



NEW DATE/EVENING TIME for EJTF MONTHLY MEETINGS!
2nd TUESDAY of the month, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom (see p. 17)

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

EJTF ACTIVITIES

UUFANJ/EJTF Join Final Push During the NJ Legislative Lame Duck Session



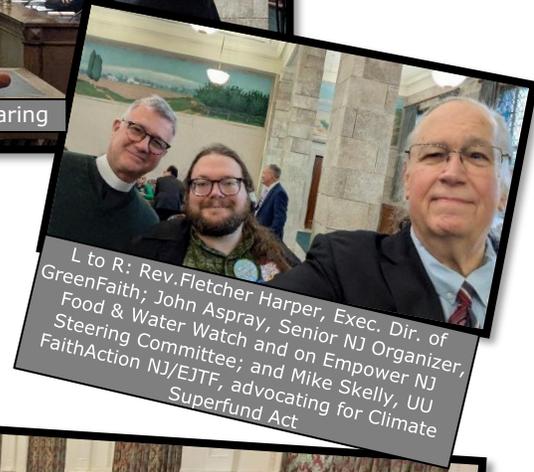
Marathon Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee hearing



Mike Skelly, UU FaithAction NJ/EJTF and Amy Goldsmith, Executive Director of Clean Water Action NJ and on Empower NJ Steering Committee, advocating for Climate Superfund Act, and Protecting Against Forever Chemicals Act

On 1/8/2026, **UUFANJ/EJTF**, along with our coalition partners, attended marathon hearings to support our priority bills at the end of the NJ legislative session.

See pages [2](#) and [3](#) for the results!



L to R: Rev. Fletcher Harper, Exec. Dir. of GreenFaith; John Aspray, Senior NJ Organizer, Food & Water Watch and on Empower NJ Steering Committee; and Mike Skelly, UU FaithAction NJ/EJTF, advocating for Climate Superfund Act



The press and Climate Superfund, EJ Communities, Clean Energy and environmental advocates gather "in the round" in the NJ State house



UUFANJ members in attendance at hearing (in yellow t-shirts)

Photos by Michael Skelly

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EJTF ACTIVITIES (Continued)

- **UUFANJ/EJTF** signed on to a letter to Gov. Sherrill from Wind Works (a coalition of which **UUFANJ is a member**) asking her to continue to support offshore wind (OSW) during the "pause" we are currently experiencing. Several court cases have ruled positively against the attempts to shut down OSW projects along the New England coast.
- **UUFANJ/EJTF** submitted comments to the NJ Board Of Public Utilities (BPU) on the proposal for "Energy Efficiency and Peak Demand Reduction in New Jersey." The comments asked NJ to build on current efforts and called for increased efficiency and energy demand reductions similar to those in Massachusetts and California. The full comments are available here: https://publicaccess.bpu.state.nj.us/CaseSummary.aspx?case_id=2113784. Click on the "Public Comment" tab, under the name of **Michael Skelly Sr** - click on the Attachment for an easy-to-read PDF version.
- **UUFANJ/EJTF at NJ LAME DUCK LEGISLATIVE SESSION:** On 1/8/2026, **UUFANJ/EJTF member Michael Skelly** spent the entire day at the NJ State House, attending hearings in support of our priority bills (see photos on [p. 1](#)). In Michael's words:

"I started my day on Thursday, January 8, 2026 just as the State House was opening and was the first person to sign in at the guard station. I went to support UUFANJ and the Immigrant Protection Act and others. I then shifted to the Senate and EJTF issues. The NJ Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee met in a marathon session considering numerous bills and taking the next legislative step in the run towards the 2024-2025 finish line.

I was there in person, with a packed crowd of the public and advocates of every imaginable stripe, from mid-day to night. I was very happy to see so many of our Allies and old friends. I will set aside details, lengthy delays, and drama and give you the results of nearly 10 hours of hearings and advocacy. It was very difficult to hear and the complex process often shifted from a careful and deliberative exchange to one that moved at the speed of an auction with many bills whizzing by.

EJTF had 4 bills in which UU Faith Action took a public position. I will list them in order of importance to EJTF, even though they were taken in a much different order by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee -

Climate Superfund Act - S3545/A4696.....EJTF position = YES,....Result YES, reported from committee with amendments [Update: it was not taken up by the Assembly, so did not pass, and will be reintroduced in the new legislative session.]

Data Center Electric Rates - S4307/A5462.....EJTF position = YES,....Result YES, reported from committee with amendments [Update: it passed both Houses but was "pocket vetoed" by Gov. Murphy.]

Tire Storage - S4630/A5851.....EJTF position = YES,....Result YES, reported from committee with amendments, 2nd reading [Update: it passed both Houses and was signed into law by Gov. Murphy.]

E-Bikes Requirements, Classification - S4834/A6235.....EJTF position = NO,....Result YES, reported from committee [Update: it passed both Houses and was signed into law by Gov. Murphy.]"

NJ LAME DUCK LEGISLATIVE SESSION ENVIRONMENTAL SCORECARD

Legislation That Passed and Was Signed Into Law:

1. Skip the Stuff Act (S3195/A5157): Reduces unnecessary single-use utensils and condiments for takeout and delivery (in most cases requiring the customer to request them) and prohibits single-use utensils or condiments for on-site customers at full-service restaurants with on-site seating capacity for 10 or more customers (which is unique in the country). Supported by **UUFANJ/EJTF's** coalition partners at Clean Water Action (see [p. 14](#)).
2. Protecting Against Forever Chemicals Act (A1421/S1042): Strengthens protections for our drinking water against PFAS. Supported by **UUFANJ/EJTF's** coalition partners at Clean Water Action.
3. Regulating Forever Chemicals in Fire Fighting Equipment (S5223/A5195): Protects our first responders, public health and the environment.
4. The Smart Solar Permitting bill (A5264/S4100): Will expedite solar installations by cutting red tape, making it faster, cheaper and more accessible to New Jersey families. It was supported by **UUFANJ/EJTF's** coalition partners at Vote Solar.
5. Food Waste Reduction Law (S2426/A2090): Requires every solid-waste management district to develop plans to cut food waste by 50% by 2035 and expand composting.
6. Campus Food Waste Reduction (S3889/A5387): Directs each public institution of higher education to develop and implement a food waste reduction program on each campus of the institution, in order to redirect unused, excess food prepared or distributed at campus dining halls, facilities, and events to local food security programs, including soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, and community nonprofits.
7. A Resolution Concerning the Right to Adequate Food (AJR229): Recognizes the right to adequate food and sets the foundations for promoting, protecting, respecting, and ensuring people can fully enjoy this right to adequate food.
8. Invasive Species Management Act (S1029/A4137): Prohibits sale, distribution, import, export, and propagation of certain invasive species; establishes NJ invasive Species Council.

Also Adopted: New Jersey Protecting Against Climate Threats Resilient Environment and Landscapes (NJPACT REAL) Rules: Helping communities better plan for climate change and flooding impacts. (see [p. 12](#))

Legislation That Did Not Pass; to Be Reintroduced in the New Legislative Session:

1. Climate Superfund Act (S3545/A4696): In spite of the enormous effort on behalf of organizations, individuals, and legislators, the Climate Superfund Act did not pass through the legislature by 1/20/2026. It did get across hurdles in the Senate, passing favorably out of both the Senate Environment and Senate Budget committees, however it did not get passed in either committee in the Assembly. It will be reintroduced, and strategizing has already begun.
2. NJ Commission on Environmental Education revisions bill (S4679/A5895): Did not pass this session, but was voted out of committee unanimously in the NJ Senate, after testimony by **UUFANJ/EJTF member Mike Skelly** paved the way for amendments that addressed some legislators' concerns. The Assembly committee did not have time to address it, but it will be reintroduced in 2026 and is expected to be viewed favorably.
3. Clean Energy Act (S237/A1480): Establishes a 100 percent clean electricity standard. It did not pass this session but it will be reintroduced and advocates have already laid groundwork for it.

FUTURE EVENTS - Virtual, In-person, and Hybrid

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

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

FEBRUARY 2026						
(with hyperlinks to details on the following pages)						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
1	2	3	4 NJDOE Public Hearing on Draft Revisions to NJ Student Learning Standards - 1:00 p.m. DRBC 1Q Public Hearing - 1:30 p.m.	5 "Powering the Economy: Generation Innovation, Grid Optimization, and Energy Efficiency" - 3:30 p.m.	6	7 "Earth's Greatest Enemy" Film Screenings - 2:00 p.m. OR 7:00 p.m.
8	9 "Frontiers for Sustainably Securing Energy Critical Elements" - 2:55 p.m.	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 DRBC Advisory Committee on Climate Change - 10:00 a.m.	18 NJ Clean Air Council Meeting - 9:30 a.m. "Green Sanctuary for our Kids" - 7:00 p.m.	19 "Futureproof the Workforce" - 12:00 p.m.	20 RSVP for 2026 Spring Forestry Festival (in May)	21 Fort Lee, NJ Repair Cafe - 1:00 p.m. Ridgewood, NJ Repair Cafe - 1:00 p.m.
22	23 "Food: The Ultimate Climate Change Messenger" - 2:55 p.m. "Climate Solutions Now" Virtual Conference	24 "Democratizing Solar: What Balcony Plug-In Systems Mean for Energy Access" - 7:00 p.m. "Climate Solutions Now" Virtual Conference	25 "Climate Solutions Now" Virtual Conference	26 "9th Annual Watershed Conference" of The Watershed Institute - 9:00 a.m. "Projected Impacts of Data Centers & Cryptocurrency Mining on U.S. Electricity Costs and Emissions" - 12:30 p.m. "Climate Solutions Now" Virtual Conference	27 "9th Annual Watershed Conference" of The Watershed Institute - 9:00 a.m. "Climate Solutions Now" Virtual Conference Comments Due: NJDOE Draft Revisions to NJ Student Learning Standards	28

FUTURE EVENTS

NJDOE Public Hearing on Draft Revisions to NJ Student Learning Standards
2/4/2026, 1:00 p.m.
Trenton, NJ - In-person
Comments Due 2/27/2026

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 all grade levels and subjects. The NJ Department of Education (DOE) has issued draft revisions to the learning standards listed below (under "**Presentations**,") and are holding

three public hearings on them, one of which remains. It is too late to register to speak at the hearing, but written comments can be submitted by email to njlsreview@doe.nj.gov - **the due date for written comments is 2/27/2026.**

Links to the draft revised standards documents are available here: <https://www.nj.gov/education/sboe/>.

"Climate change" is denoted in the documents by a symbol (🌱).

Presentations about the revised standards are available here:

- Proposed Revisions to New Jersey Student Learning Standards: Science and Career Readiness, Life Literacies, and Key Skills
https://www.nj.gov/education/sboe/meetings/agenda/2025/November/public/5f6_NJSLS_CLKS_and_Science_presentation.pdf

- Proposed Revisions to New Jersey Student Learning Standards: Computer Science, Innovation, and Society; World Languages; and Visual and Performing Arts
https://www.nj.gov/education/sboe/meetings/agenda/2025/December/public/5e2_Item_E_presentation.pdf

Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) First Quarter 2026 Public Hearing 2/4/2026, 1:30 p.m. - Virtual

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) will hold its first-quarter public hearing on Wednesday, 2/4/2026. The public hearing 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. Additional information, including links to the agenda and to register, and information about how to provide testimony, is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/yc5j6trv>.

"Powering the Economy: Generation Innovation, Grid Optimization, and Energy Efficiency" - Livestreamed 2/5/2026, 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

"The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) and the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) invite you to a briefing about state-led energy solutions to meet rapidly increasing power demand needed to grow America's economy, support energy security and resilience, and put downward pressure on electricity costs. Attendees will hear from State Energy Office leaders about the 11-state Advanced

Nuclear First Mover Initiative, 13-state Geothermal Power Accelerator, hydropower, advanced transmission reconditioning and grid optimization, and energy storage. Panelists will also discuss energy efficiency solutions that are lowering energy bills for consumers and businesses, and the latest on state energy security initiatives designed to improve reliability and speed the recovery of energy systems following physical, weather, and cyber incidents. Speakers will highlight key federal policies that can help states in their efforts to catalyze energy innovation and address energy affordability." Additional information and the links to RSVP and to access the livestream is available here:

<https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/020526grid>

"Earth's Greatest Enemy" Film Screenings 2/7/2026, either 2:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. Rutherford, NJ - In-person

"New Jersey Peace Action will host 2 screenings of a powerful new documentary by Abby Martin exposing the world's biggest and least accountable polluter - the U.S. military. Exempt from international climate agreements and rarely scrutinized in mainstream reporting, the Pentagon is revealed here as the world's single largest institutional polluter - spewing carbon, contaminating water, and scarring landscapes across the globe. Virtual Q&A with Martin, the director, after the 2:00 pm screening. Doors open 30 min before each showing." This NJ film premiere is co-sponsored by Rutherford Indivisible NJ, the Rutherford Congregational Church, Veterans for Peace/Chapter 021 (Northern NJ) and 350.org-NJRockland. Information about mass transit and parking at the venue is available here: <https://www.williamscenter.co/travel/>. Additional information about the film, including the trailer and links to purchase tickets (**\$20**) is available here: <https://www.njpeaceaction.org/earths-greatest-enemy-film>.

"Frontiers for Sustainably Securing Energy Critical Elements" - Webinar 2/9/2026, 2:55 p.m. - 4:10 p.m.

This webinar, part of the Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability "Perspectives on the Climate Change Challenge" Seminars, will be presented by Dr. Esteban Gazel, Charles N. Mellowes Professor in Engineering at Cornell University. "Abstract: The 'green energy transition' and initiatives to

expand domestic supply chains are placing an unprecedented demand on critical elements. While recycling technologies are promising, even with the best possible recovery efficiency, recycling itself will not fulfill the demand. Therefore, the only option is to harvest these elements from mineral deposits, but current extraction methods can leave considerable amounts of toxic waste and focus on high-concentration elements of economic value, leaving many other elements behind. Securing critical elements has become the 'Apollo' challenge of our time, a challenge that only can be solved with innovation. Synthetic biology, in combination with mineralogy and geochemistry, provides a new frontier for critical elements innovation." Additional information and the link for the Zoom are available here:
<https://www.atkinson.cornell.edu/news-events/climate-change-seminar/>.

DRBC Advisory Committee on Climate Change - via Zoom
2/17/2026, 10:00 a.m.

For the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) Advisory Committee on Climate Change (ACCC) meeting, additional information, including links to the agenda when available and Zoom registration, are available here:
<https://www.nj.gov/drbc/meetings/advisory/>.

NJ Clean Air Council Meeting - Hybrid
2/18/2026, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Union, NJ - In-person & Virtual

The NJ Clean Air Council (CAC) provides advice to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on air quality matters. The February meeting will be held in-person and virtually. Contact George Berdomas, 609-940-5654 (George.Berdomas@dep.nj.gov) regarding an invitation for the monthly meeting. Additional information is available here:
<https://dep.nj.gov/event/clean-air-council-meeting-20260218/>.

"Green Sanctuary for our Kids": Green Sanctuary Community Meeting
- Webinar
2/18/2026, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

This is the monthly meeting of the UU Association's congregational climate justice

program with Side with Love - Green Sanctuary 2030 (GS2030). "Creating Climate Justice is not just for adults! Our Green Sanctuary activities can engage with our children and youth programs, and those programs can also shape our Green Sanctuary work. Come learn from Julie Rigano, Director of Family Ministry at the UU Church at Washington Crossing in New Jersey, who will share her experiences on how the GS work with children and youth, especially the Climate Justice Revival materials, has enhanced programming for all." Additional information and registration are available here:
<https://secure.everyaction.com/B4xav5kGQkuY5QIOgky9Rq2>.

"Futureproof the Workforce" - Webinar
2/19/2026, 12:00 p.m.

This webinar is sponsored by the American Forests' Tree Equity Coaching Network. "Join us for the eighth session of the Tree Equity Coaching Network with Brigitte Orrick from the Davey Tree Expert Company. We'll learn how our work advocating and working for tree equity aligns with our roles in workforce development. Both of these components are equally important and without future stewards our initiatives may be lost." 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." Additional information and registration is available here:
<https://tinyurl.com/5bx7ymye>.

"Climate Solutions Now"
Virtual Conference
2/23/2026 - 2/27/2026,
11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. EST (multiple tracks)

This conference is presented by the Initiative for Climate Leadership and Resilience at Cal Poly. It consists of over 70 talks in 12 parallel tracks and is all virtual. Maya van Rossum is making a presentation on Green Amendments on 2/24/2026 at 1:10 p.m. EST. Additional information, including links to view the agenda for each day and to register (**1-day = \$28; any 2 days = \$38; any 3 days = \$46; any 4 days = \$52; all 5 days = \$56**), is available here:
<https://climate.calpoly.edu/climate-solutions>.

"Food: The Ultimate Climate Change Messenger" - Webinar
2/23/2026, 2:55 p.m. - 4:10 p.m.

This webinar, part of the Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability "Perspectives on the Climate Change Challenge" Seminars, will be presented by Dr. Michael Hoffmann, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Entomology of Cornell University. "Addressing the greatest challenge of our time - climate change - has been [Dr. Hoffman's] focus for many years.... Abstract: Food is essential for life, it is emotive, and it is imbedded in our cultures and family histories. However, climate change is changing everything on the menu giving us unlimited stories to tell and make climate change relevant to everyone. We all eat! The common ground of food even crosses the political divide. Regardless of political affiliation most people are concerned about climate change impacts on their food, and they are interested in learning more - an audience awaits. Food is the ultimate climate change messenger. This is not another doom and gloom story but one focused on a solution. Everyone can tap the power of food to confront climate change and keep our favorites on the menu. And coincidentally, help keep the planet livable." Additional information and the link for the Zoom are available here: <https://www.atkinson.cornell.edu/news-events/climate-change-seminar/>.

"Democratizing Solar: What Balcony Plug-In Systems Mean for Energy Access"
2/24/2026, 7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
- Webinar

This webinar sponsored by Elders Climate Action will be presented by Cora Stryker, who is "the serial founder of several mission-driven organizations including Bright Saver, the first and only nonprofit dedicated to making plug-in 'balcony' solar a reality in the United States. She is a former tropical field biologist, and a graduate of Brown University with Honors." Additional information and the link to register are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/yy877ptu>.

"Projected Impacts of Data Centers & Cryptocurrency Mining on U.S. Electricity Costs and Emissions"
2/26/2026, 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Princeton, NJ - In-person

This Princeton University Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment webinar will be presented by Dr. Joseph DeCarolis, a Professor and Head of the Department of Engineering and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University. "His research focuses on conducting rigorous, impartial energy systems analysis to inform sustainable energy system development. From 2022 to 2025, he served in a Senate-confirmed role as Administrator of the U.S. Energy Information Administration." Additional information is available here: <https://acee.princeton.edu/events/highlight-seminar-joseph-decarolis>.

"9th Annual Watershed Conference" of The Watershed Institute - Hybrid
2/26/2026, 9:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. - Virtual
& 2/27/2026, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Virtual & In-person - Ewing, NJ

The 9th Annual Watershed conference is sponsored by The Watershed Institute; this year's theme is "All Hands on Deck - Multidisciplinary Approaches for Watershed Resilience." "The Watershed Conference is New Jersey's forum for municipal, county and state elected officials, staff, NGOs, environmental professionals and engaged community members to share and learn about best practices for watershed protection and restoration. Join us to learn: - How to reduce flooding and water pollution in your community; - Best practices for watershed planning and plan implementation; and - Effective strategies for engaging students and community members in watershed restoration." Links for additional information including the agenda, and to register (**Virtual attendance only = \$65.00; Hybrid - Virtual on 2/26 and in-person on 2/27 = \$130.00**), are available here: <https://thewatershed.org/ninth-annual-nj-watershed-conference/>.

REPAIR CAFE

YOUR BROKEN ITEMS FIXED FOR FREE!

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

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

Fort Lee, NJ Repair Cafe

2/21/2026, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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

Ridgewood, NJ Repair Cafe

2/21/2026, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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

Save the Dates!

37th Annual Pinelands Short Course 3/7/2026, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Galloway, NJ - In-person

The "Pinelands Short Course," a much-touted daylong event featuring educational presentations that explore the unique history, ecology, and culture of the Pinelands, is being held on 3/7/2026. This year's Pinelands Short Course will feature 39 presentations, including 20 new programs that will explore the region's unique history, ecology, culture, and music. The Short Course is co-sponsored by Stockton University and the NJ Pinelands Commission. Registration is now open, and those interested are encouraged to register as soon possible because the course is very popular, seating is limited, and registration (**\$60**) is first-come first-serve. Additional information is available here:

https://www.nj.gov/pinelands/home/news/PSC_PinelandsShortCoursePressRelease2026%20--%20FINAL.pdf and the course schedule, descriptions of sessions, and the link to register are available here: <https://stockton.edu/etcc/pinelands.html>.

2026 New Jersey Coastal & Climate Resilience Conference 3/9/2026 - 3/11/2026 Galloway, NJ - In-person

"The New Jersey Coastal Resilience Collaborative (NJCRC) and Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) will host the 2026 New Jersey Coastal & Climate Resilience Conference... at the Seaview Hotel in Galloway. With a theme of 'Navigating Changing Tides,' the event will build on the success of our 2024 conference, with hundreds of coastal and climate resilience professionals to gather, learn, collaborate and celebrate during the three-day event. Registration (**\$350 plus optional \$50 Field Trip add-on**) includes access to all three days of conference activities, meals, refreshments, and networking events. Registrants may also choose to participate in an optional "Resilient by Nature" field trip on day three which includes bus transportation and lunch. Additional information, including the agenda and registration link, is available here: <https://www.njcoastalresilience.org/nj-coastal-and-climate-resilience-conference/2026-new-jersey-coastal-and-climate-resilience-conference/>.

2026 Spring Forestry Festival 5/2/2026, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Jackson, NJ - In-person

"The New Jersey Forest Service (NJFS) is thrilled to invite you to the highly anticipated 2026 Spring Forestry Festival! This exciting event is the perfect opportunity for nature enthusiasts, families, educators and students to immerse themselves in the incredible world of forestry and conservation Come join us for a day full of learning, fun and exploration! You'll leave with a deeper understanding of our forests and the profound impact they have on our environment."

Please RSVP by February 20, 2026, to Regional Forester Joseph C. Bennett at **joseph.bennett@dep.nj.gov** or 856-261-0329. Additional information, including featured activities, is available here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1245165374161042/>.

**National Urban & Community Forestry
10-Yr. Action Plan (2027-2037)
Comments Due: 5/31/2026**

"The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC)... announced that the National Urban and Community Forestry Ten-Year Action Plan... is ...available for public comments/suggestions.... This Action Plan serves as a guidance document for the U.S. Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program. State, Urban and Community Forestry Programs also use [it] as a guidance document for their Urban and Community Forestry Programs and State Forest Action Plans. Annual ... accomplishments and recommendations are reported to the Secretary of Agriculture and applicable Congressional committees." **Comments are due 5/31/2026.** Additional information, including links to the previous Action Plan and to provide comments, is available here: <https://sites.google.com/view/nucf-plan-update-2027/home>. The Action Plan website, which includes tabs that link to State plans and a tutorial video, is available here: <https://actionplan.urbanandcommunityforests.org>

VIDEOS+ OF PAST EVENTS

**Eco-Logic Radio Show:
"Safe and Affordable Energy - Solar Wind
Water" - Recording of Radio Show**

The Eco-Logic radio/internet program on WBAI aired this recent show related to EJTF's priorities (cohosted by **EJTF member Sally Gellert**), **Safe and Affordable Energy - Solar Wind Water**. "The subject of safe and affordable energy is becoming more and more mainstream, even affecting some of last November's elections. In some ways, New York State has been a pioneer in safe and affordable energy, though falling behind recently with the governor favoring unsafe and expensive energy. Highly respected, long-time environmental activists Manna Jo Green and Steve Kent [reported] back on the Safe and Affordable Energy Forum of January 15, which was sponsored by Alliance for Nuclear-Free NY, Grassroots

Environmental Education, the National Radioactive Waste Coalition and Sierra Nuclear Free Team." The recording is available here: <https://wbai.org/archive/program/episode/?id=62697>. 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>.

**Sierra Club NJ Monthly Building
Electrification Webinar - "NJ Impact of
Data Centers" - Video of Webinar & Slides**

This webinar session of the touted Sierra Club NJ's monthly Building Electrification webinars presented a panel discussion of "NJ Impact of Data Centers.... Our 2026 NJ electric bills will be ~\$40/mo. greater, because of insatiable electric demand of AI in data centers throughout the 13 states supplied by PJM, our NJ wholesale electric supplier. PJM is passing through increasingly massive future electric rate increases caused (in part) by insufficient generation capacity after PJM blocked hundreds of clean electric projects for many years. PLUS: data centers can damage our environment with air and water pollution and noise. WHAT IS THE INCREASING IMPACT ON NJ? WHAT CAN WE DO?" The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o1FTGuY7k1g>; the presentation slides are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/5n8zfbnm>; the discussion from the Chat is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/yc8jemcr>; and a list of references (including the 1/16/2026 Governors' "Statement Principles Regarding PJM") is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/wynzppx>.

**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 January 2026 included presentations by various entities, including utilities and the NJ Comfort Partners program, on "Residential Energy Efficiency Programs Overview." Comfort Partners is "a no-cost program that helps income-eligible customers reduce their utility bills through: Implementation of cost-effective measures which save energy and money while improving the safety and comfort of a home;

and Energy education so customers understand usage habits and how those affect utility costs." The video is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/5ccwa2uc>; the Comfort Partners presentation begins at minute 00:31.30. Slides from the webinar are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/3ew5kfsx>.

NEWS RELATED TO EJTF ISSUES
[covering 12/26/2025 – 1/25/2026]

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Court Upholds NJ’s Landmark Environmental Justice Rules

This article, with a 1-1/2-minute news video, describes reactions to the NJ Appellate Court's upholding NJ's landmark environmental justice law and the rules implementing it. The 72-page opinion (available here: <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/26458436-appellate-court-affirms-nj-environmental-justice-rules/>) provides detail of the court's response to an appeal of the law and rules that had been filed by the NJ Chapter of The Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries and the construction advocacy organization ELEC825. The court found that the law and rules were constitutional and fit within existing case law. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/court-upholds-njs-landmark-environmental-justice-rules/>

DEP Releases Environmental Justice Action Plan to Serve as Roadmap for Equitable and Just DEP Services and Initiatives

From the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) news release: "The Office of Environmental Justice is pleased to announce the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Environmental Justice Action Plan, an agency self-assessment to create more equitable and just services and initiatives for the betterment of overburdened communities (OBCs) across New Jersey. The action plan is an honest self-examination of DEP's strengths, challenges, and opportunities to further institutionalize environmental justice as a facet of each DEP function and workstream.... Executive Order 23...

required all executive branch departments and agencies to incorporate environmental justice considerations into their work through the creation of environmental justice assessments and action plans. While the EJ Law focuses outward on certain types of polluting facilities the DEP regulates, the action plan turns the lens inward, ensuring that environmental justice principles guide all DEP policies, resources allocations, and engagement strategies." <https://dep.nj.gov/ej/action-plan/>

ELECTRIC VEHICLES & VEHICLE EMISSION REDUCTION

DEP Awards Nearly \$32 Million in Grants for Purchases of Electric School Buses and Public Charging Infrastructure

From the press release: "The Department of Environmental Protection [DEP] today [1/8/2026] announced the award of nearly \$32 million in grants that will advance the state's transition to zero-emission school buses to better protect the health of schoolchildren and improve public access to charging stations in New Jersey communities. Specifically, the DEP awarded more than \$18 million through the second round of its Electric School Bus Grant Program for local purchases of 53 electric school buses and 41 associated fast chargers. In addition, the DEP awarded \$13.6 million through its EV Charging Grant Program for 26 public and private projects to install publicly accessible charging stations at or near town and retail centers, multi-unit housing, and transit hubs across the state." https://dep.nj.gov/newsrel/26_001/

FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE

NJ Approves Air Permit for Natural Gas [NESE] Station Amid Environmental Fury

This article, with a 1-1/2-minute news video, describes the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) approval of the final air permit needed for the overall Williams Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (NESE) to move forward. This is the same project for which the DEP had repeatedly denied permits in the past, which **UUFANJ/EJTF** had pointed out in previous written comments. The NJ Sierra Club has stated

that they will continue to legally fight NESE (see <https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/blog/2026/01/nese-gains-air-permit-locking-new-dirty-gas-infrastructure-nj>) and they are involved in a lawsuit against Williams Transco regarding their water permits. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/nj-approves-air-permit-for-natural-gas-station-amid-environmental-fury/>

RENEWABLE RESOURCES



'Solar Simplified' Expands Community Solar Access across New Jersey with Middlesex Partnership

Although this is a press release from the "Solar Simplified" company, it describes how some NJ communities (i.e., Edgewater Park Township and the Borough of Middlesex) are partnering with other entities on the community solar front. The company's (unverified) statements are that they are "partnering with local leaders to support community engagement through direct outreach, educational resources, and local events designed to make enrollment simple and accessible" and that enrolled residents "receive 45 percent savings on applied solar credits. Subscribers receive credits directly on their utility bills while continuing to receive electricity service from their existing utility provider, with no upfront costs, no installation, and no long-term commitment." <https://www.newjerseyenvironmentwire.com/article/880973456-solar-simplified-expands-community-solar-access-across-new-jersey-with-middlesex-partnership>

LAND MANAGEMENT/ AGRICULTURE/FOOD

New Jersey Awards \$1.2 Million to Fight Food Insecurity on College Campuses

From the NJ Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE) press release: "Today [11/12/2025], the New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE) awarded \$1.2 million in Hunger-Free Campus Act grants to 36 institutions of higher education across the state to support campus-based resources, including food pantries and outreach connecting students with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)." A survey by OSHE found that: "Food insecurity among college students persists, affecting 36% of all student respondents and 50% of first-generation students. Nearly half (45%) of students had difficulty affording balanced meals. Even with lifeline federal assistance programs, 65% of students receiving SNAP and other federal assistance (TANF, WIC) reported experiencing food insecurity." The NJ Hunger-Free Campus Act was passed in 2019 and provides grants to institutions of higher education that have one or more hunger-free-designated campuses. The purpose of this grant program is to foster innovative ways to combat food insecurity on college and university campuses and assist in planning for long-term solutions. <https://www.nj.gov/highereducation/news/press/2025/11212025.shtml>

1 In 10 NJ Households Experienced Food Insecurity, New Report Shows

From the blog of Table to Table, "New Jersey's first and largest food rescue organization": "Food insecurity in New Jersey is increasing, with one in 10 households experiencing the status between 2022 and 2024, a new report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released recently shows. 'Household Food Security in the United States in 2024' [available to download here: <https://ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details?pubid=113622>] provides state-level food insecurity prevalence rates, averaging data from 2022, 2023, and 2024.... According to the report, between 2022 and 2024: One in 10 households, 9.8%, or about 350,000, experienced food

insecurity in New Jersey, an increase from the 8.3% reported in 2019-2022." Although the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has published this report for 30 years, it announced that this would be the last report, stating on its website that "These redundant, costly, politicized, and extraneous studies do nothing more than fear monger."

<https://tabletotable.org/1-in-10-nj-households-experienced-food-insecurity/>

CLIMATE CHANGE



NJ Flood Protection Rules Adopted; NJPACT REAL Rules Will Save Lives and Protect Properties

From the Sierra Club NJ press release: "New Jersey is the first and only State to adopt proactive land use regulations that are safer from flooding and are more resilient to the increasing impacts of climate change. The New Jersey Protecting Against Climate Threat Resilient Environments and Landscapes (NJPACT REAL) rules were adopted today [1/20/2026] upon publication in the New Jersey Register.... In addition to adopting building elevation requirements for new residential development, the NJPACT REAL rules include new stormwater management requirements for redevelopment projects previously exempt; new 'nature-based solutions' permitting designed to accelerate restoration projects; and additional protections for wetlands." The originally proposed regulations underwent "substantial changes" including the addition of language stating that hardship exceptions from the rules may be granted in cases of "the need to provide affordable housing." This addition was opposed by environmental justice advocates, and in its response to comments, NJ stated that this was always the case, and the

language is meant to clarify that such cases are not *excluded* from hardship exceptions (see p. 1427 of the regulations, available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/rules/adoptions/adopt-20260120a.pdf>, "Response To Comments 2455 Through 2475"). <https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/blog/2026/01/nj-flood-protection-rules-adopted-njpact-real-rules-will-save-lives-and>

Climate Superfund Act Advanced by N.J. Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee

Although the Climate Superfund Act bill was not passed during the NJ Lam Duck legislative session, it achieved a significant milestone by being passed by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee. Despite majority support in the NJ Assembly, with 46 co-sponsors, it was not considered in the Assembly during the Lam Duck session. Advocates, including **UUFANJ/EJTF** will be strongly pushing for its consideration in the new legislative session. <https://www.roi-nj.com/2026/01/09/industry/energy-utilities/climate-superfund-act-advanced-by-n-j-senate-budget-and-appropriations-committee/>

Murphy Administration Marks Resilience Accomplishments With Release of Interagency Council on Climate Resilience Update

From the press release: "The Murphy Administration today [1/16/2026] released an annual update of climate resilience work being undertaken by state agencies to better protect properties, lives, infrastructure, natural resources and the economy from the impacts of a changing climate. In addition to providing important updates on a wide range of state climate resilience efforts, the second annual New Jersey Interagency Council on Climate Resilience report [available here: https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/climatechange/nj-iac-2025-annual-report_hi-res.pdf] highlights the longstanding commitment by the Murphy Administration to advance science-based solutions, strong partnerships and public engagement to address climate threats." The initiatives included in the report are described in the press release, available here: https://dep.nj.gov/newsrel/26_0004/.

New Jersey Nature-Based Solutions: Planning, Implementation, and Monitoring Reference Guide

This comprehensive Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) guide was prepared by the Rutgers University – New Brunswick New Jersey Climate Change Resource Center in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy, New Jersey (TNC-NJ). "The NBS in this reference document represent the breadth of NBS that can help mitigate the various hazards the State is experiencing. These hazards include inland flooding and stormwater issues, coastal flooding, storm surge, wildfire, drought, extreme heat, and other hazards." It was designed to: "create a digestible guide for people in New Jersey to better understand existing information and resources on nature-based solutions; identify and address gaps in knowledge; and empower more people in New Jersey to apply for NBS project funding, receive it, and get projects in the ground." The Guide is available to download here:

<https://njclimateresourcecenter.rutgers.edu/resources/new-jersey-nature-based-solutions-planning-implementation-and-monitoring-reference-guide/>.

Note: a video of a webinar that describes the Guide is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a4u60feRMOo>.

A New Jersey Buyout Program for Flood-Prone Homes Is a National Model

From the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Office of Climate Resilience newsletter: "Recently featured in *Inside Climate News* - the oldest and largest climate newsroom in the nation - New Jersey's Blue Acres program continues to serve as a national model for transforming flood-prone properties into resilient landscapes and giving flood-impacted homeowners a fresh start. Since its inception in 1995, the initiative has acquired and demolished approximately 1,200 repeatedly flooded properties, converting them into buffer zones and open space to better absorb stormwater.

Highlighted as a national model, the program streamlines funding, engages municipalities, and supports homeowners through tough transitions, providing a critical mitigation option for NJ homeowners facing repeated flooding." The article is available here:

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/25122025/new-jersey-flood-prone-homes-buyout-program>.

New Report: '2025 New Jersey Scientific Report on Climate Change'

From the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Office of Climate Resilience newsletter: "The DEP, along with colleagues from the Department of Health, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Human Services, published the 2025 New Jersey Scientific Report on Climate Change, which summarizes the current state of knowledge regarding the effects of climate change on New Jerseyans and the environment. The purpose of this report is to inform state and local decision-makers, as well as the citizens they support, as they seek to understand and respond to climate change. The report identifies and presents the best available science and existing data regarding the current and anticipated environmental effects of climate change in our state. The 2025 report also incorporates several recent New Jersey specific studies, the latest reports from federal and international sources, and updated information about the impacts on human health and communities." The report is available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/climatechange/nj-scientific-report-2025.pdf>.

FOREST HEALTH/URBAN FORESTRY

Ewing Green Team Launches 250-Tree Planting Initiative

The Ewing Green Team and the Ewing Environmental Commission, in partnership with the mayor and Township Council, are asking residents, businesses, and organizations to commit to planting at least one tree on their land (or donate to a tree-planting on public land) in order to honor America's 250th birthday by planting 250 trees, with an emphasis on native species. Ewing's tree canopy of 27.4% is below the statewide average of around 40%.

https://www.communitynews.org/towns/ewing-observer/ewing-green-team-launches-250-tree-planting-initiative/article_520fd4ed-5269-4adf-b3b0-89bad497d7cd.html

LEAD REDUCTION IN HOUSEHOLDS

New Report: 'Early Trends in Lead Service Line Inventories: Reflections from New Jersey'

Jersey Water Works has released a report, "Early Trends in Lead Service Line Inventories: Reflections from New Jersey" that "examined quantitative data on lead service line (LSL) replacements and contextualized it through case studies of five New Jersey water systems. These narratives provide valuable insights into the successes, challenges, and lessons learned during the initial years of implementing LSL replacements." The report is available here: https://cms.jerseywaterworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/JWW_LSLR_DataReportFINAL.pdf.

ENERGY/ENERGY EFFICIENCY

PJM Board Announces Final Proposal to Address Data Center Demand

In August 2025, PJM Interconnection LLC (PJM), the regional grid operator that serves 13 states including New Jersey, began a "Critical Issue Fast Path" stakeholder process to select a plan for adding data centers and other large loads to the grid. At a meeting in November 2025, none of the 12 stakeholder proposals were agreed upon. PJM has now issued a plan that includes components from a number of those proposals. The plan is available here: <https://www.pjm.com/-/media/DotCom/about-pjm/who-we-are/public-disclosures/2026/20260116-pjm-board-letter-results-of-the-cifp-process-large-load-additions.pdf> and a news release from PJM summarizing it is available here: <https://www.pjm.com/-/media/DotCom/about-pjm/newsroom/2026-releases/20260116-pjm-board-outlines-plans-to-integrate-large-loads-reliably.pdf>. According to the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC), however, "PJM fails to adequately address bill hikes and reliability risks posed by data centers" and has "proposed a fast-track process that effectively excludes clean energy projects and gives special treatment to fossil fuel power plants built for data centers, allowing them to cut ahead of low-cost clean resources that have been waiting years to connect to the grid." <https://www.nrdc.org/press-releases/pjm-board-announces-final-proposal-address-data-center-demand>

POLLUTION



Bill to Limit Plastic Utensils in Restaurants Wins Legislative Approval [Note: Gov. Murphy approved the bill]

This article gives a good description of the bill, its history, and its effects. The bill was strongly supported by NJ environmental organizations, particularly **EJTF coalition partner** Clean Water Action, for which **EJTF member Peggy Middaugh** serves on the NJ Board. The bill was approved by Gov. Murphy, and will reduce unnecessary single-use utensils and condiments for takeout and delivery, in most cases requiring the customer to request them. It prohibits single-use utensils or condiments for on-site customers at full-service restaurants with on-site seating capacity for 10 or more customers, which is unique in the country. <https://newjerseymonitor.com/2026/01/12/bill-plastic-utensils-restaurants/>

OTHER

Governor-elect Sherrill Nominates Ed Potosnak to be Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

From the press release: "Today [1/16/2026], Governor-elect Mikie Sherrill announced Ed Potosnak as her nominee to be the next Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of

Environmental Protection (NJDEP). As commissioner, Ed will lead the state's efforts to become more flood resilient, mitigate harmful PFAS chemicals, and remediate contaminated sites. In the Sherrill-Caldwell Administration, the Department of Environmental Protection will work to cut through red tape, develop clear timelines for permitting, and foster economic growth while protecting New Jersey's air, land, and water.... Ed Potosnak is recognized as one of New Jersey's most trusted voices on clean energy and environmental protection. Ed also serves his community as a Councilmember in Franklin Township (Somerset County) and previously as President and member of the local School Board. At Rutgers University, he shares his passion for public service and sustainability as a lecturer, inspiring the next generation to pursue careers in the environmental field. Currently, Ed serves as the Executive Director of the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters. Additionally, he is Co-Chair of the New Jersey Keep It Green Coalition, New Jersey State Lead for the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed, was appointed by New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy to the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) Board and is a member of the Rutgers Glee Club Alumni Advisory Committee. Before his career in environmental policy, Ed taught high school chemistry and started a successful home improvement company as a licensed contractor to supplement his teaching income. His dedication to public service earned him the prestigious Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship, which took him to Capitol Hill to help craft national science and education policy. Ed holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry and a master's degree in education from Rutgers University."

<https://www.nj.gov/govelect/news/approved/20260116a.shtml>

Over Strong Opposition, Private Yacht Storage OK'd in Liberty State Park

The NJ State House Commission, after a contentious 3-1/2-hour virtual meeting in which many who wanted to speak did not get the chance, voted 5 - 2 to approve a 60-year lease that lets a private marina operator build a massive boat-warehouse on Liberty State Park land, even though the current agreement would not expire for 21 years. Opponents to the lease extension/

expansion argued that the lease amounts to a taxpayer-funded giveaway of public land in Liberty State Park. **UUFANJ/EJTF** had previously submitted comments in opposition to the lease extension/expansion. As noted in a *Jersey City Times* article (reproduced by the Friends of Liberty State Park here:

https://www.folsp.org/preservation/jc_times_public_hearing_marina_lobbyist_1_17_26.pdf), "Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff spent months making the case that this lease presents the best opportunity for the state to generate much-needed funding for park revitalization, repair the marina bulkhead, and cover staffing needs at a time when public dollars - especially at the federal level - are scarce." and that "Friends of Liberty State Park and other environmental groups say they will continue the fight and are weighing a lawsuit against the state."

<https://enviropolitics.com/nj-oks-liberty-state-park-private-marina-over-strong-opposition/>

DEP, BPU Announce Groundbreaking Eco-Hub Program to Demonstrate Electric Grid Benefits of Bi-Directional Charging

From the press release: "The Department of Environmental Protection [DEP] and Board of Public Utilities [BPU] today [1/15/2026] announced the launch of a groundbreaking Eco-Hub pilot program to demonstrate the potential benefits of electric vehicle bi-directional charging to help power the electric grid and contribute to lower energy rates. Bi-directional charging technology allows electric vehicles to both charge and discharge energy from their batteries, providing the capabilities to transfer stored battery energy to homes and buildings or back to the electricity grid. During the first phase of the program, two schools... will be equipped with bi-directional charging stations and electric school buses. They will also be supplied with power from onsite solar and batteries that will utilize a microgrid controller to manage the storage and transfer of excess energy captured through the solar panels.... The pilot is funded through the DEP's Electric School Bus program and the BPU."

https://dep.nj.gov/newsrel/26_00115/

Highlands Council Welcomes Seven New Members - All Vacancies Filled, Representation from All Seven Highlands Counties Restored

From the press release: "At its first public meeting of 2026 the New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council welcomed seven new Council members, following a flurry of nominations and confirmations in the waning weeks of the 2025 legislative session." The new members are identified in the press release, available here:

https://www.nj.gov/njhighlands/about/news/releases/approved/20260115_janmtg.shtml. The NJ Highlands Coalition website includes a comprehensive article describing the difficulties of filling the Council membership, likening it to "3D chess" complete with Senatorial Courtesy, "a longstanding tradition that provides each Senator whose Legislative District includes at least one municipality in the nominee's county, with the ability to block a Governor's nominee indefinitely and without having to provide a reason." Filling the Council was a campaign promise of Gov. Murphy before his first term, and has now been fulfilled. The Highlands Coalition article is available here: <https://njhighlandscoalition.org/news/highlands-highlights-heres-to-a-reinvigorated-highlands-council/>.

Outgoing Environmental Chief Reflects on Murphy Administration's Legacy

This is a 9-minute *NJ Spotlight News* interview with outgoing NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Shawn LaTourette, in which he speaks about the landmark Environmental Justice Law, the REAL Flood Protection Rules, and other topics. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2026/01/outgoing-nj-environmental-chief-reflects-on-murphy-administration-legacy/>

"Promise Kept: Governor Sherrill Takes Bold Action with Executive Orders Declaring State of Emergency on Utility Costs"

From the press release: "Today [1/20/2026], during her inaugural speech, Governor Mikie Sherrill signed two executive orders delivering on her promise to declare a State of Emergency on Utility Costs on Day One. Executive Order No.1

delivers immediate ratepayer relief and freezes rate hikes for New Jersey families. Executive Order No. 2 takes action to massively expand in-state power generation – including solar and battery storage in the short-term, and nuclear power in the long-term, to lower electric bills." The press release is available here:

<https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/2026/approved/20260120a.shtml>.

Executive Order No. 1 is well described in *The Jersey Vindicator* article available here:

<https://jerseyvindicator.org/2026/01/20/what-gov-mikie-sherrills-first-executive-order-does-to-address-soaring-electric-bills-in-new-jersey/>.

Executive Order No. 2 is well described in *The Jersey Vindicator* article available here:

<https://jerseyvindicator.org/2026/01/20/sherrill-order-no-2-directs-utilities-and-state-agencies-to-speed-solar-storage-and-grid-projects/>

Governor Murphy Earns an Overall Environmental Grade of B From New Jersey LCV Following Final State of the State Address

From the press release: "Governor Murphy earned an 'A' during his first term and a 'B-' during his second term from New Jersey LCV [League of Conservation Voters], resulting in an overall grade of 'B.' The grades reflect strong vision and early leadership on clean energy, conservation, and environmental justice, paired with slower implementation and key goals that were never fully codified into law in the second half of his administration, although key progress was still made.

<https://www.njlcv.org/news/governor-murphy-earns-overall-environmental-grade-b-new-jersey-lcv-following-final-state-state>

'Better Than We Found It' - A 2018-2026 DEP Retrospective

This 168-page retrospective covers what the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) considers its "critical work accomplished between 2018 and 2026." The topics covered are shown on [p. 17](#).

<https://dep.nj.gov/better/>

**CONTENTS OF DEP's
"BETTER THAN WE FOUND IT"
RETROSPECTIVE (see [p. 16](#))**

SAFEGUARDING DRINKING WATER	CLEANING UP AND BUILDING FORWARD
ENSURING CLEANER WATERWAYS	RESTORING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES
BUILDING RESILIENCE TO EXTREME WEATHER AND CLIMATE CHANGE	HONORING HISTORY AND PRESERVING HERITAGE
EXPANDING ACCESS TO NATURE AND OUTDOOR RECREATION	MORE ACCESSIBLE AND EFFICIENT ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE
IMPROVING AIR QUALITY AND REDUCING CLIMATE POLLUTION	TOWARD A MORE SUSTAINABLE NEW JERSEY
PROTECTING OUR FISH, WILDLIFE AND HABITATS	BUILDING COMMUNITY AND EMPOWERING ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS
FURTHERING THE PROMISE OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE	CONCLUSION

MORATORIUM MONDAYS CONTINUE

Please continue to contact Gov. Sherrill 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.

NEW DATE/EVENING TIME for EJTF MONTHLY MEETINGS!

2nd TUESDAY, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

If you work, or cannot otherwise make daytime meetings, the UUFANJ Environmental Justice Task Force (EJTF) will now be meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Contact environment@uufaithaction.org for more information

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