



Environmental Justice Task Force Newsletter February 2019

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.

UU CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITY

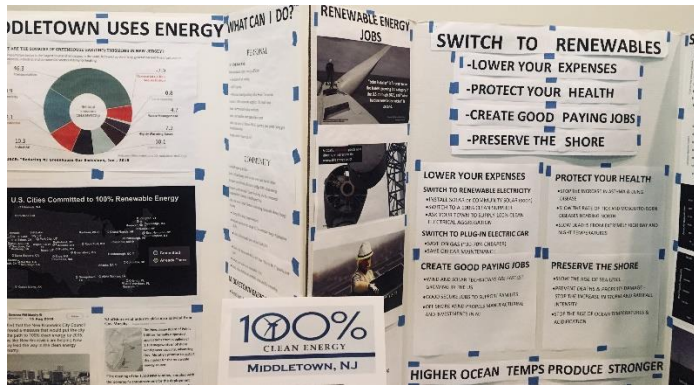
UU CONGREGATION OF MONMOUTH COUNTY (UUCMC)

ARE WE COOKED? Climate Reality and Hope

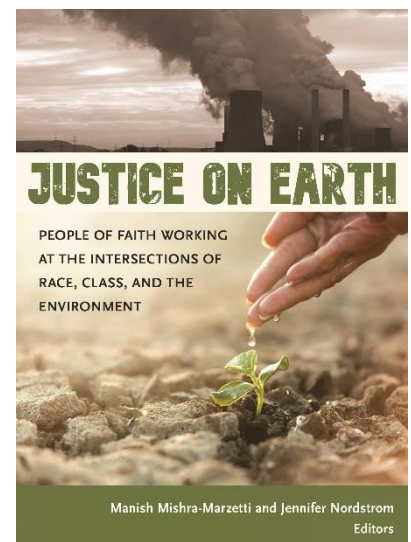


The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Monmouth County (UUCMC) hosted "Are We Cooked?," a presentation by Dr. Eric Goplerud, Executive Director of Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions, Fairfax, Virginia, on Feb. 10 in Lincroft, NJ. Dr. Goplerud offered the crowd of approximately 80 people details about climate change as well as concrete examples where communities joined together to make significant changes, including the Fairfax, VA, schools where youth participated in meatless days and competitions in recycling, which highlighted the value of people of all ages getting involved to combat climate change. He stressed the value of congregations building alliances with other groups and speaking up to politicians, which he felt was more authentic than a paid lobbyist. He also recommended various books. More information on Dr. Goplerud can be found here: <https://www.faithforclimate.org>

After the presentation, various groups greeted the audience at a reception, where people wrote postcards to politicians, signed up for an organic cooperative, or volunteered to take water samples and other environmental-related activities. Groups who participated included Clean Water Action, Clean Ocean Action: Navesink River Water Testing, Monmouth Community Climate Coalition, Asbury Park's Interfaith Neighbors/Kula Urban Farm, UU FaithAction NJ, Middletown for Clean Energy and local chapters of Food and Water Watch and the Sierra Club and the Clearwater, as well as a representative of the youth movement Sunrise Jersey Shore.



The idea of inviting various groups to gather after Dr. Goplerud's presentation was inspired by reading the 2018-19 UUA Common Read: *Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and the Environment*, edited by Manish Mishra-Marzetti and Jennifer Nordstrom (pictured). The UUCMC Climate Action Team, UUCMC Social Justice and UUCMC Adult Religious Education Committees joined with Monmouth County Climate Coalition and Lynn Dash to coordinate this event.



UPCOMING EVENTS

PROGRAM - "Handling our Trash: Getting to a Circular Carbon Economy"

March 7, 2019, 7:30 pm - Westfield High School, 550 Dorian Rd, Westfield, NJ 07090 (in Cafeteria B) - Please RSVP at www.nfrpp.org - Free and Open to the Public - Walk-Ins Welcome
Suggested tax-deductible donation is \$10

Americans live with waste every day -- a growing problem. Recycling is one of the ways we can have a positive impact on our environment. Recycling can also provide us with renewable sources of energy which help reduce greenhouse gases. A zero waste recycling strategy only works if we understand our shopping, consumption and disposal habits, with the goal to move toward zero trash sent to landfill and incineration. This knowledge will not only make us better recyclers but also better voters as we help shape local, state and national environmental policy. This program will clear up confusion and address how to achieve renewable energy and a low carbon economy. Information is available here:

https://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/njppn/pages/1025/attachments/original/1547087192/March_7_2019_Flyer.pdf?1547087192

and here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/586122075162623/>

FORUMS – Empower NJ: For a Moratorium on New Fossil Fuel Infrastructure

Empower NJ is a coalition of more than 50 environmental groups, demanding that Governor Murphy declare a moratorium on new fossil fuel infrastructure until there is a plan in place to comply with the Global Warming Response Act of 2007 and to reach Governor Murphy's goal of 100% renewable energy by 2050. Neither of these will be possible if any of the 12 fossil fuel projects (8 pipeline/compressor projects and 4 power plants) is completed.



They have made the case in the report “FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE IN NJ: The Urgent Case for a Moratorium on all Fossil Fuel Projects” and are giving forums around the state to educate citizens on the problems. The first forum was held on Monday, Feb 18, at Beacon Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Summit, NJ, with about 50 people present (see photo above). The others currently scheduled are:

- Wednesday, February 20, 2019, 7:00-9:00 pm, Ridgefield Community Center, 725 Slocum Ave., Ridgefield, NJ <https://www.facebook.com/events/145081996412875/>
- Thursday, February 21, 2019, 6:30-8:30 pm, First Presbyterian Church of Rumson, 4 E. River Rd., Rumson, NJ <https://www.facebook.com/events/2241703286070153/>
- Thursday, March 7, 2019, 7:00-9:00 pm, South Brunswick Senior Center, 540 Ridge Rd., Monmouth Junction, NJ <https://www.facebook.com/events/328656641086898/>
- Thursday, March 14, 2019, 7:00-9:00 pm, Phillip L. Pittore Justice Center, 25 S. Union St., Lambertville, NJ <https://www.facebook.com/events/416700688872209/>

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION – NJ Environmental Justice Draft Guidance Document

The Department of Environmental Protection has issued a draft guidance document pursuant to Executive Order No. 23, which calls upon all state government agencies to make environmental justice a key consideration in decision making that affects residents' environment, communities, homes and health. The executive order, signed by Governor Murphy on 4/20/2018, directs the DEP to take the lead in developing environmental justice guidance for state agencies

The document is available at: www.nj.gov/dep/ej/eo23/docs/eo23-draft-guidance.pdf

- There is a 60-day public-comment period; **written comments may be submitted until March 22, 2019, to: eo23@dep.nj.gov.**

- **One of the three listening sessions hosted by DEP remains;** people are encouraged to sign up (i.e., RSVP) in advance. –**When: March 5, 2019 – 6-7:30 p.m. Where: Peterstown Community Center, 408 Palmer Street, Elizabeth [Click here to RSVP](#).**

EJTF ACTIVITIES

UPDATE ON EJTF KEY ISSUES FOR 2019:

1) Fighting against fossil fuel infrastructure

We are working on actions related to achieving a moratorium on new fossil fuel infrastructure in NJ. We have joined EmpowerNJ - Twitter hashtag, #empowernj - (see “Forums” on page 3), a coalition of environmental groups, to demand that Governor Murphy declare a moratorium on building fossil fuel infrastructure, just as [Governor Brendan Byrne did to prevent development in the Pinelands](#) and [Governor Thomas Kean did to protect freshwater wetlands in New Jersey](#). We are asking our members to contact the governor and to write letters (see below) to print and on-line news sources, to attend demonstrations against new pipelines and power plants, and to organize educational events in their congregations and in our municipalities.

EmpowerNJ has launched a “Stop Fossil Fuel” campaign - there’s good information about it here: <https://www.cleanwateraction.org/releases/empower-nj-stop-fossil-fuel-campaign-launch>. Their report, “FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE IN NJ: The Urgent Case for a Moratorium on all Fossil Fuel Projects,” is available here:

https://www.cleanwateraction.org/sites/default/files/EmpowerNJ_Report_190211_Color_1.pdf.

It articulates the evidence-based case for a moratorium on fossil fuel projects in New Jersey. EJTF attended the press conference:

<https://www.cleanwateraction.org/releases/empower-nj-stop-fossil-fuels-press-conference-statement-amy-goldsmith-nj-state-director>. A one sentence summary of the demand is: “To

achieve its stated policy objectives, the Administration must institute an immediate moratorium on all new fossil fuel infrastructure projects until rules, procedures and plans are implemented to regulate and reduce GHG’s consistent with EO 28, NJ’s Air Pollution Control and Global Warming Response Acts, and our commitments in the US Climate Alliance.”

Letter published in *The Star-Ledger* on 1/30/2019

FEEDBACK

Curb fossil fuel plans

Gov. Phil Murphy campaigned on a clean energy platform and as governor, has issued an executive order for New Jersey to transition to 100 percent clean renewable energy sources by 2050.

This is a sensible and necessary approach to the very real crisis of climate change that we are facing here in New Jersey and throughout the world. The growing body of scientific evidence as reported in the 4th National Climate Assessment advises that an immediate reduction of manmade greenhouse gases — such as CO2 and methane — is neces-

sary if we are to avoid the most devastating consequences of a changing climate. Clean, renewable energy — in the form of wind, solar, energy efficiency and others — moves us in that direction.

So why is the Murphy administration allowing fossil fuel infrastructure projects to move forward in direct contradiction to the clean energy goals? There are currently a dozen fossil fuel projects in the form of power plants and gas pipelines proposed and moving forward in New Jersey. This is just absurd and completely at odds with the 100 percent renewable energy goal.

Murphy must act to immediately place a moratorium on fossil fuel infrastructure and move us away from dirty energy.

Peggy Middaugh Manchester, ember, UU Faith Action
Environmental Justice Task Force

UPDATE ON EJTF KEY ISSUES FOR 2019 (continued):

2) Reducing Green House Gas (GHG) emissions from transportation

- Electric Vehicles (EV's)

For electrification of New Jersey's transportation sector, we are supporting New Jersey Senate Bill 2252, which "establishes goals, initiatives, and programs to encourage and support use of plug-in electric vehicles," and are asking for additional incentives for replacing diesel buses, especially school buses, in New Jersey with electric buses. We are working on a draft position paper on EV's.

EJTF participated in a "Jersey Renews" meeting, in which Senate Bill 2252 was discussed in depth; a fact sheet on the bill is being prepared.

OTHER EJTF ACTIVITIES

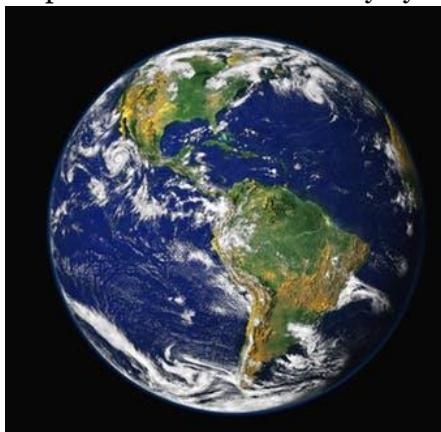
Participated in UUCMC's "Are We Cooked" Climate Change Activity

Hosted a UU FaithAction NJ table at the reception (see page 2); obtained signatures from participants on a petition supporting a moratorium for new fossil fuel infrastructure in NJ, and also on a petition supporting the Green Amendment.

Presented testimony at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) 1/30/2019 hearing on returning New Jersey to full participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) (see page 6), and signed on to a letter prepared by the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance calling for the inclusion of mandatory emission reductions for Environmental Justice communities in the RGGI rules.

ACTIONS RELATED TO EJTF AREAS OF INTEREST

"GREEN AMENDMENT" Sponsored in the Assembly by UU Nancy Pinkin



The "Green Amendment" bill (Senate Concurrent Resolution 134), for a proposed amendment to the NJ Constitution to grant every person the right to a clean and healthy environment, passed the NJ Senate Environment and Energy Committee by a bipartisan supermajority. It was sent to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee 10/15/2018.

A summary and a list of actions you can take are available at:

<http://delawareriverkeeper.org/ongoing-issues/new-jerseys-green-amendment-generations>

Testimony at NJDEP 1/30/2019 Hearing on Returning NJ to Full Participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)

EJTF Testimony

I am Nancy Griffeth of the Unitarian Universalist FaithAction Environmental Justice Task Force. We're a faith-based group that subscribes to the principles of justice, equity, and compassion in human relations and respect for the interdependent web of all existence.

I am here today in support of the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance's call for including mandatory emission reductions for Environmental Justice communities in the RGGI rules. For reasons of public health, justice, and reducing carbon in our atmosphere, it is absolutely necessary to make significant emissions reductions in EJ communities. Without mandatory reductions, there is no guarantee that emissions and pollution will be reduced in these communities. In fact, the California experience with cap and trade is that emissions have actually increased in some EJ communities.

Market-based incentives often hurt EJ communities. Everyone pays the Societal Benefits Charge, but rebates rewarding purchase of clean energy measures go primarily to wealthier New Jerseyans. Rebates for electric vehicles will work similarly. Market-based incentives are appealing because they reward us for good behavior without imposing arbitrary rules, but when using them we must always ask who benefits, who pays, and are the benefits distributed fairly. All too often, everyone pays and benefits go to only a few.

Furthermore, the ultimate goal of RGGI is to reduce GHG emissions, and the worst emissions are in EJ communities. The only way to be sure of reducing those emissions is to have mandatory emissions reductions.

We are part of the Jersey Renews Coalition, which also supports mandatory emission reductions. We believe that such a rule is needed to put teeth into Governor Murphy's recent executive order on Environmental Justice and S1700 that the Senate passed just yesterday.

Excerpt from "Jersey Renews" Testimony (UUFANJ is part of the Jersey Renews Coalition)

Good Morning,

Thank you for allowing me to speak. I'm Norah Langweiler, campaign organizer for Jersey Renews at the New Jersey Work Environment Council. Jersey Renews was founded in January 2017 in recognition of the urgency of our climate crisis, and partially in response to a lack of leadership at the federal level. We are coalition of more than 60 organizations committed to state-based action on climate change. We are a broad coalition that includes labor, faith, environment, community, and health organizations pushing for increased investment in clean energy infrastructure, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and good, family-sustaining jobs.

Jersey Renews supports RGGI which we hope will protect public health, while benefitting residents both environmentally and economically. From 2009 to 2011, NJ's participation in RGGI gained more than \$150 million in economic growth and 1,700 job-years. By withdrawing from RGGI in 2011, NJ lost nearly \$300 million in revenue which would have been a valuable investment into clean energy and equity programs.

[...]

Revenue from RGGI should go to pollution-affected, low-income, and communities at risk of severe climate impacts - many of which have long held the burden of pollution and the many negative health results that come along with it. We support mandatory emissions reductions in those communities.

Thank you.

NEWS RELATED TO EJTF ISSUES

CLEAN VEHICLES

- **The Most (and Least) Popular Places for Driving Hybrids/EVs in America:**
<https://www.carmax.com/articles/hybrid-electric-used-cars-buying-trends>
- **Lyft Introduces “Green Mode” to Put Drivers in EVs, Hybrids:**
<https://www.utilitydive.com/news/lyft-green-mode-electric-vehicles-hybrids/547940/>



FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES

- **The Petition for a moratorium on fossil fuel infrastructure:**
<https://secure.foodandwaterwatch.org/act/gov-murphy-enact-moratorium-fossil-fuel-infrastructure>
- **A dozen power plant and pipeline projects could derail Phil Murphy's clean energy goals -** Gov. Phil Murphy will not be able to make his ambitious clean energy goals if he fails to stop 12 fossil fuel projects from moving forward, according to a report issued by a coalition of environmental groups:
<https://www.northjersey.com/story/news/environment/2019/02/14/dozen-fossil-fuel-projects-derail-gov-phil-murphy-clean-energy-williams-meadowlands-penneast/2859655002/>
- **Are Investors Finally Waking up to North America’s Fracked Gas Crisis? -** The fracked gas industry's long borrowing binge may finally be hitting a hard reality: paying back investors. Enabled by rising debt, shale companies have been achieving record fracked oil and gas production, while promising investors a big future payoff. But over a decade into the “fracking miracle,” investors are showing signs they're worried that payoff will never come — and as a result, loans are drying up:
<https://www.desmogblog.com/2019/02/07/north-america-natural-gas-fracking-financial-crisis-investors>
- **Murphy Urges Full Fracking Ban in Delaware River Basin –** On Jan. 30, Gov. Phil Murphy called for a full fracking ban in the Delaware River Basin, urging fellow members of the Delaware River Basin Commission to prohibit all activities related to the controversial technology that’s used to drill for natural gas: <https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/19/01/30/murphy-urges-ban-on-fracking-and-all-related-activities-in-delaware-river-basin/>
- **‘Green’ Groups Ask Murphy for Moratorium on New Fossil-Fuel Infrastructure -** Coalition (“Empower NJ”) reports that if the 12 natural-gas projects are built, they would undercut the administration’s goal of 100 percent clean energy by 2050:
<https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/19/02/13/green-coalition-asks-murphy-for-moratorium-on-new-fossil-fuel-infrastructure/>

- **On January 9, 2019, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) filed a Writ of Certiorari with the United States Supreme Court on behalf of themselves and “Lancaster Against Pipelines”, asking the Court to review a U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit decision that infringes on rights of Pennsylvanians to appeal the issuance of state water quality certifications for natural gas pipeline projects** - The case will set an important precedent by clarifying the rights of the people and the rights of states in their ability to define laws, procedures, and protocols of importance to their own residents. It will have far reaching ramifications for pipeline battles across the nation including the PennEast Pipeline in our region, and inform us to make better, strategic decisions in future pipeline challenges:
http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org/sites/default/files/PR%20SupremeCt_1.9.2019_fnl.pdf

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- **NJ Senate Environment and Energy Committee Approves Legislation to Address Disproportionate Environmental Impact on Poor Urban Communities** - Legislators voted on Jan. 24 to give environmental justice communities more say in blocking new and expanded projects that could increase pollution in their neighborhoods – the bill has been referred to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee:
<https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/19/01/24/senate-panel-approves-environmental-justice-protection-for-poor-communities/>

LEAD IN DRINKING WATER (and other drinking water issues)

- **Lawmakers Want Inventory of Lead Service Lines in Public Water Systems** - In a step to get a better handle on the extent of lead contamination in New Jersey’s drinking water, a Senate committee passed a bill on Feb. 14 that would require public water systems to inventory the number of lead service lines in their systems - the bill has been referred to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee:
<https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/19/02/14/lawmakers-water-inventory-of-lead-service-lines-in-public-water-systems/>
- **Environmentalists Raise Concerns about Salting Roads during Winter Months** - Salt has been named by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection as a pollutant. In the last 30 years in our state, we’ve seen a doubling in the salt in our waters:
https://www.njtvonline.org/news/video/environmentalists-raise-concerns-about-salting-roads-during-winter-months/?utm_source=NJTV%20News&utm_medium=Twitter&utm_campaign=environment
- **South Jersey Landfill Cancels PFAS Contract Amid Rising Public Concern** - A South Jersey landfill showed it recognized the rising public profile of toxic PFAS chemicals when it abruptly canceled a plan to take a consignment of contaminated soil from a Pennsylvania military base:
<https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/19/01/30/south-jersey-landfill-cancels-pfas-contract-amid-rising-public-concern/>
- **EPA to Unveil Long-Awaited ‘Action Plan’ on Curbing Toxic PFAS Chemicals** - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will announce today a long-awaited plan for how to manage the toxic PFAS class of chemicals, which has contaminated drinking water and soil in many parts of the United States including New Jersey: <https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/19/02/13/epa-to-unveil-long-awaited-action-plan-on-curbing-toxic-pfas-chemicals/>

- **DEP Says EPA Didn't Consider Many Health Risks When It Approved PFAS Replacements** - New Jersey scientists are accusing the federal government of failing to consider many health risks posed by a group of chemicals that are designed to substitute for some of the controversial PFAS substances which are now being strictly regulated by the state: <https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/19/02/03/dep-says-epa-didnt-consider-many-health-risks-when-it-approved-pfas-replacements/>
- **NJ Slams EPA's 'Disappointing' Plan to Curb Toxic PFAS Chemicals** - Department of Environmental Protection attacks the long-awaited plan, says it doesn't address the need for immediate measures to stop exposure: <https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/19/02/14/nj-slams-epas-disappointing-plan-to-curb-toxic-pfas-chemicals/>
- **K Street Profits from Drinking Water Fears** - With growing concerns about drinking water contamination in communities nationwide, lobbyists have rushed to shape the emerging congressional debate around a decades-old class of widely used toxic chemicals (PFAS): <https://www.eenews.net/stories/1060119613>

RENEWABLE RESOURCES



- **Solar power made more expensive by NJ rules; how can we change that?** - An analysis of current, and possible future, payment alternatives for solar energy in NJ: <https://www.app.com/story/news/local/land-environment/2019/01/30/nj-solar-power-clean-energy-electricity-rates/2474856002>
- **More Job Losses Last Year for New Jersey's Solar Sector, Report Asserts** - With nearly 700 jobs shed, it's a second straight year of decline in a sector that's key to New Jersey's renewable-energy future: <https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/19/02/12/more-job-losses-last-year-for-new-jerseys-solar-sector-report-asserts/>

CLIMATE CHANGE

- **How the Geography of Climate Damage Could Make the Politics Less Polarizing:** <https://www.brookings.edu/research/how-the-geography-of-climate-damage-could-make-the-politics-less-polarizing/?edf=380>
- **NJ and other States Challenge the Federal Failure to Curb Coal Plant Pollution** - In a petition filed last week in the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, New Jersey and six other states aim to hold the federal Environmental Protection Agency to a promise to impose stricter ozone-emission standards from upwind states: <https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/19/02/03/nj-other-states-challenge-federal-failure-to-curb-coal-plant-pollution/>

- **Fine Print: Taking a Harder Look at Greenhouse-Gas Emissions in New Jersey** - Many lawmakers, advocates, and members of the Murphy administration are all for the goals of the Global Warming Response Act, but a new bill may be the key to attaining them: <https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/19/02/06/fine-print-taking-a-harder-look-at-greenhouse-gas-emissions-in-new-jersey/>
- **Coastal Climate Change Commission Bill Clears Assembly Committee** - A measure that would create a 15-member Coastal Climate Change Commission in, but not of, the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection was released from the state Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee on January 24: <https://thesandpaper.villagesoup.com/p/coastal-climate-change-commission-bill-clears-assembly-committee/1798845>
- **The Race is On to Define the “Green New Deal”:** http://enviropoliticsblog.blogspot.com/2019/02/race-is-on-to-define-green-new-deal.html#.XGc70_sapo
- **Ocasio-Cortez, Markey unveil Green New Deal with backing of four presidential candidates** - The slogan got some meat on its bones as Sen. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) prepared to introduce a framework outlining the goals of a sweeping climate pact going forward — and stop other Democrats from defining the Green New Deal however they wanted. Their measure already has the backing of four Democratic senators who have launched bids for the 2020 presidential nomination. But it is already being lampooned by Republicans — though embraced by progressives — for its broad aims on things unrelated to climate, including increased access to housing, health care and education for lower-income communities: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-energy-202/2019/02/07/the-energy-202-ocasio-cortez-markey-unveil-green-new-deal-with-backing-of-four-presidential-candidates/5c5b37cf1b326b66eb098641/>
- **New Jersey looks to rejoin the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) to tackle greenhouse gas emissions** - The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative — known as “Reggie” — puts a cap on a participating state’s carbon emissions from fossil fuel-fired electric power plants with a capacity of 25 megawatts or greater: <https://why.org/articles/new-jersey-looks-to-rejoin-rggi-to-tackle-greenhouse-gas-emissions/>
- **Here’s how your city’s climate will change by 2080, if you’re in Canada or the United States:** <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2019/02/here-s-how-your-city-s-climate-will-change-2080-if-you-re-canada-or-united-states>
- **Hurricanes, volcanoes, droughts, floods, fires, tsunamis** - Satellites capture some of Earth’s most destructive forces: <https://eos.org/features/earths-devastating-power-seen-by-satellite>
- **Scientists Find the Ocean Will Look Different in the Future As a Warming Climate Changes Populations of Marine Microorganisms Called Phytoplankton** - By the end of the century, if not sooner, the world’s oceans will be bluer and greener thanks to a warming climate, scientists reported Monday. And while the shift in color will be all but imperceptible to the human eye, it could hint at the profound changes in store for a wide array of marine life: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2019/02/04/climate-change-will-alter-color-oceans-new-research-finds/>

POLLUTION



- **The Invisible Threats to the Delaware River** - The Clean Water Act helped to transform the river, but it's still vulnerable to a range of pollutants: <https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/19/01/23/the-delaware-rivers-invisible-threats/>
- **The Delaware River: A Timeline of Revival** - It took decades, but a combination of public outcry, political will and the Clean Water Act eventually spurred the river's revival: <https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/19/01/24/the-delaware-river-a-timeline-of-revival/>
- **Stormwater Measure Advances in State Assembly, Opponents Air Criticisms** - Bill would facilitate new utilities that could impose fees on property owners. Money would go toward repair or replacement of failing stormwater systems: <https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/19/01/28/stormwater-measure-advances-in-state-assembly-business-interests-not-keen/>
- **Split Legislature Gives Thumbs-Up to Stormwater Runoff Controls** - Democratic majority champions measure as an effective tool for curbing pollution of NJ's rivers and bays; GOP decries envisioned fees as 'rain tax': <https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/19/01/31/split-legislature-gives-thumbs-up-to-stormwater-runoff-controls/>
- **Op-Ed: New Utilities Would Help NJ Fight Flooding and Pollution** - New Jersey needs stormwater utilities to provide a sustained source of local funding to improve and maintain stormwater infrastructure: <https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/19/01/30/op-ed-new-utilities-would-help-nj-fight-flooding-and-pollution-of-our-water/>

OTHER

- **Rate Counsel Says PSE&G , Exelon Failed to Show Need for \$300M Nuclear Subsidies** - The state should deny \$300 million in ratepayer subsidies to PSEG Nuclear and Exelon Generation as the two companies failed to prove their three nuclear power plants in South Jersey will close without the incentives, according to a filing by the New Jersey Rate Counsel.: <https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/19/01/31/rate-counsel-says-pseg-exelon-failed-to-show-need-for-300m-nuclear-subsidies/>

- **Another Expert Casts Doubt on Need for NJ to Subsidize Nuclear Plants** - Economist also disputes PSEG's contention that South Jersey plants will have to close within three years unless given subsidies: <https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/19/02/10/another-expert-casts-doubt-on-need-for-nj-to-subsidize-nuclear-plants/>
- **Op-Ed: Experts agree PSEG handout is unneeded** - Two independent regulatory entities and an economist have issued reports stating that PSE&G did not prove financial hardship necessitating an annual \$300 million ratepayer-funded handout ramrodded by the NJ legislature in 2018: <http://enviropoliticsblog.blogspot.com/2019/02/op-ed-experts-agree-pseg-handout-is.html>
- **Power Execs Press Electric Grid Operator for Help On Revenues** - Companies have been lobbying for reforms to raise what they say are depressed prices that threaten the viability of nuclear plants: <https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/19/02/04/power-execs-press-electric-grid-operator-for-help-on-revenues/>
- **Working with Private Sector to Torque Up Municipal Energy Systems** - New measure would harness private money, expertise to drive energy efficiency at hospitals, wastewater-treatment plants, universities, prisons: <https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/19/02/11/partnering-with-private-sector-to-torque-up-energy-systems-at-municipal-facilities/>
- **PSEG: We're Not Bluffing about Shutting Down Nuke Plants** - To bolster argument for subsidies paid by power customers, company says it would begin taking its three plants offline this fall if it doesn't win its case: <https://www.njspotlight.com/stories/19/02/14/pseg-were-not-bluffing-about-shutting-down-nuke-plants/>
- **Trump rollbacks for fossil fuel industries carry steep cost** - As the Trump administration rolls back environmental and safety rules for the energy sector, government projections show billions of dollars in savings reaped by companies will come at a steep cost: more premature deaths and illnesses from air pollution, a jump in climate-warming emissions and more severe derailments of trains carrying explosive fuels: <https://www.apnews.com/e38e8c16b610439db2273b8b35b4bc58>

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

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

