



EJTF and CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

• **EmpowerNJ 2025-26 Strategy Session**



Steering Committee of EmpowerNJ, L to R: John Reichman, Amy Goldsmith (Clean Water Action), Matt Smith (Food & Water Watch), John Aspray (Food & Water Watch), Doug O'Malley (Environment NJ)



Photos by Mike Skelly

EJTF members Mike Skelly, Peggy Middaugh, and Ray Nichols (in yellow shirt at back of photo, above right) attended the EmpowerNJ Strategy Session held on July 28, 2025 in Highland Park. The target issues for 2025-26 are: don't allow the turnpike expansion; no "toxic trains" (i.e., liquefied natural gas - LNG - transported by rail, and no LNG terminals); no Zombie pipeline (i.e., the Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement - NESE - pipeline that is being revived, which would cross NJ and go under the Raritan River); and let's pass the Climate Superfund Act!!

• **Commission on Environmental Education Bill Successfully Introduced**

On behalf of the Environmental Education Action Group of UU Faith Action NJ's Environmental Justice Task Force, **EJTF member Mike Skelly** has been actively working with NJ First Lady Tammy Murphy and education leaders this past year on a bill for a much-needed update and expansion of the existing NJ Commission on Environmental Education. The bill was recently introduced in the NJ legislature and, enhanced by Mike's efforts, it adds an environmental justice member to the Commission, as well as a stipulation that an effort be made that public members represent overburdened communities, and it updates the Commission's duties to include advising on the implementation of climate, sustainability, and environmental literacy education throughout NJ. Here's a link to the bill - <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/bill-search/2024/A5895>.

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EJTF and CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES (cont.)

• Morristown Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (MUUF) Solar Energy Project

The Morristown Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (MUUF) solar energy project was a part of the Fellowship Hall expansion project, the building part of which was completed in the fall of 2024. A Climate Change Task Force had been formed, which succeeded in getting the congregation to approve a climate change resolution and was instrumental in getting the congregation to commit to the development of an economic proposal for solar energy as a part of the new building plan.

The project team obtained initial estimates of the amount of electricity that could be produced using the roof space on the future Fellowship Hall, became familiar with the NJ and Federal solar incentives and policies, and reached out to other churches and nonprofits that had completed their own projects. After considering several funding mechanisms, it became apparent that state and federal incentives, as well as electricity savings that accrue over time, would enable the Fellowship to repay an initial investment. The passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, which allowed nonprofits to receive the federal tax credit payment directly, enabled the Fellowship to utilize a simple loan process. During the building project planning, a solar engineering company was contracted with to provide advice, so that the installation would comply with regulations and would not require awkwardly mounted panels or conduits running outside of the building.

With funding in hand and an updated cost estimate from contractors, the congregation approved the solar resolution by a unanimous vote on December 8, 2024. The engineering and other preparations took a lot longer than was anticipated, but the actual construction was completed in one week in August 2025. The loans will be repaid in 5 years, during which time the Fellowship will still enjoy about half of the electricity savings. After that, the Fellowship will receive about \$6,400 per year in incentives from the state of New Jersey and will enjoy the entire electricity savings from the solar production.

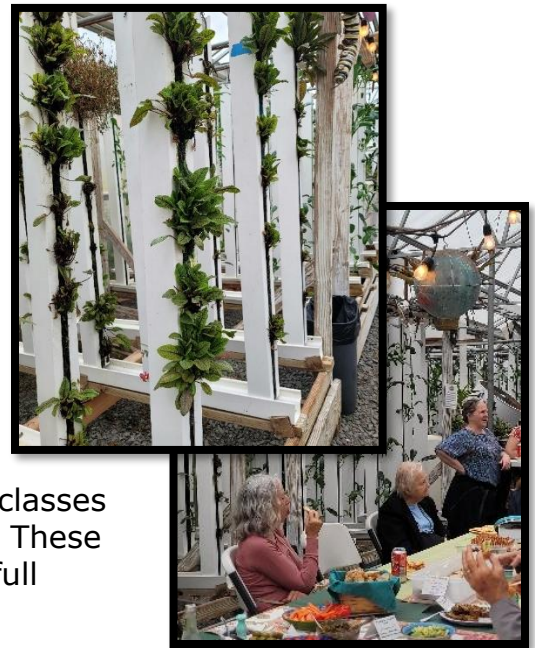
MUUF obtained support from Interfaith Power and Light, Solar Faithful (a faith-based solar power initiative group in Michigan), a member's brother-in-law, and from Milt Hetrick at the First Universalist Church in Denver, among others. The project will offset approximately 58,000 kwh/year of electricity that would otherwise need to be generated by burning (predominantly) fossil fuels. This project demonstrated a significant commitment among MUUF's members to support work that could mitigate climate change. MUUF would be happy to share what was learned about planning and carrying out such a project with others, via "NJ Together," or other organizations.



EJTF and CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES (cont.)

• UU Congregation of Monmouth County (UUCMC)

Members of the UU Congregation of Monmouth County (UUCMC) hosted a congregational auction dinner held in the hydroponic greenhouse at Kula Urban Farm in Asbury Park, which is a program of Interfaith Neighbors. Kula Farm grows seasonal, sustainable produce that can be purchased by local residents and restaurants, which helps underwrite its work to supply free produce to the community and neighboring food pantry. Kula's Farm without Borders transformed a vacant lot into an open community garden, where community members are welcome to harvest throughout the season. The Farm also facilitates a job program designed to promote skills in the garden and to offer a positive work experience, and offers classes and workshops for all ages on the environment and gardening. These will be expanded with the completion of a new pavilion with a full kitchen.



"THIRD ACT" LAUNCHES NEW JERSEY WORKING GROUP

The national nonprofit organization "Third Act" includes "a dedicated group of organizers, campaign strategists, and communications professionals working together to build a powerful elder-led movement for climate action and democracy protection. Our team operates across multiple departments, each playing a crucial role in advancing our mission." On 8/20/2025, they launched a Working Group in New Jersey. Five campaigns they are involved in are: Supporting "Sun Day" (see "Future Actions" on [p. 11](#)); Passing the New Jersey Climate Superfund Act (S3545/A4696); Democracy and Voting; the Fossil Fuel Divestment Act (S198); and Expanding Community Solar. Additional information, including the link to join the Working Group, is available here: <https://thirdact.org/new-jersey/about>.

And note the photo they chose for their launch announcement has EJTF members Mike Skelly and Peggy Middaugh right in the center with our UUFANJ banner!



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 uufathactionejtf@gmail.com requesting to receive information about environmental issues and upcoming events.

SEPTEMBER 2025 (with hyperlinks to details on the following pages)						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
	1	2	3 NOAA "Impacts of Wildfires on Air Quality" - 2:00 p.m. NJDEP Public Hearing on Substantial Changes to the REAL Rules - 6:00 p.m. Green Sanctuary 2030 Orientation - 7:00 p.m.	4 Proposed Lease for Liberty Landing Marina in Liberty State Park NJDEP Public Hearing - 2:00 p.m.	5	6 Montclair Harvest Day Celebration - 3:00 p.m.
7	8 NJ RGGI Strategic Funding Plan Scoping Document for 2026-2028 Stakeholder Meeting - 11:30 a.m. Comments Due: Transco NESE Project Request to National Marine Fisheries Service to "Take" Marine Mammals	9 NJ RGGI Strategic Funding Plan Scoping Document for 2026-2028 Stakeholder Meeting - 9:00 a.m. Rally to Stop the NESE Pipeline Project! - 4:00 p.m.	10 DRBC Third Quarter 2025 Business Meeting - 10:30 a.m. NJ RGGI Strategic Funding Plan Scoping Document for 2026-2028 Stakeholder Meeting - 1:00 p.m. NJDEP Public Hearing on Transco - Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (NESE) - 6:00 p.m. 11th CEEJH EJ Symposium: "The People's Agenda: Resistance, Resilience, and Restoration"	11 NJ Community Forestry Council - 10:00 a.m. "Climate and Environmental Advocacy in These Times" - 7:00 p.m. "Demystifying AI-Powered Militarization and its Social and Ecological Consequences" - 8:00 p.m. 11th CEEJH EJ Symposium: "The People's Agenda: Resistance, Resilience, and Restoration"	12 11th CEEJH EJ Symposium: "The People's Agenda: Resistance, Resilience, and Restoration"	13 "Observing Nature: Inward and Outward" - NJ School of Conservation (NJSOC) - 9:30 a.m. 11th CEEJH EJ Symposium: "The People's Agenda: Resistance, Resilience, and Restoration"
14 "Observing Nature: Inward and Outward" - NJ School of Conservation (NJSOC) - 9:30 a.m. "Bike For EJ" - 9:30 a.m. Jersey City, NJ Repair Cafe - 1:00 p.m.	15	16 "Changing Human Behavior to Secure Conservation Outcomes" - 10:00 a.m. PSE&G's Electric Vehicle Charging Programs Webinar - 1:00 p.m.	17 Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station Termination Plan U.S. NRC Public Meeting - 6:00 p.m. "UUA Strategies to Advance Climate Justice" - 7:00 p.m. Comments Due: NJ RGGI Strategic Funding Plan Scoping Document for 2026-2028	18 Comments Due: Proposed Lease for Liberty Landing Marina in Liberty State Park	19 Comments Due: NJDEP Proposed Substantial Changes to the REAL Rules GreenFaith - Faiths4Climate Justice: "Sun Day"	20 "FutureFEST: Climate Reimagined" Youth Climate Justice Convening - 10:30 a.m. "Make Billionaires Pay" Rally and March - Time TBA GreenFaith - Faiths4Climate Justice: "Sun Day"

Calendar continues on p. 5

Calendar continued from p. 4

21 Drive Electric Month & Showcase in Mantua, NJ - 10:00 a.m. Sun Day, Rutgers Agrivoltaics Program Site Tour (Animal Farm) - 10:00 a.m. Sun Day, Rutgers Agrivoltaics Program Site Tour (RAREC) - 10:00 a.m. Snorkel March for Clean Energy - 11:00 a.m. Montclair Sun Day: Clean Energy Fair - 3:00 p.m. GreenFaith - Faiths4Climate Justice: "Sun Day"		23 Multi-State Technical Conference on PJM Interconnection and Governance Reform - 9:00 a.m.	24 Option Green: "Poisoning the Well" - 7:00 p.m. Comments Due: NJDEP Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Co. - Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (NESE)	25 "Artificial Intelligence: Implications for Energy and the Environment" - 3:30 p.m.	26 Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Education (ANJEE) - 9th Annual Autumn Outdoor Conference: "Forward Together" - 8:00 a.m.	27 Summit, NJ Repair Cafe - 11:00 a.m. National Drive Electric Month at GreenFest Newark - 12:00 p.m.
28	29 2025 Garden State Conference on Food Security: "Setting a Table for All, for Always" - 9:00 a.m.	30 City of Paterson EJ NJDEP Community Engagement Session - 6:00 p.m. UU Ministry for Earth Community Read 2025-26 "What If We Get It Right?" - 7:45 p.m.	Strategic Plan for Food Security in New Jersey - Overview & Feedback Form (Feedback link available for a limited time) SAVE THE DATE! UUFANJ FALL ISSUES CONFERENCE 10/18/2025			

FUTURE EVENTS

NJDEP Public Hearing on Proposed Substantial Changes to the REAL Rules - 9/3/2025, 6:00 p.m. - Virtual

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) "Resilient Environments and Landscapes" (REAL) rules designed to protect communities from climate-change-fueled rising seas and bigger storms were due to be finalized on 8/4/2025. DEP had received pushback on the rules from business groups and over 130 municipalities, many of them on the NJ shore. Three weeks before the date they were to be finalized, DEP announced that significant changes were to be made to the rules, and published a "Notice of Proposed Substantial Changes" in the NJ Register (available here:

<https://tinyurl.com/4jexz57a>). DEP will hold a virtual public hearing 9/3/2025; Information about joining and pre-registering is available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/njreal/nosc/> (at the bottom of the webpage), as well as additional information about the proposed changes and information about how to provide comments. Pre-registration isn't required but pre-registrants will be called on first. Links to the video and presentation slides of a previous public hearing are available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/njreal/webinars/>.

Note: Environmental justice advocates have pointed out that the most unconscionable part of the revised regulations is the addition of affordable housing to the activities eligible for a "hardship exemption" to the rules. Written comments are due by 9/19/2025.

Green Sanctuary 2030 Orientation
9/3/2025, 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/RjzelWaFr0WzxS9UA57N8A2>.

NOAA "Impacts of Wildfires on Air Quality"
- Webinar
9/3/2025, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

"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) 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. In this session, Carsten Warneke of NOAA's Chemical Sciences Laboratory will present 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." Registration is available here:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8269321848847059802>.

Proposed Lease for Liberty Landing Marina
in Liberty State Park
NJDEP Public Hearing - Hybrid
9/4/2025, 2:00 p.m.
Trenton, NJ - In-person & Online

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is holding a second public hearing (the first was 8/21/2025) on a proposed new lease agreement for the Liberty Landing Marina in Liberty State Park. According to the "Friends of Liberty State Park" analysis (available here:

https://www.folsp.org/preservation/lspmarina_leasebate.html), although the lease only refers to a boat "dry storage area," the proposed lease is actually for 500 dry racks which will require 3 acres and a multi-story building. In addition, the lease would be for 60 years. Additional information on the lease and to attend the hearing or participate online is available here:

<https://dep.nj.gov/otpla/LLM-Lease>. Note: **oral testimony at the hearing will be limited to 3 minutes; written comments on the hearing will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on 9/18/2025.**

Montclair Harvest Day Celebration
9/6/2025, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Montclair, NJ - In-person

"Interested in starting an organic vegetable garden? Want to find out more about composting? Seeking opportunities to volunteer in a community garden or a local organization? Looking for fun activities for kids? The Northeast Earth Coalition (NEEC) invites you to join us in celebrating the work of local gardeners and volunteers and spreading the word about sustainable gardening and shared resources. Join us for:

- Children's crafts and a scavenger hunt
- Tours of the Crane Park Pollinator Garden
- Displays of locally grown organic produce
- Tabling by local gardening, environmental, and mutual aid groups
- Q&A with a Certified Master Gardener on sustainable organic gardening techniques
- Community Circle for sharing gardening experiences and recipes
- A food drive to collect non-perishable items for the NEEC Free Little Pantries [which provide free food for neighbors in need in 18 locations in five local towns]

Free and open to all!

Participants are encouraged to bring copies of harvest-themed recipes to share and non-perishable pantry items. Additional information is available here: <https://neearth.org/events/harvest-celebration-september-6th-300-500pm-crane-park-montclair>.

Transco NESE Project Request to National Marine Fisheries Service to "Take" Marine Mammals

Comments Due 9/8/2025

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) "has received a 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. Pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is requesting comments on its proposal to issue an incidental harassment authorization (IHA) to incidentally take marine mammals during the specified activities. NMFS is also requesting comments on a possible one-time, 1-year renewal that could be issued under certain circumstances and if all requirements are met.... NMFS will consider public comments prior to making any final decision on the issuance of the requested MMPA authorization and agency responses will be summarized in the final notice of our decision." 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." Marine mammals that may be affected in Barnegat Bay include: the North Atlantic right whale; six other whale varieties, including the humpback; four dolphin types; three seal species; and the Harbor porpoise. **Comments are due to NMFS by 9/8/2025.** The NMFS notice, which includes instructions for making comments, is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/4snmfr6m>. Also see the article on [p. 18](#).

Rally to Stop the NESE Pipeline Project!

9/9/2025, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Port Monmouth, NJ - In-person

This rally is sponsored by EmpowerNJ, a coalition of which **UUFANJ is a member**. "The Williams Companies is once again seeking permission to build a gas pipeline through the Raritan Bay - The proposal also calls for a dangerous compressor station in Somerset County and new pipeline in Middlesex County.... We need Governor Murphy and his [NJ] Department of Environmental Protection [DEP] to deny the critical water quality permits that are required for this project to

proceed, so this rally will take place the day before the DEP's one and only public hearing, to raise awareness and draw attention to this fight." Additional information and the link to RSVP are available here: <https://actionnetwork.org/events/rally-to-stop-the-nese-pipeline-project>. Also see information about the DEP public hearing and comments notice [below](#), the related National Marine Fisheries Service comments notice in the [previous column](#), and the article on [p. 18](#).

NJDEP Public Hearing on Transco – Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (NESE)

9/10/2025, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- Virtual

On 7/16/2025, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) declared the Williams Companies' Transco's Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) Project land use application administratively complete. The DEP has scheduled a fact-finding hearing for the public to provide testimony regarding the proposed project (there will be no question and answer session by DEP). The project proposes: Construction of a new gas-powered compressor station in Franklin Township near Trap Rock Quarry; 3.5 miles of new connecting pipeline through Old Bridge; and 23 miles of new pipeline under the Raritan Bay/New York Harbor. This project was previously dormant, but has been revived. Past opposition, including by the Sierra Club NJ, has pointed out that it will exacerbate flooding, cause extreme harm to clean air and water quality, freshwater wetlands, wildlife habitat, and the local economy of bayshore communities that rely on the Raritan and New York Bays for their livelihoods. Information about joining the public hearing and pre-registering is available here (near the bottom of the webpage): <https://dep.nj.gov/nese>, as well as additional information about the project and information about how to provide comments. It isn't necessary to pre-register, but those who complete the pre-registration form will be called first to testify. **Written comments are due by 9/24/2025.** Also see the Rally notice in the [previous column](#) and the Transco NESE request to the National Marine Fisheries Service to "take" marine mammals in the [previous column](#), for which comments are due 9/8/2025.

**NJ RGGI Strategic Funding Plan Scoping
Document for 2026–2028
Stakeholder Meetings
Various Dates and Times - Online**

From the news release: "The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Board of Public Utilities (BPU), and Economic Development Authority (EDA) are pleased to announce the release of the Scoping Document for the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) Strategic Funding Plan: 2026–2028 [available here: <https://nj.gov/rggi/docs/rggi-scoping-document.pdf>]." The scoping document outlines nine initiatives for potential funding using proceeds from RGGI auctions. The agencies have planned four public stakeholder meetings in August and September of 2025 to present the proposed initiatives and gather public input. Following the public engagement process and consideration of stakeholder feedback, the final 2026–2028 Strategic Funding Plan will be published in Fall 2025.

The Public Meeting Schedule is as follows:

[#1: took place 8/21/2025 and provided a high-level summary of all proposed initiatives. More detailed discussions will take place in subsequent meetings.]

#2: 9/8/2025, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Topic: Clean Transportation & Carbon Sequestration | Hosted by DEP

Focusing on:

- Initiative 1: Catalyze Clean, Equitable Transportation
- Initiative 3: Promote Blue Carbon in Coastal Habitats
- Initiative 4: Strengthen New Jersey's Forests

#3: 9/9/2025, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Topic: Clean Manufacturing, Energy Infrastructure & Green Bank | Hosted by EDA

Focusing on:

- Initiative 5: Sustain and Grow the New Jersey Green Bank
- Initiative 7: Expand Clean Energy Generation, Transmission, Storage, and Grid Resilience
- Initiative 8: Mobilize Clean Manufacturing and Industry

Initiative 9: Enhance the Clean Energy Supply Chain, Workforce, and Technology Development

#4: 9/10/2025, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Topic: Building Decarbonization & Ratepayer Relief | Hosted by EDA and BPU

Focusing on:

- Initiative 2: Accelerate Healthy Homes and Building Decarbonization
- Initiative 6: Supplement Ratepayer Relief

In addition to participating in webinars, stakeholders are encouraged to provide feedback via an online comment form (link provided below). The agencies welcome comments on the proposed initiatives and general comments about the upcoming plan. **The comment form will be open for thirty days, starting 8/18/2025, ending 9/17/2025.** Links to the Scoping Document, webinars registration, and the comment form are available here: <https://www.nj.gov/rggi/engage.html>.

**Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC)
Third Quarter 2025 Business Meeting
9/10/2025, 10:30 a.m. - Virtual**

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) will hold its third-quarter business meeting on Wednesday, 9/10/2025. The business meeting is open to the public and will be held virtually via Zoom Webinar. A livestream via the DRBC's YouTube channel will also be offered. After all scheduled business has been completed and as time allows, the Business Meeting may be followed by up to one hour of Open Public Comment. This is an opportunity to address the Commission on any topic concerning management of the Basin's water resources outside the context of a duly noticed, on-the-record public hearing. To provide open public comment, you must register for the Zoom Webinar by 5:00 p.m. on 9/9/2025 and note in your registration that you wish to provide open public comment (you cannot provide comment if watching on YouTube). Additional information, including a link to the agenda, a link to register for the Zoom webinar and to register to provide public comment, and a link to the YouTube livestream, are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/3mx7cvnc>.

**11th CEEJH Environmental Justice
Symposium: "The People's Agenda:
Resistance, Resilience, and Restoration"**
9/10/2025 - 9/13/2025 - Hybrid
All days available virtually
9/11, 9/12, and 9/13 also In-person
Baltimore, MD

Community Engagement Environmental Justice & Health (CEEJH) is presenting its 11th Environmental Justice Symposium, "The People's Agenda: Resistance, Resilience, and Restoration." "The 11th Annual Environmental Justice and Health Disparities Symposium is a landmark event that brings together community leaders, experts, and activists dedicated to advancing environmental justice and addressing health disparities. Now operating as a grassroots nonprofit, CEEJH INC is proud to present this transformative symposium – an immersive, hybrid experience designed to spark dialogue, share innovative solutions, and INpower communities in the face of environmental challenges." Pre-recorded Pre-symposium sessions will also be available to registrants on 9/9/2025 and for 3 months after the Symposium. Additional information, including the agenda and information about keynote speakers, and registration links (**\$100 + \$7.40 fee for Virtual Only; single days in-person = \$85 + \$6.49 fee; full access = \$250 + \$16.52 fee**) are available here: <https://ceejh.org/11th-annual-environmental-justice-health-disparities-symposium>.

NJ Community Forestry Council
9/11/2025, 10:00 a.m. - Hybrid
Jackson, NJ - In-person & Online

"The NJ Community Forestry Council (Council) to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is comprised of members appointed by the State Forester, with expertise or interest in trees, forestry, or tree or forest management, maintenance, or care. The Council advises the State Forester, the Division of Parks and Forestry and the DEP.... in promoting, supporting and advancing healthy, safe and sustainable urban and community forests in New Jersey." The meeting agenda will deal with implementing the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act, the No Net Loss Reforestation Act, and issues concerning

urban and community forestry and the forest and tree resources. Links to additional information, including how to join virtually, are available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/event/nj-community-forestry-council-7>.

**"Climate and Environmental Advocacy in
These Times"**
9/11/2025, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Montclair, NJ - In-person

This event is organized by the Gateway Group of the Sierra Club NJ. "Nationally recognized waterfront and climate activist, Vivien Li, will speak about 'Climate and Environmental Action in These Times.'" Additional information and the link to RSVP are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/msbpufd3>.

**"Demystifying AI-Powered Militarization
and its Social and Ecological
Consequences"**
9/11/2025, 8:00 p.m. - Online

This webinar, sponsored by Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC), will be 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 will explain the nuances of AI technology – what it can and cannot do – and its interaction with existing social systems." Additional information and the link to register are available here: <https://uujec.org/webinars>.

**"Observing Nature: Inward and Outward" -
NJ School of Conservation (NJSOC)**
Identical Program offered on 2 dates:
9/13/2025, 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
9/14/2025, 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Sandyston, NJ - In-person

"Free yourself from your mental gerbil wheel and experience the peace and focus that come from simply being present! In 'Observing Nature: Inward and Outward,' you'll learn how to still your

mind, open your heart, open your eyes, and open your higher senses to take in what is going on within and around you at all times.... This program is designed for ages 12* to adult (*children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult), and no prior experience is required – just a love of nature and learning. Instructor-led activities will include simple, yet powerful, mindfulness techniques, deep relaxation instruction, nature observation walks (some silent), private journaling, and cell phone nature photography.... we are offering two single-day sessions on back-to-back days: Saturday, September 13th and Sunday, September 14th. You need only register for one date (although you are welcome to register for both days if you wish!). This popular program is led by Peter Del Vecchio, using his training and life experiences as both a keen observer of the natural world and yogic mindfulness guide." Additional information, including a registration link for each of the days (**\$99.00 each**), is available here: <https://njsoc.org/event/observing-nature-inward-and-outward-5>.

"Bike For EJ"
9/14/2025, 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Newark - Elizabeth, NJ

This event is sponsored by **EJTF partners** NJ Environmental Justice Alliance (NJEJA), Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC) and the NJ Bike & Walk Coalition. "Join Us As We Bike For EJ - As we take in fresh air, we'll bike through Newark to Elizabeth and back to see more of our neighborhood, share space with our community members, and wear portable air monitors to track what's in our air. At the end of our ride, we'll have snacks and materials available for more conversation and learning. Register today to ride with us! All riders welcome, no experience required." Additional information and the registration link are available here: <https://njeja.org/event/bike-for-ej>.

"Changing Human Behavior to Secure Conservation Outcomes" - Webinar
9/16/2025, 10:00 a.m.

This webinar is hosted by OCTO (Open Communications for The Ocean) and will be 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 will explore 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 will discuss 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." Registration is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/3d87bzbdd>.

PSE&G's Electric Vehicle Charging Programs Webinar
9/16/2025, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

"Join the Sustainable Jersey Energy Team and Nicole Craig, PSE&G's Support Manager for Electric Vehicle Programs, for an informative webinar on electric vehicle initiatives.... Learn how PSE&G's programs support municipalities, school districts, residents, and the broader community in making the transition to electric vehicles. And discover available incentives, resources, and strategies to help your community drive toward a more sustainable future!" Additional information and the link to register are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/yc6bmhdd>.

Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station License Termination Plan
U.S. NRC Public Meeting
9/17/2025, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Forked River, NJ - In-person and Online

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is holding a public meeting on the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station License Termination Plan. "This is a Comment-Gathering Meeting. The purpose of this meeting is for NRC staff to.... describe the license termination process and the NRC's review of the License Termination Plan for

the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station, and to request public comment. Approval and implementation of the License Termination Plan is required for the decommissioning of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station for license termination." Additional information including links to relevant documents, and instructions for accessing the online meeting, are available here: <https://www.nrc.gov/pmns/mtg?do=details&Code=20251020>. The agenda is available here: <https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML25227A031>. **Written comments are due by 10/14/2025.**

"UUA Strategies to Advance Climate Justice" - Webinar
9/17/2025, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

This webinar is presented by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Side with Love as one of its Green Sanctuary 2030 Community Meetings. Rev. Dr. Sofía Betancourt's UU Climate Justice Working Group "was established to identify where our faith calls us to lead, beyond narrowly defined 'net zero' goals towards equitable decarbonization, community resilience, and a just transition from fossil fuels to a clean energy future. Join Mathew Jensen, UUA Senior Investment Officer, and Rachel Myslivy, UUA Climate Justice Strategist, to learn about the Working Group's Draft Commitments for Culture and Resources." Additional information and the link to register are available here: https://secure.everyaction.com/epEE-Ze-IOiFzAAI3_soag2.

"FutureFEST: Climate Reimagined"
Youth Climate Justice Convening
9/20/2025, 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Union, NJ - In-person

"FutureFEST Climate Reimagined is NJEJA's [EJTF partner NJ Environmental Justice Alliance] first annual youth climate justice convening.... This intergenerational gathering is led by Gen Z climate activists from across New Jersey and designed to inspire, activate, and connect youth and allies in the fight for climate and environmental justice. Participants will engage in: Youth-led trainings; Organizing skill-shares; Climate-focused art, fashion, and culture; and Hands-on activities on composting, textile justice, clean beauty, and more. This FREE event is geared toward high

school and college students. The event centers communities overburdened by environmental harm and aims to uplift youth voices as leaders in shaping a sustainable, just future." Pre-registration is required - additional information and the link to register are available here: <https://njeja.org/event/futurefest-climate-reimagined>.

"Make Billionaires Pay" Rally and March
9/20/2025, Time TBA
New York, NY (exact location TBA)

"On September 20th world leaders will be gathering in New York City for the UN General Assembly and Climate Week.... Simultaneous actions will happen around the world on 9/20 as part of the international mobilizations for climate justice entitled Draw the Line.... We are uniting across the world to demand a better future for our communities and for all living beings. We're calling for non-violent protests across the US and a mass march in New York City.... We believe these protests need to be happening at an ever increasing rate and that these mass mobilizations should be the starting point for community organizing." The rally and march focuses on billionaires, who Candice Fortin, US campaign manager for climate action organization 350.org, said "are the connective tissue that links together the major problems currently facing the United States and the world." Organizers of the rally and march have said that "these planned actions will focus on advocating for taxing extreme wealth, ending Trump's mass deportation program, and transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy." Additional information is available here: <https://www.makebillionairespay.us>

GreenFaith - Faiths4ClimateJustice:
"Sun Day"

"Shine a Light for Climate Justice"
Events 9/19/2025 - 9/21/2025
Various locations and times - In-person

The NJ GreenFaith - Faiths4ClimateJustice "Sun Day" "Shine a Light for Climate Justice" events are **co-sponsored by UUFANJ**. "On September 19-21, people around the United States will join together to launch a bold new chapter in the fight for climate justice. Sun Day is a day to sound the call to solar and renewable energy. As people of faith, we know that fossil fuels are no longer the

way to go." Additional information is available here: <https://greenfaith.org/faiths-4-climate-justice-sun-day> and additional events can be found on the map available here: https://actionnetwork.org/event_campaigns/gf-sunday.

Here are some of the listed events:

Montclair Sun Day: Clean Energy Fair 9/20/2025, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Montclair, NJ - In-person

Clean Energy Fair with speakers, information tables and exhibits. Learn about heat pumps, sign up to get active with a climate action group, and more. Additional information is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/4cd7nwth>. Information about additional Montclair "Sun Day" events from 9/19/2025 - 9/21/2025 is available here: <https://montclairgateway.org/montclair-sun-day-events>.

Sun Day, Rutgers Agrivoltaics Program Site Tour (Animal Farm) 9/21/2025, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. New Brunswick, NJ - In-person

This agrivoltaics site was designed to study pasture forage production and animal grazing patterns in combination with vertical bifacial solar panels. The rows of solar panels are oriented North-South and the panels are arranged in a fixed vertical orientation to collect energy while allowing for larger farming equipment to pass between the rows and for reducing the row-to-row shading. Additional information about the site is available here: <https://agrivoltaics.rutgers.edu/projects/project-sites/animal-farm>, and information about the site tour, including the links to RSVP and to a map, is available here: <https://agrivoltaics.rutgers.edu/event/rutgers-agrivoltaics-tours-for-sun-day-september-21st-at-rarec-and-animal-farm>.

Sun Day, Rutgers Agrivoltaics Program Site Tour (RAREC) 9/21/2025, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Bridgeton, NJ - In-person

This Rutgers Agricultural Research and Extension Center (RAREC) agrivoltaics site was designed to study the performance of specialty and agronomic crops under single-axis tracker arrays. The rows

are oriented North-South and the panels track the sun from sunrise to sunset to increase energy collection and provide more uniform shading conditions. Additional information about the site is available here

<https://agrivoltaics.rutgers.edu/projects/project-sites/rarec> and information about the site tour, including the links to RSVP and to a map, is available here:

<https://agrivoltaics.rutgers.edu/event/rutgers-agrivoltaics-tours-for-sun-day-september-21st-at-rarec-and-animal-farm>.

Snorkel March for Clean Energy 9/21/2025, 11:00 a.m. - In-person 191 Flanagan Way, Secaucus, NJ

"Church of Our Saviour is in Secaucus, a community which already suffers from some flooding monthly around the full moon high tides due to sea level rise. Our town will be largely underwater in the future if there's not a fast phase-out of fossil fuels and a clean energy upsurge. Wearing snorkel masks and carrying signs, we'll march from Church of Our Saviour to a local solar installation, calling for our mayor to press NJ's next governor to be a strong climate leader - or we'll be underwater! Join us!" For additional information contact fletcher@greenfaith.org.

Drive Electric Month & Showcase in Mantua, NJ - In-Person 9/21/2025, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

This event is hosted by Tri County Sustainability, the New Jersey Electric Vehicle Association, and the South Jersey Electric Vehicle Club. "Join us at New Jersey's newest Museum, the Edelman Fossil Park of Rowan University as we celebrate their commitment to sustainability!.... We'll be showing several models of Electric Vehicles [EVs] and telling our stories of making the switch to electric powered driving. Learn about the benefits of switching to an EV, and even see how easy public charging is with the Museum's ... charging stations ... that are open to the public." Additional information and the link to register to bring your EV are available here: <https://driveelectricmonth.org/event?eventid=4972>.

**Multi-State Technical Conference
on PJM Interconnection and Governance
Reform**

**9/23/2025, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Philadelphia, PA - In-person**

"The states of Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia served by PJM Interconnection LLC (PJM) give notice of a multi-state technical conference regarding regional involvement in PJM wholesale market design and implementation to enhance accountability and transparency to state ratepayers. As PJM grapples with and as states confront the cost crisis in the wholesale market and the need for responsive regional planning that adapts to new transformative system conditions including a changing resource mix, new and improved grid technologies, extreme weather events, supply chain and interconnection disruptions, and other conditions, reform is necessary to bolster states' ability to engage to ensure the safe, affordable, and reliable delivery of electricity to consumers. The purpose of this technical conference is to initiate a public process that considers necessary organizational and mission changes in PJM governance to establish an active participatory role for member states and jurisdictions." Additional information, including links to the agenda and to register, is available here:

<https://app.smartsuite.com/form/s4ibn4qz/lzhgzSLsD5>.

**Option Green: "Poisoning the Well"
- Hybrid**

**9/24/2025, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
East Brunswick, NJ - In-person & via Zoom**

"Join East Brunswick native and author Sharon Udasin for a discussion on her book, 'Poisoning the Well: How Forever Chemicals Contaminated America.' The book is the shocking true-life story of how PFAS - a set of toxic chemicals most people have never heard of - poisoned the entire country. We learn that PFAS, the 'forever chemicals' found in everyday products, from cooking pans to mascara, are coursing through the veins of 97% of Americans. We witness the pain of families who lost sisters and daughters, cousins, and neighbors, after PFAS leached into their drinking water. We discover evidence that the makers of forever

chemicals may have known for decades about the deadly risks of their product - because their own scientists have been documenting these dangers since the 1960s." 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-poisoning-well-hybrid/2025-09-24-230000-2025-09-25-003000>.

**"Artificial Intelligence: Implications for
Energy and the Environment" - Webinar
9/25/2025, 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

"The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) invites you to a briefing discussing the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI) and climate change in federal policy-making. While AI can aid in climate resilience and boost economic competitiveness, it is also on a trajectory to increase energy demand, greenhouse gas emissions, and water usage.... Panelists will discuss the massive energy and water needs of data centers that run AI algorithms. They will also lay out how the technology is already being put to use - from precision agriculture to resilient grid infrastructure and improved weather forecasting. The briefing will highlight the frontiers of AI, including the federal government's role in research and development at the Department of Energy's National Laboratories, and will explore Congress's role in aligning the rapid rise of AI development and usage with global goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate impacts." Additional information and the links to join the livecast and to RSVP are available here: <https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/092525ai>.

**Alliance for New Jersey Environmental
Education (ANJEE) - 9th Annual Autumn
Outdoor Conference: "Forward Together"
9/26/2025, 8:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.
Somerset, NJ - In-person**

The Alliance for NJ Environmental Education (ANJEE) is presenting an all-day Autumn Outdoor Conference for formal and non-formal educators at Camp Oak Spring in Somerset, NJ. There will be

four workshop strands: "Educating for a Changing Climate"; "Connecting with Nature"; "Conservation and Environmental Education"; and "Building Leadership in Environmental Education." Additional information, including the agenda, descriptions of workshops, and the link to register (**ANJEE Member Attendee - \$120; Non-Member Attendee - \$160**) is available here: <https://anjee.org/autumn-conference.html>.

National Drive Electric Month at GreenFest Newark - In-person
9/27/2025, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The NJ Electric Vehicle Association (NJEVA) and Newark Green Team have joined forces to bring an EV show to GreenFest Newark. "GreenFest Newark seeks to inspire and empower Newark's residents, businesses and visitors to live, work and play green. Each year we're striving to make our event the most sustainable it can be. GreenFest Newark 2025 is Newark's FREE green fair featuring: Food! Fun! Music! Healthy Food Demos! Eco-friendly products! Interactive Exhibits & Workshops Sustainable vendors! Kid-Friendly Fun! & much more!" Additional information, including a link to GreenFest and the link to register to bring your EV, is available here: <https://driveelectricmonth.org/event?eventid=4939>.

2025 Garden State Conference on Food Security: "Setting a Table for All, for Always" - Hybrid
9/29/2025, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Mount Laurel Township, NJ - In-person & Livestreamed

This is the second annual statewide conference presented by the NJ Office of the Food Security Advocate (OFSA). "the event welcomes resident leaders and community advocates, mission-driven service providers, growers and food producers, government and philanthropic representatives, social workers, school administrators, healthy aging advocates, charitable food organizations and other regional partners striving to put nourishing food within closer reach of everyone, every day – regardless of their age, income level, dietary

needs, access to transportation or which community they call home." Additional information and the link to register (in-person registration by 9/12/2025) are available here: <https://www.nj.gov/foodsecurity/our-work/annual-conference>.

Strategic Plan for Food Security in New Jersey - Overview & Feedback Form (Feedback available for a Limited time)

The NJ Office of the Food Security Advocate (OFSA) "is tasked with a legislative mandate to develop a strategic plan that addresses identified resource and service gaps in areas that are underserved by current food security programs. In 2024, OFSA formally began its processes for developing a comprehensive statewide strategic plan for food security across the six dimensions. The Office is working with community partners and State colleagues to organize focus areas for these strategies, gather input and share with decision-makers in Trenton." A preview of the Strategic Plan overview and methodology are now available, and feedback is invited (for a limited time). Additional information and the links to the overview and to share feedback are available here: <https://www.nj.gov/foodsecurity/food-security/stategic-plan/index.shtml>.

City of Paterson EJ NJDEP Community Engagement Session - Hybrid
9/30/2025, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Paterson, NJ - In-person & on Zoom

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is partnering with Paterson Alliance to hold the Paterson Environmental Justice Community Engagement Session. From the DEP Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) news release: "DEP Commissioner Shawn LaTourette and DEP Office of Environmental Justice Director Kandyce Perry will meet with residents in Paterson's overburdened communities to discuss environmental justice concerns, share resources, and answer questions. Member organizations of Paterson Alliance's newly established Environmental Justice Working Group will highlight efforts to address environmental justice issues locally, and how residents can get involved." Registration is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/y565f59j>.

REPAIR CAFE

YOUR BROKEN ITEMS FIXED FOR FREE!

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

The "Repair Cafe Garden State" website (available here: <https://www.repaircafegs.org>) states: "Why throw away broken items? A simple fix may make them good as new, and keep them from filling our landfills. Sustainability can be taught while building social bonds within our communities at every Repair Cafe event." **The website includes a calendar of most Repair Cafe events in NJ in the coming months.** Events taking place in September, with links for information, are shown below:

Jersey City, NJ Repair Cafe

9/14/2025, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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

Summit, NJ Repair Cafe

9/27/2025, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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

UU Ministry for Earth Community Read 2025-26 "What If We Get It Right?" Last Tuesday of the month, 9 sessions #1: 9/30/2025, 7:45 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Online

The UU Ministry for Earth (UUMFE) 2025-26 Community Read begins in September and extends for 9 months, with online meetings on the last Tuesday of the month through May 2026. The book they will be reading is "What if We Get it Right? - Visions of Climate Futures" (WIWGIR) by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson. "UUMFE was inspired to choose WIWGIR because of so many reasons. The key and core reason for this book is our belief that Dr. Ayanna Elizabeth Johnson's message is medicine for our time. Dr. Johnson's book invites us to 'Meet the Moment,' to borrow a phrase from the 2025 UUA General Assembly, with hope, fortitude, and resilience, dreaming the world we wish for into being. In a time of climate chaos and

increasing global environmental despair, what if we choose to believe that we can persevere? From this vantage point, WIWGIR leads us into the future with clarity, focus, connection, creativity, and even... Joy." This was a NY Times bestseller and on the list of the Smithsonian's Ten Best Science Books of 2024. Additional information, including the topic for each month's discussion and the link to sign up to join the UUMFE Community Read group email list, is available here: <https://www.uumfe.org/community-read-2025-26>.

Save the Dates!

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 (**\$275 for each single day; \$475 for both days; registration after 9/15/2025 subject to \$75 Late/Walk-in additional fee**), is available here: <https://njstf.org/annual-conference>.

UUFANJ Fall Issues Conference
"Meet the Moment" - Hybrid
10/18/2025, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 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. – 3 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 will be available here:

<https://www.uufaithaction.org/event/issues-conference-2025>.

The 13th Annual Delaware River Watershed Forum

10/23/2025, Time TBA
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." Registration will launch 9/2/2025 - check the website here:

<https://www.delriverwatershed.org/2025-forum>.

VIDEOS+ OF PAST EVENTS

Eco-Logic Radio Show: "CO2 Pipelines - False Solution"
- 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**). "Pipeline activism has been successful enough that pipeline companies feel a need to greenwash their environmental destruction. While they claim CO2 pipelines are to sequester carbon, that is greenwashing. Most of the carbon dioxide is actually used for 'enhanced oil recovery'. The CO2 is liquefied before going into the pipeline, as is LNG (liquefied natural gas), which takes a lot of energy, so the pipelines contribute to global-warming greenhouse gases in two ways, in the liquefaction process and the extraction process." Although CO2 pipelines are now most common in the Midwest, there are proposals for 90,000 miles of pipelines, stretching up the East Coast and elsewhere. The recording is available here: <https://www.wbai.org/archive/program/episode/?id=59815>. 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>.

NJBPU Resource Adequacy Technical Conference - Video of Conference

The NJ Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) held a "Resource Adequacy Technical Conference" with the following goals: "to help: 1) plan for future load growth while maintaining resource adequacy; 2) identify any remaining barriers to achieving Resource Adequacy with a balanced mix of resources; 3) examine and evaluate the potential impacts of the Regional Wholesale Electricity Markets on ratepayers; 4) evaluate alternatives to the PJM capacity market; and 5) identify potential paths forward in achieving long-term Resource Adequacy within the state of New Jersey. The Technical Conference [involved] a presentation on the basics of Resource Adequacy, as well as actions taken by the NJBPU since the last Resource Adequacy Technical Conference [in 2020]." The presentation was followed by three

panels, each one focused on separate topics. The 7-hour video of the technical conference is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DNHHk4pmbmQ>.

AFL-CIO Labor in the Pulpit Program: Labor's Outreach to the Faith Community - Video of Webinar

This webinar was sponsored by Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC) and was presented by Rev. Dr. Michael Szpak, the Religion-Labor Coordinator in the AFL-CIO Civil, Human and Women's Rights Department based in Washington, DC. "The Labor Day holiday season provides a unique opportunity for the faith community and organized labor to rediscover their common bonds: social justice, democracy, equality, the dignity of all people, economic and racial justice, fair treatment in the workplace and the right to form unions. It is also a time to reflect on the current condition of working people and reaffirm the commitment of the faith community to worker justice at this very challenging time. This webinar [presented]: 1- the AFL-CIO Labor in the Pulpit program as labor's outreach to the faith community. 2- ... the structure of the AFL-CIO federated bodies: state federations, central labor councils and area labor federations.... 3- [how] the Labor in the Pulpit program places union leaders as guest speakers in faith congregations to speak about the relationship between faith and labor. The webinar [discussed] how intentional follow up with labor after the presentation through the central labor council is a way to build on-going relationships between faith and labor that can go beyond the local congregation." The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y2TMqIXyWOA>.

"Nuclear Power Unaffordable at Any Size" Plus "Nuclear Weapons in the New Cold War" - Video of Webinar

This webinar, sponsored by Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC), was presented by Lloyd Marbet, Cathy Chudy and David Delk. Cathy and Lloyd spoke on why nuclear energy is not a clean energy solution to the climate crises. Their presentation also covered implications of regulatory oversight changes, as well as the convergence of data centers, AI and

nuclear power. David Delk spoke about the present status of nuclear weapons as we move closer each year to Midnight on the Doomsday clock, how nuclear weapons modernization makes us more insecure, and how the costs associated with modernization moves resources from funding real human needs. He also explored federal legislation which addresses nuclear weapons, including legislation which tells federal government officials to sign the new international treaty to eliminate nuclear weapons, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The video is available here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hoM8AKYN_mc.

2025 Congressional Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency EXPO and Policy Forum - Videos of Sessions and of Remarks by Members of Congress

"The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) and the House and Senate Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (REEE) Caucuses [held] the 28th Annual Congressional Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency EXPO and Policy Forum (EXPO 2025). Top-level speakers [showcased] technologies and solutions that reduce carbon emissions, save households money, improve the economy, build resilience, and protect our security interests." Videos of remarks by Members of Congress and of the Policy Forums (listed below) are available here:

<https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/expo2025>.

Policy Forum Panel 1 – Smart Home, Green Home
Policy Forum Panel 2 – Clean Energy Means
Business

Policy Forum Panel 3 – Meeting Energy Demand

Policy Forum Panel 4 – Next-Generation
Generation

Policy Forum Panel 5 – Building Resilience and
Comfort

Policy Forum Panel 6 – Rural Energy

Policy Forum Panel 7 – Transportation and Mobility

Policy Forum Panel 8 – Securing America's Energy
Supply

"How Does Extreme Heat Threaten NJ's Natural World?" - Video of Webinar

NJ's Interagency Council on Climate Resilience hosted a webinar "featuring a panel of ecology and

natural resource experts to discuss the impact that extreme heat has on NJ's ecosystems and natural spaces, specifically plants and wildlife, terrestrial and marine ecosystems, disease carrying vectors, and natural resources." The moderator was Terry Doss, CERP, Co-Director & Chief Restoration Scientist, Meadowlands Research & Restoration Institute, New Jersey Sports & Exposition Authority, and panelists were: Dr. Samir Patel, Senior Research Biologist, Coonamessett Farm Foundation; Dr. Jennifer Krumins, Science Director, Pinelands Preservation Alliance; and Dr. Dina Fonseca, Chair, Department of Entomology, Rutgers University. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S7yIH0e53Hk&list=PLpTE5tP4yTvG2zvc6ljDhmsIZDJwhwXzh&index=8>.

Pinelands Webinar Series - "Plastic in the Pines: The Case Against Artificial Turf in South Jersey" - 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." This webinar focused on artificial turf: "Artificial turf may look green, but it's actually a costly, plastic-laden threat to our health, environment, and budgets.... In this webinar, we [uncovered] the hidden dangers of synthetic sports fields, ranging from microplastic pollution to soaring surface temperatures and long-term waste. [Participants learned] why properly managed natural grass is the safer, more sustainable choice - and how your community can push for a return to real grass fields." The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ujUF3oS325s>.

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 August 2025 included a Guest Presentation of an overview of the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green building certification program, and how it fits into NJ's New Construction Program (NCP) as a proxy certification for non-residential buildings. The video is available here:

<https://tinyurl.com/2w27x9pd>; the Guest

Presentation begins at minute 00:39:00. Slides from the webinar are available here:

<https://tinyurl.com/u39u4hz7>.

NEWS RELATED TO EJTF ISSUES [covering 7/26/2025 – 8/25/2025]

GREEN AMENDMENT

Green Rights: Environmentalists Host Camden Meeting to Add Support for Constitutional Amendment

The Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) sponsored an informational Green Amendment "Town Hall" meeting in Camden, NJ, featuring "Green Amendments for the Generations" author, advocate, and founder Maya K. van Rossum. This article describes the Town Hall, the importance of a Green Amendment, its progress in NJ and its legislative sponsors. Camden County's Board of Commissioners subsequently unanimously adopted a resolution supporting the Green Amendment.

https://www.70and73.com/news/green-rights-environmentalists-host-camden-meeting-to-add-support-for-constitutional-amendment/article_697c9b12-7be6-4c77-ba81-a2d21aff99e9.html

FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE

Revived Natural Gas Pipeline Plan Includes Major Disturbances in Raritan Bay

One aspect of the newly-revived Williams - Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) Project expansion involves a natural gas pipeline under Raritan Bay. As part of the approval process for that pipeline, Transco has applied to the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for authorization to "take" marine mammals incidental to the project. "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." Marine mammals that may be affected in Barnegat Bay include: the North Atlantic right

whale; six other whale varieties, including the humpback; four dolphin types; three seal species; and the Harbor porpoise. Comments on the Transco request are due to NMFS by 9/8/2025 (see "Future Activities" on [p. 7](#)).

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/08/developer-revives-transco-natural-gas-pipeline-extension-could-harm-wildlife>

RENEWABLE RESOURCES (other than Offshore Wind)

Solar Industry Under Strain in Second Trump Presidency

This article describes the potential negative impacts to NJ's solar industry from planned elimination of federal tax credits and termination of the federal "Solar for All" program (also see the news video [below](#)).

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/08/once-growing-solar-industry-under-strain-facing-trump-and-republican-hostility>

Battle Brewing After EPA Eliminates Solar Funding

This 5-1/2-minute news video includes U.S. Representative Frank Pallone and NJ Assemblyman Robert Karabinchak reacting to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) stated termination of the federal "Solar for All" program, under which NJ was to receive \$156 million. Entities including the Southern Environmental Law Center are threatening to sue.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/legal-battle-epa-eliminates-funding-solar-program>

Opinion: Cut Red Tape and Lower New Jerseyans' Energy Costs To Reduce NJ Utility Bills, Boost Rooftop Solar

In this opinion piece by NJ Senator John McKeon and NJ Assemblyman Robert Karabinchak, they tout the bill (S4100/A5264) that would require the establishment of an "automated platform to expedite construction code approval of applications to install residential solar energy systems." They state that the bill, which has passed both houses of the legislature, would address the issue of the "burdensome permitting

red tape that drives up installation costs and leads to more than 1 in 5 projects getting canceled."

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/08/how-gov-phil-murphy-can-help-cut-solar-battery-red-tape-lower-nj-energy-costs/>



OFFSHORE WIND

NJ Delays Offshore Wind Infrastructure, Cancels Approval for Atlantic Shores Project

The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) has delayed, by more than two years, a series of construction projects for onshore facilities needed to feed offshore wind energy into the regional electrical grid. This is in response to federal actions blocking offshore wind development, including rescinding designated offshore wind areas (see the article [below](#)). The BPU has stated that this delay will save ratepayers money in the short term. In addition, as requested by the Atlantic Shores Project developer, the BPU has canceled its approval of that project. Environmental advocate groups such as the NJ League of Conservation Voters (NJLCV) will continue fighting for the ultimate development of offshore wind.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/08/nj-delays-offshore-wind-infrastructure-after-trump-blocks-development>

Trump Administration Cancels Plans for New Wind Energy Projects in Federal Waters

The U.S. Bureau of Ocean Management (BOEM) has rescinded all designated Wind Energy Areas (WEAs) on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).

According to *PBS News*, "The bureau said it was acting in accordance with Trump's action and an order by his interior secretary this week to end any preferential treatment toward wind and solar facilities, which were described as unreliable, foreign-controlled energy sources." In addition, BOEM has eliminated the requirement to publish a five-year schedule of offshore wind energy lease sales and to update the lease sale schedule every two years.

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/trump-administration-cancels-plans-for-new-wind-energy-projects-in-federal-waters>

LAND MANAGEMENT/ AGRICULTURE/FOOD

Gen Z Activists Lead Opposition to Residential Development Next to South Jersey Reserve

The headwaters of the Black Run Creek in Evesham Township, which are among the most pristine reaches of the Pinelands National Reserve and which are the key to keeping the Black Run Preserve ecologically intact, are under threat from developers who have plans to bulldoze around 800 acres of privately owned land in the Black Run headwaters and build up to 270 new homes. The potential development has led to a nationwide response from the Climate Revolution Action Network, which is a NJ organization run almost entirely by Gen Z advocates. The NJ Pinelands Commission has proposed amendments to the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) which, among other things, would severely restrict development in the Black Run headwaters by officially redesignating 2,440 acres of the watershed from "rural development" to "forest area." However, because of timing issues, the soonest the Pinelands Commission could approve the amendments is mid-October, and it is possible developers could get approval from Evesham Township before then. According to the Executive Director of the Climate Revolution Action Network, more than 100,000 letters opposing the development have been sent to NJ state and local officials from all corners of the United States, with the majority coming from people ages 18 to 28.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/08/gen-z-activists-lead-campaign-to-block-housing-development-next-to-black-run-preserve-pinelands/>.

Tariffs, Higher Food Prices Add to Pressures on Food Banks

This 4-1/2-minute news video describes the potential issues facing NJ food banks this year, emphasizing the impacts on CUMAC, Passaic County's largest food bank. Impacts range from a 2/3 reduction in funding from the NJ budget, to an anticipated reduction in "gleaned" food as grocery stores buy less due to tariffs, to an increase in need resulting from higher grocery costs and a reduction in federal benefits and SNAP payments.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/tariffs-higher-food-prices-add-to-pressures-on-food-banks/>

Countdown to Federal Cuts to School Lunches

Multiple factors may lead to fewer students accessing free school lunches. These include: expected declines in Medicaid and SNAP enrollment (which enables qualification for free school meals) due to new eligibility restrictions; a resulting decrease in schools qualifying for the federal "community eligibility provision," which allows them to offer free lunches to all students; the ending of the federal program that gave schools money to buy food from local farms and ranchers; and the hesitancy of some families to fill out necessary forms, due to concerns about immigration enforcement.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/08/when-trump-administration-cuts-are-expected-to-hit-free-school-lunch-access/>

South Jersey Highlights: The Center for Environmental Transformation in Camden

Presenting a more uplifting view of what local people are accomplishing, this article (by Staff Writer Jenalyz Serrata) from *South Jersey Climate News*, a student-driven news site with Rowan University undergraduates as staff writers, describes The Center for Environmental Transformation, "a non-profit organization dedicated to environmental transformation for the neighborhoods of Camden, New Jersey." The organization has an urban farm, which local elementary students spend one class per week in, and which has a Youth Farming Internship and a Youth Leadership Program. Among other activities,

the organization has a comprehensive Environmental Justice Program, and has also prepared a "Camden Coastal Resilience Plan" funded by a National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF) Community Capacity-Building Grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). <https://sjclimate.news/5593/features/south-jersey-highlights-the-center-for-environmental-transformation-in-camden>

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Revolution Action Network & New Jersey Assemblyman John Allen Lead Climate Strike

In Hoboken, NJ on 8/14/2025, over 200 participants took part in a "Climate Superfund Strike" rally led by legislative supporters of the NJ Climate Superfund Act (CSA) and the NJ organization "Climate Revolution Action Network," (CRAN) which has 10,000 Gen Z members and is run almost entirely by Gen Z advocates. Also taking part were state and local officials, a coalition of activists, citizens, faith groups, political parties, action committees, and unions. The bill is stalled in the legislature, and advocates are pushing for its immediate passage after the legislative recess. According to the Sierra Club NJ, "To date, a CRAN digital campaign has generated over 1.2 million letters to elected officials from concerned citizens, urging the CSA's passage. 46 NJ municipalities [now 47 - see the article on [p. 22](#)] have passed resolutions supporting the Climate Superfund Act. A coalition of 35 state, regional, and national entities co-sponsored the strike. 20 legislator supporters included Members of Congress (MOC), Mayors, County Executives and Commissioners, Councilpersons, Assembly Members, and State Senators (including the Majority Whip)." Lists of these supporters are provided in the press release, available here: <https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/blog/2025/08/climate-revolution-action-network-new-jersey-assemblyman-john-allen-lead>.

Murphy Administration Announces Availability of \$30 Million in Natural Climate Solutions Grants to Mitigate Carbon Emissions

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has announced the availability of the second round of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) funded Natural Climate Solutions Grants, which are designed to fund projects that "create, restore and enhance New Jersey's natural carbon sinks." The funding "supports natural solutions that sequester carbon through projects such as constructing living shorelines; restoring tidal wetlands, salt marshes, aquatic vegetation and forests; and improving urban tree canopies.... Grant amounts will range between \$250,000 and \$5 million, with each project spanning three to five years. The \$30 million total funding will be equally divided, with \$15 million specifically allocated for projects in New Jersey's coastal ecosystems (blue carbon projects) and \$15 million for projects that improve the health of forests (green carbon projects)."

https://dep.nj.gov/newsrel/25_0037



New Jersey Makes \$10 Million Available for More Towns to Participate in Regional Climate Resilience Planning

From the press release: "The Murphy Administration will make an additional \$10 million available for the Resilient NJ program to provide grants to groups of municipalities that develop plans to make their communities more resilient to climate impacts.... The Resilient NJ program, administered through [NJ Department of Environmental Protection's] Office of Climate Resilience, will use this round of funding to provide grants of up to \$300,000 to municipalities that

join with others to establish self-identified regions, and then work to develop regional Resilience Action Plans.... Resilience Action Plans are crafted to increase resilience, build local capacity, and allow local governments to address their unique needs. The plans also give municipalities an opportunity to identify and implement innovative regional solutions to address climate change-related risks, while enhancing the value and integrity of ecological, economic, recreational, and natural resources in their communities.... The \$10 million in funding is made available from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as part of the Building a Climate Ready NJ initiative, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)."

https://dep.nj.gov/newsrel/25_0039

Waiting for Federal Rule to Protect Workers From Dangerous Heat

This article describes the current state of federal workplace heat-related rules that have been in the works for years. NJ also has pending legislation related to extreme heat in workplaces, but it has been stalled since May of 2024; one reason cited is that NJ should wait for the federal regulations.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/07/waiting-for-federal-rule-to-protect-workers-from-dangerous-heat>

Plainfield City Council Passes Resolution in Support of Climate Superfund Act

The City of Plainfield joined 46 other NJ municipalities in passing a resolution supporting the Climate Superfund Act. The Plainfield City Council's approval was expected, as it follows a July "Make Polluters Pay" rally supporting the Act (for details about the rally and climate impacts on Plainfield, see the article here:

<https://www.tapinto.net/towns/plainfield/sections/government/articles/make-polluters-pay-elected-leaders-activists-demand-climate-legislation-in-plainfield>).

There had been two deadly storms in under two weeks in Plainfield, in which 4 people died, and the City had just approved an emergency allocation of up to \$5 million for expenditures related to storm damage, including to roads, sidewalks, bridges, and other public property and municipally-owned infrastructure. They even held a storm relief benefit concert. The City has lost \$5.6 million in

flood reduction aid due to federal budget cuts, leaving that burden to local governments. The Climate Superfund Act would hold the fossil fuel companies liable for their share of the cost of climate change damages.

<https://www.tapinto.net/towns/plainfield/sections/government/articles/plainfield-city-council-passes-resolution-in-support-of-climate-superfund-act>

Opinion: If New York Can Make Polluters Pay, New Jersey Can Too

This piece is by NJ Assemblyman John Allen and Ben Dziobek, the executive director of Climate Revolution Action Network, a Gen Z-led climate organization based in New Jersey. They describe the need for the Climate Superfund Act in NJ, and why it is stalled in the legislature. According to a recent poll (available here:

<https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Statara-NWF-New-Jersey-Climate-Superfund-Survey-Stakeholder-Polling-Report-1.pdf>) 68% of New Jerseyans support the Act. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/07/op-ed-nj-urgently-needs-a-climate-superfund-act-like-new-york/>

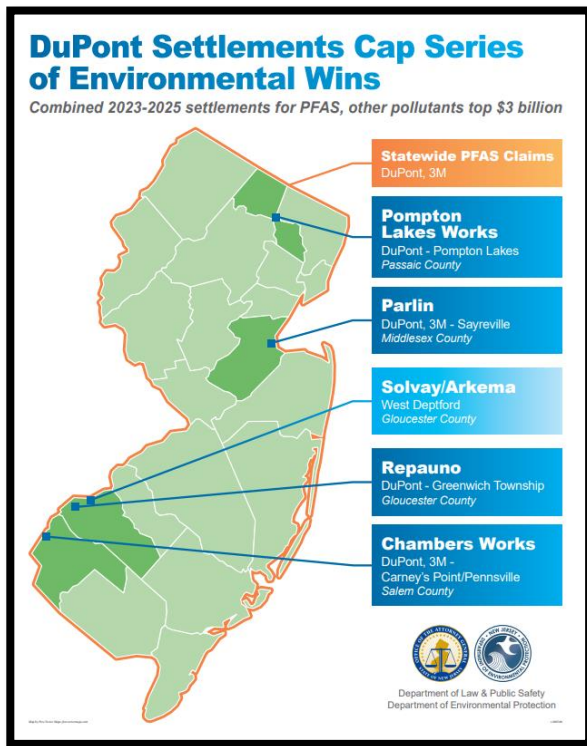
FOREST HEALTH/URBAN FORESTRY

Readington Afforestation Effort Gaining Momentum

Two years ago, the Township of Readington was awarded a NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) \$250,000 Natural Climate Solutions Grant. The grant program is aimed at creating, restoring, and enhancing New Jersey's green spaces and tree canopies in urban areas, salt marshes and forests. Known as the Readington Township Meadow Afforestation, the project is planting native species on selected open fields and meadows in Readington Township, returning these areas back to woodlands and reconnecting them with adjacent contiguous forests. The project has planted thousands of trees, ranging from 6-foot tall 7-gallon trees to tiny foot-and-a-half ones, which has not only kept costs lower, but helped the Township learn about the trees themselves, showing the difference in survivability of large plants versus small ones.

<https://www.tapinto.net/towns/flemington-slash-raritan/sections/green/articles/readington-afforestation-effort-gaining-momentum>

DRINKING WATER (other than lead)



AG Platkin, DEP Commissioner LaTourette: Landmark Settlement with DuPont Valued at Over \$2 Billion

From the press release: "Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette announced a groundbreaking environmental settlement, valued at over \$2 billion, to remedy long-standing contamination stemming from PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), also known as "forever chemicals," as well as other pollutants originating from four industrial sites. It is the largest environmental settlement ever achieved by a single state." The press release describes the settlement terms, history of the sites, and next steps, and includes links to the settlement itself, maps, photos, and explainer videos. It is available here: <https://www.njoag.gov/ag-platkin-dep-commissioner-latourette-landmark-settlement-with-dupont-valued-at-over-2-billion>. Also see the news video interview with DEP Commissioner LaTourette linked in the [next column](#).

NJ Reaches Historic \$2B Settlement With Dupont Over Decades of Pollution

In this 8-minute *NJ Spotlight News* video interview, NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner LaTourette describes the ins and outs of the landmark "\$2 billion settlement NJ just reached with DuPont and its entities over PFAS - or 'forever chemicals' - contamination at four industrial sites [see map in the [previous column](#)], the largest such state settlement ever agreed upon. DuPont de Nemours and Co. agreed to pay \$875 million of the total toward cleanup at the four sites where the chemicals were used in Teflon and other production. Approximately \$125 million of that total will be earmarked for damages as well. DuPont will create a \$1.2 billion fund to ensure no public money is used, including a \$475 million reserve fund in case of bankruptcy or missed payments. Payments will be made over 25 years. The state's litigation began in 2019 and was resolved after a month-long federal trial." See <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/nj-reaches-historic-2b-settlement-with-dupont-over-decades-of-pollution/>. Also see the article in the [previous column](#).)

NJDEP HAZSITE Ground Water Data Now Available in GIS

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Contaminated Site Remediation & Redevelopment (CSRR) program is pleased to announce that environmental ground water sampling data, referred to as HAZSITE data, are available in a GIS format for 23 contaminants, including common gasoline constituents, chlorinated solvents, and contaminants of emerging concern. The HAZSITE ground water sampling data has been summarized at the case level for all active and closed contaminated sites where HAZSITE data has been received. The individual HAZSITE ground water sampling results are also available in a GIS format. Detailed information regarding the HAZSITE data GIS layers, including video instructions on how to access the HAZSITE data GIS layers in the NJDEP Site Remediation Profile in NJ GeoWeb is available here: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/69b43a291c364115962141077eab1bec> and an explanation on the usage of the HAZSITE data GIS layers, is

available through the CSRR Community Corner (available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/srp/community-corner/>), a webpage designed to provide information to residents regarding contaminated sites in their neighborhoods.

Residents Fighting Against Trenton-Mercer Airport Expansion Hit Another Roadblock

Mercer County is in the process of expanding the Trenton-Mercer airport and residents are concerned about construction activities leading to potential contamination by PFAS "forever chemicals" of the groundwater and of the Delaware River, a source of drinking water. PFAS have been found on the site. Residents asked the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for a hearing on the County's land use permit, which does not mention PFAS, but were denied by DEP, because "fear of resultant injury to property does not provide the right to an adjudicatory hearing" and DEP "does not regulate construction or redevelopment plans."

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/08/opponents-of-trenton-mercere-airport-expansion-receive-setback/>

EDUCATION and YOUTH-RELATED

Teachers Get to See Climate-Change Research up Close

This 3-1/2-minute news video goes to Great Bay in South Jersey with a group of K-12 teachers who are benefitting from a Stockton University program that gives them hands-on experience of climate change research that they can take back to their classrooms. In 2024, the NJ Department of Education (DOE) established Regional Climate Change Learning Collaboratives (CCLCs) at four institutes of higher education through a competitive grant opportunity, which has been extended through 3/31/2026. The CCLCs are designed to assist NJ public schools in their implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards supporting climate change education across all nine content areas throughout the state.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/teachers-get-to-see-climate-change-research-up-close>

Bernards High School Achieves River Friendly Certification

In order to be certified as "River-Friendly," Bernards High School (BHS) in Bernardsville, NJ was required to complete a comprehensive checklist of actions to help protect rivers, water quality, wildlife habitats, and educate fellow students. Projects included testing the quality of drinking water in school water fountains, cleaning up and enhancing the rain garden in the school's courtyard, installing bluebird nest boxes on the BHS campus, building and installing devices to help American eels with their upstream migration, removing invasive plants, and improving bird and pollinator habitat. In addition, an educational program was presented to fellow students about "upcycling" - turning used articles of clothing into new products instead of throwing them away, and a classroom lesson was prepared for advanced biology students on "Disruptions to Ecosystems," such as weather events, human impacts, and invasive species. Also included were an event last fall that collected plastic film and packaging for recycling, as well as a poster contest that raised awareness about natural habitats.

<https://www.tapinto.net/towns/bernardsville-and-bedminster/sections/green/articles/bhs-achieves-river-friendly-certification>

OTHER

Why Electricity Prices Are Soaring in the Largest Grid Region, Explained in 5 Charts

This article provides 5 charts to explain the high costs of electricity in the electricity grid region managed by PJM Interconnection. The charts are:

- "Auction Payment Reaches Record High";
- "Summer Demand Forecast Reaches Unprecedented Heights";
- "Old Plants Keep Retiring as New Energy Arrives in Uneven Bursts";
- "From Flood to Freeze in PJM's Queue"; and
- "Projects Now Waiting for Years in PJM's Queue".

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/08/why-electricity-prices-are-soaring-in-pjm-interconnection-grid-region/>

Governor Murphy Announces Expanded Transportation Options for South Jersey

On 8/20/2025, Governor Murphy announced an expanded electric bus fleet in Camden, new bus service for workers between Vineland and Atlantic City, and expanded microtransit for rural and underserved communities in South Jersey. The press release is available here:

<https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562025/approved/20250820a.shtml>.

NJ Utility Chiefs Wonder How to Keep Electricity Costs Down

This 5-1/2-minute news video describes the "Resource Adequacy Technical Conference" recently held by the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU). It included energy experts and consumer advocates, and explored potential future energy needs, focusing on data centers, the way market rates are set, and ways to increase clean energy resources. The terms "cost" and "reliability" came up often; these have been described as decoys relating to fossil fuels and nuclear energy.

See <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/nj-utility-chiefs-wonder-how-to-keep-electricity-costs-down>. A link to a 7-hour video of the conference is available on [p. 16](#).

Energy Experts Offer Insights at NJ State Joint-Committee Hearing

A joint session of the NJ Senate Environment and Energy Committee and the NJ Assembly Environment, Natural Resources, and Solid Waste Committee held in Point Pleasant, NJ included testimony from the president of the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) as well as academics, industry leaders, and policy advocates. They testified about electricity prices, offshore wind projects, and the future of New Jersey's clean energy strategy. A recording of the session is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/33xdt2w> and highlights from their testimony are available here: <https://enviropolitics.com/energy-experts-offer-insights-at-nj-state-joint-committee-hearing>. Also see the news video in the [next column](#).

NJ Regulators Consider Adding More Nuclear Power as Electricity Demand Rises

This 4-1/2-minute news video covers a joint session of the NJ Senate Environment and Energy Committee and the Assembly Environment, Natural Resources, and Solid Waste Committee at which high energy costs and rising future energy needs were discussed. The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) President laid the blame for both at on the growth of AI data centers, stating that the grid operator PJM has noted that 30 of the 32 gigawatts of new load anticipated by 2030 is driven by data centers. Different sources of energy were discussed, including small modular nuclear reactors (see the article [below](#)) and even ocean wave power.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/nj-regulators-consider-adding-more-nuclear-power-as-electricity-demand-rises>

How Ocean County Can Be the Key to Ending New Jersey's Energy Crisis as Company Unveils Plan to Reopen Shuttered Oyster Creek Power Plant

Holtec International, the owner of the Oyster Creek nuclear plant site that is being decommissioned (see "Future Actions" on [p. 10](#)), made a presentation before a joint session of the NJ Senate Environment and Energy Committee and the Assembly Environment, Natural Resources, and Solid Waste Committee, outlining their vision to transform the site into the nation's first nuclear-solar hybrid power facility. The proposed project would include four 300-megawatt small modular reactors and a solar energy capture facility capable of generating an additional 80 megawatts. According to the Holtec CEO, the hybrid project could produce more than 1,350 megawatts of clean electricity, doubling the output of the original plant before it shut down in 2019.

<https://www.shorenewsnetwork.com/2025/08/25/how-ocean-county-can-be-the-key-to-ending-new-jerseys-energy-crisis-as-company-unveils-plan-to-reopen-shuttered-oyster-creek-power-plant>

NJ Clean Cities Coalition and Atlantic County Utilities Authority Formalize Partnership to Expand Clean Transportation and Workforce Initiatives in South Jersey

From the Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA) press release: "The New Jersey Clean Cities Coalition (NJCCC) and the Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA) have formalized a long-standing relationship with the signing of a new Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that sets the stage for expanded collaboration on clean

transportation, public education, and workforce development initiatives across Atlantic County and the greater South Jersey region." Interestingly, some of the clean transportation and energy initiatives focus on a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueling station, new CNG vehicles for ACUA's fleet; and a future hydrogen energy project that will generate hydrogen from treated wastewater at ACUA's Atlantic City treatment facility.

<https://www.acua.com/Community-Hub/News/Press-Releases/2025/NJ-Clean-Cities-Coalition-and-Atlantic-County-Util.aspx>

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
