



A newsletter focused on environmental justice-related events and actions specifically affecting New Jersey.

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

## EJTF and CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES



On October 18, 2025, UUFANJ held its annual hybrid Fall Issues Conference - "Meet the Moment" - at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton and on Zoom. Pictured above top row are: (L) the audience and Zoom participants giving a rousing round of applause to the very dynamic keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Charles Boyer; and (R) UUFANJ Executive Director Rev. Charles Loflin speaking. Bottom row (L) the hybrid EJTF Breakout Session at the conference; (center) conference attendees participating in the Princeton "No Kings" event, holding signs made at the conference, with QR codes giving direction to activities in support of the key bills up for passage in the NJ lame duck legislative session; (R) EJTF members Peggy Middaugh and Mike Skelly at the "No Kings" event; and (far R) an inset showing the QR code.

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## ***EJTF and CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES (cont.)***

### **• Beacon Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Summit (Beacon)**

On "Sun Day" (9/21/2025), the day designated to "Shine the Light on Climate Justice" and sound the call to solar and renewable energy nationwide, members of Christ Church in Summit walked from their church to Beacon, and some Beacon members (including those pictured below) met them on their way. Children of the Beacon congregation prepared the banner. They had refreshments in Beacon's Fellowship Hall and then a talk from Wendsler Nosie Sr., an Apache who has led opposition to coal mining at Oak Flat. More information is available here: <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/we-cry-power/wendsler-nosie/>.



Pictured L to R: Ethan Saslovsky (intern), Beacon members Tricia Idrobo, Nancy Griffeth, and Denise Soppas



Beacon members Tricia Idrobo (L) and Nancy Griffeth (R)

### **• Morristown Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (MUUF)**

How much do the Fellowship's young people (grades 3 through 8) know about climate change and solar energy? Quite a lot, as Green Earth Ministry members Dave Horst and Linda DeLap discovered during a religious education class on October 19. After a review of climate science, Dave demonstrated concepts of electronics using a light-emitting diode, a small solar panel, and a tiny electric motor. Did you know that solar panels contain diodes? Bypass diodes in solar panels ensure that electricity flows in one direction. The class ended with the children looking out a west-facing window to view the Fellowship's recently completed solar installation.



## ***EJTF and CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES (cont.)***

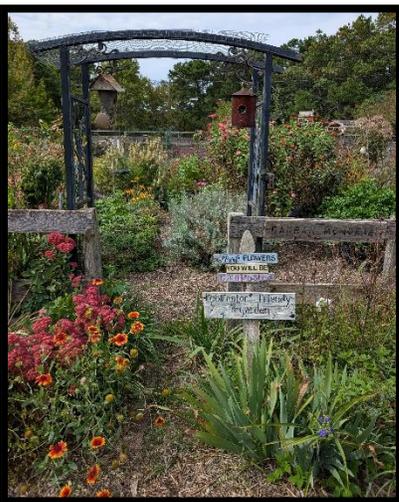
### **• Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton (UUCP)**



On Saturday, October 3, the Earth Ministry of the UU Congregation of Princeton organized a team from the congregation to participate in Hopewell Township's "Clean Sweep Roadside Litter Pickup." The team spent a few hours walking along two local roads and collected three very large bags of trash, much of which consisted of beverage containers and cigarette butts. Everyone enjoyed the exercise, camaraderie, and the joy of having helped create a cleaner community. In addition, the Township has given a donation to the congregation for each volunteer hour devoted to this effort. The "Clean Communities Program" is a statewide program that annually provides funds to municipalities to encourage volunteers to collect trash along local roads and in parks. Anyone interested in how they can help create their own Cleaner Community can contact their local public works department to learn how they can get involved. Some municipalities conduct these programs in the fall while others do it in the spring, or twice a year.

### **• Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation (UUOCC)**

UUOCC members and friends attended the Wranglebrook Community Garden Festival on September 27.



Wranglebrook Community Garden is a non-profit association located in Berkeley Township, dedicated to helping members to grow plants in an environmentally sustainable way and to provide fresh produce to needy families through local food pantries in surrounding communities of Ocean County. It was founded in 2013 as an outreach program of UUOCC.



Pictured L to R: Susan Lyons, Mary Anne Scrupski, Judy Weintraub; Roseanne DePasquale; and Marge Ragan

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

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

**Others - send an email to [uufaihactionejtf@gmail.com](mailto:uufaihactionejtf@gmail.com) requesting to receive information about environmental issues and upcoming events.**

<b>NOVEMBER 2025</b> (with <a href="#">hyperlinks</a> to details on the following pages)						
<i>Sun.</i>	<i>Mon.</i>	<i>Tues</i>	<i>Wed.</i>	<i>Thurs.</i>	<i>Fri.</i>	<i>Sat.</i>
				<a href="#">Registration Open for the Rutgers Environmental Stewards Program</a>	<a href="#">LWVNJ November Activist Trainings</a> (Dates TBA)	<b>1</b> <a href="#">NJ Tree Foundation Fall Tree Planting</a> - 9:00 a.m.  <a href="#">Run for Liberty 5K!</a> - 9:00 a.m.  <b>Comments Due:</b> <a href="#">NJBPU Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Data Access Standards Proposed New Rules</a>
<b>2</b> <a href="#">Earth Care Day at Cheesapeake State Park</a> - 11:00 a.m.	<b>3</b> <a href="#">"Blinded by the Light: Light Pollution" Earth Day Every Day Webinar</a> 6:30 p.m.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <a href="#">Pinelands Webinar Series - "Sustainable Agriculture"</a> - 12:00 p.m.  <a href="#">DRBC 4Q Public Hearing</a> - 1:30 p.m.	<b>6</b> <a href="#">"Tree Preservation: Compounding Interest"</a> - 12:00 p.m.	<b>7</b> <a href="#">NJ Tree Foundation Fall Tree Planting</a> - 9:00 a.m.	<b>8</b> <a href="#">NJ Tree Foundation Fall Tree Planting</a> - 9:00 a.m.  Clic <a href="#">Climate Superfund Act Teaneck/Hackensack Local March and Rally</a> - 11:00 a.m.  <a href="#">Fort Lee, NJ Repair Cafe</a> - 1:00 p.m.
<b>9</b> <a href="#">Jersey City, NJ Repair Cafe</a> - 1:00 p.m.	<b>10</b> <a href="#">"Rock You Like a Hurricane: Hurricane Science" Earth Day Every Day Webinar</a> - 6:30 p.m.	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <a href="#">Rutgers Climate Symposium 2025 - "The Blue Planet"</a> - 8:15 a.m.  <a href="#">"The People's Hearing for the New Jersey Green Amendment"</a> - 7:00 p.m.  <a href="#">"The Climate Superfund Act in NJ"</a> - 7:00 p.m.	<b>13</b> <a href="#">NJDEP Public Hearing on Transco - Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (NESE) Compressor Station Air Permit</a> - 5:30 p.m.	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <a href="#">NJ Tree Foundation Fall Tree Planting</a> - 9:00 a.m.  <a href="#">Rally to Stop the Liberty State Park Marina Massive Boat Storage Warehouse!</a> - 12:00 p.m.  <a href="#">Ridgewood, NJ Repair Cafe</a> - 1:00 p.m.
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <a href="#">Climate Superfund Act Statewide Rally in Trenton!</a> - 10:00 a.m.	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <a href="#">"Carbon Neutral by 2050" - Green Sanctuary 2030 Community Meeting</a> - 7:00 p.m.	<b>20</b> <a href="#">Sierra Club NJ Monthly Building Electrification Webinar "Balcony Solar"</a> - 7:00 p.m.	<b>21</b> <a href="#">24th Annual Joint Venture NJDEP/Air &amp; Waste Management Association Regulatory Update Conference</a> - 9:00 a.m.	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <a href="#">"Climate Resilience in New Jersey"</a> - 6:30 p.m.	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

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### **Run for Liberty 5K! 11/1/2025, 9:00 a.m. Jersey City, NJ - In-person**

From the Friends of Liberty State Park (FOLSP) website: "Lace up your running shoes and get ready for the annual Run for Liberty 5K - a community-driven event benefiting The Friends of Liberty State Park (FOLSP)!.... Every step you take supports the preservation, improvement, and protection of Liberty State Park, ensuring it remains a free and open public green space for generations to enjoy. All proceeds go directly to FOLSP's mission to keep LSP thriving!" Additional information and links to register to run (**\$50**) or walk (**\$45**) are available here: <https://runsignup.com/Race/NJ/JerseyCity/RunforLiberty5KbenefitingTheFriendsofLibertyStatePark>.

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

The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) is proposing new rules that establish "the rights and rules regarding the collection, use, and sharing of data collected by Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) meters." The proposed rules would benefit homeowners by allowing them to know their electricity usage rates at less than 15-minute intervals so they may adjust their usage if desired, and the rules would benefit the utilities by identifying actual peak loads so that infrastructure and energy needs could be based on real data. **Comments are due by 5:00 p.m. on 11/1/2025**; instructions for commenting are in the NJ Register Notice available here: <https://tinyurl.com/3uzavwbx>.

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### **Earth Care Day at Cheesequake State Park [Rescheduled] 11/2/2025, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Matawan, NJ - In-person**

Sponsored by EarthShare NJ, "Earth Care Day focuses on environmental education and volunteerism, providing opportunities for participants to engage with experts and learn about the environment. This free event will have a variety of family fun activities from guided walks,

interactive exhibits, games, crafts, kayaking in Hooks Creek Lake and more!.... Bring clothing and soft goods to support the Textile Drive... accepting: clothing, shoes, bags, linens and stuffed animals!" Additional information is available here: <https://www.earthsharenj.org/earth-care-day/>.

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### **Pinelands Webinar Series - "Sustainable Agriculture" 11/5/2025, 12:00 p.m.**

This webinar continues the Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) monthly webinar series "exploring the vital work of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) and how you can help protect this unique ecosystem. These free public webinars are based on our 35th anniversary State of the Pinelands Report [available here: <https://tinyurl.com/55v3n8m2>]." This webinar will explore PPA's sustainable agriculture experiences. "New Jersey is known as the Garden state, but has been losing farmland to developments of homes and warehouses. Pinelands Alliance has been working to preserve New Jersey's farming legacy, and make it greener. The Alliance created the Rancocas Creek Farm which uses regenerative farming practices to improve the environment while increasing access to fresh local vegetables." Additional information and registration are available here: <https://engage.pinelandsalliance.org/nov5>.

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### **Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) Fourth Quarter 2025 Public Hearing 11/5/2025, 1:30 p.m. - Virtual**

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) will hold its fourth-quarter public hearing on Wednesday, 11/5/2025. The hearing is open to the public and will take place remotely via Zoom Webinar, and it will also be livestreamed on the DRBC's YouTube channel. Additional information including a link to the agenda and to register, and information about how to provide testimony, is available here: <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/meetings/upcoming/>.

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**"Tree Preservation: Compounding Interest"**  
**11/6/2025, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.**  
**- Webinar**

This webinar is sponsored by the American Forests' Tree Equity Coaching Network. In this webinar, they will discuss "how policy and planning is central to realizing the benefits of trees on a human timeline." The Tree Equity Coaching Network "is a community of practice for urban foresters, community advocates, city leaders and allied professionals to connect, learn, inspire and cultivate city commitments to advance Tree Equity." Also see the article on [p. 17](#). Additional information and registration are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/34m2w9xc>. Links to previous webinars are available here: <https://www.americanforests.org/project/coaching-network>.

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**Climate Superfund Act**  
**Teaneck/Hackensack Local March and Rally**  
**11/8/2025, 11:00 a.m.**  
**Teaneck/Hackensack NJ - In-person**

EmpowerNJ (a coalition of which EJTF is a member) and youth leaders are holding a local march starting in Teaneck and ending in a rally in Hackensack on 11/8/2025 in support of the Climate Superfund Act. The schedule is as follows: "Meet at Sagamore Park in Teaneck at 11:00 AM.... 11:20 AM - The march will leave Sagamore Park and travel 1.4 miles down Cedar Lane, ending at Johnson Park in Hackensack. 12:00 PM - Rally at Johnson Park in Hackensack - 452 River Street, Hackensack (Corner of River St and Anderson St). Those who don't wish to participate in the march can go straight to Johnson Park for the rally. Additional information and the link to RSVP are available here: <https://actionnetwork.org/events/stand-up-for-our-climate-make-polluters-pay>.

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**"The People's Hearing for the New Jersey Green Amendment" - via Zoom**  
**11/12/2025, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

This online event is hosted by the Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) and Green Amendments for the Generations. "Since the State Assembly has yet to hold a hearing on the proposed New Jersey Green Amendment, we're

creating space for the voices that matter most...yours. Join us for the People's Hearing, a public forum where residents can share their stories, concerns, and hopes for a cleaner, healthier, and more just environment... Share your connection to the environment and why you support the Green Amendment. Together, we can show that protecting our natural resources is not just policy, but a shared value...After a short welcome from Maya van Rossum, the microphone is yours." **If you plan to share a comment, please email Stephen at [stephen@pinelandsalliance.org](mailto:stephen@pinelandsalliance.org).** Additional information and the link to register are available here: <https://pinelandsalliance.org/event/the-peoples-hearing-for-the-new-jersey-green-amendment>.

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**"The Climate Superfund Act in NJ" Webinar**  
**11/12/2025, 7:00 p.m.**

The League of Women Voters of Livingston, NJ is sponsoring this webinar. "Join Food & Water Watch NJ leaders Paula Rogovin and Sam DiFalco for a discussion on the Climate Superfund Act and the grassroots battle to stop the NESE pipeline. Learn how New Jerseyans are taking action for a cleaner, fairer future." Additional information and the link to RSVP are available here: <https://www.livingstonlww.org/events-1/the-climate-superfund-act-in-nj>.

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**Rutgers Climate Symposium 2025**  
**- "The Blue Planet" - Hybrid**  
**11/12/2025, 8:15 a.m. Check-in**  
**9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Plenaries and Panel**  
**1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Poster Session**  
**New Brunswick, NJ - In-person & Virtual (morning session only)**

This symposium focuses on "Fostering collaboration among researchers and students from academic and research institutions in the Mid-Atlantic region who are interested in climate change, renewable energy, energy efficiency, or other approaches to reducing greenhouse gas emissions across disciplines representing climate science, human dimensions, technology, the arts, communications, and humanities." It is intended for students, faculty, and staff of academic and research institutions, with a limited number of in person registrations available for unaffiliated members of the public upon request. Additional

information including links to the agenda and to register (**the event is free, but registration is required both for in-person and virtual attendance; the in-person registration deadline is 11/6/2025**) are available here: <https://ruclimatesymposium.rutgers.edu>.

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**NJDEP Public Hearing on Transco –  
Northeast Supply Enhancement Project  
(NESE) Compressor Station Air Permit  
11/13/2025, 5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.  
- Virtual**

The Transco - Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (NESE) had previously been dormant, but has been revived. The proposed project consists of: 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. The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) held a public hearing on the water permits in September, at which people overwhelmingly voiced opposition to the permits. The DEP has scheduled another virtual public meeting to hear from the public about the project's air permits related to the compressor station in Franklin Township. This may be the final public hearing on the project. This hearing is not intended to be a question-and-answer session, but rather an opportunity for interested individuals to comment on the draft permit. The DEP Public Notice is available here, with instructions to register to speak - advance registration to speak is strongly recommended - and instructions on submitting written comments: <https://tinyurl.com/bdz896hk>. **Written comments are due by 11/24/2025.**

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**Rally to Stop the Liberty State Park Marina  
Massive Boat Storage Warehouse!  
11/15/2025, 12:00 p.m.  
Jersey City, NJ - In-person**

From the Friends of Liberty State Park (FOLSP) website: "Please save Saturday, November 15th at Noon to attend a protest rally against the DEP's [NJ Department of Environmental Protection] new 60 year Suntex Marina lease allowing the marina's major privatization expansion by the construction of a massive boat storage warehouse.... The

Friends of LSP [Liberty State Park] oppose the 60-year lease for the Suntex-owned Liberty Landing Marina because of its plan to build a massive boat storage warehouse for 500 boat dry racks in a 75 FEET HIGH COMMERCIAL BUILDING on 3 ACRES in its boatyard along LSP's northern entrance on Audrey Zapp Drive. The warehouse would damage LSP's character, history, openness, purpose and sacredness. The boat storage warehouse shouldn't exceed the half-acre requirement in the 1990 National Park Service Record of Decision." Additional information, including links to photos and articles, and bullet points of reasons against the warehouse expansion, is available here: [https://www.folsp.org/preservation/lspmarina\\_leaseat\\_tle.html](https://www.folsp.org/preservation/lspmarina_leaseat_tle.html).

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**Climate Superfund Act Statewide Rally in  
Trenton!  
11/17/2025, 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Trenton, NJ - In-person**

"Join us on Monday, November 17th at the Trenton Statehouse Annex for the Climate Superfund Rally - a statewide call to action demanding that polluters, not taxpayers, pay for the cost of climate disasters. As storms, floods, and heat waves grow stronger every year, New Jersey communities are footing the bill for damage caused by the biggest corporate polluters. It's time to flip the script. The Climate Superfund Act would make oil and gas corporations pay their fair share to fund climate resilience projects. This rally [**of which UUFANJ is a sponsor**] brings together environmental, labor, and community organizations including Food & Water Watch, and Empower NJ [**a coalition of which EJTF is a member**], Climate Revolution Action Network, Clean Water Action, Environment New Jersey, Working Families Party, BlueWaveNJ." Additional information and a link to RSVP are available here: <https://www.mobilize.us/fww/event/861083>.

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**"Carbon Neutral by 2050" - Green  
Sanctuary 2030 Community Meeting  
11/19/2025 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
- Webinar**

This webinar is presented by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Side with Love. "The Boise UU Fellowship [BUUF] has committed to become Carbon Neutral by 2050 as part of their

Green Sanctuary 2030 commitments. Engaging the entire congregation in a 2023 special appeal "Imagining A Carbon Neutral World," BUUF launched their carbon neutral campaign which will focus on reducing the BUUF carbon footprint and supporting members to reduce their individual emissions while also building strong relations with community groups doing mitigation work." Additional information and registration are available here:

<https://secure.everyaction.com/cYKGOd0kI0CQnPYLI2K3Xq2>.

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**Sierra Club NJ Monthly Building Electrification Webinar  
"Balcony Solar"  
11/20/2025, 7:00 p.m.**

This session of the touted Sierra Club NJ's monthly Building Electrification webinars will cover "Balcony Solar - Buy a solar panel or two; hang them facing ~south, and plug into the nearest outlet (how do we make this available in NJ?)" Registration is available here:

<https://bit.ly/3tmyd1g>.

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**24th Annual Joint Venture NJDEP/Air & Waste Management Association Regulatory Update Conference - Virtual  
11/21/2025, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

From the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) news release: "The 24th Annual Joint Venture NJDEP/Air & Waste Management Association Regulatory Update Virtual Conference is scheduled for November 21, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. This conference is designed to provide interested parties with an opportunity to learn about NJDEP regulatory initiatives and updates that concern environmental compliance and enforcement, contaminated site remediation and redevelopment, air quality, energy, materials sustainability, water quality, monitoring and standards, climate change mitigation and monitoring, environmental justice rules and guidance, sustainable waste management, research projects and emerging contaminants." The conference agenda is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/3tx35wx8> and registration is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/2kja4sft>.

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**"Climate Resilience in New Jersey"  
11/24/2025, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Lincroft, NJ - In-person**

This "Science Monday" event is organized by the Jersey Shore Group of the Sierra Club NJ Chapter and will feature Nick Angarone, New Jersey's Chief Resilience Officer and Manager of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Office of Climate Resistance. He "will talk about his work on climate resilience; specifically New Jersey's challenges as a northeastern state with disproportionate climate risks such as sea level rise, flooding, water and air quality degradation, wildfires, biodiversity loss, and urban heat islands. Included will be comments and insights specifically targeting the Monmouth County area. Regulatory solutions, hazard prevention, mitigation, and remediation/recovery efforts (including via blue acres) will be discussed. Followed by a Q & A session." Additional information is available here: <https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=701Po000019hmlUIAQ&mapLinkHref=>.

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**NJ Tree Foundation Fall Tree Plantings  
Various dates and locations - In-person**

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

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

**11/1** - Woodbine Avenue, Newark  
**11/7** - Highland Avenue, Newark  
**11/8** - State Street, Trenton  
**11/15** - 11th Street, Camden

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

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey (LWVNJ) (of which **EJTF member Nancy Griffeth is co-chair of the Natural Resources Committee**) has been presenting a public series of virtual activist training sessions designed to equip participants "with the knowledge and skills needed to carry out dynamic organizing strategies that can effectively influence public policy and the state of democracy in New Jersey." Trainings are announced monthly; check the LWVNJ website for the November and future months' training schedules, which will be available here: <https://www.lwvnj.org/training>.

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## Earth Day Every Day Webinar Series "What a Wonderful World: An Environmental Jukebox for New Jersey" Various Dates (see below and in the next column)

This fall's "Earth Day Every Day" webinar series is described as follows: "Protecting the environment of New Jersey is music to our ears! Experts hit the right notes on topics such as wetland ecology, light pollution, impacts on tree leaf color, and hurricane science. This series aims to raise awareness about some of the Garden State's environmental challenges and ways you can change your tune to help improve environmental quality." The webinar series is a collaboration between the Rutgers Earth Day Every Day (E2D2) Extension program and the Marine Extension Program Seminar Series (MEPSS). Additional information, including descriptions of future webinars, is available here: <https://envirostewards.rutgers.edu/earth-day-every-day/>.

**November webinar dates** and descriptions of the webinars are as follows:

**11/3/2025, 6:30 p.m. – Blinded by the Light: Light Pollution** – "Light pollution disrupts ecosystems, obscures the night sky, and harms human health. Learn how to reverse light pollution through responsible lighting practices and how to advocate for policies that reduce light pollution in New Jersey and beyond." Registration is available here:

[https://rutgers.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0PrPQaXmQa2MYK](https://rutgers.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0PrPQaXmQa2MYK).

**11/10/2025, 6:30 p.m. – Rock You Like a Hurricane: Hurricane Science** – "Please join us to learn about the successes achieved by the Rutgers University Center for Ocean Observing Leadership (RUCOOL) to observe and understand the complex oceanography off New Jersey, and how results from their work have benefited fisheries science, weather and hurricane modeling, search and rescue, water quality monitoring, and so much more!" Registration is available here: [https://rutgers.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0PrPQaXmQa2MYK](https://rutgers.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0PrPQaXmQa2MYK).

## 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 November, with links for information, are shown below:**

#### Fort Lee, NJ Repair Cafe

**11/8/2025, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

<https://fortleelibrary.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/repair-cafe-3>

#### Jersey City, NJ Repair Cafe

**11/9/2025, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

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

#### Ridgewood, NJ Repair Cafe

**11/15/2025, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

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

## Registration Open for the Rutgers Environmental Stewards Program

From the program website: "The Rutgers Environmental Steward program is designed to introduce non-scientists to the science behind important environmental issues and the impacts of climate change affecting NJ. Stewards then give back to their own communities by helping to tackle local environmental problems. If you have a passion for the environment, a desire to learn and a willingness to volunteer, then this program is for you! We offer one, statewide, online class which starts in January with approximately 5 sessions of in-person instruction. The class is organized into 5 regions and each region has its own Coordinator. In order to become a Certified Environmental Steward, class participants must complete a 60-hour project of their choosing after the conclusion of the course. The community-based project exposes the Stewards to real-world environmental issues in their communities." Additional information, including how to register, is available here: <https://envirostewards.rutgers.edu/program-overview/annual-class/>.

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**Save the dates!**

**Jersey Water Works  
Conference 2025  
12/11/2025, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Ewing, NJ - In-person**

Jersey Water Works (JWW) is presenting its Eleventh Annual Jersey Water Works Conference, with the theme "Our Commitment to Future Generations." This is a full-day in person only event and it includes a keynote speaker, featured speakers, twelve workshops, and lunch. Breakout sessions include: "Lead Service Line Replacement"; "PFAS and Emerging Contaminants"; and "Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI)". Additional information including a link to the agenda and registration information (**General Registration - \$200, Nonprofit and Government Employees - \$100**), are available here: <https://newjerseyfuture.regfox.com/2025-jersey-water-works-conference>.

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## NJ Student Learning Standards Public Hearings - Registration to Testify 12/16/2025 - 1/8/2026 (noon)

NJ State law calls for the revision to the NJ Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) every five years by subject area on a revolving basis. **EJTF member Mike Skelly** has been very involved in ensuring that environmental justice, climate change and sustainability are included in the ongoing revisions of the NJSLS that address NJ's first-in-the-U.S. requirement for climate change to be taught across grade levels and subjects. The NJ Department of Education (DOE) has issued a Public Notice regarding the NJSLS to be revised: "... draft revisions to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards [will be presented] to the State Board...at a meeting... on Wednesday, November 5, 2025. These draft revisions will be in two subject areas: Career Readiness, Life Literacies and Key Skills, and Science. In addition,... draft revisions [will be presented]... to the State Board of Education... at a meeting... on Wednesday, December 3, 2025. These draft revisions will be in four subject areas: Computer Science and Design Thinking, World Languages, Visual and Performing Arts, and the New Jersey Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards." The State Board of Education will hold three regional public hearings in 2026 to receive comments (schedule available here:

<https://nj.gov/education/code/proposed/past/2025/NewJerseyStudentLearningStandardsPublicNotice.pdf>.)

**Registration to testify at one of the regional public hearings will be open from 12/16/2025 - 1/8/2026 (noon).** Additional information is available here: <https://www.nj.gov/education/sboe/meetings/testimony/index.shtml>.

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## VIDEOS+ OF PAST EVENTS

**Eco-Logic Radio Shows:  
"Forests: Restoration & Protection"  
"Bird Friendly Wind Energy: Do It Right!"  
- Recordings of Radio Shows**

The Eco-Logic radio/internet program on WBAI aired these recent shows related to EJTF's goals (cohosted by **EJTF member Sally Gellert**).

- **"Forests: Restoration & Protection"** - "One of the causes of climate chaos, not particularly related to global warming, is deforestation, which changes climate patterns by changing how Earth absorbs the sun's energy. In [this] Eco-Logic [we talked about] restoration and protection, ensuring that forests can thrive and fulfill their role as important ecologically diverse habitats." The recording is available here:

<https://www.wbai.org/archive/program/episode/?id=60805>.

- **"Bird Friendly Wind Energy: Do It Right!"** - "There are wind energy advocates who think that birds are not compatible with wind energy and bird advocates who think wind energy is not compatible with birds. Fortunately, neither is true. Wind farms can be done badly or well and on this Eco-Logic, [we described] the difference and expose[d] the myths that are used to divide the environmental movement" The recording is available here:

<https://www.wbai.org/archive/program/episode/?id=60806>.

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>.

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### **"Powering Up: Improving Energy Grid Reliability and Resilience to Lower Energy Bills" -Video of Webinar**

This Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) webinar covered "policy solutions to meet the reliability, resilience, and affordability challenges facing the U.S. energy grid.... Aging infrastructure, extreme weather, and unprecedented increases in electricity demand could soon overwhelm generation and transmission capacity and outpace states and utility planners.... This briefing [outlined] policy options and technological innovations to address these challenges. Panelists [expanded] on several aspects of grid modernization, including the buildout of new transmission lines, bringing online new power generation and energy storage capacity, and improving energy efficiency." The video is available here:

<https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/100925grid>.

### **EnviroPolitics Video Interviews with NJ Environmental Advocates**

Frank Brill, editor of *EnviroPolitics*, has begun a video interview series with NJ environmental advocates. The first two interviews are linked below:

#### **Are New Jersey's Upcoming Electricity Rates Rigged?**

This video is of a 45-minute interview with **EJTF member Lyle Rawlings**, who is president and co-founder of the Mid-Atlantic Solar & Storage Industries Association and owns a solar company. "Solar energy expert Lyle Rawlings takes a peek behind the curtain of the PJM electric grid rate-making process and finds that things aren't always as advertised. In fact, New Jersey's upcoming 18 percent increase in electricity rates may have been rigged by major utility companies."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATfp9DkiDIo>

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#### **Ex-Sierra Club NJ Director Jeff Tittel's Surprising Message**

This video is of a 24-minute interview with ex-Sierra Club NJ director Jeff Tittel. "For several decades, as director of New Jersey's Sierra Club chapter, Jeff Tittel scored headline after headline as the environmental organization won a series of major victories, including the preservation of the state's vast Highlands area. In this interview.... we asked him about the method he used to lobby legislators, how he got the media to draw attention to his causes, and why they were so successful. Many may be surprised to hear him discuss his disenchantment with the current direction of environmental activism and shocked as he unloads on the state's Democratic governor and his top environmental regulator."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0on6vSbTg8>

## **Option Green: "Poisoning the Well"** **- Video of Webinar**

East Brunswick native and author Sharon Udasin led 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.... PFAS, the 'forever chemicals' found in everyday products, from cooking pans to mascara, are coursing through the veins of 97% of Americans.... families [have] lost sisters and daughters, cousins, and neighbors, after PFAS leached into their drinking water.... [there is] 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 was 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. The video is available here: <https://ilove.ebpl.org/adults/events/option-green-poisoning-well-hybrid/2025-09-24-230000-2025-09-25-003000>.

## **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 October 2025 included a Guest Presentation on "PJM Capacity Prices and Mitigation Strategies." The video is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/5x9mcze6>; the Guest Presentation begins at minute 00:43:00. Slides from the webinar are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/2kjye33k>.

## **"Artificial Intelligence: Implications for Energy and the Environment"** **- Video of Webinar**

This Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) webinar covered "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 [discussed] the massive energy and

water needs of data centers that run AI algorithms. They also [laid] out how the technology is already being put to use - from precision agriculture to resilient grid infrastructure and improved weather forecasting. The briefing [highlighted] the frontiers of AI, including the federal government's role in research and development at the Department of Energy's National Laboratories, and [explored] 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." The video is available here:

<https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/092525ai>.

## **2025 Garden State Conference on Food Security: "Setting a Table for All, for Always" - Video of Conference**

This was the second annual statewide conference presented by the NJ Office of the Food Security Advocate (OFSA). "the event welcome[d] 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." The video of the conference (5 hours 43 minutes) is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XC9CKtM9SIA>.

## **"AI for Real: Powering the Energy Shift"** **- Video of Webinar**

The president of C2ES (Center for Climate and Energy Solutions) spoke at this NY Climate Week event sponsored by the consulting firm Widehall and the technology company Siemens. "The advent of AI is revolutionizing the energy conversation, transforming power consumption and unleashing unprecedented potential for optimization and efficiency.... the brightest minds in AI and energy [spoke] at this event intended to examine the delicate balancing act required to harness AI's transformative benefits while managing energy usage." The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tL-YwIM1NaI>.

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## **"Energy & Agrovoltatics" - Video of Webinar**

In this Elders Climate Action (ECA) monthly national call for September, "Dan French, a visionary economist, strategist, and former attorney at the forefront of today's rapid evolution in our economy, energy markets, and built and natural environments, join[ed] Elders Climate Action to answer some of our biggest questions about 'agrovoltatics.' Dan address[ed] the questions: Is America on the precipice of disaster and systemic collapse, or on the doorstep of abundance and ultra energy and economic independence, or both?" The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nWVg211Me3U&t=3s>.

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## **"Burned by Billionaires: How Concentrated Wealth and Power Ruin our Lives and Planet" - Video of Webinar**

This webinar was presented by Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC). "Chuck Collins, life long UU and member of UUJEC, is a senior scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies where he coedits Inequality.org. He is the author of several books, including Born on Third Base, The Wealth Hoarders, Wealth and Our Commonwealth (with Bill Gates Sr), Economic Apartheid in America and Burned by Billionaires.... Here is a description of the book: Even if you don't begrudge the ultra-rich their vacation homes, yachts, and private jets, billionaire power affects where you live, your housing costs, what you eat, and what news you consume." The video is available here:

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

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## **"How Can We Cut Industrial Emissions?" - Video of Webinar**

This Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) webinar covered "pathways for industrial decarbonization. Materials like steel, iron, and cement form the backbone of U.S. industry, and have long been a symbol of U.S. innovation and prosperity. The production of these materials, as well as chemicals and plastics, often requires extremely high temperatures typically achieved by burning fossil fuels. The industrial sector is the

second-largest greenhouse gas emitter, representing 30% of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, and is projected to be the largest by 2035. This briefing [identified] opportunities for industrial emissions reductions - such as electrification and material reuse." The video is available here:

<https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/102225industry>.

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## **"Voices for Justice: How to Speak up in Environmental Justice Hearings" - Video of Webinar**

This webinar was sponsored by ANJEC (Association of NJ Environmental Commissions) and was presented by Kandyce Perry, Office of Environmental Justice Director, NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and X Braithwaite, EJ Organizer for Clean Water Action and Newark Environmental Commission member. "This webinar [helped] residents understand New Jersey's Environmental Justice Law and how to engage in public hearings. Participants [learned] how to stay informed about permit applications in overburdened communities, how to register for hearings (virtual, hybrid, or in-person), and how to submit effective and impactful public comments." The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qJAw2I4Q4Y>.

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## **Sierra Club NJ Monthly Home Comfort and Affordability Webinar - "A Day in the Life of an HVAC Contractor Helping People Like You" - Video of Webinar & Slides**

In this webinar, home case studies were presented by Jim Price, HVAC Professional, owner of "Comfortable Homes," and Coach in the NJ Electrification Coaching Network. "Case Studies lead to YOUR solution! It is not too late for federal tax credits. NJ utilities are beginning to roll out 'Decarbonization' with REBATES up to \$10K or more for next several years." The video (with an extensive Q&A section beginning at minute 1:08:20) is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bJmS1UYadrY>.

Slides from the webinar are available here:

<https://tinyurl.com/2kjhhd2h>.

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## "Understanding the Potential Economic Impacts of Climate Resilience Investment Scenarios in New Jersey"

- Video of Webinar

In this webinar sponsored by Rebuild by Design, Anne DeBoer, manager of Sustainable Economics for AECOM, presents the results of a new report from Rebuild by Design and AECOM. One of the findings of the report, "Understanding the Potential Economic Impacts of Climate Resilience Investment Scenarios in New Jersey," (available here: <https://rebuildbydesign.org/nj-economic-study>), is that "With 76% public support, a \$3B climate resilience investment could generate up to 45,000 jobs across New Jersey." The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=52LIAiNnsn8>.

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### NEWS RELATED TO EJTF ISSUES [covering 9/26/2025 – 10/25/2025]

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#### ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

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### NJEJA Statewide Policy Platform for 2025-2026

From the NJ Environmental Justice Alliance (**EJTF partner NJEJA**) website: "...NJEJA is proud to publish our Statewide Policy Platform which details areas of concerns and consideration for both [gubernatorial] candidates. We believe that the issue of racial and environmental justice should transcend political and party lines, as the right to clean air, water, and land is not only immutable but fundamental to the wellbeing of every person." The platform delineates five main categories of work which NJEJA believes should be the focus for the incoming administration. The platform is available here:

<https://njeja.org/2025-statewide-policy-platform>.

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### NJEJA Letter to DEP on the Second Decision Under the Landmark Environmental Justice Law

From the NJ Environmental Justice Alliance (**EJTF partner NJEJA**) website: "Shortly after the release of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection first of its kind decision under the

landmark 2020 Environmental Justice Law and subsequent rules, the DEP has released its second decision. The decision concerns the application of the Corning Pharmaceutical Glass, LLC facility in Vineland, NJ.... while we are glad to see another decision released and the rules continue to be enforced, NJEJA and our partners have concerns regarding the components of the decision and – from our perspective – DEP’s decision to not be as protective as possible of EJ communities.... NJEJA and our partners wrote a letter to address our thoughts and identify points in which we thought that the EJ Law could have been more robustly enforced. This letter has been sent to NJ DEP."

The letter is available here:

<https://njeja.org/njeja-letter-second-ej-decision-corning/>.

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### Attorney General Platkin Joins Challenge to EPA’s Attacks On Affordable Clean Energy For Low-Income Households

From the press release: "New Jersey Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin and 22 other plaintiffs are suing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin for illegally ending a \$7 billion program that lowers energy costs and pollution by bringing solar energy to more than 900,000 households in low-income and disadvantaged communities across the country.... In the Court of Federal Claims suit, the attorneys general of Maryland and Arizona are leading the complaint, which was also joined by the attorneys general in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawai’i, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, and the District of Columbia. Also joining the complaint are the governors of Kentucky and Pennsylvania, as well as the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation."

<https://www.njoag.gov/attorney-general-platkin-joins-challenge-to-epas-attacks-on-affordable-clean-energy-for-low-income-households>

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### Applications Open for NJBPU \$5 Million Grant Program to Combat Urban Heat

In July, the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) established NJ’s "Urban Heat Island Mitigation Program" (UHI) which allows Overburdened

Municipalities (OBMs) and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to receive funding to mitigate against extreme heat by implementing cooling tactics within a community. Applications are now open, through 12/15/2025, for the FY2026 UHI program, which will provide grants in three categories: Comprehensive UHI Interventions, Cooling the Built Environment, and Urban Micro-climate Interventions. The first two grant categories are open to OBMs and the third category is open to CBOs. All projects must be located on public land or in publicly accessible spaces. Additional information, including a link to the grant application guidance, is available here: <https://www.njcleanenergy.com/residential/urban-heat-island-mitigation-program>.

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## ELECTRIC VEHICLES & VEHICLE EMISSION REDUCTION

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### Special Delivery: School District Receives Two Electric School Buses

The Princeton Public Schools recently received two new electric school buses, partially funded by a \$600,000 state grant, and also installed electric bus charging stations. More than 99% of NJ's 21,700 registered school buses run on fossil fuels. <https://www.centraljersey.com/2025/10/01/special-delivery-school-district-receives-two-electric-school-buses>

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## FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE

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### Newark Pauses PVSC's Effort to Build Gas-Fired Plant in Ironbound

The City of Newark's Law Department secured a stay in the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission's (PVSC) efforts to construct a gas-fired power plant adjacent to their 600 Wilson Avenue headquarters in the Ironbound section of the East Ward of Newark. The City has been working with the Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC) (**an EJTF partner**) to oppose this construction due to the negative impact it will have on the environment and Newark residents' health. A judge in the State Superior Court for Essex County issued the stay pending the outcome of a lawsuit by the City of Newark to block construction of the plant. <https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/newark-pauses-pvscs-effort-to-build-gas-fired-plant-in-ironbound>

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### Delaware Riverkeeper Network Files Lawsuit Challenging the Gibbstown LNG Export Approval

From the press release: "Today [10/11/2025] the Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) filed a legal challenge in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey of the decision by Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) to extend, for a second time, its approval for the construction of the proposed Gibbstown LNG Export Terminal project on the Delaware River in Gloucester County, New Jersey. The complaint is based on the DRBC's Rules of Practice and Procedure, which only provide for a single extension of a Section 3.8 approval on the conditions that the project or site has not materially changed, and that the project proponent is diligently pursuing its project." <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n0hmQxCq5YpF9rNf33owh-GzihLoSV3W/view>

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## RENEWABLE RESOURCES

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### Turning Sunlight into Opportunity

This article by Heidi Yeh, Policy Director of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA), provides an in-depth look at how "The Garden State is turning sunlight into savings, crops, and a cleaner future for all." The article begins with the fact that the first solar panel was invented in New Jersey and goes on to examine agrivoltaics in detail and ends with information about the Community Solar program.

<https://pinelandsalliance.org/turning-sunlight-into-opportunity>

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## LAND MANAGEMENT/ AGRICULTURE/FOOD

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### Speaker Coughlin Announces New Legislation to Tackle Hunger in New Jersey

NJ Assembly Speaker Coughlin has announced that he plans to introduce two bills to "bolster the fight against hunger in NJ." The first is in response to federal legislation impacting SNAP recipients. The proposed bill "would create a new Office of Volunteerism to coordinate a wide range of volunteer opportunities and assist SNAP recipients in meeting the federal requirements without jeopardizing their benefits." The second proposed bill "would make it easier for families to access the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs by streamlining the application process."

<https://www.assemblydems.com/m/newsflash/home/detail/12819?>

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## CLIMATE CHANGE

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### Murphy Administration Announces New Online Tool to Help Identify Climate Mitigation Project Funding Opportunities

NJ has a new interactive online tool for residents, local governments, nonprofit organizations and businesses to identify state funding sources for projects that mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, reduce costs, and improve air quality. The user-

friendly tool, "New Jersey Funding One Stop Shop," is available here: <https://njonestopshop.org>. It covers the following project categories: Building Energy Efficiency, Energy Generation, Industry, Transportation, Education/Workforce, Food Systems/Waste, and Resilience, and directs users to relevant grants, rebates, financing options and technical assistance programs related to their identified project.

[https://dep.nj.gov/newsrel/25\\_0044](https://dep.nj.gov/newsrel/25_0044)

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### NJDEP Releases "Economic Risks of Climate Change in New Jersey" Report

From the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) news release: "Building on the 2020 Scientific Report on Climate Change and subsequent climate science studies, the inaugural Economic Risks of Climate Change in New Jersey report provides important context on how climate change is currently impacting New Jersey's economy, and how experts anticipate a changing climate may affect New Jersey's economic prosperity in the future." The report is available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/climatechange/economic-risks-of-climate-change.pdf>.

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## FOREST HEALTH/URBAN FORESTRY

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### To Fight Rising Wildfire Danger, New Jersey Turns to Tree Thinning in the Pinelands

This *The Jersey Vindicator* article describes the 10-year plan the NJ Pinelands Commission recently approved, to substantially thin out a portion of the NJ Pinelands in Ocean County, adjacent to the Jones Road Fire area. (A description of the plan is on pages 47-56 of the Pinelands Commission Meeting Agenda document available here:

<https://tinyurl.com/4st8zzf3> (search for "July 18, 2025".) The plan includes "forest stand improvement" (i.e., **forest thinning**) on 953.48 acres of Pine-dominated, Pine-oak and Oak-pine dominated forest types, reducing the average tree count from 4,114 trees per acre to 2,704. The plan includes "additional forestry" on a total of 227.11 acres to encourage the regeneration of Atlantic white cedar (AWC) in older cedar stands. It also includes planting on some upland areas

that are "sparsely vegetated" and "wildlife enhancements" in some areas.  
<https://jerseyindicator.org/2025/10/05/to-fight-rising-wildfire-danger-new-jersey-turns-to-tree-thinning-in-the-pinelands>



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## American Forests Launches Tree Equity Coaching Network

American Forests, founded in 1875, is the oldest national nonprofit conservation organization in the US who "have been the pathfinders for creating healthy forests from coast to coast." They are launching the American Forests National Coaching Network, "a community for urban foresters, community advocates, city leaders and allied professionals to connect, learn, inspire and cultivate city commitments to advance tree equity. This network is a way for people to address challenges and build their tools and resources." They also hold monthly webinars (see "Tree Preservation - Compounding Interest" on [p. 6](#)). Additional information and a link to register for the Coaching Network are available here: <https://www.americanforests.org/project/coaching-network/>

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## LEAD REDUCTION IN HOUSEHOLDS

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### NJDEP, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Arcadis Commence Lead Poisoning Prevention Week by Launching Collaboration to Accelerate Lead Pipe Replacements

From the press release: "In recognition of International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection [DEP] today [10/21/2025] announced a new collaboration with the Robert Wood Johnson

Foundation (RWJF) and Arcadis, a global engineering services firm, to accelerate the replacement of lead service lines in New Jersey communities. [This] innovative public-private-philanthropic collaboration [will deliver] critical planning, design, and predevelopment services to help under-resourced municipalities access New Jersey Water Bank funding for lead service line replacement and ensure safe, clean drinking water for their residents. As part of this partnership, RWJF is providing a \$3 million guarantee to fund predevelopment services delivered by Arcadis, including lead service line inventories, engineering designs, phasing plans, and technical assistance with applications to the New Jersey Water Bank." <https://dep.nj.gov/newsrel/njdep-robert-wood-johnson-foundation-and-arcadis-commence-lead-poisoning-prevention-week-by-launching-collaboration-to-accelerate-lead-pipe-replacements-25-p046>

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## DRINKING WATER (other than lead)

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### How Water Providers in Delaware, PA and NJ Are Tackling 'Forever Chemicals'

This article describes the various current federal, NJ, PA, and DE regulations addressing PFAS "forever chemicals" in drinking water. It also describes in detail a state-of-the-art drinking water treatment plant facility in Delaware that uses granular activated carbon to remove PFAS, and utilizes a novel approach for "regenerating" the carbon for reuse in the same plant instead of incinerating it or its being dumped in a landfill. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/10/how-water-providers-in-delaware-pa-and-nj-are-tackling-forever-chemicals/>

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## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

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### NJEDA Board Launches Grant Program to Support Large-Scale Decarbonization and Energy Efficiency Projects

From the NJ Economic Development Agency (NJEDA) grant announcement: "The Reducing Emissions through Retrofits, Optimization, Fuel-switching, and Innovative Technologies (RETROFIT NJ) Grant Program is a \$75 million pilot program... to provide financial assistance to multi-pronged,

large-scale retrofit projects that enable holistic energy improvements at buildings, campuses, and multi-building facilities. The NJEDA will provide grant awards ranging from \$2.5 to \$12.5 million to reimburse applicants for eligible hard and soft construction costs, including design, equipment, construction, and commissioning from projects that significantly reduce carbon emissions, serve as replicable models, accelerate New Jersey's clean energy transition, and stimulate economic growth in the clean energy industry. This pilot is funded by the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) proceeds allocated to the NJEDA..."

<https://www.njeda.gov/njeda-board-launches-grant-program-to-support-large-scale-decarbonization-and-energy-efficiency-projects>

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## **NJBPU Consolidates Efficiency Programs, Creates Single Gateway for Builders Pursuing Net Zero Construction Goals**

From the press release: "The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) today [10/21/2025] announced the details of its groundbreaking New Construction Program (NCP)... The NCP creates a single point of entry for builders, developers, and project stakeholders to access financial incentives for energy-efficient new construction and major renovation projects across the residential, multifamily, commercial, and industrial sectors.... The NCP replaces and consolidates several existing NJBPU programs, including Residential New Construction, SmartStart, and Pay for Performance, offering three distinct pathways tailored to different project types and performance levels."

<https://www.nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/2025/approved/20251021.html>

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## **POLLUTION**

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### **How the Greening Camden Toolkit Is Helping Residents and Government Work Toward Cleaner Air**

This Guest Essay (by Nicole M. Abbott) from *South Jersey Climate News*, a news site staffed by students from Rowan University, describes the "Greening Camden Toolkit" (available here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1b3Q-qVem9wGfDFYNXJiHKikN8aJJ3dT4/view>) that was created by students at Rowan University's

Planning Studio in collaboration with the university's Community Planning + Visualization Lab, Camden Community Partnership, and Camden residents and other stakeholders. The Toolkit "is a collection of comprehensive tools that can be utilized by Camden residents and local governance to understand the causes and impacts of air pollution. It also offers both short and long-term air quality improvement strategies that reflect how everyday actions and larger policy changes can work together. At a community level, this toolkit offers practical short-term strategies.... At a governance level, this toolkit also provides policy-specific strategies that can be utilized in long-term reform."

<https://sjclimate.news/6531/essays/breathing-easy-how-the-greening-camden-toolkit-is-helping-residents-and-government-work-toward-cleaner-air>

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## **EDUCATION and YOUTH-RELATED**

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### **New Jersey Department of Education Announces the Award of \$2.37 Million in Grants to Enhance Climate Change Instruction**

From the press release: "The New Jersey Department of Education today announced awards of \$2.37 million for three separate grant opportunities to help schools make climate-change instruction more meaningful, impactful, and experiential for students." The three grant areas are: Climate Change Education and Resilience Through Interdisciplinary Learning (CCERIL); Climate Literacy for Community Resilience (CLCR)' and Climate Change Learning Collaboratives (CCLCs). The list of recipients, with award amounts, is in the press release, available here: <https://www.nj.gov/education/news/2025/NewJerseyDepartmentOfEducationAwardsGrantsToEnhanceClimateChangeInstruction.pdf>.

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### **Regenerative Farm at Rowan's West Campus Cultivates New Opportunities for Students**

This article (by Staff Writer Michael Batutista) from *South Jersey Climate News*, a news site staffed by students from Rowan University, describes a regenerative farm on Rowan University's campus. At the farm, "students and faculty are working together to monitor soil, grow

crops, and test regenerative agriculture techniques designed to transform South Jersey food systems.... Students monitor microbial activity, nutrient levels, and moisture content, linking the data to above-ground growth and connecting theory to practice.... The project also aims to develop a regenerative farming index [which] could ultimately inform farmers, guide policy, and determine overall funding. Meanwhile, sensors, drones, and student-collected data feed algorithms that refine irrigation, pest control, and crop selection. The ultimate goal is scalable, sustainable farming that supports communities and informs global practices, thus making Rowan's overall role crucial."

<https://sjclimate.news/6546/county/gloucester-county/regenerative-farm-at-rowans-west-campus-cultivates-new-opportunities-for-students>

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## OTHER

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### How Much Water and Energy Do Data Centers Consume? NJ Bill Demands Answers

A bill (S4293/A5548) that would require data centers to report publicly on a quarterly basis how much water and electricity they use passed in both houses of the NJ legislature but was conditionally vetoed by Gov. Murphy (conditional veto available here:

<https://d31hzlhk6di2h5.cloudfront.net/20251020/0e/08/67/11/420b59aa28b9a0d24f763405/S4293CV.pdf>).

Rather than approve this stand-alone bill, Gov. Murphy's conditional veto provides language for an amendment to the law passed earlier this year (P.L.2025, c.98) which directs the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to study the impacts of data centers on electricity costs in NJ. The amendment would add "water impacts" to the law, would direct the BPU "to consider the benefits of data centers, including economic, fiscal, technological, and employment factors," and would "protect potentially proprietary information and address security concerns by ensuring that the information BPU collects from data centers will be considered confidential and not subject to disclosure, except to the extent it is anonymized and submitted in BPU's report to the Legislature."

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/09/how-much-water-and-energy-do-data-centers-consume-nj-bill-demands-answers/>

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### Governor Murphy's Energy Policy Scrutinized as His Two Terms Wrap Up

This *New Jersey Monitor* article provides a comprehensive look at the pluses and minuses of Gov. Murphy's energy policy over the course of his time in office.

<https://newjerseymonitor.com/2025/10/15/nj-governor-phil-murphy-energy-policy>

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### Following Joint Conference, Bipartisan Governors Collaborate to Address Regional Electricity Grid Challenges

From the press release: "Governor Phil Murphy joined a group of bipartisan governors across the region in signing on to the PJM Governors' Collaborative with the goal of durably increasing state and consumer representation at grid operator PJM in order to address long-term issues with electricity affordability and grid reliability. The announcement comes on the heels of the first-ever technical conference held by the 13 states within the PJM region on Monday in Philadelphia." The PJM Governors' Collaborative Joint Statement of Intent is available here:

<https://www.nj.gov/governor/docs/PJM-State-Governors-Collaborative.pdf>. Signatory states include: NJ, DE, IN, OH, TN, VA, MD, MI, NC, IL, and PA (KY and WV, also in the PJM region, did not sign).  
<https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562025/approved/20250926b.shtml>

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## Fed Up With the PJM Grid's Rates, Member States Threaten to Pull Out

This article describes the recent PJM grid electricity rate spike, some possible reasons for it, and the fact that some states are threatening to leave PJM if they don't have more say in its governance (see the article on [p. 19](#)). However, the article states that this may not come to pass because such a move would probably cost customers more in the short term as states would need to negotiate their own power procurements. <https://enviropolitics.com/fed-up-with-the-pjm-grids-rates-member-states-threaten-to-pull-out>

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## N.J.'s First Project to Capture Landfill Gas, Convert It to Energy Begins Operations

Natural gas is not renewable, but so-called "renewable natural gas" (RNG) is produced by capturing methane from landfills, wastewater, or livestock manure. It is touted as "offering a lower-carbon alternative to diesel and conventional natural gas," but is expensive and composed of methane that is transported through leaky pipelines. OPAL Fuels, South Jersey Industries, and the Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA) have opened a facility in Egg Harbor Township that captures landfill gas from ACUA's solid waste site and processes it into RNG. It is the first project to deliver renewable natural gas into the pipeline system of South Jersey Gas, and another project is planned for Florence Township by a collaboration of the same companies. <https://www.yahoo.com/news/articles/n-j-first-project-capture-153137822.html>

### 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.

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

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