



UUFANJ ANNUAL MEETING 5/31/2025 - See [p. 14](#).

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



NEW JERSEY TREE
FOUNDATION

The New Jersey Tree Foundation is a statewide nonprofit dedicated to planting trees in New Jersey's most underserved neighborhoods, where the need is greatest. Through tree planting, volunteerism and partnerships, we assist communities in improving their environment and quality of life.

To learn more about the benefits of urban and community forests, how to plant and care for new trees, and how to volunteer to plant trees with us, scan the code or visit our website at

NJTREES.ORG



EJTF ACTIVITIES

Urban and community forests provide numerous benefits to people.

Plant TREES to:

- Clean the air by filtering fine particulates and other pollutants
- Prevent flooding by intercepting rainfall and reducing runoff
- Provide cooling shade in cities impacted by the heat island effect
- Lower energy costs for heating and cooling
- Absorb carbon dioxide from our atmosphere
- Improve health- people living on tree-lined streets report lower stress, lower asthma cases and fewer ER visits for breathing problems



www.NJTrees.org
Facebook/Instagram:
[@njtrees](#)

EJTF Focus on Urban Forestry

One of the EJTF's 2024/2025 Goals has been **"Advocating for better health and reducing climate change for all, by protecting and expanding New Jersey's public and urban forests."**

However, a long-awaited NJ forestry bill which focuses on public forests is currently on hold in the legislature, so we are turning our current focus to Urban Forestry. This is an area of particular importance at the present time, when federal funding for urban forestry is uncertain. EJTF is a supporter of the New Jersey Tree Foundation (of which EJTF member Peggy Middaugh is Board Secretary), a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to planting trees in NJ's most underserved neighborhoods, where the need is greatest, and we will be embarking on a number of campaigns in support of them and other urban forestry groups. To build public awareness, one thing we will be doing is distributing the post cards shown above, in our congregations and elsewhere. Also, we are supporting the New Jersey Tree Foundation's urban tree planting efforts (see [p. 14](#)).

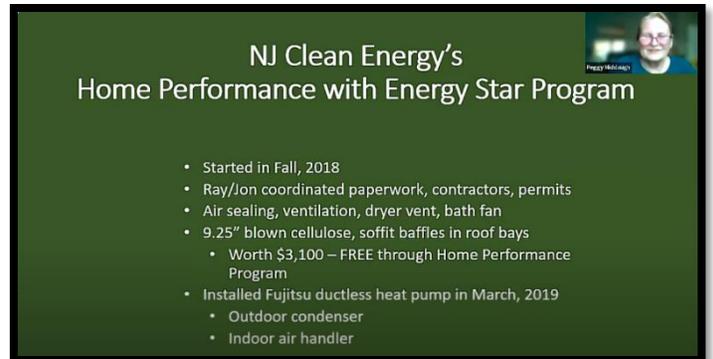
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EJTF ACTIVITIES (cont.)

- **EJTF member Mike Skelly** attended the NJ Grassroots Organizing Conference (NJGOC), a networking and training event for student and community organizers across NJ. Speakers included Waterspirit's Public Policy and Justice Organizer, Rachel Dawn Davis, who spoke at a very well-attended session on advocacy, which included the Green Amendment. NJ Assembly Speaker Coughlin was identified as the major roadblock to get the Green Amendment moved to the Assembly floor. Mike found it to be a great conference, attended by around 300 people, with high energy and hope for NJ.
- **EJTF member Peggy Middaugh** gave a Zoom presentation about Energy Efficiency and her mini-split heat pump on 4/17/2025, as part of the Sierra Club NJ's monthly Building Electrification Webinar (see screen shot at right). Other topics included Community Solar and how to sign up, and Plans for Electrical Emergencies. Links to a recording of the meeting and to download the presentations from the meeting are available on [p. 15](#).



GREEN SANCTUARY 2030

From the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) website: Green Sanctuary 2030 - "Mobilizing for Climate Justice" - provides structure, leadership and support, in broad collaboration, for the UU faith community to engage in an ambitious environmental and climate justice movement that seeks to live fully our principles and achieve our vision of a sustainable and just world for all (see <https://www.uua.org/environment/green-sanctuary>). Congregations can engage in the Green Sanctuary 2030 process with the goal of accreditation or simply to advance climate justice in the ways that make the most sense with your capacity. Process & Congregational Materials (explained here: <https://sidewithlove.org/green-sanctuary-process-materials>) include: Four Essentials of Climate Action; Five Approaches to Support Your Congregation; One Requirement for Yearly Recognition; Recording and Resources: Green Sanctuary New Materials Release; Climate Justice; and Trainings & Webinars. The Green Sanctuary 2030 materials have been revised and updated to better serve the needs of our dynamic congregations. On February 19, we gathered at our Green Sanctuary Community Meeting to learn all about it and how these materials can help you advance climate justice and cultivate thriving communities. Watch the recording here. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UDd1nklYr5VRd7EFF4yL6mmQMkLaplwy/view>. Upcoming events include:

Green Sanctuary 2030 Orientation - Virtual
5/7/2025, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Get to know the new Green Sanctuary! Green Sanctuary orientations provide an overview of the process and allow for plenty of time to get all of your questions answered. Come learn how to transform your congregation through climate justice. Registration is available here: https://secure.everyaction.com/ZS7uOnh8qkOjLdYG_La5rg2.

Working with the New Green Sanctuary Materials - Virtual
5/21/2025 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Learn how one of our Green Sanctuary teams is working through the new Green Sanctuary materials! Released in February 2024, the new materials are designed to be more manageable, accessible, and impactful for our congregations. Join us on May 21 to learn how the materials are being used by your fellow UUs! --- Come together for shared learning and mutual support with other UUs transforming our congregations through climate justice. Green Sanctuary community meetings are on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. for 90 minutes. Registration is available here: https://secure.everyaction.com/S4jk3N12EkOWH_xwweumWw2.

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

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

MAY 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>
				1 "Solid-State Batteries – Toward High-Energy and High-Power Cells" - 12:30 p.m. Panel on Health Impacts of Artificial Turf - 7:30 p.m.	2 "Green Infrastructure Resiliency to Climate Change" - 2:30 p.m.	3 NJ Tree Foundation Tree Planting - 9:00 a.m. NJDEP Annual Big Tree Event - 10:00 a.m. Drive Electric Event Franklin High School Green Fair - 11:00 a.m. Roxbury, NJ Repair Cafe - 11:00 a.m.
4 Drive Electric Event Raritan Twp. Green Team at the Dvoor Farm Market - 9:00 a.m.	5 "UU the State House!" - 10:00 a.m. "Climate Change Causes and Curatives" - 2:55 p.m. Camden County, NJ: Hands Off Our Planet! EmpowerNJ Town Hall - 5:30 p.m. "Wildlife Recovery in NJ" Earth Day Every Day Webinar - 6:30 p.m. Mid-Atlantic Solar & Storage Insight Conference - 2:00 p.m.	6 Mid-Atlantic Solar & Storage Insight Conference - 7:30 a.m. World Asthma Day Truck Count & Press Conference - 9:00 a.m. New Jersey WasteWise Business Network - 10:00 a.m. "Risky Business: Insurance in the Era of Climate Change" - 12:00 p.m. "Making it Rainproof: Reimagining New Jersey's Water Infrastructure" - 5:30 p.m. LWVNJ - "Running for Office" - 6:00 p.m.	7 "Pinelands Webinar Series - Our Land, Our Water" - 12:00 p.m. Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) Second Quarter 2025 Public Hearing - 1:30 p.m. Green Sanctuary 2030 Orientation - 7:00 p.m.	8 NJ Community Forestry Council - 10:00 a.m.	9 NJ 2025 Sustainability Summit (with Medium & Heavy Duty EV Show) - 9:00 a.m.	10 NJ Tree Foundation Tree Planting - 9:00 a.m. NOFA NJ MushroomFest - 10:00 a.m.

Calendar continues on p. 4.

Calendar continued from p. 3.

<p>11</p>	<p>12 "Dam Removal/ Restoration" Earth Day Every Day Webinar - 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>13 "From the Commissioner's Desk: Regulations and Planning to Build Resilience in New Jersey" - 12:30 p.m.</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) Board Meeting - 12:00 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>Sierra Club NJ Monthly Building Electrification Webinar - PJM - 7:00 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>Central NJ: Hands Off Our Planet! EmpowerNJ Town Hall - 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>16 "Building a Wildfire-Resilient Future: Markets, Biomass, and Partnerships" - 1:30 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>Comments Due: NJDEP Proposed Wetlands Mitigation Rules</p>	<p>17 NJ Tree Foundation Tree Planting - 9:00 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p>Drive Electric Event Glen Ridge Arts & Eco Fair - 10:00 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p>22nd Annual "Ocean Fun Days" - 11:00 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p>Rutherford, NJ Repair Cafe - 11:30 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p>Washington Township, NJ Repair Cafe - 1:00 p.m.</p>
<p>18 22nd Annual "Ocean Fun Days" - 11:00 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p>Jersey City, NJ Repair Cafe - 1:00 p.m.</p>	<p>19 "Shellfish and Marine Habitat Restoration" Earth Day Every Day Webinar - 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>20 The IAC Asks: "How Can We Build Heat-Resilient Infrastructure in New Jersey?" - 11:00 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p>"Next Stop: Sustainable Public Transit and Mobility" - 3:00 p.m.</p>	<p>21 Working with the New Green Sanctuary Materials - 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>22 "People Over Plastics" Rally and Advocacy Day - 9:00 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p>NJ Tree Foundation Tree Planting - 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 Elders Climate Action March National Call – "Harnessing Collaboration for a Decarbonized Future" - 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>28 "Like Trains? Then Choose to Learn About Federal Rail Policy" - 2:00 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>Drive Electric Event Manchester Twp. Green Fair - 2:30 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>Option Green: "Recycling and Waste Reduction" - 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 UU FaithAction NJ (UUFANJ) Annual Meeting - 10:00 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p>Oakland, NJ Repair Cafe - 11:00 a.m.</p>

FUTURE EVENTS

"Solid-State Batteries – Toward High-Energy and High-Power Cells"

**5/1/2025, 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. (Lunch is provided at 12:00 p.m.)
Princeton, NJ - In-person**

This webinar, part of the Princeton University Andlinger Center for Energy + the Environment Highlight Seminar Series, will be presented by Dr. Jürgen Janek, Professor of Physical Chemistry, Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen & Karlsruhe Institute of Technology. "Lithium-ion batteries (LIB) have become within the last 30 years the leading electrochemical energy storage devices... Today's LIB cells rely almost exclusively on liquid electrolytes, a graphite negative electrode and a metal oxide positive electrode. This type of cell is approaching its natural limits in terms of energy stored per mass or volume, while its rate capability appears still to improve. Solid-state batteries (SSB) rely on a solid electrolyte and are investigated world-wide as a realistic option toward cells with a mass or volume specific energy beyond the limits set by LIB.... In this lecture, an overview on the various solid-state cell concepts and their stage of development will be given first, highlighting the different types of solid electrolytes. The most promising cell concepts will be discussed in more detail, and key challenges will be considered." Additional information is available here:

<https://acee.princeton.edu/events/spring-2025-highlight-seminar-jurgen-janek/>.

Panel on Health Impacts of Artificial Turf

**5/1/2025, 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Ridgewood, NJ - In-person**

The New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club is presenting this panel featuring Dr. Sarah Evans, Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental Medicine and a member of the Institute for Exposomic Research at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and Keith Fisher, Natural Grass Expert with 20 years of professional sports field management and grounds keeping experience including with the New York Yankees and Lakewood BlueClaws. Additional information and the link to RSVP are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/35r9nb8c>.

"Green Infrastructure Resiliency to Climate Change" - Hybrid

5/2/2025, 2:30 p.m.

North Brunswick, NJ - In-person, and Livestreamed

This Rutgers Environmental Sciences Seminar will be presented by Dr. Jon Hathaway, Associate Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. "As the impacts of climate change become increasingly evident worldwide, there is a dire need to better understand the practical implications of these changes on water resources in the built environment.... In this presentation, Dr. Hathaway will summarize the state of knowledge regarding SCM [stormwater control measures] performance under climate change, identify design modifications to SCMs that have been explored (using bioretention as a case study), propose challenges that lie ahead, and provide a vision for moving forward." Additional information and a link to view the livestream are available here:

https://envsci.rutgers.edu/seminars/abstracts/Jon_Hathaway.html.

NJDEP Annual Big Tree Event

**5/3/2025, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Jackson, NJ - In-person**

Join the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) NJ Forest Service's fifth annual Big Tree Event, which provides education about big trees and kicks off the annual DEP Big Tree Hunt. "This year's event is packed with interactive educational stations and exciting activities that will engage participants of all ages: Tree Identification; Tree Measurements; Sawmill Crafts; Sawmill Demo; Wilderness Hayride Tour; Greenhouse Tour; Birding Hike; NJ Watershed Education; Bees and Pollination; Wheel of Forestry; Football Tire Throw; Cornhole...and much more!" Additional information is available here: <https://nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/bigtreehunt/>.

**Drive Electric Event
Franklin High School Green Fair
5/3/2025, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Somerset, NJ - In-person**

"Join New Jersey Electric Vehicle Association (NJEVA) and Franklin High School Green Team in their celebration of Earth Day.... Bring your EV, new or old and share your experience driving electric. This event will allow you to meet fellow EV owners, exchange ideas, and share your EV ownership experience with those who still don't drive electric. This year, we are fighting an uphill battle as the disinformation campaign reached the federal government. Let's focus on the tangible benefits of driving electric such as convenience, fun factor, saving money on fuel, maintenance and time by tapping into the home charging." There will be "a petting zoo, food, music, interactive sustainable activities, displays and demonstrations, and much more! There will also be a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the groundbreaking of Franklin High School's new Outdoor Learning Center." Additional information, including the links to register to attend, exhibit your EV, or to volunteer are available here:

<https://driveelectricearthmonth.org/event?eventid=4692>.

**Drive Electric Event
Raritan Twp. Green Team at the Dvoor
Farm Market
5/4/2025, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Flemington, NJ - In-person**

This New Jersey Electric Vehicle Association (NJEVA) EV Show is part of the Raritan Township Green Fair at the Dvoor Farm Market. The Green Fair will include the following activities and presenters:

**ELECTRIC VEHICLE DISPLAY BY NJ ELECTRIC VEHICLE ASSOCIATION
MUSIC BY "THREE TO GET READY"**

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Woodlands Wildlife Refuge | • NWNJ Beekeepers Association-
Observational Hive |
| • Raritan Headwaters | • Community Garden |
| • Native Plant Information | • Environmental Commission |
| • OneCompostCan | • Raritan Twp Trails & Open Space |
| • OEM-Community
Emergency
Response Team | • Hunterdon Central HS
Environmental Society |
| • RFIS Student Council | • Hunterdon Land Trust |
| • Volunteer Opportunities | |

**PRESENTATION BY WOODLANDS WILDLIFE REFUGE
MEET TANK THE BOX TURTLE**

Additional information, including the links to register to attend, exhibit your EV, or to volunteer are available here:

<https://driveelectricearthmonth.org/event?eventid=4718>.

**"UU the State House!"
5/5/2025, 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Trenton, NJ - In-person**

"Join UUFANJ for our UU the State House event in Trenton on May 5! Are you a UU interested in learning how to get involved in Legislative Advocacy? Come join us to learn the fundamentals of advocacy, become familiar with the NJ State House, meet with a legislator, and attend a legislative committee hearing.

What we'll do:

- Get an "insider's" tour of the State House – our favorite spot to meetup with other advocates, where to grab a bite, how to navigate parking, and what to expect when entering the State House.
- Understand the structure and powers of the New Jersey Legislature, including how bills advance through each chamber.
- Learn to conduct basic research and legislative tracking.
- Hear a state legislator's perspective on effective lobbying.
- Share lunch together.
- Attend a portion of a legislative committee hearing to see the process in action.

No prior experience required!" Additional information, including how to sign up, is available here: <https://www.uufaithaction.org/2025/04/16/join-us-at-uu-the-state-house/>.

**"Climate Change Causes and Curatives"
5/5/2025, 2:55 p.m. - 4:10 p.m.
- Webinar**

This webinar, part of the Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability "Perspectives on the Climate Change Challenge" Seminars, will be presented by Dr. Shimon Edelman, a Professor in the Department of Psychology at Cornell University. "He holds degrees in electrical engineering and in computer science and has published more than 100 papers and dozens of book chapters.... While his present scientific interests focus on evolution and consciousness, his work, and especially

teaching, is now motivated by the most urgent challenge that we face collectively as a species: the accelerating climate catastrophe." Here is the abstract of this talk: "Climate change, a planetary-scale catastrophe that spells doom for the industrial civilization, as well as extinction for countless species (possibly including ourselves) is often described as being of our own making - as if the political-economic order under which the vast majority of people in the modern world toil has ever been up to them. In this talk, I shall discuss the socioeconomic roots of our deadly modernity; the unsustainable growth imperative at its core; the politics of obfuscation and oppression that preserves the power and privileges of the ruling class; and, finally, ways to resist the profiteering planet-killers, enact climate justice, and save what can still be saved. A better world is possible if we resolve to work together to build it." Additional information and the Zoom link are available here: https://events.cornell.edu/event/shimon-edelman_2025_climate_change_seminar.

**Camden County, NJ: Hands Off Our Planet!
EmpowerNJ Town Hall
5/5/2025, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Camden, NJ - In-person**

This Camden County Town Hall, "Confronting the Climate and Affordability Crises," is sponsored by EmpowerNJ, a coalition of which **UUFANJ is a member**. "With unprecedented federal attacks on climate science, the gutting of federal protections for clean air and water, and the attempt to eliminate funding for emergency response to climate disasters, we need our elected officials in New Jersey to fill the leadership void.... Join us in Camden for a town hall on these challenges and potential solutions - like the NJ Climate Superfund Act, which would ensure that the world's wealthiest fossil fuel corporations, not taxpayers, foot the bill for climate disasters. We'll be joined by members of our state legislature who are co-sponsoring the NJ Climate Superfund Act as well as municipal leaders who have taken local action in support of this bill. We'll also hear from community members who have been impacted by the climate crisis, local climate and environmental leaders, and more. Join us to learn about these issues and how you can take action ..." Additional information and the link to register are available here: <https://www.mobilize.us/fww/event/773098/>.

**World Asthma Day Truck Count & Press
Conference
5/6/2025, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Elizabeth, NJ - In-person**

"In honor of World Asthma Day, May 6, Clean Water Action is calling all advocates and local community members in Elizabeth to come learn about the connection between diesel truck pollution from NJ's freight and goods movement industry and asthma.... This event will include opportunities to participate in a truck counting and using air monitors followed by a series of speakers sharing their support towards the ACT Rule and encouraging both the NJ Senate and Assembly to reject bills S3817 and A4967, which propose the delayed implementation of the lifesaving Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) rule." Additional information and a sign-up form are available here: <https://act.cleanwater.org/page/170214/subscribe/1>.

**New Jersey WasteWise Business Network
- Webinar
5/6/2025, 10:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.**

"The New Jersey WasteWise Business Network is a free educational program designed to help businesses and other organizations learn how waste reduction, recycling, and recycled product procurement not only help the environment, but also their bottom line." Some of the topics to be presented at this webinar/meeting are "The Summit Free Market Reuse Program," "Solar Panel Recycling Comes to New Jersey," "Scrap Tire Recycling Update," and "The Montclair State University - PSEG Institute for Sustainability Studies Program." The agenda and the link to register are available here: <https://www.anjr.com/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1945023&group=>.

Mid-Atlantic Solar & Storage Insight Conference

5/5/2025, 2:30 - 5:55 p.m.

5/6/2025, 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

New Brunswick, NJ - **In-person**

"ANNOUNCING the Inaugural Mid-Atlantic Solar & Storage Insight Conference. MSSIA [Mid-Atlantic Solar and Storage Industries Association, of which **EJTF member Lyle Rawlings** is the President] continues its leadership role, impacting solar and storage policy in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware by launching an annual conference to bring together industry leaders, policymakers, and innovators to discuss critical developments shaping the Mid-Atlantic's clean energy landscape." Additional information, including links to the agenda and to register [**\$245 for non-profits**] is available here:

<https://whova.com/web/AVRBHPdoRkL-XvNBu2m3OvHy6VIA89QrX7muVARCKeo%3D/>.

"Risky Business: Insurance in the Era of Climate Change" - **Livestream**

5/6/2025, 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

"The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) invites you to a briefing about Congress's role in bolstering the long-term resilience, investability, and insurability of U.S. communities.... This briefing will explore the basics of property insurance and how it functions in the United States, including the challenges faced by individuals, businesses, insurers, and reinsurers. It will also feature existing and emerging tools - from parametric insurance to climate endorsements - that are reshaping how insurance products can better serve communities. Panelists will describe the role of federal policy in advancing these new ways of thinking about insurance. At this briefing, Woodwell Climate Research Center will also be launching a new report, *Rebuilding Insurance for a Climate Future: A Policy Guide to Understand Tools, Address Inequities, and Find Solutions.*" Additional information and the link to RSVP are available here:

<https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/050625insurance>.

"Making it Rainproof: Reimagining New Jersey's Water Infrastructure" - **Virtual**

5/6/2025, 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

"Making it Rainproof: Reimagining New Jersey's Water Infrastructure will bring together experts and advocates for a dynamic virtual discussion on the future of stormwater management in the state. The event will begin with an overview of New Jersey's climate risks, new 2024 findings, and a look at how Rainproof NYC strategies could be adapted locally. Featured speaker Dr. Christopher Obropta of Rutgers and guest speaker/moderator Greg Remaud, CEO of NY/NJ Baykeeper will explore how nature-based solutions and green infrastructure can help build a rainproof New Jersey. They'll share lessons learned from years of local work, identify key barriers to implementation, and highlight opportunities for scaling successful projects. A moderated Q&A session will give attendees the chance to engage directly, followed by tools and resources to support continued action." Additional information and registration are available here:

<https://tinyurl.com/mt5anmx7>.

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

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey (LWVNJ) (of which **EJTF member Nancy Griffeth** is co-chair of the Natural Resources Committee) has been presenting a public series of virtual activist training sessions designed to equip participants "with the knowledge and skills needed to carry out dynamic organizing strategies that can effectively influence public policy and the state of democracy in New Jersey." The May 2025 session is listed below.

LWVNJ - "Running for Office" - **via Zoom** 5/6/2025, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

"Are you interested in running for office but not sure where to get started? Local elected officials have a major impact on their communities, and you can make a difference. Join us for a nonpartisan discussion about who can run for office, what offices you can run for, and why running for office might be the right fit for you. We will also discuss ways to influence campaigns and public policy." Registration is available here:

<https://tinyurl.com/2s4h567n>.

"Pinelands Webinar Series - Our Land, Our Water" - Webinar
5/7/2025, 12:00 p.m.

The Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) is continuing its monthly webinar series "exploring the vital work of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) and how you can help protect this unique ecosystem. These free public webinars are based on our 35th anniversary State of the Pinelands Report [available here: <https://pinelandsalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/State-of-the-Pinelands-2025-for-web-compressed-v2.pdf>]." This webinar, will focus on "'Our Land, Our Water.' When it rains, where does all the stormwater go? In natural landscapes, the earth absorbs it like a sponge, but in developed areas, paved surfaces and manicured lawns send water rushing into buildings and waterways - causing flooding and pollution. Join us for a deep dive into the unique ecology of the Pinelands and how development has impacted its delicate balance. Learn how fertilizer and irrigation affect this ecosystem compared to surrounding regions and discover practical solutions that towns and individuals can implement." The link to register is available here: <https://engage.pinelandsalliance.org/webinar2>.

Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)
Second Quarter 2025 Public Hearing
5/7/2025, 1:30 p.m. - Virtual

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) will hold its second-quarter public hearing on Wednesday, 5/7/2025. The hearing is open to the public and will take place remotely via Zoom Webinar, and it will also be livestreamed on the DRBC's YouTube channel. Additional information including a link to the agenda and to register, and information about how to provide testimony, is (or will be) available here: <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/meetings/upcoming/>.

NJ Community Forestry Council
5/8/2025, 10:00 a.m. - Hybrid
Jackson, NJ - In-person & Online

"The NJ Community Forestry Council (Council) to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is comprised of members

appointed by the State Forester, with expertise or interest in trees, forestry, or tree or forest management, maintenance, or care. The Council advises the State Forester, the Division of Parks and Forestry and the DEP.... in promoting, supporting and advancing healthy, safe and sustainable urban and community forests in New Jersey." The meeting agenda will deal with implementing the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act, the No Net Loss Reforestation Act, and issues concerning urban and community forestry and the forest and tree resources. Links to additional information, including how to join virtually, are available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/event/nj-community-forestry-council-5/>.

NJ 2025 Sustainability Summit
(with Medium & Heavy Duty EV Show)
5/9/2025, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Holmdel, NJ - In-person

"The New Jersey Sustainability Summit is a momentous event in our state, drawing change-makers from across the political, private, and public sectors. This exceptional one-day forum spotlights the successes and lessons learned from the people and projects that are helping New Jersey realize a more sustainable future. 2024 Summit attendees walked away with tangible resources and strategies to assist with their own community initiatives. This is your opportunity to do the same. We invite all who are interested to be ready to deepen their understanding and expand their network." Note: Green Amendments For The Generations will be tabling at the 2025 New Jersey Sustainability Summit, and there will also be a NJ Electric Vehicle Association (NJEVA) Medium and Heavy Duty EV Show at the event. Registration fees (including breakfast and lunch) are as follows: **\$45 - elected and appointed officials, green team volunteers, and public & nonprofit employees; and \$150 - all other attendees.** Links to additional information, the agenda and list of sessions, and to register, are available here: <https://www.sustainablejersey.com/events/2025-sustainability-summit/>.

NOFA NJ MushroomFest
5/10/2025, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Asbury Park, NJ - In-person

"Join NOFA NJ and collaborating farms and partners in Asbury Park for our second annual MushroomFest! Whether you're an advanced mycologist or an entry-level mushroom enthusiast, our network of mushroom professionals are eager to share their knowledge in a day dedicated to FUNgus! Expect cooking demos and tastings, shiitake log inoculation, take home grow kits, advanced technical processes, lab and grow designs, therapeutic regulation AND MORE!" Additional information, including the schedule, locations of classes, and the link to register (**\$50 for NOFA NJ Members and NJ Mycological Association Members; \$60 for non-Members**), is available here: <https://nofanj.org/event/nofa-nj-mushroomfest/>.

"From the Commissioner's Desk: Regulations and Planning to Build Resilience in New Jersey" - Virtual
5/13/2025, 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

"Join Rebuild by Design and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection [DEP] Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette in a discussion on New Jersey's unique regulatory framework and planning strategies to help local communities adapt to the growing challenges of flooding, storms, and rising sea levels. A moderated Q&A session will give attendees the chance to engage directly, followed by tools and resources to support continued action. This event is ideal for anyone interested in reimagining how we manage water, from policy and planning to on-the-ground solutions." Registration is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/35fmh7xk>.

Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) Board Meeting - Virtual
5/15/2025, 12:00 p.m.

From the **EJTF partner** NJ Environmental Justice Alliance (NJEJA): "Join the monthly meetings for the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission and express opposition to the proposal for an additional power plant in the Ironbound neighborhood of Newark." 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 under 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>.

Central NJ: Hands Off Our Planet! EmpowerNJ Town Hall
5/15/2025, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Highland Park, NJ - In-person

This Highland Park Town Hall, "Confronting the Climate and Affordability Crises," is sponsored by EmpowerNJ, a coalition of which **UUFANJ is a member**. "With unprecedented federal attacks on climate science, the gutting of federal protections for clean air and water, and the attempt to eliminate funding for emergency response to climate disasters, we need our elected officials in New Jersey to fill the leadership void.... Join us in Highland Park for a town hall on these challenges and potential solutions - like the NJ Climate Superfund Act, which would ensure that the world's wealthiest fossil fuel corporations, not taxpayers, foot the bill for climate disasters. We'll be joined by members of our state legislature who are co-sponsoring the NJ Climate Superfund Act as well as municipal leaders who have taken local action in support of this bill. We'll also hear from community members who have been impacted by the climate crisis, local climate and environmental leaders, and more. Join us to learn about these issues and how you can take action ..." Additional information and the link to register are available here: <https://www.mobilize.us/mobilize/event/773113/>.

Sierra Club NJ Monthly Building Electrification Webinar - PJM
5/15/2025, 7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
- Virtual

This series of Sierra Club NJ webinars is highly recommended by **EJTF member Peggy Middaugh** (see [p. 2](#)). This webinar addresses the very critical and obscure role of PJM Interconnection, the regional power grid operator for 13 states including NJ. "Your Electric Bill

Increases 20% on June 1. Who sets the price of our electricity and how do they do it? Are there checks and balances to protect customers? What can you do to keep your own bill down? What can your legislators and regulators do? We explain the issues in simple language so you can be an informed citizen and consumer." Two experts will discuss their findings: Price increase is NOT caused by renewables; PJM could reduce electric price by quickly permitting connection of 300+ pending renewable electric projects. Additional information and the link to register are available here:

[https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=701Po00000pGo0HIAS&mapLinkHref=.](https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=701Po00000pGo0HIAS&mapLinkHref=)

**"Building a Wildfire-Resilient Future:
Markets, Biomass, and Partnerships"
5/16/2025, 1:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
- Webinar**

This webinar, hosted by LightWorks at Arizona State University and the Security and Sustainability Forum, "will examine one of the most practical and debated responses [to forest wildfires]: thinning overgrown forests and developing markets for the resulting debris - material that currently has little to no value but is a major source of wildfire risk. You'll hear from experts working on the ground in forest management, policy, insurance, and biomass market development. They'll share lessons from the Four Forest Restoration Initiative and discuss emerging markets - like biochar, renewable natural gas, and e-methanol - that could help make forest restoration more sustainable and scalable. Note: Thinning is a commonly used strategy, though not without debate. This session will examine how it can be applied responsibly - guided by ecological goals and paired with market-based uses for forest waste." Additional information and registration are available here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/1883126314427545691>.

**NJDEP Proposed Wetlands Mitigation Rules
Comments Due 5/16/2025**

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](https://act.sierraclub.org/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."

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

**Drive Electric Event
Glen Ridge Arts & Eco Fair
5/17/2025, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Rain date: 5/18/2025
Glen Ridge, NJ - In-person**

The NJ Electric Vehicle Association (NJEVA) characterizes this as "The largest community event in Glen Ridge, attracting thousands of visitors! This joint celebration of the arts and the environment brings together a curated exhibition of over 75 arts and craft vendors, sustainability

and wellness vendors, local businesses, eco exhibits and hands-on demonstrations such as beekeeping, composting, solar and car technology. There will also be food, live entertainment, and children's activities." Additional information, including the links to register to attend, exhibit your EV, or to volunteer are available here:

<https://driveelectricearthmonth.org/event?eventid=4719>.

22nd Annual "Ocean Fun Days" - In-person
5/17/2025, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Island Beach State Park, Seaside Park, NJ
5/18/2025, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
NJ Sea Grant Consortium, Sandy Hook, NJ

"Celebrating 22 years of ocean discovery, coastal stewardship and energy conservation! Ocean Fun Days is an eco-friendly event the whole family can enjoy!" Includes: "Free Admission | Free Parking | Free Eco-Tours | Crafts | Crab Races | Exhibits | Food | Fun." Additional information is available here: <https://oceanfundays.org>.

The IAC Asks: "How Can We Build Heat-Resilient Infrastructure in New Jersey?"
5/20/2025, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Webinar

New Jersey's Interagency Council on Climate Resilience (IAC) is hosting a webinar featuring a panel of planning and infrastructure, energy, and transportation experts "to discuss the pressure extreme heat is placing on the state's infrastructure and the measures being taken to build resilience." Additional information including the flyer, list of speakers, and the link to register are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5yb6ysy>.

"Next Stop: Sustainable Public Transit and Mobility" - Livestream
5/20/2025, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

"This Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) briefing will highlight federal programs and research that propel public transit forward in the United States. Panelists will discuss how federal transit investments bolster local economies, with every dollar invested in transit generating \$5 in economic returns. They will also explore transit's central role in connecting people to other forms of transportation, from walking and biking to planes

and trains." Additional information and the link to RSVP are available here: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/052025transportation>.

"People Over Plastics" Rally and Advocacy Day - In-person
5/22/2025, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Trenton, NJ

"The Sierra Club, Beyond Plastics, Surfrider Foundation, Clean Water Action, Clean Ocean Action, Oceana, Environment NJ, and Save Barnegat Bay are joining up to have a lobby day to fight plastic pollution! We're excited to announce People Over Plastic Rally and Advocacy Day! On May 22nd, we will meet with legislators at the State House in Trenton urging them to prioritize legislation that tackles the plastic crisis in our state.... Training in advance of the event will be provided, and lunch will be provided the day of." Additional information and the link to RSVP are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/2s4h4te5>.

Elders Climate Action March National Call – "Harnessing Collaboration for a Decarbonized Future"
5/27/2025, 7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. - Online

Panama Bartholomy, Executive Director of the Building Decarbonization Coalition will encourage us to forge local alliances, create successful relationships with staff and legislators at all levels, and coordinate with industry actors to establish the conditions for a smooth, equitable transition from fossil fuels. He will share his organization's focus on new and existing buildings, and give some very useful tips for working with local and state legislative bodies." Additional information and the link to register are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/y9z24zxm>.

"Like Trains? Then Choo-Choose to Learn About Federal Rail Policy" - Livestream
5/28/2025, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

"This Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) briefing will explore the past, current, and future role of rail in the U.S. transportation sector and highlight key rail programs under the surface transportation bill. Speakers will also describe opportunities to modernize railways through

electrification, faster trains, track expansion, and safety improvements." Additional information and the link to RSVP are available here:

<https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/052825trains>.

**Drive Electric Event
Manchester Twp. Green Fair
5/28/2025, 2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Manchester, NJ - In-person**

At this NJ Electric Vehicle Association (NJEVA) event, "Learn about green technology, how to save energy and help make our environment healthier. Meet representatives from JCP&L who'll inform you about energy savings programs. Speak with various vendors and installers of household heat pumps, high efficiency heating systems and water heaters, solar panels, and other home energy savings technologies. We'll also have an EV display, meet fellow EV owners, exchange ideas, and share your questions about EV ownership experience with those who drive electric." Additional information, including the links to register to attend, exhibit your EV, or to volunteer are available here:

<https://driveelectricearthmonth.org/event?eventid=4818>.

**Option Green: "Recycling and Waste Reduction" - Hybrid
5/28/2025, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
East Brunswick, NJ - In-person & via Zoom**

"Steven Rinaldi from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's [DEP] Sustainability program will present a lecture on 'Recycling and Waste Reduction: History, Trends, Innovations and Interesting Stuff.' This presentation will look at recycling in New Jersey over the years with a focus on collection program and recycling market issues, as well as hot issues in waste management. Innovations in recycling will also be explored, as will interesting waste reduction initiatives." This event is part of Option Green's WeCycle series co-sponsored by the Friends of East Brunswick Environmental Commission and the East Brunswick Sustainability Task Force. Additional information and the link to register for the online event are available here:

<https://ilove.ebpl.org/adults-teens/events/option-green-recycling-and-waste-reduction-hybrid/2025-05-28-230000-2025-05-29>.

REPAIR CAFE

YOUR BROKEN ITEMS FIXED FOR FREE!

**Repair Cafes in NJ
Various Dates and Locations
- In-person**

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 most Repair Cafe events in NJ in the coming months.** Events taking place in May, with links for information, are shown below:

Roxbury, NJ Repair Cafe

5/3/2025, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

<https://www.roxburylibrary.org/event/13389434->

Rutherford, NJ Repair Cafe

5/17/2025, 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

<https://www.repaircafegs.org/our-locations/rutherford>

Washington Township, NJ Repair Cafe

5/17/2025, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

<https://wtpl.libcal.com/event/13604347>

Jersey City, NJ Repair Cafe

5/18/2025, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

<https://jclibrary.libcal.com/event/14252366>

Oakland, NJ Repair Cafe

5/31/2025, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

<https://tinyurl.com/229jzz45>



UU FaithAction NJ Annual Meeting - Hybrid
5/31/2025, 10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
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. The 2025 Annual Meeting will include a Business Meeting in the morning, lunch (provided), and an Afternoon Session that will feature a presentation from each of our Task Forces - Criminal Justice Reform, Environmental Justice, Immigration Justice, and Reproductive Justice. We believe it is important at this time for our congregations to dig deep into the core issues confronting our task forces in New Jersey, focusing particularly on the intersectional aspects of our work. Our annual meeting will conclude with an overview of our strategic priorities for the year ahead. All New Jersey UUs are encouraged to attend! Registration (free) is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/3uctreyt>.

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; May events are shown in the next column (**All plantings are rain or shine, and are held from 9:00 a.m.**). 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 4/25/2025**) and for additional events:

- 5/3 - West State Street, Trenton
- 5/10 - Collingswood Meditation Garden
- 5/17 - La Ingrata, Camden
- 5/22 - Branch Brook Park, Newark

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 and on p. 14),
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/>.

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

5/5/25 - Wildlife Recovery in NJ - "Wild turkeys were once extinct in New Jersey, while bald eagles and bobcats were almost completely lost due to habitat destruction, overhunting and environmental contamination. Through reintroductions and intensive conservation efforts, all 3 species have made a comeback in New

Jersey! Tune in to learn about the biology of these species, their decline and recovery, and the current status of their populations." Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/k7y3zzkb>

5/12/25 - Dam Removal/Restoration - "Join us as we explore the environmental and community benefits of dam removal. Our speaker will discuss how removing outdated or unnecessary dams can restore natural river ecosystems, improve water quality, and enhance biodiversity. Learn success stories from New Jersey and the positive impact of dam removal on local ecology." Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/k7y3zzkb>

5/19/25 - Shellfish and Marine Habitat Restoration - "New Jersey's marine ecosystems are critical to our coastal communities and economies. However, many stressors in recent decades have often resulted in the depletion of wild populations and degradation of habitats. Ongoing restoration efforts have been working to restore depleted populations and critical habitats. Join us to learn about recent successes in shellfish restoration and habitat enhancement in coastal areas throughout New Jersey." Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/k7y3zzkb>

Save the date!

New Jersey Planning and Redevelopment Conference - Hybrid
6/11/2025 - 6/12/2025 - Virtual
6/13/2025 - New Brunswick, NJ - In-person

New Jersey Future and the New Jersey Chapter of the American Planning Association are presenting the annual New Jersey Planning and Redevelopment Conference convening virtually on June 11-12 and in person at the Hyatt Regency New Brunswick on June 13. "The 2025 New Jersey Planning & Redevelopment Conference will feature a multitude of timely sessions, and bring together hundreds of visionary New Jersey professionals, elected officials, and community activists who share a passion and commitment to the Garden State. Together we can reimagine land use to

optimize efficiency, promote sustainable growth, and bolster community resilience in a rapidly changing environment! Registration includes a full-access pass to all conference programming, including 37 sessions, a virtual and in-person exhibit floor, and networking with fellow attendees, speakers, and sponsors. An on-demand video library, in addition to session files and resources, will be available to all conference attendees for three months following the conference." Additional information and the link to register (**\$400 for non-members**) are available here: <https://site.pheedloop.com/event/njprc25/home>.

VIDEOS+ OF PAST EVENTS

Sierra Club NJ Monthly Building Electrification Webinar - Triple Electrification Webinar - Video of Webinar, and Slides

This series of Sierra Club NJ webinars is highly recommended by **EJTF member Peggy Middaugh, who made a presentation as part of this session** (see [p. 2](#)). The webinar included: "1. SAVE 21% off your electric bill by subscribing to Community Solar. No fees or penalties. Solar Landscape makes it easy for us- they are the largest NJ builder of community solar projects with 54 NJ projects (350 projects nationwide). 2. UPDATE YOUR HOME. Peggy proudly discusse[d] her home improvements. Weatherization/insulation and a heat pump for her 1200 square foot house saved more than 50% on her electric bill. 3. HOUSEHOLD ELECTRIFICATION - WHAT IS YOUR PLAN FOR EMERGENCIES?? Your hot water tank leaks (tomorrow?); A/C breaks (this summer?); furnace breaks (next winter?)" The video is available here: [Peggy's presentation begins at minute 25:45] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iDZM1bRnNoE>. Links to download the slides from the presentations are available here: SolarLandscape slides - on Community Solar <https://climate.smiller.org/50x30/building-electrification/2025-4-17-SolarLandscape/4-17-SolarLandscape.pptx>; Peggy's slides - house case study <https://climate.smiller.org/50x30/building-electrification/2025-4-17-SolarLandscape/4-17-PeggyMyStory.pptx>; Betsy's slides - reason for 20% increased electricity bill June 1, 2025 [15](https://climate.smiller.org/50x30/building-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

[electrification/2025-4-17-SolarLandscape/4-17-BetsyElectricIncreasing.pptx](https://climate.smiller.org/50x30/building-electrification/2025-4-17-SolarLandscape/4-17-BetsyElectricIncreasing.pptx); Pat's slides - Electrification Coaching Network <https://climate.smiller.org/50x30/building-electrification/2025-4-17-SolarLandscape/4-17-PAT-NJ-ECN.pptx>; and the link for the Q&A is available here: <https://climate.smiller.org/50x30/building-electrification/2025-4-17-SolarLandscape/Chat-QandA.txt>.

NJDEP 2025 Harmful Algal Bloom Summit - Video of Summit, and Slides

NJDEP's 6th Annual Harmful Algal Bloom Summit took place virtually on Wednesday, April 9, 2025. This year's theme, "Kicking the HAB-bit Together: Collaborating to Get Ahead of HABs," focused on shifting from reactive, crisis-driven responses to proactive, collaborative and lasting solutions for harmful algal blooms (HABs). The summit featured a diverse lineup of speakers covering key topics in the HAB sphere. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0qnGIJe0QHE&t=1s>. The presentation slides are available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/hab/docs/2025-hab-summit-presentations.pdf>.

"Navigating the DEP System: Explaining Enforcement" - Videos of Webinars

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) sponsored this 3-part seminar series focusing on enforcement issues: What DEP enforces, how the processes work, and how you can get involved. Links to videos of the seminars are available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/ej/seminars/> (listed under "Navigating the DEP Seminar 5 - Explaining Enforcement."

Here are the topics of the seminars:
I - "Introduction to Enforcement"
II - "Odors 101 and Air Enforcement"
III - "Solid Waste, Water, and Coastal Land Use."

"Just Peace on a Burning Planet: Why Our Collective Survival Depends on Rethinking the Military" - Video of Webinar

This webinar was sponsored by Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC) [of which **EJTF member Sally Jane**

Gellert is a Board of Trustees Cochair]. "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." The webinar was 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." The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XO2T4v0KBfQ>.

Environmental Voter Project Briefing for NJ Unitarian Universalists - Video of Webinar

In case you missed it.... You can watch the Environmental Voter Project (EVP) briefing for New Jersey Unitarian Universalists which was held online on April 9, 2025. In the briefing, UUs learned about the nonpartisan, non-profit Environmental Voter Project, how they identify and mobilize voters, and ways that UU congregations can support their important work. UUs also learned about the demographics of the hundreds of thousands of non-voting environmentalists in the Garden State. **EJTF member Nadine Sapirman**, a supporter of the Environmental Voter Project (EVP), arranged with its Executive Director to hold this information webinar for NJ Unitarian Universalists. Additional information about EVP is available here: <https://www.environmentalvoter.org>. The EVP has just started working in NJ, which is great news for the state, with a gubernatorial election this year. The video is available here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TATLpSzq_ao.

"Make Polluters Pay: Holding Big Oil Accountable for Climate Damages" **- Video of Webinar**

This webinar sponsored by Elders Climate Action was 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 join[ed] us to share what's happening and what we can do in our states and beyond to support the effort." The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P28dG1ojmjs>.

"Exposing the Unspoken": Film Screening & Conversation on Energy and Environmental Justice - Video of Webinar

This webinar was presented by Elders Climate Action and featured "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, there was 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." The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CfmuB2qK8VY>.

Option Green: "Sustainability Basics in the Home" - Video of Program

Lynn Ust and Briane Peters of Middlesex County's Solid Waste Management and Environmental Health Division presented this program on "Sustainability Basics in the Home through Solid Waste Management, Recycling, & Getting Food Smart." Attendees learned about proper waste disposal, recycling guidance (including batteries), and eating beyond the 'best buy' date in our community." This event was part of Option Green series co-sponsored by the East Brunswick Library and the Friends of East Brunswick Environmental Commission. The video is available here:

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

"The Climate Impact of Fossil Fuel Investment on Insurance Companies and Homeowners" - Video of Webinar

"Dave Jones, Director of the Climate Risk Initiative at UC Berkeley School of Law and former California Insurance Commissioner, join[ed] ECA [Elders Climate Action] to discuss the investment practices of insurance companies, including their investments in fossil fuels. As the burning of fossil fuels intensifies the climate crisis, the insurance industry finds itself uniquely exposed to heavy payouts. This threat has resulted in insurance companies canceling a large number of homeowner policies. Dave discuss[ed] how, as insurers curtail their exposure to climate-related risk by canceling policies, there is much less evidence that these same insurers are making their own investment portfolios climate-resilient." The video is available here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wmr_ezOycUE&t=1s.

"Speak Up for New Jersey: Learn How to Call Your Federal Representatives" **- Video of Webinar**

In this webinar sponsored by the NJ League of Conservation Voters (NJLCV) "we came together to learn about the recent federal actions and what we all can do together to stand up and make our voices heard. We shared how to contact your federal representatives to share personal stories

about how these policies are affecting your families, jobs, and communities. Participants received step-by-step guidance on how to effectively communicat[e] their concerns, key talking points, and support to ensure your voice is heard." The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KWb2R3Xb6g8>.

"Repairing the Social Fabric in an Age of Misinformation" - Video of Webinar

This webinar was 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, complicate[d] the concept of misinformation, show[ed] how it affects us all regardless of political orientation, and share[d] 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 video is available here:

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

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 April 2025 included a presentation by a guest speaker on the NJBPU's "New Construction Program" (NCP), a part of NJ's Clean Energy Program. The BPU describes it as "designed to increase energy efficiency and environmental performance. The NCP, which will replace the existing new construction energy efficiency programs, will also simplify the customer experience and application process... with a long-term goal of transforming the new construction market in NJ to one in which most new buildings will have 'net zero' energy usage.... New construction or buildings undergoing

substantial renovation (also known as "gut rehab") of all types (e.g., single family, townhome, multifamily, commercial, and industrial) are eligible to participate in the NCP, so long as their utility bills include or will include contributions to the Societal Benefits Charge ('SBC')." The NCP is being implemented for a transition period beginning 5/1/2025, with full required implementation six months later. "Three Program Pathways (Bundled, Streamlined, and High Performance) will offer incentives.... [and the NCP] will further include a greenhouse gas reduction bonus and a workforce development component." The presentation begins at minute 33:50 of the video of the webinar, available here: <https://tinyurl.com/4emw97kv>. Slides from the webinar are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/2rhe33ed>.

"2025 Sustainable Energy in America Factbook" - Video of Webinar

"This webinar [was] 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) [presented] 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/>." The video is available here: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/040125factbook>.

"Towards Healthier Outcomes in Surface Transportation" - Video of Webinar

"The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI), the American Public Health Association, and Transportation for America held a briefing about the public health implications of transportation policy. As Congress embarks on the surface transportation reauthorization process, policymakers have the opportunity to revisit federal policies and investments that also shape public health, prosperity, and climate outcomes. This briefing explored the nexus of transportation, public health, and climate change. Panelists described potential negative health outcomes, stemming from issues like air pollution and road crashes. The briefing also provided policy, process, and funding solutions that weave public health considerations into the surface transportation reauthorization process in a way that benefits both people and climate." The video is available here: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/041025transportation>.

2025 NJ Bike & Walk Summit - Videos of Sessions

The NJ Bike & Walk Coalition's annual Summit "is New Jersey's statewide meeting of bicycle and pedestrian advocates, elected officials and state, county, and municipal leaders, transportation and urban planners, bike shop owners and managers, cycling, walking, fitness and health enthusiasts and experts, recreation, trails and club leaders and others who are interested in making our state a better place to live." It included workshops, speakers, and round-tables. The videos are available here: <https://njbwc.org/summit-2025/>.

NJBPU "Addressing New Jersey Energy Affordability for Low and Moderate-Income Households" Straw Proposal Stakeholder Meeting - Video of Webinar

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("BPU" or "Board") held 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." The comment period is over, but additional information, including the Straw Proposal, are available here: https://www.nj.gov/bpu/pdf/publicnotice/Notice_StakeholderMeeting_Comment_AffordabilityStraw.pdf and the video of the virtual stakeholder meeting is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/5n8ckk6s>.

"Energy Security and the Transition Amid Geopolitical Turbulence" Summit - Videos of Sessions

"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 [brought] 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.... participate[d] 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...." The videos are available here:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLI_xPf9teP6zokT8N7YJJ45wCF3FOljX2.

"Procedural Justice in Environmental Justice Decision-making" **- Video of Webinar**

From the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) public notice about this webinar, WE ACT's EPA Region 2 Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center [TCTAC] for the fourth installment of their Environmental Justice Law and Policy series. "This session, presented in partnership with the Institute for Policy Integrity, explore[d] the complex activities that public utility or public service commissions (PUCs) undertake in the name of climate and energy policy. Participants learn[ed] 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." The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p2woTMKp2V4>.

"Sustaining Innovation in New Jersey Climate Policy - Past, Present and Future" **- Videos of Sessions**

This Rutgers "New Jersey Climate Change Resource Center Conference" featured "a daylong dialogue regarding New Jersey's state climate policies, where New Jersey has to go to reach its climate goals, challenges to reaching those goals, lessons we can learn from others, and opportunities that we might explore with leading local and national experts." Videos of the conference are available here:

https://njclimateresourcecenter.rutgers.edu/past_event/sustaining-innovation-in-new-jersey-climate-policy/.

NEWS RELATED TO EJTF ISSUES **[covering 3/26/2025 – 4/25/2025]**

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Big Blow to Program That Helps Poorer Residents Pay Energy Bills

The entire staff of the federal LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) was laid off on 4/1/2025. The program "helps very low-income residents with their heating and cooling bills, and makes provisions for emergency heating system services and emergency fuel assistance." Close to 400,000 NJ households were enrolled in this program in 2024, although enrollment was limited by funding available. An estimated 10 percent of federal funding for 2025 has not yet been allocated, but the staff who determines allocations has been let go, so the allocation and award of funding needed for the summer cooling season may be at risk.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/04/trump-layoffs-slash-liheap-staff-putting-program-helping-poorer-people-pay-utility-bills-at-risk/>

EPA Removes EJScreen from Its Website

Coinciding with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) removal of web pages related to environmental justice, the EPA has removed the EJScreen tool from its website. An initial reconstruction of Version 2.3 of EPA's EJScreen by the non-federal group "Public Environmental Data Partners" is available here:

<https://tinyurl.com/4pxecz4w>. [Also see the article below].

<https://envirodatagov.org/epa-removes-ejscreen-from-its-website/>

How to Find Climate Data and Science the Trump Administration Doesn't Want You to See

In light of the federal government's removal of data tools and data from websites, the "Public Environmental Data Partners" is working to preserve them. This group is "a coalition of nonprofits, archivists and researchers who rely on

federal data in our analysis, advocacy and litigation and are working to ensure that data remains available to the public." The list of tools that they have preserved to date and a link to the datasets that they have preserved are available here: <https://screening-tools.com>. Additional places to find data that is no longer available on federal websites is included in this article: <https://envirodatagov.org/how-to-find-climate-data-and-science-the-trump-administration-doesnt-want-you-to-see/>.

LAND MANAGEMENT/ AGRICULTURE/FOOD



ELECTRIC VEHICLES & VEHICLE EMISSION REDUCTION

Opinion: Why NJ Must Stay the Course on Cleaner Trucks

This piece, by Dr. Elizabeth Cerceo, an academic hospitalist and policy chair of Clinicians for Climate Action NJ, describes the impacts of delaying NJ's implementation of the Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) rule that was adopted in 2021. In 12/2024, the Legislature advanced a bill [A4967] that would delay implementation of the (ACT) rule.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/03/op-ed-nj-lawmakers-are-urged-to-stay-the-course-with-clean-truck-regulations/>

FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE

Opponents Want Permit Extension for LNG Export Terminal Denied

The building permit for the Gibbstown Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal, issued by the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC), expires in June. The project's owner has asked that the permit be extended. The terminal would obtain LNG from PA, transport it through South Jersey, and then would ship it around the world. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network maintains that the project has changed since the permit was approved, and has requested a public hearing before the DRBC votes on the permit extension request, which could take place as early as the next DRBC Business Meeting on 6/11/2025.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/04/opponents-urge-delaware-river-basin-commission-deny-permit-extension-lng-export-terminal>

New Jersey Legislative Efforts Target Food Waste Reduction and Recovery Programs

From CitizenPortal.ai: "In a recent meeting of the New Jersey Assembly's Environment, Natural Resources, and Solid Waste Committee, discussions centered on critical food waste legislation and the need for clearer food date labeling. The meeting highlighted the ongoing challenges faced by food rescue organizations and the importance of legislative support to enhance food recovery efforts. One of the key topics was Bill S200, which aims to address the confusion surrounding food date labeling.... Additionally, the committee discussed Bill S3889, which mandates public colleges and universities to implement food waste reduction programs.... The meeting also touched on the potential for state-specific tax incentives for food recovery, drawing inspiration from successful models in states like New York and Virginia.... In a related success story, representatives from Trent Renewables shared insights into New Jersey's food waste legislation, which requires large generators of food waste to utilize processing facilities. However, they noted that only two facilities currently operate under this mandate, highlighting a gap in infrastructure that needs to be addressed to maximize the effectiveness of the law. Overall, the discussions at the meeting reflect a growing urgency to tackle food waste in New Jersey through legislative action and community engagement."

<https://citizenportal.ai/articles/3100447/New-Jersey/New-Jersey-legislative-efforts-target-food-waste-reduction-and-recovery-programs>

[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:

<https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/archived-media/2024/SEN-meeting-list/media-player?committee=SEN&agendaDate=2025-04-23-10:00:00&agendaType=M&av=A.>]

Funding Package Is One of Largest in Green Acres Program History

From the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) press release: "Reaffirming the Murphy Administration's commitment to inclusivity and outdoor recreation opportunities for all, Governor Phil Murphy and Environmental Protection Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette today [4/25/2025] marked the state's celebration of Earth Week by announcing more than \$131 million in Green Acres investments for parks, recreation, and open space preservation projects across New Jersey.... Upon approval of an appropriations bill by the Legislature, the funding package will bring to \$695 million the total Green Acres investments the Murphy Administration has made for park development and open space projects.... Many of the proposed park development projects serve Adversely Stressed Overburdened Communities in Urban Aid municipalities, emphasizing the Murphy Administration's commitment to environmental justice...."

https://dep.nj.gov/newsrel/25_0023/

New Legislative Review Policy Briefing Series by [NJ] OFSA - Summarizing Federal Proposed Actions that Could Impact Everyday Food Security in NJ

The NJ Office of the Food Security Advocate (OFSA) "is introducing food security-focused policy briefs on a regular basis. The briefs... provide a legislative review for those who are following proposed changes and other actions with the potential to impact food and nutrition programs and policies directly, or to indirectly impact everyday food security for individuals and families." To access the briefs, scroll down to "Legislative Updates" on the page linked here: <https://tinyurl.com/4natszfz>. You can also sign up to receive the updates regularly via email.

RENEWABLE RESOURCES (other than Offshore Wind)

Murphy Administration Expands Nation-Leading Community Solar Energy Program by 250 MW

From the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) press release: "The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) today [4/23/2025] approved an expansion of New Jersey's nation-leading Community Solar Energy Program (CSEP) by opening another capacity block of 250 megawatts (MW). Since the CSEP's first capacity allocation in November 2023, more than 500 MW of community solar projects around the state have registered in the program.... Community solar enables utility customers who may not own their roof or home, rent, or cannot afford the upfront cost of solar to participate in a community solar energy project that is located within their electric utility service area, and projects must reserve at least 51% of capacity for low- and moderate-income (LMI) subscribers. On top of opening another capacity block for new projects, recent program updates will streamline participation and reduce barriers to cost savings. Local governments may now submit registrations for automatic enrollment projects, whereby municipalities may select hard-to-reach households to be directly subscribed to community solar projects and receive savings without residents needing to take action."

<https://www.nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/2025/approved/20250423csep.html>

NJBPU to Open Third Competitive Solar Incentive (CSI) Solicitation

From the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) press release: "The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) today [4/23/2025] approved the opening of the third solicitation of the Competitive Solar Incentive (CSI) Program, an existing program designed to reduce the costs of solar development and encourage grid-scale and other qualifying solar projects in New Jersey. The Board set the third solicitation of the CSI Program to open for pre-qualification on May 14, 2025, and close to bids on July 23, 2025. CSI has helped to significantly increase the amount of solar in New

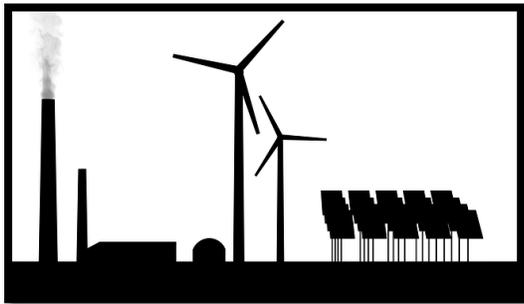
Jersey - which is now over five gigawatts of installed capacity - at a lower cost for ratepayers." <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/2025/approved/20250423csi.html>

Lawmakers Point Fingers as Energy Prices Set to Rise

This 5-1/2-minute news video initially focuses on the close to ten-fold increase in energy costs resulting from the latest capacity auction of PJM Interconnection, the regional power grid operator for 13 states including NJ. However, starting at minute 2:19, NJ's state policies, including those related to renewable energy are discussed. It is pointed out that many projects - particularly solar projects - are ready to go, but that PJM's approval process for them has been taking years. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/lawmakers-point-fingers-as-energy-prices-set-to-rise/>

Chart: These States Get More Power From Clean Energy Than Coal

In this article, NJ is listed as getting 8% of its energy from wind and solar, and 0% from coal. <https://www.canarymedia.com/articles/clean-energy/chart-states-more-power-wind-solar-coal>



Fossil Fuels Fall Below 50% of US Electricity for the First Month on Record

From the Ember energy think tank: "The US hit a new record low for fossil fuels in the electricity mix last month as solar and wind reached a record high, according to new data from global energy think tank Ember. In March 2025, fossil fuels accounted for less than 50% (49.2%) of electricity generated, for the first month on record.... The record was driven largely by an increase in wind and solar power, which reached a record 24.4% of US electricity in March 2025." <https://ember-energy.org/latest-updates/fossil-fuels-fall-below-50-of-us-electricity-for-the-first-month-on-record/>

Opinion: RNG and Hydrogen Are Vital to New Jersey's Clean-Energy Future

In this piece Mike Renna, president and CEO of South Jersey Industries, states that 3/4 of NJ residents and businesses use natural gas for heating and cooking, and touts the blending of "renewable" natural gas (RNG) and hydrogen into the gas system as a way to "help reduce the carbon intensity of the energy New Jersey uses while avoiding the strain and costs associated with electrification." There are identified major issues with these approaches (see <https://www.sightline.org/2021/03/09/the-four-fatal-flaws-of-renewable-natural-gas/>), but of interest is the description of the Linden Renewable Energy (LRE) project, which "will convert methane from organic food waste into energy. Once completed, LRE is expected to be the largest food waste-to-RNG project in the United States and will go a long way in helping New Jersey meet its decarbonization goals by removing food waste from landfills and avoiding an estimated 120,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually when operating at planned capacity." <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/04/op-ed-argues-new-jersey-needs-rng-plus-hydrogen-clean-energy/>

OFFSHORE WIND

Offshore Wind Developer Seeks to Delay \$37M in Payments

This 5-minute news video describes the status and issues with the remaining NJ offshore wind projects. It focuses on Attentive Energy's recent request for the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to grant it a one-year extension on paying \$37.3 million that is required as part of the preliminary approval for its wind farm project. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/offshore-energy-developer-seeks-to-delay-37m-in-payments/>

CLIMATE CHANGE

New Study Projects Climate-Driven Flooding for Thousands of NJ Homes

Climate Central, a NJ-based research and advocacy nonprofit group, has released a "Coastal Risk Finder" mapping tool (available here: <https://app.climatecentral.org/coastal-risk-finder> - you might have to refresh the mapping tool page to get it to load). The tool allows searches for coastal locations by states, counties, cities, towns, congressional districts, or state legislative districts, and provides maps for different scenarios, impacts, "solutions" (e.g., "prepare your home for a flood") and projections. The *NJ Spotlight News* article provides some of the conclusions reached by using the mapping tool, such as "Some 62,000 people and 56,000 homes on and near the New Jersey Shore will see at least one annual flood because of sea-level rise by 2050, even if the world makes sweeping cuts to carbon emissions now," and also provides links to other tools.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/04/new-study-projects-climate-driven-flooding-for-thousands-new-jersey-people-and-homes/>

New Mapping Tool to Advance Solutions for Making Coastal Wetlands More Resilient to Increasing Rates of Sea-Level Rise

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has announced the launch of the "New Jersey Tidal Wetland Monitoring Network," an informational website and mapping tool (available here: <https://nj-tidal-wetland-monitoring-network-njdep.hub.arcgis.com>) with the mission "to identify current conditions and trends of tidal wetlands in New Jersey to improve resilience of coastal communities and ecosystems by providing data to prioritize restoration efforts and support informed management decisions."

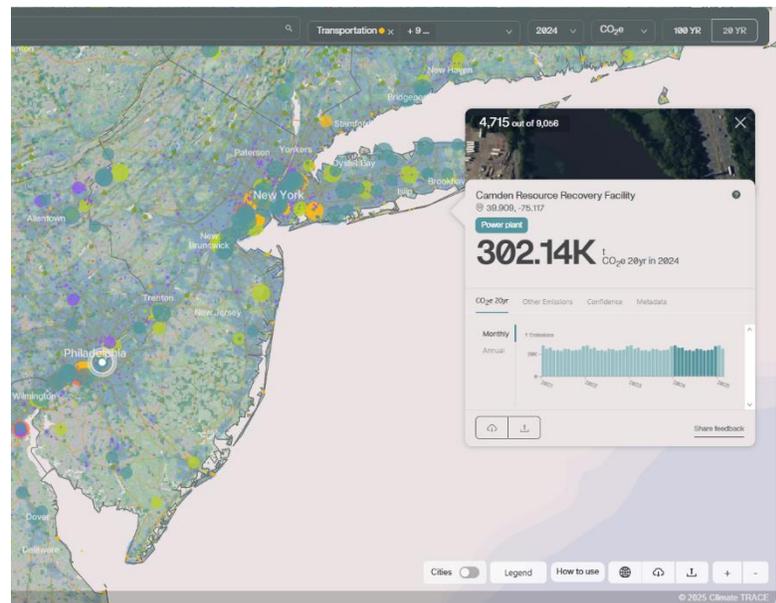
https://dep.nj.gov/newsrel/25_0017/

Montclair Planning Board Reviews Climate Change Assessment and Housing Element and Fair Share Plan

In the Montclair Planning Board's discussion about possible changes to Montclair Township's climate-

change plan and resiliency plan, a NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) contact pointed out that "new terminology is needed to appease the federal government in order to continue federal assistance for town planning."

<https://www.tapinto.net/towns/montclair/articles/montclair-planning-board-reviews-climate-change-assessment-and-housing-element-and-fair-share-plan>



AI Gore's Real-Time Climate Data Just Went Live

From the "We Don't Have Time" news release: "Until now, estimates of global greenhouse gas emissions have been deeply flawed. Calculations have often been based on data provided by the polluters themselves. Worse still, inventories of this data have been compiled years later, permitting only a vague approximation of the quantities currently being released into the atmosphere. But now, Climate TRACE, a coalition of nonprofits, tech companies, universities, and researchers, has released the first-ever monthly update on global greenhouse gas emissions based on precise, live data gathered by satellites, sensors, and artificial intelligence. Going forward, the coalition will release these reports regularly, offering the world the most up-to-date, granular data on GHG emissions that current technology can provide - absolutely free." The data can be viewed in numerous ways, by location, sector, etc., and includes an interactive map (one view of NJ is shown above, with the Camden Resource Recovery Facility highlighted).

<https://climatetrace.org>

State Environmental Chief Says Misinformation Is Driving Opposition to New Flood Rules

From the *New Jersey Monitor*: "New Jersey's top environmental official alleged Wednesday [4/9/2025] that opponents of proposed rules meant to address rising flood risks along New Jersey's coast have repeatedly lied in an effort to spur worry among local officials in hopes of waylaying the changes. Department of Environmental Protection [DEP] Commissioner Shawn LaTourette told the Assembly Budget Committee that opposition to what's known as the resilient environments and landscapes rule proposal is driven by a coordinated misinformation campaign. 'It's not that they're misinterpreting,' LaTourette said of local officials opposed to the rules. 'It's that there was a very deliberate campaign that constructed a narrative, sent that narrative to every local elected official because they knew if they got the elected officials scared and could sow distrust of the DEP - your floodplain manager who wants to help people - they knew they would then get to you.'"

<https://newjerseymonitor.com/2025/04/09/state-environmental-chief-says-misinformation-is-driving-opposition-to-new-flood-rules/>

FOREST HEALTH/URBAN FORESTRY

NJ Cut Back Prescribed Burns in Pine Barrens - and Faces Massive Wildfire

From *Inside Climate News*: "[NJ] Foresters had warned in March that New Jersey was particularly vulnerable to wildfires this year because of below average rains, near-drought conditions - and a delay in prescribed burns by authorities that have typically helped to reduce risk.... [T]he pinelands, the first national reserve in the country... thrive because of forest service prescribed burns to rid brush. This year, foresters said they cut back on springtime burns because of on-the-ground conditions: it has been just too hot and dry to start prescribed fires. The Forest Fire Service typically treats 25,000 acres in central New Jersey, across seven counties, with planned burns. So far this year, forest personnel have burned only 3,320 acres, a fraction of its work in previous years. Five years ago, 26,000 acres were burned.

In 2024, 15,000 were targeted. New Jersey entered fire season, from March to May, following its third driest January since records began in 1895. State fire officials are warning that a drop in rainfall and snow have made autumn leaves and winter needles ready tinder across what is called the Atlantic Coastal Pine Barrens."

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/23042025/pine-barrens-prescribed-burns-reduced-then-wildfire-hit/>

Cherry Hill News: Fleisher Announces New Tree-Planting Initiative

Cherry Hill's mayor, Dave Fleisher, "has announced the launch of a new program called 'Branching Out: Growing a Greener Cherry Hill.' This project - set to launch in spring - aims to plant more than 500 trees throughout the township, including in parks, open spaces and on residential and personal property."

<https://southjersey.media/cherry-hill-news/mayor-fleisher-announces-new-tree-planting-initiative/>

City Launches 'Rooted in Newark' Tree Canopy Initiative on Earth Day

From the City of Newark press release: "Mayor Ras J. Baraka and Chief Sustainability Officer Nicole Hewitt-Cabral launched the 'Rooted in Newark' Tree Canopy Initiative.... At least 400 new street trees will be planted across all five wards of the city this Spring... This initiative...will result in a minimum of 5,000 trees planted over the next 10 years, creating a healthier and more sustainable Newark for future generations. This is the first time the City of Newark has had a Tree Superintendent who is responsible for overseeing the City's tree planting effort. 'This project is about more than just planting trees—it's about planting hope, health, and a brighter future for our city.... Future generations of Newarkers will benefit from the shade, beauty, and cleaner air that these trees will provide,' Mayor Baraka said."

<https://www.newarknj.gov/news/city-launches-rooted-in-newark-tree-canopy-initiative-on-earth-day>

NJ Bill to Protect Private Woodland from Future Development Advances

A bill (S699) that would help preserve privately owned NJ woodlands by restricting development was passed by the Senate 3/24/2025 and referred

to the Assembly Environment, Natural Resources, and Solid Waste Committee. The bill requires the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) to establish "a program for the acquisition, by the State, a local government unit, or a qualifying tax-exempt nonprofit organization, of a development easement restricting, in perpetuity, the development of a privately owned woodland." The woodland has to be at least 20 acres in size and managed under an approved forest stewardship plan.

<https://www.shorenewsnetwork.com/2025/03/18/new-jersey-bill-to-protect-private-woodlands-from-future-development-advances/>

LEAD REDUCTION IN HOUSEHOLDS



NJ American Water to Expedite Lead Line Replacement in Maplewood

From the Maplewood Township Public Notice: "In July 2021, the state of New Jersey enacted legislation that requires utility companies to replace utility-owned and customer-owned lead and galvanized service lines by 2031. In previous years, NJAW [NJ American Water] scheduled the replacement of lead and galvanized service lines in Maplewood at a rate that would meet the 2031 deadline. NJAW now wants to dramatically increase the pace of service line replacements and complete all of the necessary work within the next year..." NJAW's plans include replacing 2,000 lead or galvanized pipes throughout Maplewood, beginning in April, and conducting tests on 3,000 pipes that have unknown composition in order to determine if they, too, must be removed. A link to a video of the Township Committee meeting where the program was discussed is included in the article.

<https://villagegreennj.com/infrastructure/nj-american-water-to-expedite-lead-line-replacement-in-maplewood/>

DRINKING WATER (other than lead)

A Community Left Behind: PFAS Crisis Unfolds on Lambertville's Connaught Hill

This story from *The Jersey Vindicator* describes how "the people of Connaught Hill have been stricken by a new wave of adversity, in the form of so-called 'forever chemicals' turning up at high levels in their well water.... New private well test results that came in last month, combined with a smattering of earlier results from tests last summer, have convulsed residents of Connaught Hill: 71 of 74 wells tested now have confirmed PFAS levels above limits set by the state. Many wells on the hill have tested more than 10 times over the state limit. What's more, test results reported just a few weeks ago show that wells in an adjacent community, known as Cottage Hill, also have high levels of forever chemicals. Dozens more wells in both communities, which span Lambertville and West Amwell Township, have now been targeted for testing by the state Department of Environmental Protection [DEP]." <https://jerseyvindicator.org/2025/04/17/a-community-left-behind-pfas-environmental-crisis-unfolds-on-lambertvilles-connaught-hill/>

POLLUTION

Murphy Administration Awards \$16 Million in Annual Grants to Boost Local Recycling Programs

From Gov. Murphy's press release: "The Murphy Administration is awarding \$16.2 million in grants to communities across the state to help them enhance waste reduction and recycling programs, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette announced today [3/28/2025]. The annual awards are based on 2022 recycling performance, the most recent year for which data is available. Municipalities must use their funds for various recycling initiatives, including enhancing recycling collection, making updates to recycling depots or convenience centers, sponsoring

household hazardous waste collection events, providing recycling receptacles in public places, and maintaining leaf composting operations." Amounts awarded by municipality are available here: https://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/stat_links/2022payout.pdf. The amounts awarded of greater than \$100,000 or more are shown in the press release. https://dep.nj.gov/newsrel/25_0015/

Climate Impacts and Pollution Continue to Threaten Our Clean Air - NJ Receives Failing Grades in 2025 State of the Air Report

The American Lung Association has released its 2025 "State of the Air" report (available here: <https://www.lung.org/getmedia/5d8035e5-4e86-4205-b408-865550860783/State-of-the-Air-2025.pdf>), which includes data from 2021 through 2023. Findings for NJ show some declines in air quality from the 2024 report. As shown on the NJ Report Card (available here: <https://www.lung.org/research/sota/city-rankings/states/new-jersey>), 5 New Jersey counties received a grade of "F," with 4 counties receiving a "D" for high ozone days. In terms of particle pollution, 11 out of 14 counties received a "D" grade. Last year, only 2 counties received a grade of "F" for high ozone days. <https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/blog/2025/04/climate-impacts-and-pollution-continue-threaten-our-clean-air-nj-receives>

Millburn Residents Continue to Debate Blower Ban & EC Plans a Demonstration to Determine Which is Better

The Millburn Township Environmental Commission (EC) prepared a draft ordinance to regulate gas-powered leaf blowers. They held meetings to gather information from the public and from landscapers, and as a result the Commission unanimously passed a resolution in favor of a seasonally restricted ban that would be in effect from May 1st through September 30th. Discussions of the proposed ordinance have taken place at several Millburn Township Committee meetings; now the Environmental Commission is planning "a leaf blower 'bake off,'" so that members of the public and the township committee can come see how the electric blowers

perform, and they've been asked to also include some of those newfangled, low noise gas blowers, because there's been a lot of information from both sides." No date was announced. <https://www.tapinto.net/towns/millburn-slash-short-hills/sections/green/articles/millburn-residents-continue-to-debate-blower-ban-ec-plans-a-demonstration-to-determine-which-is-better>

EDUCATION and YOUTH-RELATED

The Young Activists of New Jersey's Climate Justice Movement

This article by Food & Water Watch (**an EJTF partner**) describes how "Young people are coming together to organize for bold action" on climate change. Some were inspired by last year's NJ Climate Action Gathering (**of which UUFANJ was a sponsor**) or this year's Youth Climate Convergence. <https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/2025/03/28/nj-youth-climate-justice/>

DEP Announces Online Library to Help K-5 Educators Incorporate Climate Change Lessons and Solution-Based Concepts Into All Subject Areas

From Gov. Murphy's press release: "New Jersey early grade educators and their pupils will gain a better understanding of the importance of climate change and the opportunities to address it with help from a new online library unveiled as part of Earth Week that provides guidance on how to seamlessly weave climate change education into multiple school subject areas, Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette announced today [4/24/2025]. The library of resources from the Office of Environmental Education includes curated resources from environment-focused nonprofit organizations, government agencies and academic institutions. These materials will help K-5 teachers more easily find climate change resources and lesson plans they can plug into current required units in subject areas such as math, language arts, social studies, science, art, physical education and more.... the library will be updated continuously to incorporate insights from the New Jersey Department of Education... as well as additional no-cost teaching resources from

environment-focused nonprofit organizations, government agencies and academic institutions." The online library is available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/seeds/teachers/climate-ee-database/>.

NJBPU Partners with Rutgers for New Graduate Certificate in Clean Energy

From the NJBPU press release: "The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) has announced a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Rutgers University and the NJBPU Division of Clean Energy to establish a Clean Energy Graduate Certificate Program.... The Clean Energy Graduate Certificate Program is designed to provide master's degree students with basic knowledge in three important areas: Energy-Based Engineering, Energy Public Policy, and Applied Energy Economics, focusing primarily on clean energy. NJBPU staff will... use the skills of the selected Fellows to help develop and carry out state policies. The Fellows will gain invaluable experience in the everyday, real-world regulation of a very complex and nuanced state and regional energy marketplace, helping reduce energy costs for New Jersey ratepayers and support our clean energy transition."

<https://www.nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/2025/approved/20250328.html>

40 NJ Schools Awarded \$182,000 in Sustainable Jersey Grants to Advance Green Initiatives

The NJ Education Association (NJEA) has funded thirteen \$10,000 grants and twenty-seven \$2,000 grants to NJ public schools and districts as part of the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program. Three schools in Princeton each received a \$2,000 grant, two for "Ditching Disposables" and transitioning to reusable service ware, and one for a vermicomposting and gardening project. See <https://www.tapinto.net/towns/princeton/articles/three-public-schools-awarded-sustainable-jersey-grants-for-green-initiatives>. The description of the program and a link to the complete list of grant recipients is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/m55bpk4b>.

Conservation School Warns Budget Cut Would 'Devastate' Student Programs

From the *New Jersey Monitor*: "Under Gov. Phil Murphy's \$58.1 billion budget proposal for the fiscal year that begins July 1, state funding for the 240-acre school in Stokes State Forest would fall from \$2.8 million to \$500,000. Kerry Kirk Pflugh, the school's executive director, said that cut likely would wipe out all programs and most staff at the state-owned site, the oldest year-round, residential environmental education center in the country. 'The funding is not only critical for us to be able to deliver the programming that we're legislatively obligated to deliver, but it's critical to provide the means for these students to have these kinds of experiences that can be life-changing,' Pflugh said. 'In today's climate, there is no greater benefit to a young person than to be in the outdoors, learning, having an immersive experience, seeing how it relates to their life, and learning how to more effectively work with one another.'"

<https://newjerseymonitor.com/2025/04/10/conservation-school-warns-budget-cut-would-devastate-student-programs/>

Opinion: New Jersey Must Continue to Lead in Climate Change Education

In this piece, Lauren Madden, a professor of elementary science education at The College of New Jersey, emphasizes that the next NJ governor needs to continue the climate change education that has been included in the state's learning standards across disciplinary subjects and grade levels. She notes that the 2025 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) exam, which is used to measure educational effectiveness, will include shifts in focus to encompass scientific thinking in everyday life. Also, she notes that NJ's climate change educational standards do not appear to be a part of any major gubernatorial candidate's platform. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/04/next-nj-governor-must-keep-up-momentum-on-climate-change-education/>

OTHER

Recriminations Abound in First Hearing on Surging Electricity Rates

From the *New Jersey Monitor*: "New Jersey lawmakers' first hearing on soaring electricity prices oscillated between criticism of Gov. Phil Murphy's energy agenda, condemnation of the state's grid operator, and desperate calls for New Jersey to avoid shrinking its existing generation supply. Throughout Friday's [3/28/2025] nearly six-hour hearing of a joint committee that included members of the state Senate and Assembly, Republican members pressed officials on the impact of Murphy's push to shift New Jersey's electricity generation to renewable sources, arguing it is to blame for spiking electricity costs.... Witnesses and Democratic legislators put the blame elsewhere, citing market rules for the state's grid operator, PJM Interconnection, that excluded some power plants from the supply sold in recent price-setting electricity auctions and other reforms that slowed the organization's review of pending generation projects." An audio recording of the 5-3/4-hour hearing is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/yzr3wjrz>. It is planned that the utilities responsible for the increases will be invited to testify at a future hearing. <https://newjerseymonitor.com/2025/03/28/recriminations-abound-in-first-hearing-on-surging-electricity-rates/>

Articles Related to Potential NJ Impacts of Trump Policies

Climate Grants for New Jersey in Trump Administration's Crosshairs

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/03/nine-nj-environmental-grants-at-risk-under-lee-zeldin-trump-epa/>

Trump Cuts Upend Major NJ Storm Protection Projects

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/04/nj-storm-protection-projects-upended-as-fema-abruptly-halts-improvement-program>

Trump's Out to Cripple States' Climate Interests

<https://enviropolitics.com/trumps-out-to-cripple-states-climate-interests/>

Trump Yanks Funds From Princeton, Claims Research Scares Students

<https://enviropolitics.com/trump-yanks-funds-from-princeton-claims-research-scares-students/>

Trump Guts Agency Critical to Worker Safety as Temperatures Rise

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/04/trump-administration-guts-niosh-agency-critical-to-worker-safety-as-temperatures-rise/>

Trump and GOP Move Fast to Reverse Energy Efficiency Rules

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/04/trump-republican-congress-target-energy-efficiency-rules-coolers-freezers-water-heaters-oil-gas/>

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 EmpowerNJ number (866-586-4069) to get coaching on the topic of the week, emphasizing what is in the news, or call directly to the governor's office (609-292-6000). Over 50 environmental, citizen, faith, and progressive groups in NJ are calling on Governor Murphy to enact a moratorium on all new fossil fuel projects in NJ until there are rules in place to achieve 100% clean energy goals.

UU FaithAction NJ - Environmental Justice Task Force -
Visit <https://uufaithaction.org/environment/> for links and resources, and to join the EJTF
