



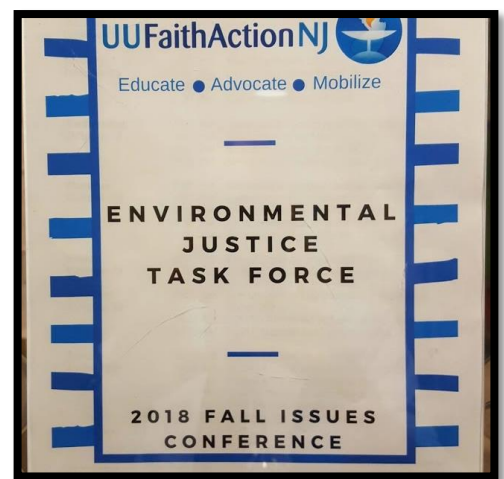
Environmental Justice Task Force Newsletter October 2018

UU Seventh Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. Environmental Justice (EJ): Addressing disproportionate and adverse human health or environmental effects in communities of low-income residents or persons of color.

UUFANJ FALL ISSUES CONFERENCE – October 20, 2018

UU FaithAction NJ's Fall Issues Conference took place on Saturday, October 20, 2018 at the Beacon UU Congregation in Summit. The conference featured a keynote speaker, issues-related break-out groups, and a working lunch.

The Environmental Justice Task Force (EJTF) break-out session was very well attended, as the photo below shows!



The break-out session began with a presentation (see summary on page 4) by Nicky Sheats, director of the Center for the Urban Environment at the John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy of Thomas Edison State University, which supports New Jersey's environmental justice community.

Lively discussion with committee participants took up most of the meeting time.

Following Dr. Sheats presentation/discussion committee members were given five potential topics for focus by the committee in the coming year. The five topics were: Clean vehicles, Plastic bag fee, Opposition to new fossil fuel infrastructure, Societal benefits charge to benefit LMI communities, and Water infrastructure.

All committee members chose which topics they'd be willing to work on, and the two topics with the most interest were chosen as the focus topics for the coming year.



Peggy Middaugh, Nicky Sheats, and Ray Nichols at the Conference

The two topics with the most interest, which EJTF will focus on in the coming year, are:

1. Clean Vehicles
2. Opposition to New Fossil Fuel Infrastructure

OTHER EJTF ACTIVITIES

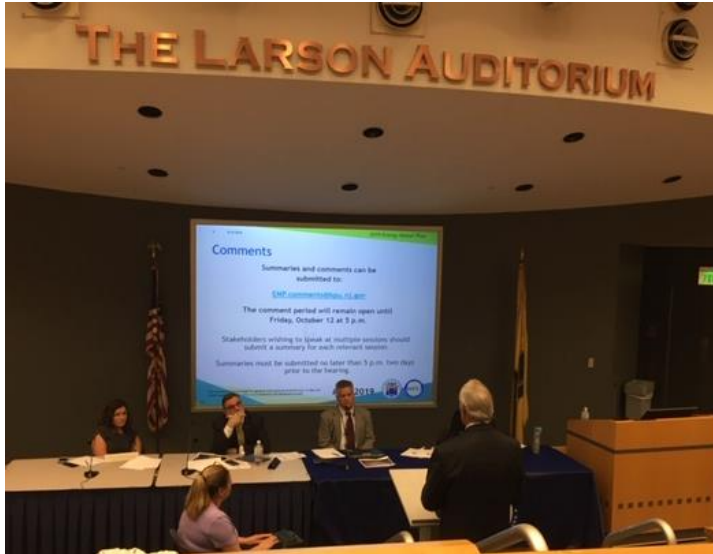
UPDATE ON OUR KEY ISSUES FOR 2018:

- 1) Select and support a Renewable Energy Portfolio standard [Done!]**
 - **EJTF position paper:** <https://uufaihaction.org/wpcontent/uploads/2018/03/PositionOn100by2035.pdf>.
 - **Discussion of the bill Gov. Murphy signed into law (Bill 3723):** <http://www.njspotlight.com/stories/18/05/23/murphy-signing-radically-alternj-s-energy-policies-protects-nuclear/>. [Not totally what we'd supported, but it is definitely a step in the right direction.]
- 2) Address the problem of lead in NJ water**
 - **EJTF position paper:** <https://uufaihaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Position-Paper-Lead-in-Drinking-Water.pages.pdf>
- 3) Promote low-income Community Solar in NJ [Ongoing]**
 - **EJTF participated in Stakeholder meetings to create NJ's new program, and is reviewing the proposed rule that was issued.**

OTHER EJTF ACTIVITIES (continued)

Meetings

- Provided oral and written comments at a number of NJ Energy Master Plan stakeholder meetings, including “Clean and Renewable Energy,” “Reducing Energy Usage,” “Clean and Reliable Transportation,” “Resilient and Sustainable Infrastructure,” and additional General Stakeholder Meetings.



Lyle Rawlings (a member of UU FaithAction) at one of the stakeholder meetings, giving testimony on behalf of Mid-Atlantic Solar Industries Association (MSEIA) on obstacles to expanding solar in NJ

- Participated in NJ Climate Policy Stakeholder Forum, sponsored by the Princeton Student Climate Initiative.



Nancy Griffeth and Assemblyman Roy Freiman (D16, Princeton area) at the Climate Forum

Presentation by Dr. Nicky Sheats to EJTF at UUFANJ Fall Conference

Justice Must Be Addressed along with Climate Change

Equity and Environmental Justice (EJ) must be an integral part of climate change mitigation policy, according to Dr. Nicky Sheats. To achieve environmental justice while addressing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, we must also guarantee reductions of co-pollutants in and near EJ communities.

Dr. Sheats gave a presentation to the Environmental Justice Task Force of UU Faith Action NJ at the Fall Issues Conference on Saturday, October 20, 2018. He is director of the Center for the Urban Environment at the John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy of Thomas Edison State University. The primary mission of the Center is to provide support for New Jersey's environmental justice community.

EJ communities are disproportionately burdened by pollution. While EJ is typically defined as low income communities and communities of color, New Jersey does not have a specific "map" or definition of EJ communities. Cumulative impacts of pollution, ie, multiple indicators increase steadily with increasing percent minority and poverty residents.

It seems quite reasonable to think that reduction of GHG emissions along with elimination of fossil fuel infrastructure will reduce pollutants everywhere, including EJ communities. However, this is not always the case. That's the problem with putting a price on carbon. While that will reduce GHG emissions overall, it doesn't provide any assurance that emissions and associated particulate matter will be reduced in EJ communities.

The problem with carbon trading and other market based carbon reduction strategies is that reductions do not target specific facilities (so facilities in EJ communities can continue to pollute). That leaves equity and justice to chance and does not guarantee reductions in communities with the most pollution.

NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENT-RELATED BILLS PASSED 1/1/2018 – 10/31/2018

for bill text: go to Legiscan.com/NJ and search by bill number.

NJ A4120 (Passed 8/24/2018) - Authorizes special assessments and bond issuance to **replace lead-contaminated water service lines.**

NJ S1217 (Passed 5/30/2018) - Requires BPU consideration and approval of amended application for qualified **wind energy project offshore** in certain NJ territorial waters

NJ A3723 (Passed 5/23/2018) - Establishes and modifies **clean energy and energy efficiency programs**; modifies State's **solar renewable energy portfolio standards**, adds **Community Solar.**

NJ S2313 (Passed 5/23/2018) - Establishes **zero emission certificate program for nuclear power plants.**

NJ A839 (Passed 4/20/2018) - **Prohibits offshore oil and gas exploration, development, and production** in State waters, and issuance of DEP permits and approvals for activities associated with offshore oil and gas activities

NJ SR29 (Passed 2/26/2018) - **Opposes expansion of oil and natural gas drilling on Outer Continental Shelf.**

NJ S598 (Passed 2/21/2018) - Requires NJ to join U.S. Climate Alliance to uphold **Paris Climate Accord.**

LINKS RELATED TO EJTF ISSUES

CLEAN VEHICLES

- On 10/15/2018, bill S2252, establishing a Statewide public plug-in electric vehicle charging system, passed the Senate Energy and Environment committee with bipartisan support: <https://www.insidernj.com/press-release/new-jersey-cusp-massive-expansion-electric-vehicles-cleaner-air/>
- Fuel-cell-powered vehicles: <https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/18/10/11/put-vehicles-powered-by-fuel-cells-in-njs-clean-energy-agenda-lawmakers-advised/>
- U.S. automakers double down on trucks and SUVs, despite talk of a cleaner future: <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/15102018/automakers-gm-ford-pickup-suv-electric-vehicle-emissions-standards-climate-change-industry-bailout>
- DEP drafts plan to use VW settlement money on reducing emissions, particularly in EJ communities: <https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/18/10/09/state-to-spend-vw-settlement-money-on-reducing-emissions/>
- World's first hydrogen train rolls out in Germany - instead of exhaust fumes, hydrogen trains produce only water: <https://www.dw.com/en/worlds-first-hydrogen-train-rolls-out-in-germany/a-45525062>

FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES

- NJ Senate approves bill that bans disposal or placement of fracking by-products in the state. <http://www.njbiz.com/article/20181030/NJBIZ01/181029872/nj-senate-approves-bill-to-ban-fracking-waste>
- NJDEP denies permit application for fracked-gas compressor station: http://enviropoliticsblog.blogspot.com/2http://enviropoliticsblog.blogspot.com/2018/09/njdep-denies-permit-application-for.html#.W9kA-u_Qapo

COMMUNITY SOLAR

- On October 1, 2018, the New Jersey Register published the rule proposal for the Community Solar Energy Pilot Program, available at the following link: [https://nj.gov/bpu/pdf/rules/PRN%202018-090%20Community%20Solar%20Pilot%20Rule%20Proposal%20\(50%20N.J.R.%202048\(b\)\).pdf](https://nj.gov/bpu/pdf/rules/PRN%202018-090%20Community%20Solar%20Pilot%20Rule%20Proposal%20(50%20N.J.R.%202048(b)).pdf)
- Description of proposed rule for Community Solar: <https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/18/10/01/new-push-to-target-low-income-communities-for-solar-projects/>
- Op-Ed about the proposed rule for Community Solar – “The state’s new solar energy possibilities should be equitable and accessible to all New Jerseyans. It’s up to Board of Public Utilities to make that happen”: <https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/18/10/08/op-ed-make-community-solar-work-for-underserved-communities-in-nj/>

LEAD IN DRINKING WATER (and other drinking water issues)

- Study: PFAS levels at N.J. base 24,000 times higher than proposed Federal standard: <https://whyy.org/articles/study-pfas-levels-at-n-j-base-24000-times-higher-than-proposed-fed-standard/>
- Newark to distribute water filters after corrosion treatment failed: https://www.nj.com/essex/index.ssf/2018/10/city_to_distribute_water_filters_after_water_treat.html
- Lead in school drinking water report from NJ Future: <https://www.njfuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/New-Jersey-Future-Analysis-of-esting-for-Lead-in-School-Drinking-Water-August-2017.pdf>

RENEWABLE RESOURCES

- Gov. Murphy puts NJ on path to 100% clean energy: <https://www.edf.org/media/gov-murphy-puts-new-jersey-path-100-percent-clean-energy>
- BPU awards contract to Rutgers to study NJ energy-storage needs and opportunities: <https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/18/10/30/energy-storage-whats-in-store-for-new-jersey/>
- Murphy confident N.J. can be hub of offshore wind energy on East Coast; <http://www.roi-nj.com/2018/10/17/politics/murphy-confident-n-j-can-be-hub-of-offshore-wind-energy-on-east-coast/>
- Collapse of NJ solar industry, big layoffs if no interim state plan — warning: <https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/18/10/17/collapse-of-solar-industry-in-nj-massive-layoffs-if-no-interim-state-plan-warning/>
- Ørsted looks to pick up Deepwater wind for \$510 million - Danish company's move indicates growing interest in nascent U.S. offshore-wind sector among European companies: <https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/18/10/08/216-rsted-looks-to-pick-up-deepwater-wind-for-510m/>

CLIMATE CHANGE

- Analysts forecast midterm election's impact on climate change – a Democratic wave could prompt more legislation on climate change but might dampen bipartisan efforts: <https://eos.org/articles/analysts-forec>

- Scientists take opposing sides in youth climate change trial (an 11-year-old UU boy is one of the youth plaintiffs in the case!) In a federal courtroom in Eugene, Oregon, 21 young people are scheduled to face off against the U.S. government, which they accuse of endangering their future by promoting policies that have increased emissions of carbon dioxide and other planet warming gases: <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/10/scientists-take-opposing-sides-youth-climate-trial>
- Various issues involved in the government’s trying to keep the youth climate case from going to trial: <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2018/10/government-silencing-kids-hurt-climate-change/573790/>
- Deadly climate change impacts on NJ: https://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2018/10/climate_change_will_make_nj_deadlier_and_it_will_p.html
- DEP launches “New Jersey Coastal Resilience Plan” for making Jersey shore more resilient to climate change: <https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/18/10/09/dep-launches-blueprint-for-making-jersey-shore-more-resilient-to-climate-change/>
- A Green New Deal is on the ballot in Washington state this year - with the federal government AWOL on climate change, another state steps up: <https://www.vox.com/energy-and-environment/2018/9/28/17899804/washington-state-climate-policy-1631-carbon-fee-green-new-deal>
- NJ joins 20 other states in fight against Trump Administration’s rollback of fuel-economy standards: <https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/18/10/28/nj-joins-fight-against-trump-administrations-rollback-of-fuel-economy-standards/>
- Environmental Justice is key aspect of climate-change policy – Dr. Nicky Sheats explains how environmental actions can create unjust environmental conditions. <https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/17/11/02/op-ed-environmental-justice-is-key-aspect-of-climate-change-policy/>

“GREEN AMENDMENT” – Sponsored in the Assembly by UU Nancy Pinkin

The “Green Amendment” (Senate Concurrent Resolution 134), for a proposed amendment to the NJ Constitution to grant every person the right to a clean and healthy environment, has finally passed the NJ Senate Environment and Energy Committee and was sent to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee 10/15/2018. EJTF supported a letter-writing campaign on its behalf over a year ago.

- Shaping up for a big fight in NJ on the question of the right to a clean environment - Is a right to a clean and healthy environment an inalienable right as self-evident as free speech and freedom of religion? It is in Pennsylvania and Montana. And, if a bill moving through the state Legislature wins approval, New Jersey could follow suit: <https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/18/10/16/shaping-up-for-a-big-fight-in-nj-over-whether-we-have-right-to-a-clean-environment/>



SOME VERY USEFUL NJ ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS LINKS

NJ SPOTLIGHT: Daily updates on NJ environmental, immigration, budget, and other issues - <http://www.njspotlight.com/>. You can also sign up for updates here: <http://www.njspotlight.com/newsletters/>

ENVIROPOLITICS: Daily environmental and political news, legislation & regulation for New Jersey, Pennsylvania & New York: <http://enviropolitics.com/>. You can also subscribe here: <http://forms.aweber.com/form/59/1934507159.htm>.

ANJEC (Association of New Jersey Environmental Coalitions): News alerts and biweekly news highlights: <https://www.anjecnews.com/news-highlights.html>. You can also subscribe by emailing: info@anjec.org.

Also - a link to a useful general website on sustainability: <https://www.treehugger.com/> You can subscribe here: <https://www.treehugger.com/newsletters/>

UUFaithAction NJ - Environmental Justice Task Force - <https://uufaithaction.org/environment/>
Chair - Nancy Griffith; Vice Chair - Ray Nichols

Visit our website for Environmental links and resources / sign up for email alerts / join the EJTF