



CONGREGATIONAL and EJTF ACTIVITIES



Climate Superfund Act Town Hall - On May 5, 2025, EJTF member Peggy Middaugh and UUFANJ Board member Susan Druckenbröd attended a Town Hall in Camden to promote the Climate Superfund Act to local residents. At the meeting, postcards to NJ Assembly Speaker Coughlin (see below) were distributed by Tracey Stevens of Greenfaith. The postcards will be presented to the Speaker on June 2nd at the Statehouse rally. 20 cards were signed by members of the UU Ocean County Congregation!

Greetings Speaker Coughlin!

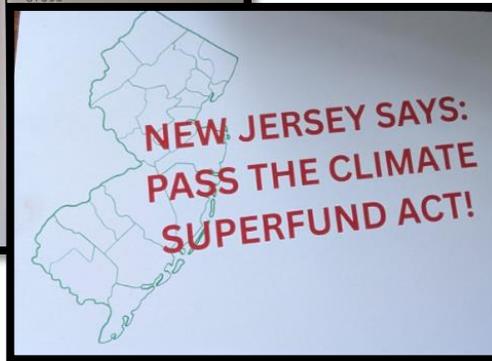
I support the NJ Climate Superfund Act to hold fossil fuel corporations responsible for the climate damage they have caused, not New Jersey's taxpayers.

I urge you to:

- Co-sponsor the NJ Climate Superfund bill
- Schedule the bill for hearings
- Schedule a floor vote before summer recess.

We need to make polluters pay!

TO:
Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin
569 Rahway Avenue
Woodbridge, New Jersey
07095



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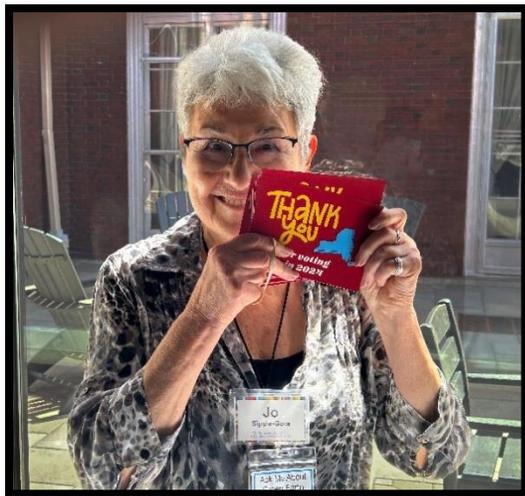
CONGREGATIONAL and EJTF ACTIVITIES (cont.)

"BRANCHING OUT"

UU congregations, and UUFANJ and EJTF members, have been participating in a host of activities not specific to "environmental justice" but all related to the overall fight for justice. Here are some examples:

Morristown Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (MUUF)

After their Climate Revival Sunday service, the Green Earth Ministry of the Morristown UU Fellowship (MUUF) held another postcard signing activity for members' participation. This time, they wrote Environmental Voter Project postcards to New York City voters who care about the environment but need a gentle reminder to vote. Pictured below are EJTF member Jo Sippie-Gora (at left) and Barry Bontempo (at right).



Central Unitarian Church (CUC)

The Central Unitarian Church (CUC) Social Action team led by Karen Clemments participated in the Family Promise Hike for Hope (see photo at right). The CUC Team "had a wonderful time walking and chatting," and raised more than \$700 on behalf of Family Promise of Bergen County, for its life-changing programs for working families with children facing homelessness in our community. The link to the hike website is available here:



<https://p2p.onecause.com/hikeforhope25/teams>.

CONGREGATIONAL and EJTF ACTIVITIES (cont.)

Beacon Unitarian Universalist Congregation (Beacon)

Pictured in the photo below (far left) are Beacon Unitarian Universalist Congregation (Beacon) members and UUFANJ/EJTF members at Delaney Hall, an unpermitted ICE facility in Newark (near the airport and Ironbound). According to EJTF member Nancy Griffeth, "the stench from nearby facilities was overwhelming and the truck traffic continuous. The truckers were supportive, honking enthusiastically as they went by! This is where Ras Baraka was arrested trying to deliver a citation for not having required inspections. Also, U.S. Rep. Monica McIver has been charged with assault for trying to protect Baraka during her visit the same day" (see <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/05/rep-lamonica-mciver-charged-assault-delaney-hall/>). The photo below at right shows clergy blocking the gate at Delaney Hall the day after Baraka's arrest, with UUFANJ Executive Director Rev. Charles Loflin in the yellow UUFANJ t-shirt.



Pictured L to R: Tim Catts, Bill Griffeth, Cathy Menendez, EJTF member Nancy Griffeth, Robin Tanner (Beacon minister, in background against fence), Julia Miller, Chris Budin



CONGREGATIONAL and EJTF ACTIVITIES (cont.)

Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation (UUOCC)

Eight Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation (UUOCC) members attended a "Voice for the Voiceless" rally in front of the Toms River Library on May 17, 2025. The rally was in support of homeless and disenfranchised members of the community. Paul Hulse, Executive Director of Just Believe, who spoke at the UUOCC Sunday service on May 18, 2025, was one of the speakers, as well as several formerly homeless people who have been helped by various support services in Ocean County. Ocean County is currently the only county in NJ without a homeless shelter. The rally was covered in a local newspaper (article available here:

<https://www.jerseyshoreonline.com/toms-river/ocean-county-rally-shines-light-on-homeless-controversy-over-church-property/>), with UUOCC

member Roseanne DePasquale featured in the front-page photo. The article states: "The crowd of the rally formed a vibrant patchwork of colored shirts, each representing groups united in solidarity. Christ Church showed up in force, joined by the Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation, who added a quiet rhythm with subtle drumbeats."



Pictured L to R: Pat Daly, EJTF member Peggy Middaugh, Tom Ragan, Roseanne DePasquale, Marge Ragan, Barbara Newman, Sonya Lewis, Sandy Lewis

CivicStory - An Uplifting NJ Nonprofit News Site Worth Checking Into

CivicStory is "a nonprofit news site focused on sustainability, civics, and creative change in New Jersey. Our mission is to advance solutions-based news about citizens building vibrant inclusive communities.... *CivicStory's* NJ Sustainability Reporting Project is a 3-in-1 media collaborative, fellowship program, and digital platform. The project highlights newsworthy sustainability activity and initiatives taking place throughout New Jersey in municipalities, on campuses, and in homes and neighborhoods." Each year, student reporters are selected as Fellows, with this year's theme being ecology and civics. "Throughout this spring, these reporters will focus on stories that impact the environment, civic engagement, and where these concerns intersect. Their work will appear both on the media platforms they report for as well as <https://srhub.org>." The current articles on the srhub.org website are as follows:

- Bonner Scholars Feed Local Community Through Service in TCNJ Campus Garden
- When the Power Goes Out, Princeton Heads to the Library
- Green is Hoboken's Color: Small Sustainable Businesses Steal the Show at the Annual Earth Day Celebration
- From Vapes to River Water: Meet the Students Making Eco-Conscious Art in Newark
- The Native Plant Rescue Mission
- How To Save A Salamander
- The Future of Biodiversity: NJIT's Pledge to Build a Blossoming Planet
- Mind the (Nature) Gap: Team Wilderness' Urban Kids Are Looking at Nature Through A New Lens
- NJ organizations work to protect residents, students from hidden dangers of lead
- Walk & Wheel Wednesdays: Princeton Parents Push for Safer Streets
- Air Pollution Engulfs Newark's Ironbound Community

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

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

JUNE 2025						
(with hyperlinks to details on the following pages)						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
1	2 Trenton Climate Superfund Act Rally! - 10:00 a.m.	3 Rancocas Creek Farm CSA Opening Days - 10:00 a.m. <hr/> NJBPJ Clean Energy Program "A New Approach to New Construction" - 1:00 p.m. <hr/> Intergenerational Climate Action "Generations United in Action" (Session 1) - 7:00 p.m.	4 Green Infrastructure Tour at The Watershed Institute - 1:00 p.m. <hr/> "Extinctopedia - A Discovery of What We Have Lost, What Is at Risk, and What to Do About It" - 2:00 p.m. <hr/> Cape May Green Amendment Town Hall - 6:30 p.m.	5 "The Future of Economic and Justice Reform in New Jersey" - 6:00 p.m.	6 Rancocas Creek Farm CSA Opening Days - 10:00 a.m. <hr/> Comments Due: NJBPJ Comprehensive Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Resource Analysis, etc. for FY26 Clean Energy Program	7
8 Repair Café - East Brunswick, NJ - 1:00 p.m.	9 Sierra Club NJ "NJ Lobby Day Presentation" - 7:00 p.m.	10	11 Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) Second Quarter 2025 Business Meeting - 10:00 a.m. <hr/> New Jersey Planning and Redevelopment Conference	12 100% Clean Energy Rally & Lobby Day - 9:00 a.m. <hr/> Neta C. Crawford, Internationally Known Expert on Military & Climate - 12:00 p.m. <hr/> New Jersey Planning and Redevelopment Conference	13 "Shifting Gears: Policies for a More Sustainable Highway System" - 12:00 p.m. <hr/> NJBPJ Clean Energy Program "A New Approach to New Construction" - 1:00 p.m. <hr/> New Jersey Planning and Redevelopment Conference	14 Bordentown City Green Fair - 10:00 a.m.
15	16 Comments Due: NJDEP "Notice of Draft Permit to Construct Two New Underground Storage Cavern Systems" (at Gibbstown, NJ)	17 2025 New Jersey Convening on Healthy Homes & Lead Poisoning Prevention - 8:00 a.m. <hr/> "Beating the Heat: A 2025 Heat Policy Agenda" - 2:00 p.m. <hr/> Intergenerational Climate Action "Generations United in Action" (Session 2) - 7:00 p.m.	18 "Does Extreme Heat Threaten NJ's Environmental Justice Goals?" - 11:00 a.m.	19	20 NJBPJ Clean Energy Program "A New Approach to New Construction" - 1:00 p.m.	21
22	23 Comments Due: "In the Matter of Prospective Nuclear Energy Generation in New Jersey"	24 Intergenerational Climate Action "Generations United in Action" (Session 3) - 7:00 p.m.	25	26	27 NJBPJ Clean Energy Program "A New Approach to New Construction" - 1:00 p.m.	28

FUTURE EVENTS

Trenton Climate Superfund Act Rally! **6/2/2025, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** **Trenton, NJ - In-person**

This event is being organized by the **EJTF partner** Food & Water Watch. "Amidst unprecedented federal attacks on funding for climate action, clean water, critical infrastructure, disaster response and more, our legislators must stand up to Trump by passing the NJ Climate Superfund Act! The NJ Climate Superfund Act would make New Jersey more affordable and resilient to climate change by making the world's largest fossil fuel companies foot the bill for the costs of climate change – instead of New Jersey taxpayers.

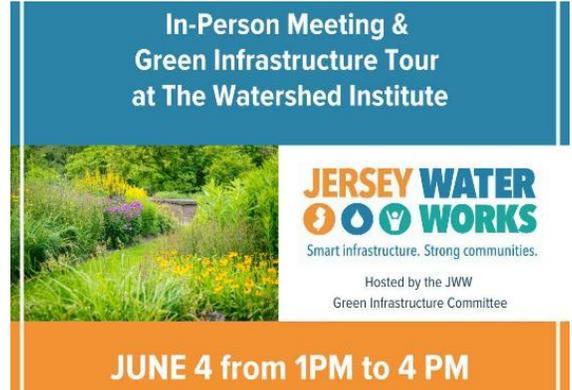
The legislature breaks for the summer on July 1st, and we can't let them ignore this crisis! Join us on Monday, June 2nd in Trenton to lobby New Jersey legislators and rally to make polluters pay for the costs of climate change!"

Additional information and the link to RSVP are available here:

<https://www.mobilize.us/fww/event/788871/>.

Rancocas Creek Farm CSA Opening Days **6/3/2025, 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.** **6/6/2025 - 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.** **Southampton, NJ - In-person**

Rancocas Creek Farm is a project of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) on the 72-acre property that adjoins PPA headquarters in Southampton. They operate a CSA - "Community Supported Agriculture" program. "It is a covenant between the farmers and the members of the community in a relationship that benefits both sides. People purchase a share to the farm.... [and] get a weekly distribution from the farm of fresh, chemical-free produce, fruits, flowers, and herbs." In addition, for every \$10 they raise through donations, they grow an additional 15 pounds of fresh produce which will go to "New Jersey Farmers Against Hunger," the "Trenton Area Soup Kitchen" or another meal provider. If you're not already a member, information about the farm, and a link to the CSA, are available here: <https://pinelandsalliance.org/our-work/rancocas-creek-farm/>.



Green Infrastructure Tour **at The Watershed Institute** **6/4/2025, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.** **Pennington, NJ - In-person**

"Don't miss the opportunity to attend the upcoming Green Infrastructure Committee meeting and tour on Wednesday, June 4. The agenda is packed with valuable insights, starting with a regular meeting, followed by an engaging staff presentation, and culminating with a tour. This is a chance to connect and learn!"

Registration and a link to access the agenda are available here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdz9OXUA2Cjt5y9iZvvMPoXo4LsyrBZreWOMMvh1DUut34xaw/vie/wform>.

"Extinctopedia - A Discovery of What We Have Lost, What Is at Risk, and What to Do About It" with Smithsonian Scientists **6/4/2025, 2:00 p.m. - Online**

The East Brunswick Public Library is hosting this online program in which Smithsonian scientists discuss the Smithsonian's book, *Extinctopedia*. "*Extinctopedia* tells a complex story, not just of those who are extinct but also of those in greatest peril, with explanations of what threatens their survival. It is also a story of hope - hopes for animals that have been rediscovered, hope in the form of newly-discovered animals, and hope that we might hear the warning call and act to preserve the amazing biodiversity of our fragile planet for future generations to come." Additional information and the link to register are available here:

https://libraryc.org/ebpl/76603?mc_cid=b64ed1d369&mc_eid=0cf110fe68.

**Cape May Green Amendment Town Hall
"Fighting Federal Environmental Rollbacks:
Demanding our Right to Clean Air, Pure
Water, and a Safe Climate"
6/4/2025, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Cape May, NJ - In-person**

"Join the Pinelands Preservation Alliance [PPA] for a discussion on securing our constitutional right to life's most basic necessities in New Jersey with the Green Amendment. Green Amendments establish a constitutional mandate recognizing pure water, clean air, a stable climate, and healthy environments as the inherent rights of all citizens. You will hear from experts, including community leaders, elected officials, and **founder of Green Amendments for the Generations: Maya van Rossum**. Come voice your support and concerns, and feel free to ask any questions about the Green Amendment. You will learn how you can support the movement and about other ways to combat the federal administration's attacks on the environment." Additional information and the link to register are available here:

<https://pinelandsalliance.org/green-amendment/>. A video of a previous PPA Green Amendment Town Hall is available on [p. 16](#).

**"The Future of Economic and Justice
Reform in New Jersey"
6/5/2025, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
New Brunswick, NJ - In-person**

Rutgers University - New Brunswick is hosting "Crossroads NJ 2025: The Future of Economic and Justice Reform in New Jersey," under the auspices of the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. "This dynamic discussion on the future of New Jersey's economy, fiscal policy, and justice reform will explore innovative solutions and strategies for sustainable growth and equitable outcomes. Crossroads NJ Conversations 2025 is a four-part discussion series [of which this is the second] designed to provide a platform for elevating and addressing key issues that will shape New Jersey's future ahead of the 2025 gubernatorial election. Presented by The Fund for New Jersey, the series will bring together community leaders, policy experts, and residents to foster informed debate and encourage active participation in advocating for the New Jersey we all deserve." Additional information is available

here: <https://njnonprofits.org/event/the-future-of-economic-and-justice-reform-in-new-jersey/>.

Information about future sessions is available here: <https://fundfornj.org/crossroadsnj>.

**NJBPU Comprehensive Energy Efficiency
and Renewable Energy Resource Analysis,
etc. for FY26 Clean Energy Program
Comments Due 6/6/2025**

The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) has released the NJ Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Clean Energy Program ("NJCEP") Comprehensive Resource Analysis ("CRA") and the proposed FY26 program budgets and compliance filings. "Through the CRA process, the NJCEP funding levels for energy efficiency and Class I renewable energy programs are established. The proposed funding level will fund the core NJCEP programs and provide opportunities for new and enhanced programs that help residents, businesses, and State and local governments reduce energy usage, save money, and improve the environment." **Comments are due at 5:00 p.m. on 6/6/2025.** Links to the documents, as well as a link to slides and the video from a hearing held 5/28/2025, are available here:

<https://www.njcleanenergy.com/main/njcep-policy-updates-request-comments/policy-updates-and-request-comments>. Additional information and the link to provide written comments are available here: <https://njcepfiles.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/FY26+Public+Hearing+Notice.pdf>.

**Repair Café - East Brunswick, NJ
6/8/2025, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
East Brunswick, NJ - In-person**

"The East Brunswick Public Library, the East Brunswick Sustainability Task Force, and Alpha Delta Kappa want you to keep still-usable items out of landfills. They are holding their second Repair Café at the library (2 Jean Walling Civic Center Drive) on Sunday, June 8 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. A Repair Café is a community-based initiative to promote repairing household items instead of throwing them out. Community members can bring in items in need of repair to be fixed on the spot thanks to the help from volunteer repairers. For this session of Repair Café, you can bring clothing, textiles, soft toys, jewelry, lamps, and bicycles. Examples of repairs can be pants with a tear in the knee, broken links

on necklaces, bracelets that are coming undone, and bike brake adjustments." Additional information is available here:

<https://ilove.ebpl.org/adults/events/repair-cafe/2025-06-08-170000-2025-06-08-200000>.

Sierra Club NJ "NJ Lobby Day Presentation" 6/9/2025, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Virtual

This webinar on grassroots lobbying is organized by the NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club. "Citizen lobbying provides people with the opportunity to advocate for themselves and their communities, and make a difference in New Jersey. This presentation will introduce you to how a bill becomes law, explain where we can have a voice, and build relationships to influence change."

Additional information and the link to RSVP are available here:

<https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=701Po00000rfGGnIAM&mapLinkHref=>.

Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) Second Quarter 2025 Business Meeting 6/11/2025, 10:00 a.m. - Hybrid Easton, PA - In-person, & Livestreamed

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) will hold its second-quarter business meeting on Wednesday, 6/11/2025. The business meeting is open to the public and will be held in person and livestreamed on YouTube. There will be NO Zoom option. Note: you must attend in-person to participate in the Open Public Comment. No virtual opportunity will be offered for this meeting, nor can you comment by watching the YouTube livestream. Additional information, including a link to the agenda (when it is available), a link to the livestream via YouTube, and a link to register to provide Open Public Comment are available here:

<https://tinyurl.com/3wsxt79a>.

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.phedloop.com/event/njprc25/home>.

100% Clean Energy Rally & Lobby Day 6/12/2025, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Trenton, NJ - In-person

The NJ League of Conservation Voters (LCV) and the Sierra Club NJ are organizing this event. "Governor Murphy has committed to a 100% clean energy future by 2035 through executive order. But unless this goal is passed by legislation, it could be delayed or eliminated entirely. Because the federal administration is moving full speed towards a grid powered by dirty energy, it is up to states to take action on climate change while we still can. And for this bill, we are running out of time. Join New Jersey LCV and Sierra Club New Jersey at 9am on June 12th for a rally at the front steps of the Trenton State House Annex Building to urge our leaders to pass this crucial legislation.... Following this rally and media moment, join us for a day of action lobbying your own legislators - now is the time to make your voice heard." Additional information and the link to RSVP are available here:

<https://allevents.in/trenton/100-clean-energy-rally-and-lobby-day/200028240948536>.

**Neta C. Crawford, Internationally Known
Expert on Military & Climate - Webinar
6/12/2025, 12:00 p.m.**

This webinar is presented by Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economy (UUJEC) [of which **EJTF member Sally Jane Gellert is a Board of Trustees Cochair**]. "Neta C. Crawford is the author of 'The Pentagon, Climate Change, and War: Charting the Rise and Fall of U.S. Military Emissions' (MIT Press, 2022). Crawford is also the author of three other books, 'Accountability for Killing: Moral Responsibility for Collateral Damage in America's Post-9/11 Wars' (2013), 'Soviet Military Aircraft' (1987) and 'Argument and Change in World Politics' (2002), named Best Book in International History and Politics by the American Political Science Association. She has written more than two dozen peer reviewed articles on issues of war and peace. Dr. Crawford has served on the governing Board of the Academic Council of the United Nations System and on the Governing Council of the American Political Science Association. Dr. Crawford was elected into the American Academy of Arts and Science in 2023." Additional information, including the link to register, is available here: <https://uujec.org/webinars>.

**"Shifting Gears: Policies for a More Sustainable Highway System" - Webinar
6/13/2025, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

"The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) invites you to a briefing focused on the past, present, and future of the U.S. highway system.... This briefing will highlight how the country's highways can be maintained in the context of a changing climate, from increasing preparedness for extreme weather events to building out electric vehicle charging corridors. Panelists will highlight opportunities for federal policy to help relocate highways to reconnect communities, use cool pavement and climate-smart building materials, and manage toxic runoff from roads. The briefing will also identify opportunities to optimize federal funding to improve the way the country's highways connect people." Additional information and the link to register are available here: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/061325transportation>.

**Bordentown City Green Fair
6/14/2025, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Bordentown, NJ - In-person**

"The Bordentown Green Fair will return to our historic Burlington County town for the 17th straight year with lots of engaging vendors and exhibits designed to educate and encourage people of all ages to adopt a more sustainable and eco-friendly lifestyle. The Green Fair, a free [rain or shine] event, is sponsored by the Bordentown City Green Team and the Bordentown City and Bordentown Township Environmental Commissions." Additional information including the list of participants, which includes the Dorothea Dix Unitarian Universalist Community, is available here:

<https://www.cityofbordentown.com/o/bordentown/page/annual-green-fair>.

NJDEP "Notice of Draft Permit to Construct Two New Underground Storage Cavern Systems" (at Gibbstown, NJ) - Comments Due 6/16/2025

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has issued a Notice that it "proposed to approve an application to construct two new underground storage cavern systems, including a central complex.... [in] Gibbstown, Gloucester County." DEP held a public hearing on 5/14/2025, and **comments are due 6/16/2025**. Links to the Notice and the Draft Permit, as well as information about how to comment, are available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/brp/caverns/usc-public-notices/>. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) website has additional information (available here: <https://delawareriverkeeper.org/tell-njdep-no-underground-storage-of-liquid-gases-at-gibbstown/>) about the proposed permit, including a map and suggested points for inclusion in comments. The DRN also held a webinar on the proposed permit; the video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pqunqzDNMds>.

According to the DRN, "If approved, these caverns will store 26.8 MILLION gallons of liquid gases in two new underground caverns. This is more than four times the volume of underground storage their one cavern supplies now, bringing the total of underground gas storage to over 32 million gallons. This would be the largest underground

cavern liquid gas storage complex in New Jersey. And would be located under lots of other infrastructure, including the proposed Gibbstown Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Export Terminal. The site is located right up against local schools and parks, and where people live, work, conduct business. And is less than 3 miles from the environmental justice community of Paulsboro. This proposal has large regional implications, will release air pollution, and puts hundreds of thousands of people and the Delaware River environment in jeopardy should there be an uncontrolled release! Liquid petroleum gases (LPGs) include butane, propane and ethane, among other gases, but do NOT include Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), which is prohibited under NJ regulations. LPGs are flammable, potentially explosive, and routinely release pollution through venting and flaring."

2025 New Jersey Convening on Healthy Homes & Lead Poisoning Prevention
6/17/2025, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Hybrid
West Windsor Township, NJ - In-person
Morning Sessions also available via Zoom

"You are invited to attend the 2025 New Jersey Convening on Healthy Homes & Lead Poisoning Prevention hosted by Green & Healthy Homes Initiative and Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative with support from the New Jersey Department of Health.... This one-day convening is designed to advance collaborative engagement and build capacity to prevent lead poisoning and improve housing health, efficiency, affordability, and stability for residents. Event attendees will learn about barriers, challenges, and opportunities to advance work in primary lead poisoning prevention and hazard reduction, especially through scaling of successful housing and community-based initiatives." Additional information, including registration links and a link to the agenda, is available here:
<https://www.greenandhealthyhomes.org/new-jersey-convening-on-healthy-homes-lead-poisoning-prevention/>.

"Beating the Heat: A 2025 Heat Policy Agenda" - Livestream
6/17/2025, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

"The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) and the Federation of American Scientists invite you to a briefing about how federal policies can bolster resilience to extreme heat at the state and community level.... This briefing will highlight the Federation of American Scientists' 2025 Heat Policy Agenda [available here: <https://fas.org/publication/2025-heat-policy-agenda/>], which outlines policy considerations for Congress and the Administration to prevent infrastructure damage, economic impacts, and loss of life from heat. Speakers will describe opportunities to safeguard critical infrastructure such as our energy systems, improve productivity, and improve federal and subnational coordination on heat preparedness, management, and resilience." Additional information and the link to RSVP are available here:
<https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/061725heat>.

"Does Extreme Heat Threaten NJ's Environmental Justice Goals?" - Webinar
6/18/2025, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

NJ's Interagency Council on Climate Resilience is hosting a webinar "featuring a panel of climate equity and urban sustainability experts to discuss how overburdened communities are impacted by excessive heat and strategies these communities are implementing to diminish harm." The moderator is Kandyce Perry, Director, Office of Environmental Justice, NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and panelists are: Jackie Park Albaum, Director of Urban Agriculture, Groundwork Elizabeth; Dr. Clint Andrews, Research Director, Center for Urban Policy Research, Rutgers University; and Nicole Hewitt Cabral, Chief Sustainability Officer, City of Newark. Registration is available here:
<https://tinyurl.com/4579wxsr>.

"In the Matter of Prospective Nuclear Energy Generation in New Jersey" - NJBPU Request for Information - Comments Due 6/23/2025

From the press release (available here: <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/2025/approved/20250506rfing.html>) "The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) released a Request for Information (RFI) to explore the role and opportunity to develop new nuclear energy resources to advance the State's affordability, resource adequacy, and clean energy goals.... New Jersey and the larger PJM Interconnection L.L.C. region face increases in electricity demand as a result of load growth from AI data centers, new manufacturing facilities, and other energy intensive industries. According to the PJM 2025 Long-Term Load Forecast, electricity demand within the region is expected to significantly increase, with a projected growth of nearly 40% in the next 14 years. Additionally, in March of 2025, the NJBPU and Governor's Office presented modeling completed in support of the 2024 Energy Master Plan ("EMP"), which indicated a growing need for clean firm capacity to maintain system reliability post-2035. To ensure resource adequacy can be met in the region while also driving down electricity capacity prices for ratepayers, new sources of electricity generation must come online to grow the supply of resources into the electricity grid. Nuclear technologies, including advanced nuclear technologies, are potential opportunities that can help meet the growing need for new sources of generation."

The NJBPU Notice, which includes additional information including history, questions to consider, and instructions for submitting comments, is available here: https://www.nj.gov/bpu/pdf/publicnotice/Notice_RequsetforInformation_Nuclear.pdf. **Comments are due at 5:00 p.m. on 6/23/2025.**

**NJBPU NJ Clean Energy Program
"A New Approach to New Construction"
Multiple June Dates - 6/3/2025,
6/13/2025, 6/20/2025, 6/27/2025, all
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Webinars**

"New Jersey's Clean Energy Program has made some big changes to our New Construction

Program. An overview of these changes will be presented, with Q&A at the end." While much of the program is geared toward non-residential buildings, the "High Performance Pathway" is available for residential buildings to qualify for incentives. According to the NJ Board of Public Utilities webpage: "As of May 1, 2025, the New Construction Program is open. For a period of 6 months, from May 1, 2025, until October 31, 2025, at 11:59 PM EST, projects can be submitted to the New Construction Program OR one of the previous programs: Residential New Construction, SmartStart, or Pay for Performance. The New Construction Program introduces a streamlined approach to building a clean energy future, offering a single-entry point to various pathways to qualify for incentives with greater flexibility. As your building project achieves higher energy efficiency, you can qualify for larger incentives and optional bonuses, making energy efficiency a more cost-effective part of your project." Additional information, including links to fact sheets, is available here:

<https://njcleanenergy.com/residential/ncp>.

Registration for the June webinars, as well as for webinars in July, is available here:

<https://tinyurl.com/mw33auns>.

**Intergenerational Climate Action
"Generations United in Action"
3-Part Virtual Event - Various Dates**

Elders Climate Action (ECA) is hosting its fourth annual intergenerational month, "Generations United in Action." Each year ECA "highlight[s] important change makers across generations and celebrate[s] the work we are doing together to push for climate solutions." These are participatory events, which will include "breakout rooms, where we'll connect, share ideas, and learn from one another." These three Zoom events are as follows:

- **Session 1 - Storytelling for Social Change - 6/3/2025, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.** - "Our guest hosts and collaborators at Change the Chamber Lobby for Climate will dig into the power of storytelling as a tool for community building and civic action. Using a participatory exercise, participants will engage in intergenerational conversations to explore what motivates their work as well as what gives them hope in the 21st century." This session will not be recorded.

Registration is available here:

<https://secure.everyaction.com/oCI5I597ykGkr2IH0HX1A2>.

- **Session 2 - For a Future that Benefits All Life on our Planet - 6/17/2025, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.** - "Join us for a deep dive "world-building" exercise - where elders and youth come together to envision what our country may look like in twenty-five years, looking at what may be uplifting and what may prove cautionary. For a Future that Benefits All Life on Our Planet, will be an interactive 'time-traveling' experience that will equip all participants - whatever their generation - to advocate more effectively for our long-term interests over our short-term gains." Registration is available here:

<https://secure.everyaction.com/ptQYCeL2u0S8rRC7Y1gssQ2>.

- **Session 3 - Let's Get to Work - 6/24/2025, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.** - "Join us for an inspiring community action-focused virtual event featuring a roundtable discussion with climate change makers who have successfully led bold climate action at the state and local levels. Our intergenerational panel will share stories, strategies, victories, and lessons learned. They will not only inspire you, they will share tools and insights that you can use to advocate for similar change in your own community. Whether you're new to advocacy or a seasoned organizer, this is a chance to learn from real-world successes from the efforts of engaged citizens, and connect with others young and old who are committed to making a difference." Registration is available here:

<https://secure.everyaction.com/FE9DGRHatUOSVya4Fn-Zbw2>.

VIDEOS+ OF PAST EVENTS

Sierra Club NJ Monthly Building Electrification Webinar - PJM

- Video of Webinar & Presentation Slides

This series of Sierra Club NJ webinars is highly recommended by **EJTF member Peggy Middaugh**. This webinar addressed 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[ed] the issues in simple language so you can be an informed citizen and consumer." Two experts discussed their findings: Price increase is NOT caused by renewables; PJM could reduce electric price by quickly permitting connection of 300+ pending renewable electric projects. The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dJCWphtXFao> and the link to DOWNLOAD the presentation slides is: <https://climate.smiller.org/50x30/building-electrification/2025-5-15-PJM-ELECTRIC/betsy-slides.pptx>.

[Note: links to all previous webinars in this series are available here:

<https://climate.smiller.org/50x30/building-electrification/All-heat-pump-webinars.html>.]

Eco-Logic Radio Shows: - Recordings of Radio Shows

The Eco-Logic radio/internet program on WBAI (**co-hosted by EJTF member Sally Gellert**) aired these recent shows related to EJTF's goals (the link to the recording of the show is shown after the title):

- **"Markets - Green & Farmers' - Food / Culture / Community"** - <https://www.wbai.org/archive/program/episode/?id=58062>;
- **"Microplastics - They're Everywhere"** - <https://www.wbai.org/archive/program/episode/?id=58061>;
- **"Mitigating Climate Change Through Economics"** - <https://www.wbai.org/archive/program/episode/?id=58060>;
- **"Indigenous Environmental Perspectives"** - <https://www.wbai.org/archive/program/episode/?id=58063>.

The Eco-Logic radio show airs Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. on WBAI 99.5 FM, and can also be accessed on <https://wbai.org>.

"New Jersey 2°C Climate Outlook: NCA5 Update" - Video

This video is from the American Resiliency YouTube channel, "your place for boiled-down plain-language translations of current science, real-time observations of on-the-ground changes

across our land, and education on reasonable preparedness." In this video, using data from the Fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA5), a long-range perspective is given on climate change, with a NJ focus. This is part of a much larger series where many areas of the country are given a similar review. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qnx7cWJFc30>.

"Municipal Food Waste Recycling" **- Video of Webinar & Presentation Slides**

The Association of NJ Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) hosted a webinar on Municipal Food Waste Recycling, which included the following: "Composting Overview" - NJ Composting Council; "Legislation and Advocacy" (including a Model Municipal Resolution on Food Waste) - NJ Composting Council; and "Case Study, Millburn NJ" - Millburn Environmental Commission. Links to the video, and to the presentation slides and the model resolution, are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/2njz4n9n>.

"Climate Change Causes and Curatives" **- Video of Webinar**

This webinar, part of the Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability "Perspectives on the Climate Change Challenge" Seminars, was 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, [Dr. Edelman discussed] 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." The video is available here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYLjexz8ezY&.

"Risky Business: Insurance in the Era of Climate Change" - Video of Webinar

The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) sponsored this briefing "about Congress's role in bolstering the long-term resilience, investability, and insurability of U.S. communities.... This briefing [explored] the basics of property insurance and how it functions in the United States, including the challenges faced by individuals, businesses, insurers, and reinsurers. It also [featured] existing and emerging tools - from parametric insurance to climate endorsements - that are reshaping how insurance products can better serve communities. Panelists [described] the role of federal policy in advancing these new ways of thinking about insurance. At this briefing, Woodwell Climate Research Center also [launched] a new report, Rebuilding Insurance for a Climate Future: A Policy Guide to Understand Tools, Address Inequities, and Find Solutions." The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CzpJPXqDrEs&t=1s>

"Making it Rainproof: Reimagining New Jersey's Water Infrastructure" **- Video of Webinar**

"Making it Rainproof: Reimagining New Jersey's Water Infrastructure [brought] together experts and advocates for a dynamic virtual discussion on the future of stormwater management in the state. The event [began] 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 [explored] how nature-based solutions and green infrastructure can help build a rainproof New Jersey. They [shared] lessons learned from years of local work, [identified] key barriers to implementation, and [highlighted] opportunities for scaling successful projects." A moderated Q&A session was included, followed by tools and

resources to support continued action. The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-ACDyVert8>.

"Pinelands Webinar Series - The New Jersey Pinelands: Understanding & Advocating for a Unique Ecosystem"
- Video of Webinar

The Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) began a 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 was the first webinar in the series, and it focused on: - "Gain[ing] insight into the rare ecology of the New Jersey Pinelands and the innovative Comprehensive Management Plan that safeguards it. - Learn[ing] about PPA's 35-year legacy of advocacy, as well as our initiatives promoting sustainable farming, native landscaping, and greater accessibility to public lands. - Discover[ing] ways to get involved and make a difference as a Pinelands advocate." The video is available here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tpqeQQz412Q>.

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

This webinar, part of the Princeton University Andlinger Center for Energy + the Environment Highlight Seminar Series, was 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 [was] given first, highlighting the different types of solid electrolytes. The most promising cell concepts [were] discussed in more detail, and key challenges [were] considered." The video is available here:

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

"Next-Generation Geothermal Power and its Role in the Energy System"
- Video of Webinar

This webinar, part of the Dartmouth "New Energy: Conversations with Early-Career Energy Researchers" series, was presented by Dr. Wilson Ricks, a postdoctoral researcher in the Zero-carbon Energy systems Research and Optimization (ZERO) Laboratory at Princeton University. "Geothermal power is an established source of renewable, round-the-clock electricity and heat, but accounts for only a tiny fraction of global energy consumption today due to its dependence on unique geologic conditions. Next-generation geothermal technologies under development today, including enhanced geothermal systems (EGS), have the potential to make much greater contributions to decarbonization by vastly expanding the geographic range where geothermal power generation is possible. In this talk [Dr. Ricks discussed] recent research that employed energy systems modeling methods to optimize the design and operations of EGS power plants and explore their potential value and role in future electricity systems. [He focused] in particular on the potential for EGS to provide long-duration energy storage via modulation of well flow rates." The video is available here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HWEfzL5189k>.

"Hourly Temperature Exposure and Psychiatric Emergencies"
- Video of Webinar

This webinar, part of the Dartmouth "New Energy: Conversations with Early-Career Energy Researchers" series, was presented by Dr. Kate Burrows, Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences, University of Chicago, an environmental health scientist whose research

focuses on the relationship between climate- and weather-related extremes and public health. "The link between elevated ambient temperature and mental health conditions has been increasingly well documented. However, the temporal dynamics of this relationship, including diurnal variation and lag periods, remain poorly understood. This is in part due to a historic lack of highly spatially and temporally refined data. In this time stratified case-crossover study, we investigated the association between hourly temperature exposure and psychiatric emergency department (ED) visits in Massachusetts using data from the Boston Emergency Services Team (2005-2019)... Preliminary results... indicate that heat impacts accumulate over the course of a day, which may help elucidate potential causal mechanisms. Findings also suggest the importance of considering temporal patterns when implementing heat-health interventions and provide insights for clinical resource allocation during periods of extreme heat." The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzgWslnFx6o>.

The IAC Asks: "How Can New Jersey Prepare for & Respond to Heat Emergencies?" - Video of Webinar

During Earth Week 2025, New Jersey's Interagency Council on Climate Resilience (IAC) hosted a webinar featuring a panel of emergency management and public health professionals to discuss the current state of emergency management for heat waves in NJ and how vulnerable populations in NJ can stay safe. The moderator was Laura Connolly, Public Information Officer, Office of Emergency Management, New Jersey State Police, and panelists were: Brayden Fahey, Public Safety Director & OEM Coordinator, Hunterdon County; Steve Sarinelli, Director of Emergency Preparedness & Business Continuity, Atlantic Health Systems; and Rebecca Sleeter, Health Officer, Department of Health & Human Services, Salem County. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yk1-RohmsR4>.

Earth Day Every Day Webinar Series "Some Good News: Environmental Success Stories in New Jersey" - Videos of Webinars

This spring, the "Earth Day Every Day" webinar series highlighted "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." The webinar 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 other past webinars and links to them, is available here:

<https://envirostewards.rutgers.edu/earth-day-every-day/>.

Links to videos of the May 2025 webinars are available below:

- **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!" This webinar covered the biology of these species, their decline and recovery, and the current status of their populations. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4aJ-w6foyA>.
- **Dam Removal/Restoration** - This webinar explored "the environmental and community benefits of dam removal... [and] how removing outdated or unnecessary dams can restore natural river ecosystems, improve water quality, and enhance biodiversity." Included were success stories from New Jersey and the positive impact of dam removal on local ecology. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtVFuoW6h6s>.
- **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." This webinar covered recent successes in shellfish restoration and habitat enhancement in coastal areas throughout New Jersey. The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0zQQzAilqU>.

New Jersey Gubernatorial Candidates Forum: Walk, Bike, Ride NJ **- Video of Forum**

From the "New Jersey Future" newsletter: "The next governor's transportation agenda could shape not just how people get around, but how New Jersey combats climate change, promotes equity, and drives economic growth. With just over a month to go before voters head to the polls for the primary, New Jersey Future and partners hosted a gubernatorial candidates forum highlighting how candidates will tackle urgent challenges to achieve safe, accessible infrastructure for pedestrians, cyclists, and transit riders. All gubernatorial candidates were invited to participate in this forum. Steve Sweeney, Steve Fulop, and Sean Spiller joined the online forum and discussed their positions on critical mobility issues related to accessibility, connectivity, and safety in the Garden State." The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HxMD9pJ8h-Y>.

Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) Green Amendment Town Hall **- Video of Event**

The Pinelands Preservation Alliance [PPA] hosted "a discussion on securing our constitutional right to life's most basic necessities in New Jersey with the **Green Amendment**. Green Amendments establish a constitutional mandate recognizing pure water, clean air, a stable climate, and healthy environments as the inherent rights of all citizens." Speakers included experts, including community leaders, elected officials, and **founder of Green Amendments for the Generations: Maya van Rossum**. The video is available here: <https://vimeo.com/1081624010>.

NJ2025 Sustainability Summit **- Slides from Presentations**

"The New Jersey Sustainability Summit is a momentous event in our state, drawing changemakers from across the political, private, and public sectors. This exceptional one-day forum spotlight[ed] the successes and lessons learned from the people and projects that are helping New Jersey realize a more sustainable future.... attendees walked away with tangible resources and strategies to assist with their own community initiatives." Slides from presentations at the Summit, as well as a link to a detailed description of the presentations and presenters, are available here:

<https://www.sustainablejersey.com/events/2025-sustainability-summit-presentations/>. Presentations included the following:

- Addressing Food Security at the Local Level
 - Expanding Recycling: Innovative Programs and Waste Reduction Strategies
 - Lead the Charge on Community Transportation!
 - Updates from State Agencies
 - Connecting State Legislation and Local Sustainability Efforts for Collective Impact
 - Energy Projects For Your Buildings and Fleets
 - Hope Fuels our Future: Cultivating Communities in Turbulent Times
 - Resources for Quick Build Placemaking and Complete Streets Projects
 - Sustainable Jersey Bootcamp
 - Amplifying Your Impact: Marketing Strategies for Green Teams
 - Beyond City Hall: Energy Actions to Transform Your Community
 - Is Your Community Climate Ready? Introducing the New Gold Star!
 - Site Plan Reviews: A Key Tool for Protecting Your Community's Environment
 - Tree Talk! Planting, Maintaining and Funding
 - Make Complete and Green Streets Work for You
 - Navigating Sustainability Headwinds through Effective Communication
 - Strengthening Local Economies Through Sustainable Business Practices
 - Stop the Toss: Preventing Litter in Our Communities
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"Next Stop: Sustainable Public Transit and Mobility" - Video of Briefing

"This Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) briefing highlighted federal programs and research that propel public transit forward in the United States. Panelists discussed how federal transit investments bolster local economies, with every dollar invested in transit generating \$5 in economic returns. They also explored transit's central role in connecting people to other forms of transportation, from walking and biking to planes and trains." The video is available here: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/052025transportation>.

"From the Commissioner's Desk: Regulations and Planning to Build Resilience in New Jersey" - Video of Webinar

Rebuild by Design hosted 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 was included, followed by tools and resources to support continued action. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATCogHtul0I>.

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 May 2025 included a Guest Presentation on "Demand Flexibility from HVAC Systems." The video is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/4t9du3kb>; the Guest Presentation begins at minute 00:24:54. Slides from the webinar are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/6uzb5twc>.

"What Is Possible in the Age of Climate Change" - Video of Webinar

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

NEWS RELATED TO EJTF ISSUES [covering 4/26/2025 – 5/25/2025]

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

AG Platkin and DEP Commissioner LaTourette Announce Filing of Three Environmental Enforcement Actions in Overburdened Communities, Settlement of Past Lawsuit

From the press release: "The three enforcement actions filed today [5/1/2025] involve defendants who ran illegal junkyard or solid waste facilities [in overburdened communities] in Hamilton, Kearny, and Woodbridge.... the State has [also] settled a lawsuit it had previously filed against an auto recycler in Trenton. As part of the settlement, KAARS, Inc., and its owner agreed, among other things, to resolve hazardous waste storage violations, comply with its permit conditions, and pay \$100,000 in penalties to DEP. Including the cases announced today, the Attorney General and DEP have filed 75 environmental justice cases or actions since 2018."

<https://www.njoag.gov/ag-platkin-and-dep-commissioner-latourette-announce-filing-of-three-environmental-enforcement-actions-in-overburdened-communities-settlement-of-past-lawsuit/>



Credit: BASF

New East Newark Park Offers Boardwalk, Swings and 'Justice'

This 4-1/2-minute news video portrays the success story of a 5-acre park on a former industrial site in East Newark. The park includes passive greenspace, a playground and a 1,000-foot boardwalk along the Passaic River. It is the only park in this tiny borough, which has a heavy industrial legacy and not much greenery. "It's really about environmental justice and the opportunity to breathe in healthy spaces," said state Sen. Majority Leader Teresa Ruiz. The park is considered to be a prototype for speeding up benefits for communities that have been harmed by toxic sites. One of the companies with potential liability for cleaning up this site - BASF - offered to help build the park in exchange for future credit related to its possible share of the cleanup.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/new-east-newark-park-offers-boardwalk-swings-and-justice/>

The Effects of Climate Change in Camden and Other Low-Income Communities

This comprehensive article (by Staff Writer Jenalyz Serrata) from *South Jersey Climate News*, a student-driven news site with Rowan University undergraduates as staff writers, delves into the history of Camden and how its past has affected current environmental problems, which are being exacerbated by climate change.

<https://sjclimate.news/5526/news/the-effects-of-climate-change-in-camden-and-other-low-income-communities/>

GREEN AMENDMENT

Green Amendment - New Ways to Engage

"Green Amendments For the Generations" (website available here: <https://forthegenerations.org>) is implementing new ways to become involved in advocating for the Green Amendment, including a legal advisory board and a business ambassador program. In addition, its founder, Maya van Rossum, is participating in a series of Green Amendment Town Halls hosted by the Pinelands Preservation Alliance (see [p. 7](#) and [p. 16](#)).

- **Green Amendments Legal Advisory Board Starting to Form** - "With so much happening, the need for legal insights, support and research is on the rise. If you have legal expertise and would like to join a newly forming Green Amendments Legal Advisory Board, we'd love for you to submit an application. You can do so here: https://bit.ly/GA_Advisory_Bd_Application."
 - **Business Ambassador Program Launches** - "Our Green Amendment Ambassadors program has a new element: reaching out to businesses to secure their support for constitutional environmental rights, and perhaps even their help in spreading the word." Additional information for business owners is available here: <https://forthegenerations.org/business-supporters/>. For those who want to help with outreach to businesses and be an Ambassador for Business outreach, additional information is available here: <https://forthegenerations.org/actnow/recruit-or-sign-up-a-business-in-support-of-green-amendments/>.
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ELECTRIC VEHICLES & VEHICLE EMISSION REDUCTION

Murphy Administration Expands Electric Vehicle Tourism Corridor Program

From the press release: "The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) has announced a new expansion of the successful Electric Vehicle (EV) Tourism program focusing on heavily trafficked corridors where people travel to the State's business, recreation, and leisure destinations.... EV Tourism Corridor provides incentives for DC Fast Chargers to businesses, hotels, government entities, and non-profits located within 1 mile of an eligible corridor. Hotels within 3 miles are also eligible to receive incentives for Level 2 chargers. This program is designed to increase the build-out of charging infrastructure at travel-centric sites along major corridors to help reduce range anxiety for EV travelers in the state.... Charging sites in Overburdened Municipalities can qualify for a 50% bonus incentive.... Qualifying routes include within required distances to a toll route, interstate route, U.S. highway, or State highway."

<https://www.nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/2025/approved/20250507ev.html>

Woodbridge Unveils Its New 'Next-Gen' Electric Vehicles

From *TAPinto Woodbridge/Carteret*: "Three electric passenger shuttles and three electric garbage trucks are the newest additions to Woodbridge's municipal vehicle fleet, Mayor John E. McCormac and public works Director George T. Brew announced. The town's three new 'roll-off' trash trucks are the nation's first of their kind to be put in service, and the centerpiece of Woodbridge's ongoing sustainability initiative, Mayor McCormac said." The vehicles, along with charging stations, were funded with grants from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

<https://www.tapinto.net/towns/woodbridge-slash-carteret/sections/government/articles/woodbridge-unveils-its-new-next-gen-electric-vehicles>

Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin Sues to Stop Illegal Indefinite Suspension of Federal Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program

From the press release: "New Jersey Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin today [5/7/2025] joined a lawsuit [complaint available here: https://www.njoag.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/2025-0507_EVIF_COMPLAINT.pdf] to stop the Trump Administration from illegally and indefinitely withholding billions in congressionally approved funding for electric vehicle infrastructure.... New Jersey stands to lose \$73 million in electric vehicle infrastructure funding.... The lawsuit...seeks a court order against FHWA's unlawful actions and a restoration of electric vehicle infrastructure funding for the states. Attorney General Platkin is joined in filing the lawsuit by the attorneys general of Washington, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawai'i, Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Wisconsin, and Vermont."

<https://www.njoag.gov/attorney-general-matthew-j-platkin-sues-to-stop-illegal-indefinite-suspension-of-federal-electric-vehicle-infrastructure-program/>

U.S. Senate Vote to Nix California Tailpipe Emissions Standard Blocks 17 Other States, Including N.J.

From the *New Jersey Monitor*: "The U.S. Senate voted early Thursday [5/22/2025] to prevent California from enforcing regulations on tailpipe emission from new cars and trucks, upending state regulations for the nearly 40% of Americans whose states follow California standards. The House has already passed an identical measure, meaning the Senate vote sends the resolution to President Donald Trump's desk.... Democrats blasted the near-party-line vote for contradicting the Senate parliamentarian, who'd ruled the waiver that the EPA had granted to California to set its own tailpipe standards was not a regulation that could be rolled back under the Congressional Review Act, or CRA. The CRA allows for a simple majority in the Senate to vote to repeal recent executive branch rules, bypassing the chamber's usual 60-vote threshold for legislation." NJ, along with 16 other states, has adopted all of CA's light- and heavy-duty vehicle regulations (see map of

states' adoption of CA regulations here: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/advanced-clean-cars-program/states-have-adopted-californias-vehicle-regulations>). Additional information about the three related bills that were passed is available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/05/gop-blocks-state-rules-on-clean-cars/>. If the bills are signed into law, CA plans to file a lawsuit over the use of the CRA to vote to overturn the EPA waiver. In the meantime, CA has launched a multistate clean-car coalition that includes NJ (see the article below). <https://newjerseymonitor.com/2025/05/22/repub/u-s-senate-vote-to-nix-california-tailpipe-emissions-standard-blocks-17-other-states-including-n-j/>

U.S. Climate Alliance Governors Launch Affordable Clean Cars Coalition to Expand Americans' Access to Newer and Cleaner Vehicles

From *The Hill*: In response to the U.S. Congress' votes to overturn the EPA waiver allowing CA to set stricter-than federal clean car rules (see the article above), CA Gov. Newsom announced the "Affordable Clean Cars Coalition" which "will work on sustaining the country's transition to cleaner and more affordable cars, while also supporting U.S. automotive manufacturers and preserving the authority of states to control their air quality..." (see NJ Gov. Murphy's related press release here: <https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562025/approved/20250523a.shtml>). The Coalition will include 11 states, and will be "housed under the umbrella of the U.S. Climate Alliance - a bipartisan initiative of 24 governors founded in 2017 - and consists of California, Colorado, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island and Washington.... The 11 states ... vowed to work together on developing solutions that make vehicles cleaner, more affordable and accessible to all Americans who want to purchase them. They said they would do so by decreasing cost barriers, increasing choices, expanding accessible charging and fueling infrastructure." <https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/5316368-california-coalition-clean-cars-ev-mandate/>

Advocates Underscore Pollution, Push for Clean Truck Program

This 5-minute news video shows this year's annual event that monitors pollution from diesel trucks in Elizabeth, NJ, on World Asthma Day. The video describes health effects of the truck pollution, and also provides viewpoints on a bill in the NJ legislature that would delay implementation, for two years, of NJ's Advance Clean Truck (ACT) standard, which went into effect 1/1/2025. However, if the CA law on which it is based is overturned by the federal government, NJ's ACT rule may well be moot. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/advocates-underscore-pollution-push-for-clean-truck-program/>

RENEWABLE RESOURCES (other than Offshore Wind)



CSPR Opens Solar Panel Recycling Facility in New Jersey

In 11/2024, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) granted the first-ever permit for solar panel recycling. The Research, Development, and Demonstration (RD&D) permit was granted to enable Commercial Solar Panel Recycling (CSPR) to process end-of-life solar panels, recovering valuable materials such as glass, aluminum and silicon, in order to recycle these materials. CSPR has now officially opened its first NJ site, in Phillipsburg. <https://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2025/05/cspr-opens-solar-panel-recycling-facility-in-new-jersey/>

OFFSHORE WIND

Attorney General Platkin Sues Trump Administration for Halting Development of Wind Energy

From the press release: "New Jersey Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin today [5/5/2025] joined a coalition of 18 attorneys general in filing a lawsuit [complaint available here:

https://www.njoag.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/2025-0505_1_NY-v.-Trump-Complaint.pdf] against the Trump Administration over its unlawful attempt to halt the development of wind energy.... The lawsuit alleges that the President's directive harms the efforts of New Jersey and other states to secure reliable, diversified, and affordable sources of energy to meet their increasing demand for electricity and help reduce emissions of harmful air pollutants, meet clean energy goals, and address climate change. The directive also threatens to thwart the states' significant investments in wind industry infrastructure - investments that already total billions of dollars.... The coalition argues that the President's directive and federal agencies' subsequent implementation of it violate the Administrative Procedure Act and other federal laws. The complaint argues that these actions are arbitrary and capricious because the Administration has not provided a reasoned explanation for categorically and indefinitely halting all wind-energy development - a sudden change that reverses longstanding federal policy and is inconsistent with recent federal actions that call for increased domestic energy production. The lawsuit also alleges that the abrupt halt on all permitting violates numerous federal statutes that prescribe specific procedures and timelines for federal permitting and approvals - procedures the Administration wholly disregarded in stopping wind-energy development altogether. Joining Attorney General Platkin in filing this lawsuit are the attorneys general of New York, Massachusetts, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Washington."
<https://www.njoag.gov/attorney-general-platkin-sues-trump-administration-for-halting-development-of-wind-energy/>

Offshore Wind in New Jersey: On Pause or Dead in the Water?

This comprehensive article (by Staff Writer Shayne Crowley) from *South Jersey Climate News*, a student-driven news site with Rowan University undergraduates as staff writers, describes the history of offshore wind in NJ, including its importance and its problems. It concludes by describing the recent clean energy conference at Rowan University, at which speakers addressed the problem of what comes next in the NJ energy sector and how to deal with rate hikes and an energy deficit in the absence of offshore wind, which it was emphasized is still needed.

<https://sjclimate.news/5863/news/offshore-wind-in-new-jersey-on-pause-or-dead-in-the-water/>

CLIMATE CHANGE

Congressman Van Drew Pushes Back Against Overreaching NJPACT Rules, Secures EPA Commitment to Engage with State Officials

After meeting with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Congressman Van Drew stated that the EPA has committed to discussing the New Jersey Protecting Against Climate Threats (NJPACT) regulations with the state, and "urging a more moderate, workable approach."

<https://vandrew.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=1848>

30+ New Jersey Municipalities Support Climate Superfund Act

This article by Food & Water Watch (**an EJTF partner**) describes the NJ Climate Superfund Act and lists the 33 municipalities that have formally expressed support for it. Since the article was written, at least one more municipality - Montclair - has passed a resolution in support of the Act.

<https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/2025/05/01/30-new-jersey-municipalities-support-climate-superfund-act/>

Also see:

- **Montclair Council Backs Climate Super Fund Act Amidst Public Concerns Over Local Facility Closures -**

<https://thelocal lens.org/montclair-council-backs-climate-super-fund-act-amidst-public-concerns-over-local-facility-closures/> and

• **Morristown Passes Resolution Supporting NJ Climate Superfund Act -**

<https://www.tapinto.net/towns/morristown/sections/local-government-news/articles/morristown-passes-resolution-supporting-nj-climate-superfund-act>

Jersey City Unveils Community-Led Climate Justice Plan for Jackson Hill

A climate justice plan for three historically underserved neighborhoods in Jersey City, the "Gensler JHMS Climate Justice Action Plan" (details available here: <https://www.gensler.com/blog/10-opportunities-for-a-resilient-and-equitable-jersey-city/>), puts forth 10 interlinked recommendations "for a more resilient and equitable Jersey City." Among the recommendations are: Integrate green infrastructure including more street trees; Expand access to healthy food; Invest in trees and designated green spaces; and provide transit options (see the article below). The planned next step is to implement pilot programs reflecting the recommendations.

<https://jcitytimes.com/jersey-city-unveils-community-led-climate-justice-plan-for-jackson-hill/>

Sustainably Speaking: Jersey City Transportation and Climate Change

Sustainable Jersey City recently conducted its April SpeakEASY Salon on Transportation & Climate Change, which revolved around the public transit system, electric vehicles and sustainable transportation options. From the *Jersey City Times*, "SJC collated a wishlist [included in the article] of improvements and shared perspectives from community stakeholders attending this session. It is intended to assist city planners in implementing effective and efficient changes with an emphasis on the desire by these folks to be heard and to be able to participate in the upcoming engagement sessions by the City to update the JC Transportation Master Plan."

<https://jcitytimes.com/sustainably-speaking-jersey-city-transportation-and-climate-change/>

Ocean City Among NJ Coastal Towns Affected by Sea-Level Rise

This comprehensive article (by Staff Writers Beth Cimaglia & Trinity Eobbi) from *South Jersey Climate News*, a student-driven news site with Rowan University undergraduates as staff writers, describes potential climate-related impacts on Ocean City. "Climate Central, an independent non-profit made up of scientists and communicators who research climate change, found Ocean City - home to 9,150 people and 7,254 homes located 5 feet from sea level... - to be one of the most threatened New Jersey beach towns. The rise of sea levels negatively affects a variety of societal, environmental, and economic issues."

<https://sjclimate.news/5576/news/ocean-city-among-nj-coastal-towns-affected-by-sea-level-rise/>

FOREST HEALTH/URBAN FORESTRY



Planting Hope in Camden: Community Fights Air Pollution and Heat With Trees

This article (by Guest Contributor Vin Palmieri), from *South Jersey Climate News*, a Rowan University-affiliated student-driven news site, describes the environmentally overburdened Camden Waterfront South neighborhood, and the positive impacts of a tree-planting effort initiated by the New Jersey Tree Foundation (of which **EJTF member Peggy Middaugh is Board Secretary**), Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority, and Rowan University Planning Studio."

<https://sjclimate.news/5813/essays/planting-hope-in-camden-community-fights-air-pollution-and-heat-with-trees/>

NJ Forest-Fire Related Articles

The President's proposed budget for 2026, which was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives, completely eliminates funding for the U.S. Forest Service's State, Private, and Tribal Forestry programs. These programs provide "technical and financial assistance to landowners and resource managers to help sustain the nation's forests and grasslands, protect communities from wildland fire and restore fire-adapted ecosystems." These programs also include urban and community forestry, a significant portion of the New Jersey Tree Foundation (NJTF) budget for planting trees in the most underserved communities in NJ. The articles below are of increased relevance in light of these proposed program cuts.

Acting Governor Way Announces Federal Emergency Management Agency Fire Management Assistance Grant Award to Support Response and Recovery Efforts to the Jones Road Wildfire

<https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562025/approved/20250425a.shtml>

The New Jersey Wildfire Signals New Era for Northeast

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/05/the-new-jersey-wildfire-signals-new-era-for-northeast/>

As More Wildfires Burn, NJ Wants More Money to Fight Them

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/05/as-more-wildfires-burn-nj-wants-more-money-to-fight-them/>

Dry, Windy Conditions Complicate NJ Wildfires

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/dry-windy-conditions-complicate-nj-wildfires/>

Preservation in the Pines Protects People From Fire

<https://thelinknews.net/2025/05/10/preservation-in-the-pines-protects-people-from-fire/>

DRINKING WATER (other than lead)

AG Platkin and DEP Commissioner LaTourette Announce Historic Settlement of up to \$450 Million with 3M for Statewide PFAS Contamination

From the comprehensive press release, which also provides history and the timeline of the proposed payment and its uses: "New Jersey Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette announced a landmark settlement of up to \$450 million with 3M to resolve the State's 2019 lawsuits and a Statewide Directive to address damage to the State's water and other natural resources from dangerous chemicals known as PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), also commonly referred to as 'forever chemicals.' The settlement announced today [5/13/2025] involving 3M is the largest statewide PFAS settlement in New Jersey history. The settlement, subject to public comment and court approval, resolves 3M's liability in the State's lawsuits regarding the Chambers Works site (located in Pennsville and Carneys Point) and Parlin site (located in Sayreville), and the DEP's Statewide PFAS Directive, all initiated in 2019. The settlement will also resolve the State's claims against 3M in the statewide litigation regarding PFAS in the firefighting material known as aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF)." Additional legal actions against other entities involved with the Salem County site are continuing (see article in next column), and not affected by this settlement. The news release is available here:

<https://www.njoag.gov/ag-platkin-and-dep-commissioner-latourette-announce-historic-settlement-of-up-to-450-million-with-3m-for-statewide-pfas-contamination/>. Also see the 1-1/2-minute news video about the settlement, available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/3m-and-nj-reach-450m-settlement-over-forever-chemicals/>, and a 6-minute interview with NJDEP Commissioner LaTourette about how the settlement funds are planned to be used, available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/how-will-nj-spend-landmark-forever-chemical-settlement/>.

Landmark Trial Pits NJ Against DuPont Over 'Forever Chemical' Pollution in South Jersey

The trial phase of NJ's "forever chemicals" lawsuit against DuPont and Chemours has begun, five years after it was filed. The case centers on PFAS pollution at the former Chambers Works facility in Salem County, NJ, and is the first pollution case of its kind to come to trial in NJ. The 3M company was originally also included in the lawsuit, but has entered into a settlement with the state (see the article in the previous column). See <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/05/landmark-forever-chemical-pollution-trial-south-jersey-dupont-chemours/>. Also see the 6-minute news video with details about DEP Commissioner LaTourette's testimony and Delaware Riverkeeper Maya van Rossum's reaction to the trial so far, available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/dep-commissioner-testifies-in-landmark-forever-chemical-trial/>.

Panelists: 'Forever Chemicals' a Problem Everywhere in NJ

This 4-1/2-minute news video shows the "Translational Research and Technology Innovations for PFAS ['forever chemicals'] Decontaminations" conference hosted by the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). "The workshop attendees had the opportunity to learn about recent developments and current and future challenges in PFAS decontamination technologies and associated regulatory policies for its societal impact from the leaders in industry, academia and government sectors." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4qqqXIVASU>

POLLUTION

Opinion: NJ's Bag Ban Needs an Update

In this opinion piece, NJ Assemblywoman Annette Quijano (D-Union) touts a bill (A4549/S3413) which "would give grocery stores the option to provide recyclable paper checkout bags containing a substantial percentage of post-consumer recycled content." The bill has been voted out of committee in the Senate but has not been voted on in the Assembly Environment, Natural

Resources, and Solid Waste committee. While Assemblywoman Quijano remains in favor of NJ's single-use plastics bag ban, she gives a number of reasons for providing recyclable paper bags, including that the reusable bags now being used have proliferated, use three times more plastic as single-use bags, and also are not biodegradable. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/05/op-ed-njs-bag-ban-needs-an-update/>

EDUCATION and YOUTH-RELATED

Hoboken Youth Receive \$85,000 in Grants for Innovative Climate Projects

Hoboken's Youth Climate Action Fund has announced microgrants of up to \$5,000 for seventeen youth-led projects (the projects' details are available here: <https://www.hobokennj.gov/resources/youth-climate-action-fund>). Funding is from a grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies, and eligible projects must be led by individuals aged 15 to 24 who live, work, or go to school in Hoboken. Projects are required to focus on mitigating climate change and enhancing community resilience. <https://www.nj.com/hudson/2025/04/hoboken-youth-receive-85000-in-grants-for-innovative-climate-projects.html>

162-Acre Pine Tree Center Becomes New Home to Pinelands Research Institute, Educational Programs

"NJ Conservation is pleased to join the Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) in announcing the acquisition of the Pine Tree Center in Tabernacle, NJ from the Boy Scouts of America. The Pine Tree Center consists of 162 acres of upland and wetland forests; buildings for classes, gatherings and overnight accommodation; and campsites. Adjoining the 122,000-acre Wharton State Forest, the Center connects to a network of several hundred thousand acres of preserved lands." The Center will become the Pinelands Research Institute "a science-based field station in the Pine Barrens of Southern New Jersey launched by PPA in early 2025" [additional information here: <https://pinelandsalliance.org/pinelandsresearch/>]. The Institute's mission is to be a mecca for scientists, educators, naturalists and the public to generate

knowledge and understanding of the unique forested ecosystem that is the New Jersey Pine Barrens, its broader region, and the Pinelands growth management program."

https://www.njconservation.org/press_release/162-acre-pine-tree-center-becomes-new-home-to-pinelands-research-institute-educational-programs/

In Observance of Earth Month, NJEDA Announces More Than \$4.3M to Support Green Economy Workforce

From the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Office of Environmental Justice news release: "The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) recently approved four applications under the NJ Green Workforce Training Grant Challenge, totaling over \$4.3 million in funding. The awardees will develop training programs that prepare New Jersey residents for green economy careers, with a particular focus on serving overburdened communities. Training programs will highlight a range of critical skills and industry certifications in solar energy installation, green stormwater infrastructure, weatherization and building systems, and vehicle electrification assistance. Through these grants, the selected organizations will help expand access to essential workforce training opportunities, supporting sustainable economies and creating good-paying jobs in overburdened communities." Details about the selected training programs are available here: <https://www.njeda.gov/in-observance-of-earth-month-njeda-announces-more-than-4-3m-to-support-green-economy-workforce/>.

OTHER

Jersey Renews Issues 2025 Policy Platform, "A Roadmap for the Green Economy"

Jersey Renews, a coalition of which **UUFANJ is a member**, has released its comprehensive 2025 policy platform, "A Roadmap for the Green Economy" (available here: <https://jerseyrenews.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/NJWEC-Jersey-Renews-Report-Mar25-1.3.pdf>). It states that by focusing on "four components of the clean energy economy –

building clean energy projects, electrifying transportation, workforce development, and grid modernization... New Jersey can be a leader, not only in clean energy, but also in employing technologies that enable the future and mitigate the worst impacts of climate change."



NJBPU Announces Approval of Grid Modernization Rules

From the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) press release: "the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) [has] approved updates to grid modernization rules intended to reduce delays in the distribution grid interconnection process to speed up the timeline for projects to come online. The more streamlined process for distribution grid interconnection applications includes: more frequent updates to hosting capacity maps; a dispute resolution process; a pre-application and verification process to provide applicants with an early indication of project feasibility and costs; and a requirement for utilities to have a web portal for a more consistent interconnection application process regardless of service territory." <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/2025/approved/20250521.html>

New Jersey Bill Would Make Data Centers Report Water, Energy Uses

A bill (S4293/A5548) that "Requires owner or operator of data center to submit water and energy usage report to BPU [NJ Board of Public Utilities]" has been reported out of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee. The report

would be required to include, at a minimum: "(1) basic information relating to the data center; (2) information related to energy and water usage at the data center; (3) performance calculations and indicators for the data center, including the energy reuse factor, power usage effectiveness, renewable energy factor, and water usage effectiveness; (4) sustainability indicators for the data center; and (5) any other information determined by the BPU to be necessary." The BPU would be required to publish the information on its website within 30 days of receiving a report. The Assembly committee has not yet voted on the bill. <https://enviropolitics.com/new-jersey-bill-would-make-data-centers-report-water-energy-uses/>

On the Environment, It's Trump vs. States (incl. NYT article accessible link)

This *Enviropolitics* article includes an accessible link to a *New York Times* article (click on "Read the full article here" at the end), "Trump vs. the States," that sums up the attacks by the federal government on states' climate efforts. <https://enviropolitics.com/when-it-comes-to-the-environment-its-trump-vs-the-states/>

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
