



EJTF and CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation (UOCC) Signs NJ Climate Superfund Act Resolution



On "Sun Day," September 21, 2025, UOCC Board President Sandy Lewis joined other UU NJ congregations in signing a faith-based resolution supporting the NJ Superfund Climate Superfund Act (see photo at left). Spearheaded by UOCC and EJTF member Peggy Middaugh, UU FaithAction NJ and the EJTF have been actively supporting and lobbying for passage of the Act, such as at the rally shown in the photo below. The Act is currently moving through the NJ legislature; we are hoping for its passage during the legislative lame duck session.

Climate Resolution: Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation Supports the NJ Climate Superfund Act

Whereas Unitarian Universalist values declare that every person is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish with dignity, love, and compassion; and

Whereas Unitarian Universalists honor the interdependent web of all existence and acknowledge our place in it; and

Whereas Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation endeavors to take meaningful actions to protect all life on earth by confronting the climate crisis and climate inequality; and

Whereas the climate crisis disproportionately harms communities of low wealth, people of color and immigrants; and

Whereas, the proposed "NJ Climate Superfund Act" (S3545 / A4696), pending before the New Jersey Legislature would impose liability on large fossil fuel companies for certain climate change related damages they caused instead of imposing all those costs on New Jersey taxpayers; and

Therefore, be it resolved that the Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation, in the interest of protecting its families, neighbors and communities, on September 21, 2025, strongly expresses its support for passage of the NJ Climate Superfund Act.



NEWSLETTER CONTENTS

EJTF and Congregational Activities	1	- Land Management/ Agriculture/ Food	17
Online Resources Related to Climate Change in NJ	2	- Lead Reduction in Households	17
Future Events	3	- Climate Change	17
Videos+ of Past Events	12	- Drinking Water (other than lead)	19
News Related to EJTF Issues	14	- Education and Youth-related	19
- Electric Vehicles & Vehicle Emission Reduction	14	- Other	19
- Fossil Fuel Infrastructure	15	EJTF's Goals for 2024/2025	20
- Renewable Resources (other than Offshore Wind) ... 16		Moratorium Mondays	20

EJTF and CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES (cont.)

- **UU FaithAction NJ (UUFANJ)** has been actively involved in attending rallies, testifying, and commenting on a number of key issues, including: UUFANJ commented on the federal government's proposed rescinding of the "Endangerment Finding" that underpins all regulation of greenhouse gases (see the articles on p. 18 [here](#) and [here](#)); and EJTF member Mike Skelly commented on behalf of UUFANJ on the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) reconsideration of permit approval for the Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) pipeline (see the article on [p. 15](#)) and DEP's consideration of a major expansion of the lease for the Liberty Landing Marina in Liberty State Park.

ONLINE RESOURCES RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN NJ

Two recent press releases from Gov. Murphy highlighted NJ's activities related to climate resilience - including flood resilience - and provided listings of climate change-related resources related to these activities. **The press releases are:**

"Murphy Administration Kicks Off Climate Week By Highlighting Climate Resilience and Honoring the Watershed Institute," available here:

<https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562025/approved/20250922a.shtml> and

"Murphy Administration Kicks off First Flood Safety Week, Releases Statewide Flood Resilience Initiatives Report*," available here: https://dep.nj.gov/newsrel/25_00826.

The NJ climate change resources cited in the press releases include the following:

- NJ Climate Resilience Strategy: <https://dep.nj.gov/climatechange/resilience/resilience-strategy/> & Two-Year Anniversary Accomplishments Report: <https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/climatechange/docs/ccrs-two-year-anniversary-accomplishments-final.pdf>
- Interagency Council on Climate Resilience: <https://dep.nj.gov/climatechange/resilience/resilience-council/> & 2024 Annual Report: <https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/climatechange/nj-iac-2024-annual-report.pdf>
- Resilient NJ: <https://resilient.nj.gov/>
- New Jersey Resilient Environments and Landscapes: <https://dep.nj.gov/njreal/overview/>
- NJDEP Climate Change Efforts: <https://dep.nj.gov/climatechange/>
- New Jersey Climate Data: <https://dep.nj.gov/climatechange/data/>
- NJDEP Climate Change Science and Research: <https://dep.nj.gov/dsr/climate-change/>
- 2020 NJ Scientific Report on Climate Change: <https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/climatechange/nj-scientific-report-2020.pdf> & 2022 Addendum - Climate Change Impacts on Human Health & Communities: <https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/climatechange/nj-scientific-report-human-health-addendum.pdf>
- Flood Engineering and Climate Resilience Design: <https://dep.nj.gov/wlm/drec/flood-engineering/>
- NJDEP Blue Acres Program: <https://dep.nj.gov/blueacres/>
- New Jersey Extreme Heat Resilience Action Plan: https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/climatechange/extreme_heat_rap_071924-screen-version.pdf
- *New Jersey Statewide Flood Resilience Initiatives: <https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/climatechange/2025-statewide-flood-resilience-initiatives-report.pdf>

FUTURE EVENTS - Virtual, In-person, and Hybrid

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

Others - send an email to uufaihactionejtf@gmail.com requesting to receive information about environmental issues and upcoming events.

OCTOBER 2025 (with hyperlinks to details on the following pages)						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
		LWVNJ October Activist Trainings (Dates TBA)	1 NOAA "Fire Research from Conditions to Impacts" Seminar Series "Improving Wildfire Risk Tools" - 2:00 p.m. Green Sanctuary 2030 Orientation - 7:00 p.m.	2	3	4 NJ Tree Foundation Fall Tree Plantings - 9:00 a.m. NJ Audubon Fall Native Plant Sales - 10:00 a.m. Hoboken, NJ Repair Cafe - 11:00 a.m. National Drive Electric Month Events: Madison 2025 Bottle Hill Day and EV Expo - 10:00 a.m. Westfield EV Car Show - 11:00 a.m. TCS EV Showcase Pitman - 12:00 p.m.
5	6	7.	8 NJ Tree Foundation Fall Tree Planting - 8:30 a.m. NJDEP's EJ Advisory Council Public Meeting - 10:30 a.m.	9 NJDEP/NJIT PFAS Summit - 8:00 a.m. "Powering Up: Improving Energy Grid Reliability and Resilience to Lower Energy Bills" - 3:30 p.m.	10 NJDEP/NJIT PFAS Summit - 8:00 a.m. ANJEC 52nd Environmental Congress - 9:00 a.m.	11 NJ Tree Foundation Fall Tree Plantings - 9:00 a.m. Madison, NJ Repair Cafe - 11:00 a.m.

Calendar continues on p. 4

Calendar continued from p. 3

<p>12 Earth Care Day at Cheesequake State Park - 11:00 a.m.</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Update to State Development and Redevelopment Plan - Public Hearings - 9:30 a.m. & - 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>15 Organics Waste Management Summit 2025: "The Roadmap to Food Waste Recycling" - 8:30 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p>Update to State Development and Redevelopment Plan - Public Hearings - 9:00 a.m. & - 6:00 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>NOAA "Fire Research from Conditions to Impacts" Seminar Series "Drought and Wildfire" - 2:00 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>NJ Green Amendment Workshop at Medford Friends Meeting - 7:00 p.m.</p> <hr/> <p>"Claiming Our Power to Fight for a Clean Energy Future" - Green Sanctuary 2030 Community Meeting - 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>16 NJ Shade Tree Federation 100th Annual Conference - 8:30 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p>Update to State Development and Redevelopment Plan - Public Hearing - 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>17 2025 North Jersey Rivers Conference - 8:00 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p>NJ Shade Tree Federation 100th Annual Conference - 8:30 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p>Update to State Development and Redevelopment Plan - Public Hearing - 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p>18 UUFANJ Fall Issues Conference - 10:00 a.m.</p>
<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 "How Can We Cut Industrial Emissions?" - 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p>23 The 13th Annual Delaware River Watershed Forum - 8:00 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p>"Burned by Billionaires: How Concentrated Wealth and Power Ruin our Lives and Planet" - 8:00 a.m.</p>	<p>24 The 13th Annual Delaware River Watershed Forum - 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p>25 NJ Tree Foundation Fall Tree Plantings - 9:00 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p>Rutherford, NJ Repair Cafe - 11:30 a.m.</p>
<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 "Transitioning States and Countries to 100% Clean, Renewable Energy and Storage for Everything" - 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>29 Option Green: "What You Should Know About Plastic" - 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>30 Princeton University Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment 2025 Annual Meeting - "Strategies for Circularity: Prospects and Challenges" - 8:30 a.m.</p> <hr/> <p>Isles Fall Forum 2025 "Cities for the Future" - 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Comments Due 11/1/2025: NJBPU Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Data Access Standards Proposed New Rules</p>

FUTURE EVENTS

Green Sanctuary 2030 Orientation 10/1/2025, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Virtual

This webinar is presented by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Side with Love. "Get to know the new Green Sanctuary 2030: Mobilizing for Climate Justice! 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." Additional information and the link to register are available here:
<https://secure.everyaction.com/yEUsYD-WDkygItPTYBzeaA2>.

National Drive Electric Month Madison 2025 Bottle Hill Day and EV Expo 10/4/2025, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Madison, NJ - In-person

This National Drive Electric Month EV Expo event will take place at Madison NJ's Bottle Hill Day, "the annual Madison festival attended by thousands of people (additional information is available here: <https://www.rosenet.org/1005/Bottle-Hill-Day>). There are hundreds of booths with food, merchandise, bands and other attractions." Links to additional information and to register to bring your EV are available here:
<https://driveelectricmonth.org/event?eventid=4978>.

National Drive Electric Month Westfield EV Car Show 10/4/2025, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Westfield, NJ - In-person

At this National Drive Electric Month event, "EV owners from around the area will show off their vehicles of all different makes and models, you'll see new cars from exciting electric-only brands, we'll answer your questions about local, state, and federal incentives, and a licensed electrician will provide information on charger installation. And right next door, you can shop from local artisans, enjoy live music, and indulge in tasty treats at the Westfield Street Fair and Craft Show!" Links to additional information and to register to bring your EV are available here:
<https://driveelectricmonth.org/event?eventid=4832>.

National Drive Electric Month TCS EV Showcase Pitman 10/4/2025, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Pitman, NJ - In-person

This National Drive Electric Month event is hosted by Tri County Sustainability (TCS), the NJ Electric Vehicle Association, and the South Jersey Electric Vehicle Club. "Join us as we team up with Sustainable Pitman for the 2nd annual Pitman Green Fair!... See several models of electric vehicles, and speak to current electric vehicle owners to hear what it's like to switch to electric. As a bonus, Pitman Porchfest is also happening on the same so live music will be happening at the park & all around town!" Links to additional information and to register to bring your EV are available here:
<https://driveelectricmonth.org/event?eventid=5050>.

NJ Audubon Fall Native Plant Sales 10/4/2025, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Bernardsville, NJ & Franklin Lakes, NJ - In-person

"Native trees, shrubs and wildflowers will be available for sale during [NJ Audubon's] annual Fall Native Plant Sale at the Scherman-Hoffman Nature Center and the Lorrimer Sanctuary. At the Lorrimer Sanctuary, the selection will include over 30 native plant species that support local wildlife and thrive in our regional climate and naturalists will be available to help you make the perfect selection." Additional information, including a list of plants available at each location and links to the locations' websites, is available here:
<https://njudubon.org/native-plant-sales>.

NJDEP's Environmental Justice Advisory Council Virtual Public Meeting 10/8/2025, 10:30 a.m.

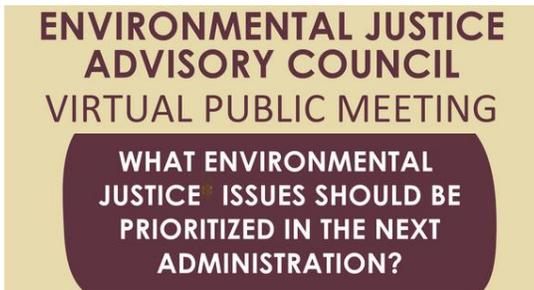
The NJ Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Environmental Justice Advisory Council (EJAC) is holding its second public meeting. This meeting will focus on the question "What environmental justice issues should be prioritized into the next administration?" Some example prompts for discussion are:

- Localized environmental justice issues in your overburdened community
- Identified needs in your community-based organization that can be met with state resources

- Proposals for actionable initiatives within DEP's jurisdiction

Registration and information about submitting comments are available here:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/57ZqoLKWQ3WPXOHQuZAxYA>.



"Powering Up: Improving Energy Grid Reliability and Resilience to Lower Energy Bills" - Webinar
10/9/2025, 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

"The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) invites you to a briefing about policy solutions to meet the reliability, resilience, and affordability challenges facing the U.S. energy grid.... Aging infrastructure, extreme weather, and unprecedented increases in electricity demand could soon overwhelm generation and transmission capacity and outpace states and utility planners.... This briefing will outline policy options and technological innovations to address these challenges. Panelists will expand on several aspects of grid modernization, including the buildout of new transmission lines, bringing online new power generation and energy storage capacity, and improving energy efficiency." Additional information and the links to join the livecast and to RSVP are available here: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/100925grid>.

NJDEP/NJIT PFAS Summit
10/9/2025, 8:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.
& 10/10/2025, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Newark, NJ - In-person

This event is hosted by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in partnership with the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) and other key collaborators, "bringing together leading voices from science, policy, industry, and the community. Join us for two days of in-depth discussion, collaboration, and innovation focused on PFAS

(Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) - examining their impact, exploring solutions, and advancing efforts to protect public health and the environment." Additional information, including links to the agenda and to register (**\$75**), is available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/pfas-summit>.

ANJEC 52nd Environmental Congress
10/10/2025, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
New Brunswick, NJ - In-person

The Association of NJ Environmental Commissions' (ANJEC) 52nd annual Environmental Congress "will be an in-person educational conference with a selection of workshops and inspirational speakers. Workshop topics include:

- Preparing a Watershed Inventory Report
- NJ's Environmental Policy Update
- Municipal Stormwater Management Resources
- Acting Locally: Resources, Successes from around NJ
- Energy Innovations for NJ
- Supporting Regional Collaborations
- Action Update on NJPACT/REAL"

Keynote speaker NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner LaTourette "will share how New Jersey is positioning itself to weather climate change." Additional information and the registration link (**\$115 for ANJEC Members; \$135 for Non-Members**) are available here: <https://anjec.org/environmental-congress-2>.

Earth Care Day at Cheesequake State Park
10/12/2025, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Matawan, NJ - In-person

Sponsored by EarthShare NJ, "Earth Care Day focuses on environmental education and volunteerism, providing opportunities for participants to engage with experts and learn about the environment. This free event will have a variety of family fun activities from guided walks, interactive exhibits, games, crafts, kayaking in Hooks Creek Lake and more!.... Bring clothing and soft goods to support the Textile Drive... accepting: clothing, shoes, bags, linens and stuffed animals!" Additional information is available here: <https://www.earthsharenj.org/earth-care-day/>.

Update to State Development and Redevelopment Plan - Public Hearings Various Dates - Virtual and In-person

The NJ State Planning Commission will conduct six public hearings to receive testimony on the draft Final New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan and the draft Infrastructure Needs Assessment.

Virtual hearings will be held on:

- **10/14/2025, 6:00 p.m.**
- **10/15/2025, 9:00 a.m.**
- **10/16/2025, 6:00 p.m.**
- **10/17/2025, 9:00 a.m.**

In-person hearings will be held on:

- **10/14/2025, 9:30 a.m.**
Westampton Township, NJ
- **10/15/2025, 6:00 p.m.**
Morristown, NJ

"The state plan will reflect current planning principles and best practices in the areas of land use, transportation, housing, environmental protection and enhancement, economic development, provision of public infrastructure, historic preservation, social justice, and adaptation to global climate change." Additional information, including links to the draft Final Plan, to a Companion Document showing revisions from the preliminary version, and to the Notice of the Public Hearings including instructions for commenting, is available here:

<https://www.nj.gov/state/bac/planning/state-plan/development/>.

NJ Green Amendment Workshop at Medford Friends Meeting 10/15/2025, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Medford, NJ - In-person

"Do you have the right to clean air, pure water, a safe climate, and healthy environments? Join Medford Friends Meeting and the New Jersey Green Amendment Movement to learn about the New Jersey Green Amendment, its power to secure these environmental rights for all people, and how YOU can get involved by securing resolutions in support of New Jersey Green

Amendment values!" Additional information and the registration link are available here:

<https://forthegenerations.org/events/nj-green-amendment-workshop-at-medford-friends-meeting>.

"Claiming Our Power to Fight for a Clean Energy Future" - Green Sanctuary 2030 Community Meeting - Virtual 10/15/2025, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

This webinar is presented by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Side with Love. "Advocating at Public Utility Commissions [PUCs] is an incredibly impactful way to shape our energy future.... PUCs wield significant power and their decisions affect clean energy and air quality, impacting both greenhouse gas mitigation and climate resilience. Learn how the UU Georgia Legislative Action Network is making good trouble for climate justice as they remind the Georgia Utility Commissioners and Elected Officials that people have the power to choose a just and moral path for our energy future." Additional information and the link to register are available here:

<https://secure.everyaction.com/fMwuyUFUdEGWc0IZSkVNqg2>.

Organics Waste Management Summit 2025: "The Roadmap to Food Waste Recycling" 10/15/2025, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. New Brunswick, NJ - In-person

The NJ Composting Council, Inc. (NJCC) and the Rutgers University NJ Agricultural Experiment Station are sponsoring the 2025 Organics Waste Management Summit, "The Roadmap to Food Waste." "Organics processors, composters, haulers, regulators, academics, organics waste management professionals, sustainable community organizations, and nonprofits are invited to join the conversation about New Jersey's organics management practices. The Summit will host panels featuring experienced industry professionals, academics and regulators. New this year are breakout sessions to give attendees the opportunity to more fully participate in the event. Topics include:

- A Keynote on Partnerships for Successful Municipal Food Waste Diversion & Composting Programs

- A Panel on The Power of Local: Community Driven Food Waste Reuse, Reduce, and Recycling Solutions (Triple R)
 - A Working Session on the Development of a NJ Organics Waste Recycling Guidance Document
 - Presentations on University Research Shaping the Future of Food Waste
 - Get Down and Dirty with Discussions on Compost & Healthy Soils
 - Advocacy & Policy Fireside Chat."
- Additional information, including the schedule and the link to register and purchase tickets (**General Admission: \$175; Government, Non-profits, Municipal Green Teams: \$130**), is available here: <https://njcomposting.com/summit-2025>.

NOAA "Fire Research from Conditions to Impacts" Seminar Series - Webinars
Various dates

"This seminar series ["Fire Research from Conditions to Impacts"], hosted by [U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration] NOAA's Climate Program Office [CPO] and NOAA's Fire Observation, Research, and Services Team (FOReST) Team features cutting-edge research from NOAA scientists and NOAA-supported investigators, showcasing NOAA and partner fire research activities and their impact on science and services." **October 2025 webinars are listed below and in the next column.**

"Improving Wildfire Risk Tools"
10/1/2025, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

In this webinar, "researchers supported by CPO's Climate Adaptation Partnerships [CAP] program will showcase the creation of and advancements in tools designed to improve wildfire risk assessment and communication. This will include the evolution of the Burn Period Tracker, which helps fire managers to quickly access specific local humidity information used to assess risk, and efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the Red Flag Warning System, a National Weather Service tool for alerting the fire management community to real time and imminent risk levels." Registration is available here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5662977914025030233>.

"Drought and Wildfire"
10/15/2025, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

In this webinar, "Mike Hobbins (NOAA Physical Sciences Laboratory) and Tim Brown (Desert Research Institute) will discuss their research on the multifaceted relationship between drought and wildfires. The presentations will highlight the various factors that drive fire risk during drought conditions and explore how different drought indices can be used to enhance the National Fire Danger Rating System." Registration is available here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4046459425577208414>.

NJ Shade Tree Federation 100th Annual Conference
10/16/2025 & 10/17/2025,
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Atlantic City, NJ - In-person

This year's conference includes General Education sessions (such as "The 3+30+300 Principle for Greener and Healthier Cities - Experiences from the First 5 Years") and breakout sessions on either a Municipal Track or an LTE/LTCO (Licensed Tree Expert (LTE) and Licensed Tree Care Operator (LTCO)) Track. A full-day NJ Urban & Community Forestry Community Representative (CORE) Training - "an introduction to urban and community forestry in New Jersey covering the basics from science, the law, management, and funding of trees and community forest programs throughout the state" - will be held concurrently on the first day (reserved seating only). Additional information, including links to the agenda with detailed descriptions of sessions, and to register (**\$350 for each single day; \$550 for both days**), is available here: <https://njstf.org/annual-conference>.

2025 North Jersey Rivers Conference
10/17/2025, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Hackettstown, NJ - In-person

"Register now for the Seventh Annual North Jersey Rivers Conference: a continuation of the spirit, values and legacy of the Northwest New Jersey Rivers Conference! For the first time since the inaugural Conference in 2018, this year's

Conference includes all the lands, waters and communities of the entire North Jersey region. The Theme for the 2025 North Jersey Rivers Conference is 'Currents of Connection Between Land, Water and People' [and] includes nine workshops across three tracks:

- Resilient Lands and Waters
- Climate and Habitat Change
- Community Connections." Additional information and the link to register (**\$35**) are available here: <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/northjerseyriversconference/event/northjerseyriversconference>.



UUFANJ Fall Issues Conference
"Meet the Moment" - Hybrid
10/18/2025, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Princeton, NJ - In-person & on Zoom

Save the date! Our UU FaithAction NJ "Meet the Moment" Fall Issues Conference will be Saturday, October 18, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Our hybrid event will be hosted at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton and on Zoom. We are excited to announce the Reverend Dr. Charles Boyer will deliver our keynote address. Dr. Boyer is a leading faith voice in New Jersey for racial justice issues, and his advocacy has led to watershed statewide policy changes such as closure of youth prisons, voting rights restoration for the formerly incarcerated, community reinvestment through cannabis taxes, restricting solitary confinement, and lifesaving decarceration during the pandemic. Additional information and the link to register are available here: <https://www.uufaithaction.org/issues-con>.

"How Can We Cut Industrial Emissions?"
10/22/2025, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- Webinar

"The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) invites you to a briefing about pathways for industrial decarbonization. Materials like steel, iron, and cement form the backbone of U.S. industry, and have long been a symbol of U.S. innovation and prosperity. The production of these materials, as well as chemicals and plastics, often requires extremely high temperatures typically

achieved by burning fossil fuels. The industrial sector is the second-largest greenhouse gas emitter, representing 30% of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, and is projected to be the largest by 2035. This briefing will identify opportunities for industrial emissions reductions - such as electrification and material reuse." Additional information and the links to join the livecast and to RSVP are available here: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/102225industry>.

The 13th Annual Delaware River Watershed Forum
10/23/2025, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. plus
Networking Reception, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
10/24/2025 - Field Trip Options, 10:00 a.m.
Randolph, NJ - In-person

Usually held in September, the Delaware River Watershed Forum has been rescheduled to October this year. "The Delaware River Watershed Forum serves as a fun and meaningful opportunity for Coalition members, legislators, watershed advocates, environmental and community organizations, agencies, foundations and charitable trusts, constituents and residents, businesses, and students to convene and collaborate on protecting the Delaware River Watershed. Together, this working conference provides a platform to brainstorm solutions, identify gaps, improve skills, and build relationships to advance our shared goals." Additional information and links to the agenda, including field trip options, and to register (**\$175**) are available here: <https://web.cvent.com/event/ac84489d-0acb-4df2-b0cf-ceb43d3ace04/summary>.

"Burned by Billionaires: How Concentrated Wealth and Power Ruin our Lives and Planet" - Webinar
10/23/2025, 8:00 p.m.

This webinar is presented by Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC). "Chuck Collins, life long UU and member of UUJEC, is a senior scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies where he coedits Inequality.org. He is the author of several books, including Born on Third Base, The Wealth Hoarders, Wealth and Our Commonwealth (with Bill Gates Sr), and Economic

Apartheid in America and Burned by Billionaires.... Here is a description of the book: Even if you don't begrudge the ultra-rich their vacation homes, yachts, and private jets, billionaire power affects where you live, your housing costs, what you eat, and what news you consume." Additional information and the registration link are available here: <https://uujec.org/webinars>.

**"Transitioning States and Countries to 100% Clean, Renewable Energy and Storage for Everything" - Webinar
10/28/2025, 7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.**

This webinar sponsored by Elders Climate Action will be presented by Dr. Mark Z. Jacobson, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the Director of the Atmosphere/Energy Program at Stanford University. His career focuses on better understanding air pollution and global warming problems and developing clean, renewable energy solutions, and he has published 190 journal articles and seven books. "Global warming, air pollution, and energy insecurity are three of the most significant problems facing the world today. Mark will discuss the development of technical and economic roadmaps to solve these problems in the U.S. and worldwide. The solution: electrify buildings, transportation, and industries with 100% clean, renewable energy and storage. Aside from addressing global warming, these plans have the potential to annually eliminate over seven million air pollution deaths worldwide, reduce international conflict over energy, stabilize energy prices, reduce catastrophic risk, create jobs, and minimize land use." Additional information and the link to register are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/5ffua7pe>.

**Option Green: "What You Should Know About Plastic" - Hybrid
10/29/2025, 7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
East Brunswick, NJ - In-person & via Zoom**

"This workshop provides a foundational understanding of key concepts on plastics: how plastics are made, the significance of resin identification codes (RICs) and practical recycling guidelines. Presented by Princeton University Assistant Professor of Chemistry Erin Stache, the workshop will also highlight issues around 'greenwashing' and 'wish cycling.'... By fostering a

deeper understanding of plastics and sustainability, this initiative aims to empower individuals to make informed decisions and contribute to more effective waste management in our community." This event is part of the Option Green lecture series co-sponsored by the Friends of East Brunswick Environmental Commission and funded by the East Brunswick Friends of the Library. Additional information and the link to register for the online event are available here: <https://ilove.ebpl.org/adults/events/option-green-what-you-should-know-about-plastic-hybrid/2025-10-29-230000-2025-10-30>.

**Isles Fall Forum 2025
"Cities for the Future" - Hybrid
10/30/2025, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Hamilton Township, NJ - In-person & Livestreamed**

"The Isles Fall Forum is an annual educational event where community members, local leaders, and experts come together to address critical challenges facing our neighborhoods." This year's event will address three critical topics:

"EXTREME HEAT

Learn how rising temperatures disproportionately impact neighborhoods and communities. Explore urban heat island effects, Code Red emergency systems, cooling centers, LIHEAP [Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program] assistance, and workplace safety. Discover community mitigation strategies and policies that protect vulnerable populations during extreme heat events.

MICROTRANSIT & SAFE STREETS

Discover on-demand transportation solutions and community mobility programs that connect underserved areas. Learn about implementing local transit initiatives, securing funding, and creating safe, accessible street infrastructure...

LEAD & HEALTHY HOMES

Explore lead poisoning prevention and healthy housing initiatives. Learn about LHCAF [Lead Hazard Control Assistance Fund] 2.0 funding, testing and remediation techniques, connections between lead exposure and maternal health, and advocacy strategies for... families." Additional information and links for in-person and virtual registration and tickets (**ranging from Free to several Donation levels**) are available here:

<https://givebutter.com/5cveBi>.

Princeton University Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment 2025 Annual Meeting - "Strategies for Circularity: Prospects and Challenges"
10/30/2025, 8:30 a.m. - 4:50 p.m.
plus Reception at 5:00 p.m.
Princeton, NJ - In-person

"In a circular economy, systems and products are intentionally designed to minimize waste and keep resources in use for as long as possible - closing the loop on the traditional 'take-make-dispose' linear economic model. The 14th Annual Meeting will explore opportunities and challenges for implementing circular approaches, with the goal of identifying key priorities for research, policy, and industry in the journey toward a more sustainable and resource-efficient future." Additional information and the link to register (various fees, including: **\$195 for general attendees, \$100 for non-profit organizations**) are available here: <https://acee.princeton.edu/2025-annual-meeting>.

NJ Tree Foundation Fall 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 fall plantings are beginning; October and November events are shown below and in the next column. (All plantings are rain or shine, and are held 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. except for one at 8:30 a.m. as noted).** Tools and gloves will be provided.

Volunteer numbers are capped for each event; check here - <https://njtrees.org/upcoming-events> - to see if volunteers are still needed for the following events, and for additional events:

- 10/4** - Collingswood Meditation Garden
- 10/4** - Weequahic Park, Newark
- 10/8** - Oakwood Avenue Elementary School, Orange (**8:30 a.m.**)

- 10/11** - Hickman Ave, Gloucester City
- 10/11** - Ivy Hill Apartments, Newark
- 10/25** - Mechanic Street, Camden
- 10/25** - Broad Street, Newark
- 11/1** - Woodbine Avenue, Newark
- 11/7** - Highland Avenue, Newark
- 11/8** - State Street, Trenton

NJBPU Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Data Access Standards Proposed
New Rules: Comments Due 11/1/2025

The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) is proposing new rules that establish "the rights and rules regarding the collection, use, and sharing of data collected by Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) meters." The proposed rules would benefit homeowners by allowing them to know their electricity usage rates at less than 15-minute intervals so they may adjust their usage if desired, and the rules would benefit the utilities by identifying actual peak loads so that infrastructure and energy needs could be based on real data. Comments are due by 11/1/2025; instructions for commenting are in the NJ Register Notice available here: <https://tinyurl.com/3uzavwbx>.

League of Women Voters of New Jersey (LWVNJ) Activist Trainings - Virtual
Dates and times TBA

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." Trainings are announced monthly; check the LWVNJ website for the October and future months' training schedules, which will be available here: <https://www.lwvnj.org/training>.

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.repaircafes.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 October, with links for information, are shown below:**

Hoboken, NJ Repair Cafe

10/4/2025, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

<https://hobokenlibrary.libnet.info/hoboken-public-library/event/14584066>

Madison, NJ Repair Cafe

10/11/2025, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

<https://www.repaircafes.org/our-locations/madison>

Rutherford, NJ Repair Cafe

10/25/2025, 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

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

VIDEOS+ OF PAST EVENTS

Eco-Logic Radio Show: "Batteries: Misinformation & Reality" - Recording of Radio Show

The Eco-Logic radio/internet program on WBAI aired this recent show related to EJTF's goals (cohosted by **EJTF member Sally Gellert**). "Critics of renewable energy keep mentioning 'intermittency' i.e. when the sun doesn't shine and the wind doesn't blow. That can be addressed very easily. There are ways to store that energy for later use. Hydro storage is one way, but the most well-known is probably batteries. Lithium-ion batteries have gotten a bad rap for sometimes

causing fires, but not all lithium batteries have that problem. Lithium-IRON-phosphate (LFP) batteries don't cause fires. A better battery!" Other methods of storing renewable energy were also covered. The recording is available here: <https://www.wbai.org/archive/program/episode/?id=60804>. Note: 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>.

NOAA "Impacts of Wildfires on Air Quality" - Video of Webinar (& of past webinars)

"This seminar series ["Fire Research from Conditions to Impacts"], hosted by [U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration] NOAA's Climate Program Office and NOAA's Fire Observation, Research, and Services Team (FOReST) features cutting-edge research from NOAA scientists and NOAA-supported investigators, showcasing NOAA and partner fire research activities and their impact on science and services. In this session, Carsten Warneke of NOAA's Chemical Sciences Laboratory [presented] alongside [University of Montana's Dr.] Bob Yokelson to discuss their research as part of the field campaign: Fire Influence on Regional to Global Environments and Air Quality (FIREX-AQ). FIREX-AQ was a joint venture led by NOAA and NASA." The video is available here: <https://cpo.noaa.gov/impacts-of-wildfires-on-air-quality>.

Links to videos of past webinars in the series (see below) are available here: <https://cpo.noaa.gov/webinar-series/noaa-fire-research-from-conditions-to-impacts>.

"Fire And Air Quality Extremes" "Climate-fire Links" "Fire and Land-Atmosphere Interactions"

"Demystifying AI-Powered Militarization and its Social and Ecological Consequences"- Video of Webinar

This webinar, sponsored by Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC), was presented by Dr. Nicholas Rabb. "AI technologies, the newest stage of digital evolution, are being rapidly integrated into existing systems of extraction and domination, with plans underway to increase the speed and scale of these projects....

We stand at a crucial point where demystifying AI and its impact is paramount for the fight for democracy and life. Dr. Nicholas Rabb [explained] the nuances of AI technology – what it can and cannot do – and its interaction with existing social systems." The video is available here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_6LEGS68qM.

"Changing Human Behavior to Secure Conservation Outcomes" **- Video of Webinar**

This webinar was hosted by OCTO (Open Communications for The Ocean) and was presented by Dr. Laura Perry of Castlerock Conservation and the IUCN SSC CEC (International Union for Conservation of Nature Commission for Species Survival and Commission on Education and Communication) Behaviour Change Task Force. "Conservation behavior change is a nascent discipline, but one which has great applicability to many of today's conservation challenges. By using lessons drawn from social psychology, behavioral economics, and healthcare interventions, this approach has huge potential to shape human behavior and ultimately secure conservation outcomes. In this talk, we explore[d] the fundamentals of behavior change and how an array of techniques can be used to change human behavior. Touching on examples from across conservation, we discuss[ed] how these approaches can add value to a conservation program, how practitioners can go about involving behavior change in their work, and the relevance of behavior change approaches to conservation translocations." The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xGOVHpgp3Uw>.

Elders Climate Action - "Electrify Your Life Update" **- Video of Webinar**

This webinar sponsored by Elders Climate Action (ECA) addressed the question "How do we stay committed to advocating for a response to the climate crisis through electrification? Leading authorities Brian Stewart and Sean Armstrong provide[d] a path forward to electrify homes..." They covered making the switch to electrification even after federal incentives have been reduced, and where they think we all can have the biggest impact. The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=opD8mS2VOVk&t=7s>.

Pinelands Webinar Series - "Climate Change Part 2" - Video of Webinar

This webinar continued the Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) 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://tinyurl.com/2hhf93y3>]." This webinar, the second part of the series on climate change, examined "how we can keep threats like sea-level rise, increased flooding, and longer wildfire seasons from getting worse, and how we can live with existing change. [It focused on] the public policies that can protect and sustain the distinctive and essential ecosystem of the New Jersey Pinelands, and practical steps you can take..." The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJN1KkGJbiw>.

"Impartial Science in an Era of Skepticism: Energy and Health Research" **- Video of Webinar**

This Princeton University Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment webinar was presented by Dr. Donna J. Voorhees, who leads Health Effects Institute's (HEI) Energy work in providing impartial science about potential community exposures and health effects associated with energy production. "Emerging technologies and alternative fuels are being deployed across the power, industrial, transportation, and other sectors, accompanied by substantial investments aimed at transforming energy systems and supply chains. At the Health Effects Institute (HEI), a nonprofit and independent research organization jointly funded by government, industry, and philanthropy, we support research to assess how changing technologies and fuels may affect human health. While such changes offer opportunities to reduce environmental exposures and enhance public health, they may also introduce new sources of pollution that pose novel health risks or exacerbate existing ones." The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tCjrFuJMZFQ&t=151s>.

NEWS RELATED TO EJTF ISSUES
[covering 8/26/2025 – 9/25/2025]

"Applying Technology to Reduce the Risk of Catastrophic Wildfires - Real Pathways for Turning Forest Waste into Products" - Video of Webinar

This webinar was sponsored by the Security and Sustainability Forum (SSF). "A century of fire suppression has left forests unnaturally dense, creating dangerous fuel loads. Thinning is essential, but it produces millions of tons of low-value waste wood that pile up in slash heaps, raising fire risk even further. Solutions exist, yet investor confidence is stalled by uncertainty in supply, logistics, and offtake markets. This... webinar in the ASU [Arizona State University] Wildfire series examine[d] how AI, technology, and investment can change the equation - by forecasting supply, reducing logistics costs, and scaling conversion technologies into investable products like biochar, renewable natural gas (RNG), and e-methanol. Together, these innovations point toward a pathway that reduces wildfire risk, creates market value from waste, and lessens the burden on taxpayers." The video is available here:

<https://vimeo.com/1118122310?fl=pl&fe=vl>.

Sierra Club NJ Monthly Building Electrification Webinar -

"Use It OR Lose It: Electrify Your Home NOW Before Federal Incentives Disappear" - Slides from Webinar

A webinar was presented by Pat and Steve Miller, co-chairs of the Sierra Club NJ Chapter's Building Electrification Committee. Although some federal rebates expired 9/30/2025, others remain in effect until 12/31/2025, and "NJ Utility rebates will continue and Become More Lucrative." The detailed slides from the webinar give information about these programs; they are available here:

<https://climate.smiller.org/50x30/building-electrification/2025-9-18/UseItOrLoseIt-Slides.pdf>.

An additional source of NJ environmental articles and stories - many of them uplifting - is **South Jersey Climate News**, a student-driven news site with Rowan University undergraduates as staff (available here: writers, (<https://sjclimate.news>)). Some recent articles of interest are:

- "The quest for zero emissions school buses"
- "Rowan University holds conference on energy workforce in New Jersey"
- "Local organic farms in South Jersey where you can volunteer, work and learn"
- "Rowan student uses AI app to help prevent food waste"
- "Rowan Environmental Action League highlights community garden at event"
- "Environmental justice advocates outline urgent need for climate action in Camden"
- "Clean-up of Manhattan Project-era radioactive waste at DuPont site along Delaware River"

ELECTRIC VEHICLES & VEHICLE EMISSION REDUCTION

During Climate Week, Governor Murphy Announces New Jersey Hits New Electric Vehicle Milestone, Exceeding 250,000 Registrations

From the press release: "Governor Phil Murphy today [9/23/2025] announced that the State has reached a new electric vehicle (EV) milestone, exceeding 250,000 registrations.... New Jersey has seen a 15% increase in the number of EVs registered since December 2024.... More than 254,444 EVs are now registered with the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission.... The Murphy Administration has implemented some of the nation's strongest policies to incentivize consumers to go green and ensure the availability of charging infrastructure [information on NJ incentives is available here:

<https://dep.nj.gov/drivegreen>].... There are over 1,700 fast charging ports and 3,300 Level 2 charging ports that are publicly available across

New Jersey, with several hundred new ones being added every year."

<https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562025/approved/20250923a.shtml>



Murphy Administration Announces \$20 Million in Electric School Bus and Charging Station Grants to Mark Drive Electric Month

From the press release: "In celebration of National Drive Electric Month, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection [DEP] today [9/17/2025] announced the availability of \$20 million in grants from two grant programs to fund the purchases of electric school buses and installation of public charging stations.... The DEP's Electric School Bus Grant Program will provide \$10 million in grants to school districts and contractors that provide bus services to school districts as part of the state's effort to replace dirty diesel buses with clean electric buses.... The DEP's EV Charging Grant Program will provide an additional \$10 million in grants to install charging stations near multi-unit housing and transit stations.... The state now boasts nearly 250,000 EVs on the road (making up 14 percent of new vehicle registrations)..."

https://dep.nj.gov/newsrel/25_0040

NJ TRANSIT Continues Modernization of Bus Fleet

From the press release: "NJ TRANSIT's Board of Directors took another step forward to complete the bus modernization program, authorizing the purchase of 260 40-foot transit style buses and 26 zero-emission buses. This is the final authorization

required for NJ TRANSIT to have a fully modernized bus and rail fleet by 2031.... The new buses, which will replace aging 40-foot buses, will include passenger amenities such as USB charging ports, security cameras, blind spot cameras and turn warning systems to enhance the customer experience and safety. The NJ TRANSIT Board of Directors approved the purchase of up to 260 40-foot clean diesel transit buses and up to 26 40-foot zero-emission buses..."

<https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562025/approved/20250919c.shtml>

Where Are We With Transportation Electrification?

This analysis by the Sierra Club NJ Chapter examines NJ's progress in electrifying the transportation sector. It also contrasts NJ with progress in the rest of the world, specifically related to electrified railroads.

<https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/blog/2025/09/where-are-we-transportation-electrification>

FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE

'Zombie' Pipeline Raises Environmental Fears

This 8-minute news video gives an in-depth description of the background, potential impacts and current status of the Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) proposed pipeline. The pipeline has been halted twice in the past, and the current federal administration has once again issued it a permit. Permits are needed from NY and from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). **UUFANJ submitted opposing comments** to the DEP. Also see the article below.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/09/zombie-pipeline-raises-environmental-fears/>

Northeast Pipeline Project Allowed to Disrupt Marine Wildlife

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has approved the request from Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC (Transco), a subsidiary of Williams Partners L.P., for authorization to "take" marine mammals

incidental to the Northeast Supply Enhancement [NESE] Project in Raritan Bay, Lower New York Bay, and the Atlantic Ocean. Note: "Take" is defined in the Marine Mammal Protection Act as meaning "to harass, hunt, capture, collect, or kill, or attempt to harass, hunt, capture, collect, or kill any marine mammal." NMFS has issued "an incidental harassment authorization [IHA] to Transco for the potential harassment of small numbers of 15 marine mammal species (16 stocks)" subject to specified mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements. The NMFS decision, with responses to comments, specified requirements, and background data, is available here:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/09/23/2025-18424/takes-of-marine-mammals-incident-to-specified-activities-taking-marine-mammals-incident-to-the>. NMFS stated that the only "take" it expected to result from the construction work would be harassment of marine mammals, not their death. Any dead or injured marine mammal must be reported to the NMFS Office of Protected Resources (OPR), and "if the death or injury was clearly caused by the [construction] activity, the Transco must immediately cease the activities until NMFS OPR is able to review the circumstances of the incident and determine what, if any, additional measures are appropriate to ensure compliance with the terms of this IHA. Transco must not resume their activities until notified by NMFS."

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/09/northeast-pipeline-project-allowed-to-disrupt-marine-wildlife/>

Gibbstown Port Project Wins 5-Year Permit Extension

At its 9/10/2025 Business Meeting, the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) unanimously approved a five-year extension of the permit for the Gibbstown LNG (liquefied natural gas) export terminal (the approved Resolution is available here:

https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/ResMin_2017-009-2ext091025.pdf). The terminal has been opposed for years by environmental groups, who have commented that "LNG export activities associated with the Project, including the transport of LNG by truck, would contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, sea level rise and other negative effects of climate change. Relatedly, commenters averred that the Project supports the increased

production of and reliance on fossil fuels and will impede the development of sustainable and renewable energy sources." DRBC responded to similar comments in 2019 by stating that "Our evaluation is... focused on management of the Basin's water resources and not on wider energy policy questions" and found no need to alter this response now (the Comment and Response Document is available here:

https://www.nj.gov/drbc/library/documents/CRD_2017-009-2ext_approved091025.pdf). For other LNG-related comments, the DRBC maintained that they are outside the scope of the Docket being considered.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/09/controversial-gibbstown-port-project-wins-permit-extension/>

RENEWABLE RESOURCES (other than Offshore Wind)

NJ Residents Rush to Get Expiring Solar Tax Credits

This 8-minute news video includes an interview with the *NJ Spotlight News*' Washington DC correspondent, with input from the Vote Solar Mid-Atlantic Regional Director. They discuss the effects of expiring solar tax credits as well as potential retroactive tariffs, and the effects these are having on the industry as a whole and consumers in NJ.

EJTF member Lyle Rawlings, who is president and co-founder of the Mid-Atlantic Solar & Storage Industries Association and owns a solar company, is quoted as stating that "salespeople are just swamped" with consumers requesting quotes skyrocketing 109% in one month. Also see the article below.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/nj-residents-rush-to-get-expiring-solar-tax-credits/>

Residential Solar Rush Is on Before Tax Credit Sunsets

From this *NJ Spotlight News* article: "After Congress voted to end a federal tax credit for rooftop solar installations, homeowners are galloping to buy, install and hook up panels to their houses before the year is out.... As part of [the] ... new domestic policy law, lawmakers voted to phase out a 30% tax credit for residential solar, which could defray about \$9,000 of the cost

of a project, on Dec. 31, roughly a decade before scheduled." **EJTF member Lyle Rawlings**, who is president and co-founder of the Mid-Atlantic Solar & Storage Industries Association and owns a solar company, is quoted as stating that "Anybody who's been thinking and dreaming of doing solar on their home understands that they have to do it now." Also see the news video linked on [p. 16](https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/09/residential-solar-panel-rush-before-tax-credit-sunsets-december).
<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/09/residential-solar-panel-rush-before-tax-credit-sunsets-december>

LAND MANAGEMENT/ AGRICULTURE/FOOD

Hoboken Marks Grand Opening of Expanded Southwest Resiliency Park

The expansion of Hoboken's Southwest Resiliency Park "doubles the size of one of Hoboken's most flood-prone green spaces while adding a wide range of recreational amenities.... The expansion also carries a serious infrastructure function: on rainy days, the new park features can capture and store up to 260,000 gallons of stormwater through green infrastructure such as permeable pavers, rain gardens, and an underground detention system. Combined with the original park, which opened in 2017, the space can now detain roughly 460,000 gallons of stormwater."

<https://www.tapinto.net/towns/hoboken/sections/green/articles/hoboken-marks-grand-opening-of-expanded-southwest-resiliency-park>



Opinion: A Message for the Next Governor About Preserving New Jersey's Land

This piece is by Jaclyn Rhoads, executive director of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, member of the New Jersey LCV [League of Conservation Voters] political committee and co-chair of the

outreach committee of the New Jersey Keep it Green Coalition. She describes the need to protect NJ's natural resources, stating "Unchecked development, particularly the explosion of warehouse construction, is rapidly consuming forests, farmlands and wetlands. This trend not only jeopardizes wildlife habitat and drinking water sources but also erodes the character of our rural communities and threatens local food security."
<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/09/message-for-next-nj-governor-protect-nj-land-environment>

LEAD REDUCTION IN HOUSEHOLDS

Acting Governor Way Signs Legislation Enhancing Lead Disclosure and Testing Requirements

From the press release: "Acting Governor Tahesha Way today [9/19/2025] signed into law A2929/S1034, which requires landlords to report information about the known or potential presence of lead in drinking water to tenants of residential units, requires public water systems to conduct a lead water test at the request of an occupant at no charge, and deters landlords from obstructing the replacement of lead pipes."

<https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562025/approved/20250919b.shtml>

CLIMATE CHANGE

With NJ Still Reeling From Summer Storms, Fossil Fuel Interests Fight Climate Superfund Bill

This article describes the arguments interest groups are making for and against the Climate Superfund Act bill in the NJ legislature, and also describes the federal administration's opposition to similar laws in other states. See [p. 1](#) for NJ Superfund Climate Act supporting Resolutions.
<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/09/summer-floods-hit-nj-again-but-climate-superfund-bill-not-moving/>

NJ Builders, Environmentalists Clash Over Revised Flood Rules

From *NJ Spotlight News* (with a 7-1/2-minute news video): "Officials from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection held a virtual hearing on recently revised rules aimed at protecting towns from destructive floods and sea level rise. These proposed rules include safe building standards defining flood risk zones that will determine how high residents need to raise their homes or where developers must plan for stronger flood resistance. After the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection eased some aspects of its proposed Resilient Environments and Landscapes rules, the rules remain controversial and are opposed by many Jersey Shore mayors, builders and business groups, including the New Jersey Business & Industry Association.... Some environmentalists said the DEP made too many concessions to developers. They especially dislike a rule change that would permit exemptions for developers building affordable housing in a flood zone and asked the DEP to restore the stricter standards." It is expected that the outcome of the governor's election will have a major impact on the future of the rules, which are now scheduled to go into effect after the end of the year.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/09/nj-builders-environmentalists-clash-over-revised-flood-rules>

FDU Poll Finds 3 in 4 NJ Voters Worried About Damage from Extreme Weather

A Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) poll released 9/8/2025 showed that about three-quarters of NJ voters are worried about possible damage from extreme weather events. The poll found that voters want NJ to do more to mitigate the damage, and would support a \$3 million bond issue dedicated to resilience projects. The poll is available here: <https://www.fdu.edu/news/fdu-poll-finds-3-in-4-nj-voters-worried-about-damage-from-extreme-weather>.

Attorney General Platkin Joins States, Counties, and Cities in Opposing Recission of EPA's Landmark 2009 Endangerment Finding

From the press release: "New Jersey Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin today [9/22/2025] joined a coalition of 23 attorneys general and seven counties and cities in filing a comment letter opposing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed recission of its landmark 2009 finding [that] greenhouse gas emissions, including from motor vehicles, drive climate change and endanger public health and welfare. This finding is known as the Endangerment Finding." The coalition's comment letter related to the 2009 Endangerment Finding is available here: https://www.njoag.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/2025-0922_States-and-Local-Govts-Endangerment-Finding-Comments_final-1.pdf). In withdrawing the 2009 Endangerment Finding, EPA also proposes to repeal all existing federal greenhouse gas emissions standards for all motor vehicle classes and all years. The coalition's separate comment letter related to motor vehicle standards is available here:

https://www.njoag.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/2025-0922_Comments-of-the-Attorney-Generals-of-California-et-al-Vehicles-Comment.pdf. NJ also previously joined a coalition to submit a comment letter on the procedural and legal flaws in the Department of Energy's Climate Working Group (CWG) report that EPA relied on in its proposed recission, and had also joined another coalition in filing an amicus brief supporting the plaintiffs of the lawsuit *Environmental Defense Fund v. Wright* in their effort to declare the CWG's report unlawful. See <https://www.njoag.gov/attorney-general-platkin-joins-states-counties-and-cities-in-opposing-recission-of-epas-landmark-2009-endangerment-finding>. Also see the article below.

Trump Moves to Gut US Power to Regulate Greenhouse Gases

This article gives the background of the 2009 "Endangerment Finding," which is the legal foundation that empowers the U.S. government to regulate greenhouse gases. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a proposed rule to rescind it. See the article above

regarding the NJ Attorney General's response;
UUFANJ also submitted comments.
<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/09/trump-moves-to-gut-us-power-to-regulate-greenhouse-gases/>

DRINKING WATER (other than lead)

Chemical Manufacturing Made New Jersey the 'PFAS Toilet for the Country'

This 13-minute podcast and transcript are of an interview with NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner LaTourette, who describes NJ's legacy of PFAS 'forever chemicals' and the recent settlement with DuPont and other companies.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/09/chemical-manufacturing-made-new-jersey-the-pfas-toilet-for-the-country>

EDUCATION and YOUTH-RELATED

Princeton and BP Agree to End 25-Year Funding for Carbon Mitigation Initiative

From *The Daily Princetonian*: "Fossil fuel company BP will no longer fund the Carbon Mitigation Initiative (CMI), one of Princeton's flagship climate research institutes, marking the end of one of the University's most high-profile corporate partnerships.... The partnership has supported a significant body of research on carbon mitigation strategies and is the longest running Princeton-industry partnership for climate research. While projects within CMI were financially supported by BP, allocation of funding was solely controlled by researchers at the University. However, the fact that BP, one of the world's largest oil and gas companies, would have a research relationship with Princeton was also a source of controversy, especially in the wake of the University's divestment from fossil fuels in 2022."

<https://www.dailyprincetonian.com/article/2025/09/princeton-news-adpol-bp-agree-end-funding-carbon-mitigation-initiative-british-petroleum>

OTHER

Murphy Administration Releases 2025 Green Jobs Report Focused on Meeting Growth of Green Economy

From the press release: "The Governor's Office of Climate Action and the Green Economy is continuing to mark Climate Week with the release of the 2025 Green Jobs Report – 'Growing Green Jobs: The Opportunities for New Jersey's Workforce' (available here:

<https://www.nj.gov/governor/docs/Green-Jobs-Report-9.22.25.pdf>). Since 2021, New Jersey's green workforce has increased by 12%, or 6,000 jobs,

with over 100 new clean energy projects built. By 2035, New Jersey's green workforce is expected to grow by over 14,000 net jobs.... The report identifies 12 priority occupations necessary to meet New Jersey's green economy goals, all of which have higher wages than the national average. Electricians are projected to see the largest growth in new jobs, followed by Plumbers, HVAC Mechanics and Installers and Solar Installers."

<https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562025/approved/20250925b.shtml>



"No Mowers or Pesticides Needed: Goats Take Over in Sea Girt!"

The Borough of Sea Girt has launched "a pilot program bringing in goats to clear weeds, protect native plants, and keep Sea Girt green - one munch at a time." The article includes videos of the goats at work, and the results.

<https://www.tapinto.net/towns/gold-coast/sections/green/articles/no-mowers-or-pesticides-needed-goats-take-over-in-sea-girt>

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
