of methane emissions to pay a fee; the regulation also required funds to be set aside to help companies measure and reduce methane leakage. Interestingly, the statute requiring the fee, which is part of the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, is still in effect; only the regulations implementing the fee have been eliminated under the Congressional Review Act which allows regulations (usually those implemented in the last 60 days of a previous administration, as these were) to be disapproved by a joint resolution approved by both houses of Congress and signed by the President.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/02/congression-al-republicans-set-end-methane-curbing-program-jeff-van-drew-tom-kean-jr-chris-smith/>

Voters Divided Over Energy Production

According to the latest results from a Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) poll conducted in cooperation with the Fuel Merchants Association of NJ, voters are about evenly split between preferring more natural gas plants and more nuclear energy, with other options like importing electricity from other states proving less popular. Young voters less hesitant about nuclear energy plants; older voters prefer natural gas.

<https://www.fdu.edu/news/voters-divided-over-energy-production/>

High-Income Homes Responsible for 25% More GHG: Study

EJTF member Ray Nichols shared this report from 2020, which he recommends as food for thought. A study, "The Carbon Footprint of Household Energy Use in the United States" (available here: <https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.1922205117>) found that heating and powering homes accounts for about 20% of the nation's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and that the homes of high-income individuals are responsible for about 25% more GHG emissions than low-income households. The calculations of a home's "greenhouse gas intensity," or emissions per square meter of floor

space, took into account the electricity mix for the local utility. Findings included that the carbon footprint of wealthy neighborhoods can be as much as 15 times higher than lower-income areas. <https://www.smartcitiesdive.com/news/high-income-homes-responsible-for-25-more-ghg-study/581957/>

Opinion: NJ Must Lead the Way With Fossil Fuel Divestment

This piece is by Rachel Dawn Davis, "a member of the Divestment Collaborative - a coalition of organizations including DivestNJ, Climate Revolution Action Network (CRAN), New Jersey Student Sustainability Coalition (NJSSC), Third Act, and NJ21 United - that is committed to ending New Jersey's investment in fossil fuels within the state's pension fund." She asks for support for the NJ Climate Superfund Act bill (S-3545/A-4696) and the Fossil Fuel Divestment Act bill (S-198), stating that passing these bills "would create a model for an alternative future in which we can live free of climate catastrophes. It would truly make the state of New Jersey a leader when we really need one."

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/03/op-ed-new-jersey-urged-to-fight-fossil-fuels-divest-state-pension-fund/>

FOREST HEALTH

Could the Northeast Burn Again?

This article looks at the impact of increased climate volatility on the potential for fires in the Northeast states. The uncharacteristically dry autumn set the stage for a fire season that was "way off the charts," and a rare outbreak of winter wildfires in NJ (see the news video linked on [p. 25](#)). The climate volatility, including an increase in "hydroclimate whiplash," results in a decreased ability to predict what rainfall may be like going forward, and adds to the difficulty of trying to predict fire conditions in the future.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/02/could-the-northeast-burn-again-key-state-fire-managers-reevaluate-future-climate-defined-by-volatility>

Wildfires Erupt Across NJ Amid Ongoing Drought Conditions

This 1-1/2-minute news video and article describe the increased wildfires in NJ compared to the same time last year, and how changes in climate have impacted the fire season, which now is considered to be virtually year-round. "The persistent dry weather has not only made it easier for forests to catch fire, it has also taken away water sources like swamps and creeks that firefighters sometimes rely on to contain blazes. And it has hampered the Forest Fire Service's ability to conduct prescribed burns, which officials describe as their most effective tool for clearing forests of the thick underbrush and debris that fuels wildfires."

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/wildfires-erupt-across-nj-amid-ongoing-drought-conditions/>

Governor Murphy, DEP Commissioner LaTourette Announce Actions to Help Prevent Wildfire Spread Across NJ

From Gov. Murphy's press release: "Governor Murphy and Department of Environmental Protection [DEP] Commissioner Shawn LaTourette... announced a series of actions that emphasize the importance of wildfire safety, mitigation, awareness, response, and training – known as NJ Wildfire SMART – and reduce wildfire spread as New Jersey heads into the spring wildfire season amid continued dry conditions statewide." The press release is available here:

<https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562025/approved/20250213a.shtml> and information about the NJ Wildfire SMART program is available here:

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/fire/njwildfiresmart/>.

In addition, Gov. Murphy's Fiscal Year 2026 budget proposal includes an additional \$1 million to support the NJ Forest Fire Service, which critically needs additional funding in light of funding cuts from the federal government.

National Urban Tree Canopy Assessment

First National Urban Canopy Assessment:

Includes towns with 5k+ residents

Purpose: Guide Urban Forest Planning/Management

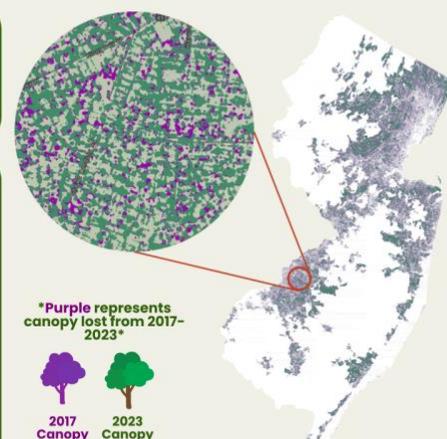
Includes: Land Cover Data, Past and Present Canopy data in tabular/map formats

Urban Tree Canopy % as of 2023



Ways to use the Data:

- Target planting efforts
- Insight planning using historical context
- Perform your own analysis by exporting data to use in GIS software (data layers available upon request)
- Tutorials Available at Hub.treesatwork.org



Purple represents canopy lost from 2017-2023



Interactive map found at: treecanopy.us

Data found at: hub.treesatwork.org

Introducing the National Urban Tree Canopy Assessment!

According to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) NJ Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry Program (NJUCF), "In a groundbreaking collaboration, the Arbor Day Foundation, PlanITGeo, and the U.S. Forest Service have developed a unique urban forest data and planning tool. This assessment provides spatial analysis of past and present Urban Tree Canopy in communities with populations over approximately 5,000 residents. The data set includes historical and current canopy information and land cover data. Key features of the assessment include: An online mapping tool; Tabular datasets assessing canopy at five different scales: state level, congressional districts, census urban areas, census tracts, and census block groups; Raster data available for export to GIS software upon request; and Coming soon: Urban Tree Canopy Report and Story Map." Tutorial webinars and data access are available here: <https://hub.treesatwork.org/>; the online mapping tool is available here: <https://treecanopy.us/>; and you can view the infographic above in detail here: <https://arcg.is/1bHT090>.

Pinelands Facing More Fires and Floods as Climate Changes, Report Says

This article gives a comprehensive summary of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance's (PPA) "State of

the Pinelands" annual report (available here: <https://pinelandsalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/State-of-the-Pinelands-2025-for-web-compressed-v2.pdf>). As stated in the report, "The Pinelands Preservation Alliance presents this special report to mark the occasion of our 35th anniversary. In lieu of our annual report card for federal, state, and local government agencies rating actions taken in an individual year, this issue looks as far back as 1989 - the year of PPA's founding. We seek to characterize the state of today's Pinelands, the history that shaped the present moment, PPA's role in it, and what the future may hold." Sections include: The Pinelands Commission; Accessible Natural Spaces; Native Landscaping; Sustainable Farming; Climate Change; Energy Infrastructure; and Public Lands. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/03/nj-pinelands-could-see-more-floods-fires-amid-climate-change-but-not-enough-state-funding/>

LEAD REDUCTION IN HOUSEHOLDS

Lead-free NJ Releases Guide: "What Every New Jersey Gubernatorial Candidate Should Know about Lead"

The Lead-Free NJ collaborative has published an educational guide on lead poisoning prevention for New Jersey Gubernatorial candidates. The collaborative recommends that advocates use the guide "to inform your advocacy and share with interested partners." The guide focuses on the following key areas: "Eliminate Sources of Lead Exposure: Paint | Soil | Water; Improve Access to Blood Lead Level Testing and Health Services." It is available here: <https://www.leadfreenj.org/njgovleadprevention/>.

Safe at Last: Lead-Free Water on Tap at All Jersey City Schools

"It took six years at a cost estimated at more than \$17 million but water at all Jersey City public schools is now declared to be lead-free and safe to drink for the district's 27,500 students." This article describes the process it took to accomplish this result. <https://jcitytimes.com/safe-at-last-lead-free-water-on-tap-at-all-jersey-city-schools/>

The Importance of "Filter First": A Preventive Approach to Reduce Lead Contamination in Drinking Water

From Jersey Water Works: "The Centers for Disease Control, the World Health Organization, and the American Academy of Pediatrics agree that any amount of lead threatens children's health. For this reason, some places have implemented a 'Filter First' approach to protect against lead exposure. This innovative approach is based on a simple but powerful principle: don't wait until you discover water pollution; act proactively, filtering the water from the beginning." <https://www.jerseywaterworks.org/latest-news/the-importance-of-filter-first-a-preventive-approach-to-reduce-lead-contamination-in-drinking-water/>

Opinion: The Hidden Dangers of Lead Poisoning to Black Maternal Health

This piece is by Elyse Pivnick, MCP, and Sheila Caldwell, RN, who co-chair Lead-Free NJ's health committee; and Deandrah Cameron, MPH, who is policy manager with New Jersey Future. It highlights the dangers of lead exposure to mothers and infants, and emphasizes the increased prevalence of this problem in environmental justice communities. In addition to lead exposure being an issue in infants after birth, research has found that lead present in the mother's bloodstream before birth passes through the placenta, and in addition to impacting the baby, it can lead to health risks of the type found in maternal mortality and morbidity that is occurring in NJ. There is no requirement in NJ to screen for lead during pregnancy, but a bill (S-3616/A-4848) would require such screening if risk factors are found. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/03/lead-poisoning-is-urgent-issue-especially-affecting-black-maternal-health/>

DRINKING WATER (other than lead)

'Startlingly High' Levels of PFAS Pollution Found in Warren County Hot Spot

From the mid-1950's to the mid-1970's, sludge containing PFAS ("forever chemicals"), from the Castle Creek Fabrics & Northern Dyeing Corporation mill in Washington Township, was spread on a 50-acre farm in Warren County. Between 12,000 and 14,000 gallons of sludge was spread on the farm daily. It dried and was plowed into the soil, and then seeped into groundwater and private wells. Now, a private well at a storage facility at the epicenter of the area where the sludge was spread has been found to have a total concentration of PFAS of 18,997 parts per trillion, thought to be the highest level ever recorded in NJ and among the highest in the nation. Abandonment of the well is seen as the only remedy.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/02/startlingly-high-pfas-forever-chemicals-levels-washington-township-nj-well/>

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

New Jersey Jumps to Top 10 in National Rankings for Energy Efficiency

From Gov. Murphy's press release: "The State of New Jersey is being recognized as a national leader in energy efficiency programming and outcomes in the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy's (ACEEE) 2025 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard [available here: <https://www.aceee.org/state-policy/scorecard>], which ranks all fifty states and Washington D.C. New Jersey ranked #8, returning to the top 10 for the first time since 2008 and was listed as one of the most improved States.... According to the ACEEE, New Jersey had the biggest gain in utility energy efficiency savings in the country, jumping nearly 90% since the last edition of the Scorecard, including increased investment in low-income programs."

<https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562025/approved/20250320b.shtml>

NJEDA Awards More Than \$3.3M Through NJ Cool Program to Support Energy Efficiency Projects

From the press release: "The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) has awarded more than \$3.3 million under the NJ Cool program to support five clean energy projects in Edison and Newark. Through this program, building owners and tenants in eligible municipalities can receive grants for construction projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions." Descriptions of the projects funded are available in the press release.

<https://www.njeda.gov/njeda-awards-more-than-3-3m-through-nj-cool-program-to-support-energy-efficiency-projects/>

POLLUTION

Scotch Plains Introduces Recycled Textiles Program

Textile waste has been reported to be 6% of household waste, and has significant environmental impact "because of the slow decomposition rate and the release of harmful chemicals during the breakdown process." Recycling textiles can address this, and can also address the prevention of the substantial resources, including water and energy, needed to produce new textiles. Scotch Plains and other communities are partnering with Union County to collect clothing, shoes, accessories and household linens for recycling by Helpsy, a sustainable clothing and textile recycling company. They also are scheduled to hold a "Freecycle" event.

<https://www.tapinto.net/towns/scotch-plains-slash-fanwood/articles/scotch-plains-introduces-recycled-textiles-program-will-host-annual-freecycle-event-on-april-26>

EDUCATION and YOUTH-RELATED

South Jersey Climate News Recognized for Outstanding Student Environmental Journalism

The student-led journalism publication of Rowan University, *South Jersey Climate News* (available

here: <https://sjclimate.news>) has earned the "2025 Excellence in New Jersey Local News Award" from the Center for Cooperative Media at Montclair State University, for "Extensive climate reporting and overall contributions to New Jersey's student-to-professional journalism pipeline." From the award description: "A student-driven initiative that produced 50 original multimedia stories on climate issues in southern New Jersey, covering everything from organic farming and offshore wind energy to urban sustainability efforts. Nearly a third of these stories were picked up by major local news outlets, amplifying the project's reach and impact. Beyond the reporting itself, this initiative has played a key role in mentoring and training student journalists, preparing them for careers in environmental reporting while making a tangible difference in the state's climate news coverage. This is a model of collaborative, community-focused journalism that shows what's possible when universities and newsrooms work together."

<https://thewhitonline.com/79007/news/south-jersey-climate-news-recognized-for-outstanding-student-environmental-journalism/>

OTHER

What's at Stake for NJ if EPA Regulations Are Undone

This 6-1/2-minute news video includes an interview with former NJ Gov. Christie Todd Whitman, who was the administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) during the George W. Bush administration. She responds to the current EPA administrator's statements about plans to roll back dozens of environmental regulations, including those that apply to vehicle emissions, wastewater from coal plants, and air pollution from manufacturing. She states that NJ will be very adversely affected, in particular by the elimination of rules related to air pollution being transported from other states. However, she says that it will take time to accomplish these rollbacks legally.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/whats-at-stake-for-nj-if-epa-regulations-are-undone/>

Here's What NJ Lost in GOP Budget Deal

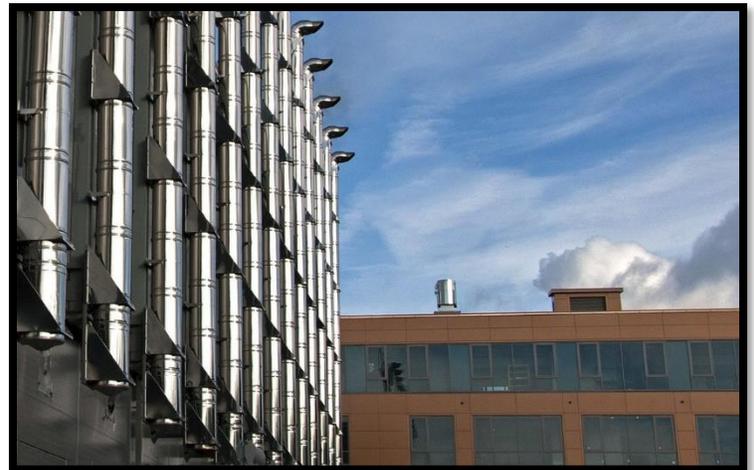
This article, which includes a 5-1/2-minute news video, also includes a comprehensive data table showing the 212 local NJ projects cut from the 2025 federal budget. They had been in the form of earmarks, totalling more than \$200 million, and included projects related to lead service lines, PFAS, and flood control, among others.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/03/nj-loses-about-217-million-federal-earmark-funding-local-community-projects-gop-budget-casualty/>

NJ's Ability to Meet Increasing Energy Demands Examined

This 4-1/2-minute news video describes the fourth major conference on NJ energy supply and demand that has been hosted by the Sweeney Center for Public Policy at Rowan University. The six-hour-long conference included experts discussing pluses and minuses of solar, nuclear, off-shore wind, and other potential solutions to meet NJ's increasing energy needs resulting from electric vehicles (EVs), electrification of homes, onshoring of manufacturing, and AI (also see the articles below and on [p. 29](#)).

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/njs-ability-to-meet-increasing-energy-demands-examined/>



Is NJ's Power Grid Prepared for Large-Scale AI Data Centers?

This 4-minute news video includes excerpts from a NJ Senate Legislative Oversight Committee meeting about whether NJ's energy infrastructure can meet the surge in energy expected from AI,

which Gov. Murphy is supporting in his drive to make NJ an AI hub. The executive director of PJM Interconnection stated that, "Over the next five years, the demand for electricity to serve data centers alone will triple from currently four percent today... to twelve percent." As a result of the meeting, legislation was developed (see the article below).

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/is-njs-power-grid-prepared-for-large-scale-ai-data-centers/>

New Jersey Senate Proposes Clean Energy Mandates for AI Data Centers

As a result of a NJ Senate Legislative Oversight Committee meeting about the potential impacts of AI development on NJ's energy infrastructure, the following legislation was developed:

- S-4143, which "Requires submission of energy usage plan to BPU for proposed artificial

intelligence data centers; requires all electricity for artificial intelligence data centers to be derived from new clean energy sources"; and

- SR-125, which "Urges states in PJM Interconnection region to require data centers to obtain electricity from new zero- or low-emission sources of energy."

Both have been reported out of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee.

<https://citizenportal.ai/articles/2663967/New-Jersey/New-Jersey-Senate-proposes-clean-energy-mandates-for-AI-data-centers>

[Note: this link is to an article that was created by AI using a recording of the meeting. It summarizes the key points discussed, but for full and accurate details and context, refer to the recording of the full meeting, available here (which starts at the relevant portion of the meeting): <https://tinyurl.com/yc6xbbws>.]

EJTF's GOALS for 2024/2025

- 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.**
- 5. Advocating for a better understanding of the interconnected web of life by influencing education for people of all ages, including public school curriculum of K-12 students.**

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 Empower NJ 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.

UU FaithAction NJ - Environmental Justice Task Force -

Visit <https://uufaithaction.org/environment/> for links and resources, and to join the EJTF