



UUFANJ FALL ISSUES CONFERENCE
10/19/2024 - See [p. 7](#)

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

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.

EJTF and CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **EJTF members** attended the Clearwater Festival, an annual celebration of music, art and environmental activism, which featured the Solidarity Singers, whose members include Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation (UUOCC) member Roseann DePasquale (third from right in the photo below) and EmpowerNJ's Matt Smith (with his dog in the photo below).



Photos by Michael Skelly

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- **EJTF members** attended the 9/5/2024 NJ Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) only in-person public hearing on the groundbreaking Resilient Environments and Landscapes (REAL) proposed regulations. No information was presented by the DEP, but testimony both for and against the proposed regulations was given by attendees including (see vignettes below, clockwise from top left) those representing Congress, the environment (Tim Dillingham, Executive Director of the American Littoral Society), local government, and business (Ray Cantor, VP of Government Affairs at the NJ Business & Industry Association).



NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) representatives at REAL public hearing.



The environmental view emphasized the fact of sea level rise and the importance of trying to prevent the worst outcomes, while local government focused on perceived loss of ratables if beach development was impacted by the regulations. Also see the related news article on [p. 18](#). Additional information about the proposed regulations, including a link to the regulations and a link to provide comments, is available here <https://dep.nj.gov/njreal/>. **Comments on the proposed regulations are due by 11/3/2024.**

Photos by Michael Skelly

Morristown Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (MUUF)

- **EJTF member Jo Sippie-Gora**, of the Morristown Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (MUUF), was one of four panelists with diverse faith traditions who united to advocate, in a webinar, for the New Jersey Green Amendment and environmental justice. The panelists explored the profound connection between their faith values and the protection of our natural resources, and highlighted the moral imperative to safeguard the planet for future generations. Additional information and a link to the video of the webinar are available on [p. 10](#).
- The Morristown Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (MUUF) is seriously considering various options for financing a solar roof to be installed on the new addition to their building (ribbon-cutting is scheduled for November). David Horst (see photo at right) presented some great financing ideas for the installation; you can view the video of his presentation at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MVuIn3LEeNQ>.



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

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

OCTOBER 2024						
(with hyperlinks to details on the following pages)						
Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
		1 NJDEP Public Hearing on PVSC Power Plant - 5:30 p.m.	2 BOEM Public Meeting on Central Atlantic 2 Offshore Wind Call for Information - 6:00 p.m.	3	4 UUFANJ "First Friday" Action Hour with EmpowerNJ - 12:00 p.m. Comments Due: NJDEP Food Waste Recycling Proposed Rules	5 NJSOC - "Native Plants 1-2-3: Plan & Plant, Pollinators, & Preparing for Winter" - 10:00 a.m. Westfield, NJ Street Fair and EV Car Show - 11:00 a.m. EV Showcase, Pitman, NJ - 12:00 p.m.
6 Somerville NJ's EV Show and Local Environmental Matters - 11:00 a.m.	7 LWVNJ - "How to Be a One Person GOTV Machine!" - 6:00 p.m.	8	9	10 "Time for Turbines 7" - 9:00 a.m.	11 "Time for Turbines 7" - 8:30 a.m.	12 "Get the Lead Out of Trenton" 2nd Annual Lead Awareness Day & Community BBQ - 12:00 p.m.
13 "Organic Rising" Film Screening & Panel Discussion - 5:00 p.m.	14	15 EPA National EJ Community Engagement Call - 2:00 p.m.	16 Organics Waste Management Summit 2024: "Composting and Beyond" - 8:30 a.m. "Federal Accountability and Environmental Justice Obligations" - 5:00 p.m. "UU Theological Grounding for Climate Justice" - 7:00 p.m.	17 NJ Shade Tree Federation Annual Conference - 8:00 a.m.	18 NJ Shade Tree Federation Annual Conference - 8:00 a.m.	19 UU FaithAction NJ Fall Issues Conference - 10:00 a.m. "Get the Lead Out of Paterson Rally - Child Wellness Day" - 12:00 p.m.
20	21 Comments Due: BOEM Central Atlantic 2 Call for Information	22 "Navigating Climate & Election Anxiety" - 7:00 p.m.	23 "Coastal Forests as Sentinels of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise" - 1:00 p.m. "Preventing Lead Exposure in your NJ Community: Bright Futures Begin Lead Free" - 3:00 p.m. "Election Protection and Know Your Rights" - 6:00 p.m.	24	25	26 Thinking about EVs? Get your questions answered. - Plainsboro Township, NJ - 10:30 a.m.

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Calendar continued from p. 3

27	28 "Environmental Justice Concerns With Carbon Capture and Sequestration in the US Power Sector and Beyond" - 12:15 p.m.	29 Princeton University Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment 2024 Annual Meeting - "AI for Energy and Energy for AI" - 8:15 a.m. Comments Due: NJDEP PVSC Power Plant Permit	30	31		
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FUTURE EVENTS

NJDEP Public Hearing on PVSC Power Plant - Hybrid
10/1/2024, 5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Newark, NJ - In-person & via Zoom

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) will hold a public hearing on the Title V Operating Permit (as part of the Clean Air Act) for the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission's (PVSC) proposed fourth fossil fuel power plant in Newark. This is the power plant that environmentalists have long been opposed to, but that NJDEP approved a permit for, with conditions, as the first project that it reviewed under the NJ Environmental Justice Act (see the article on [p. 16](#)). According to the NJDEP's Public Notice, "This hearing is not intended to be a question-and-answer session, but rather an opportunity for interested individuals to comment on the draft permit. Therefore, NJDEP representatives will not respond to technical questions at the public hearing, but instead, will be listening intently and taking notes on the oral comments in order to address each issue raised accurately in a Response to Comment document. Each commenter will have at least three minutes to speak. The exact amount of time provided to each speaker will be announced at the hearing. The public hearing will be videotaped and have a live stenographer." A virtual attendance option is available, and **written comments may also be submitted separately until 10/29/2024**. Information about the hearing, including the link to participate virtually, instructions for comments, and links to a page with access to the draft permit and the statement of basis, is available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/boss/public-notice/07349-bop210002-publicnotice.pdf>.

BOEM Public Meeting on Central Atlantic 2 Offshore Wind Call for Information
10/2/2024, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Via Zoom

"The federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) today [8/21/2024] announced that it will publish a Call for Information and Nominations (Call) for a second regional offshore wind energy sale in the Central Atlantic (Central Atlantic 2). This Call invites public feedback on possible commercial wind energy development in areas off the coasts of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. Today's announcement kicks off the process for a second potential auction in the Central Atlantic and provides an important avenue to solicit information as we identify potential areas that may be suitable for future offshore wind energy leasing." Additional information, including a map of the Call Area, is available here: <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/central-atlantic>. **BOEM will accept nominations and comments through 11:59 p.m. on 10/21/2024**. Additional information on how to comment, and the registration link, are available here: <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/central-atlantic-2-public-meetings>.

UUFANJ "First Friday" Action Hour with EmpowerNJ
10/4/2024, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- via Zoom

UU FaithAction NJ (UUFANJ) hosts a one-hour Zoom meeting at 12:00 noon on the First Friday of every month. "During that time, we take action together, in real-time! For those who cannot join us at 12 pm on Friday, we provide a Google Doc with all necessary instructions." The October First Friday will focus on environmental issues in NJ, led

by EmpowerNJ, "a coalition [**UUFANJ is a member**] of environmental, citizen, faith, and progressive groups in New Jersey launching a grassroots campaign calling on Governor Murphy to act quickly on climate change by stopping pending fossil fuel projects and their greenhouse gas emissions." Additional information and the Zoom link are available here: <https://bit.ly/1st-fridays>.

NJDEP Food Waste Recycling Proposed Rules - Comments Due 10/4/2024

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is proposing new rules entitled "Food Waste Recycling" to implement the 2020 Food Waste Recycling Law's requirements governing the source separation and recycling of food waste by certain businesses identified as large food waste generators. According to the DEP, "the proposed rules prescribe recordkeeping and reporting requirements for both authorized food waste recycling facilities and large food waste generators. Authorized food waste recycling facilities will also be subject to provisions covering economic benefit for municipalities. The proposed rules include waiver provisions for source separation and recycling and enforcement provisions." **Comments are due 10/4/2024.**

The proposed rules are available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/rules/proposals/proposal-20240805a.pdf> and comments may be made here: <https://dep.nj.gov/rules/rule-comment-form/>.

NJSOC - "Native Plants 1-2-3: Plan & Plant, Pollinators, & Preparing for Winter" 10/5/2024, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Sandyston, NJ - In-person

Presented by the NJ School of Conservation (NJSOC), "this three-in-one workshop offers something for everyone! You want to improve your local environment and help pollinators. You're thinking about replacing your lawn with native plants... but worried about what the neighbors will say! Master Gardener, Barbara Rosenberg will share techniques that can disguise the real intent of the new garden where lawn used to be, and suggest native plants that lend themselves to 'keeping up appearances'.... From the generalists to the specialists, [NJ]SOC Environmental

Educator, Aliza Kawecki, will introduce you to some of the plants in our 'Frog Hollow' pollinator garden and their fascinating relationships with the pollinators they support. And where do those pollinators go in the winter?.... Dr Randi Eckel, owner and founder of Toadshade Wildflower Farm and current vice president (and past president) of the Native Plant Society of New Jersey, will discuss how (and where!) wildlife overwinters, and how to manage our spaces to support and protect the creatures we attract to our gardens through all twelve months of the year." Additional information and the link to purchase tickets (**\$20**) are available here: <https://njsoc.org/event/native-plants-1-2-3-plan-plant-pollinators-preparing-for-winter-2/>.

Information about several additional NJSOC programs, some specifically for educators (including a "Field Forestry & Climate Change Workshop" in partnership with the NJ Forest Service) and some of recreational or general interest, is available here: <https://njsoc.org/events/>.

National Drive Electric Week Events Various dates, times, and locations (see below) - In-person

The NJ Electric Vehicle Association, whose mission is "to accelerate the widespread adoption of electric vehicles through education, infrastructure support and demonstration," is sponsoring a number of events showcasing electric vehicles (EVs) in honor of "National Drive Electric Week." October events are listed below. Links to additional information about these events, including how to register your EV if you would like to show it at an event, are listed on the NJ Electric Vehicle Association "EEvents" calendar, available here: <https://jerseyeva.org/events/>.

- **Westfield, NJ Street Fair and EV Car Show 10/5/2024, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**
 - **EV Showcase, Pitman, NJ 10/5/2024, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.**
 - **Somerville NJ's EV Show and Local Environmental Matters 10/6/2024, 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**
 - **Thinking about EVs? Get your questions answered. - Plainsboro Township, NJ 10/26/2024, 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**
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"Time for Turbines 7"

10/10/2024, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (incl. Field Trips); 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. (Reception)

**10/11/2024, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (Forum)
Atlantic City, NJ - In-person**

"Time for Turbines 7" is hosted by Jersey Renews, and "will feature speakers and panelists from leading voices in the offshore wind industry, including state government officials, wind developers and labor leaders outlining key issues for the expansion of offshore wind off the Jersey Shore." It will feature panels, field trips, and a networking reception. **General admission is \$425 and nonprofit admission is \$325.** Additional information, including descriptions of field trips, the agenda, and the registration link, is available here: <https://www.timeforturbines.org>.

"Get the Lead Out of Trenton" 2nd Annual Lead Awareness Day & Community BBQ 10/12/2024, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Trenton, NJ - In-person

The East Trenton Collaborative is hosting its 2nd annual Lead Awareness Day and Community BBQ in Trenton's George Page Park, at N. Clinton Avenue and Lawrence Street. Lead testing for children and household items will be available, as well as "food, fun, games, and music for all." Additional information is available here: <https://www.east-trenton.org/events>.

"Organic Rising" Film Screening & Panel Discussion 10/13/2024, 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. New Brunswick, NJ - In-person

"Join NOFA-NJ [Northeast Organic Farming Association of NJ] and Filmmaker Anthony Suau for a panel discussion and screening of Organic Rising, the first feature-length film to demystify organic agriculture for the consumer.... Organic Rising explains the predominant forms of agriculture in the United States today: conventional and organic. The documentary film takes a deep dive into the history and practices used by organic farmers and implemented by the U.S.D.A. National Organic Program (NOP).... Organic farmers describe how they work to build

soil biology to effectively reduce pest and fungal infestations simultaneously sequestering carbon.... The film follows produce to processors and distributors and finally to consumers...

Organic Rising's intent is to reduce confusion around the U.S.D.A. national organic label and to empower the public to participation in the process." Tickets will be sold at the door - **\$20 General Admission; \$10 for Students.**

Additional information, including a link to view the movie trailer, is available here:

<https://nofanj.org/event/organic-rising-film-screening-at-rutgers-film-co-op/>.

EPA National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call 10/15/2024, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Virtual

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites Environmental Justice (EJ) advocates to participate in its National EJ Community Engagement calls. "The purpose of these calls is to inform communities about EPA's environmental justice work and enhance opportunities to maintain an open dialogue with environmental justice advocates. As environmental justice continues to be integrated into EPA programs and policies, the Agency hopes that relaunching these calls will help reaffirm EPA's continued commitment to work with community groups and the public to strengthen local environmental and human health outcomes." Additional information will be available here: <https://tinyurl.com/5a986sf6>.

"Federal Accountability and Environmental Justice Obligations" - Webinar 10/16/2024, 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

As part of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Region 2 Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (TCTAC), one of the TCTAC partners - New York University's Institute for Policy Integrity - is hosting the "Federal Accountability and Environmental Justice Obligations" webinar. This webinar will focus on "providing Environmental Justice communities with the tools to effectively engage with government at all levels. This training focuses on how Environmental Justice is considered in the regulatory processes across federal agencies and ways that communities can engage the process. Participants will learn how rules and regulations

are created by different agencies to protect the environment, public health, and public welfare." Registration is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/53k69b79>.

**"UU Theological Grounding for Climate Justice" with UUA Pres. Sofia and UUSC Pres. Mary Katherine Morn - Virtual
10/16/2024, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

This Unitarian Universalist "Side with Love" webinar will be hosted by Rachel Myslivy. "UUs have been at the leading edge of climate action for decades, but how does our faith call us to the work of climate justice? Join the Green Sanctuary 2030 Community for a watch party of the UU Theological Grounding for Climate Justice Fireside Chat with UUA Pres. Sofia and UUSC Pres. Mary Katherine Morn. How does your faith call you to this work? Join the conversation!" Registration is available here: https://secure.everyaction.com/S-A7RxBF_02oBcSfLIUzBQ2.

**Organics Waste Management Summit 2024: "Composting and Beyond"
10/16/2024, 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Bordentown, NJ - In-person**

The NJ Composting Council, Inc. (NJCC) and the Rutgers University NJ Agricultural Experiment Station are sponsoring the 2024 Organics Waste Management Summit, "Composting and Beyond." "Organics processors, composters, haulers, regulators, academics, organics waste management professionals, sustainable community organizations, and nonprofits are invited to join the conversation about New Jersey's organics management practices. The Summit will host panels featuring experienced industry professionals, academics and regulators. New this year are breakout sessions to give attendees the opportunity to more fully participate in the event. Topics include:

- A Macro Look At Compost Market Challenges
- Partnerships for Successful Municipal food waste diversion & composting programs
- NJ organics waste management Policy and Regulations
- Compost & Healthy Soils

We'll also get a special preview of the compost research work from Rutgers and Princeton

Universities." Additional information, including the schedule and the link to purchase tickets (**General Admission: \$155; Government, Non-profits, Municipal Green Teams: \$110**) is available here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/organics-waste-management-summit-2024-tickets-945080690787>.

**NJ Shade Tree Federation Annual Conference
10/17/2024 & 10/18/2024,
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Atlantic City, NJ - In-person**

This year's conference includes General Education sessions (such as "Native Plants: Facts, Fabrications and Foibles" and "Planting Resilient Trees to Mitigate Climate Change") and breakout sessions on either a Municipal Track or an LTE/LTCO (Licensed Tree Expert (LTE) and Licensed Tree Care Operator (LTCO)) Track. A full-day training course for those seeking to attain or maintain New Jersey Urban & Community Forestry (NJUCF) accreditation will be held concurrently on the first day. Additional information including links to the agenda with detailed descriptions of sessions, and to register (**\$275 for each single day; \$450 for both days**) is available here: <https://njstf.org/upcoming-conference.php>.



**UU FaithAction NJ Fall Issues Conference
10/19/2023, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Hybrid
Montclair, NJ - In-person & online**

All UUs in New Jersey are encouraged to attend UUFANJ's Fall Issues Conference, as we prepare for another year of UU education, advocacy and mobilization in the Garden State! The theme of our 2024 Issues Conference is "Framing the Future." We are excited to announce our Keynote

Speaker - Jesse Burns, Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey - who will speak on the future of advocacy in New Jersey. The Issues Conference will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair and on Zoom. Registration is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/5n9x6fte>.

"Get the Lead Out of Paterson Rally - Child Wellness Day"
10/19/2024, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Paterson, NJ - In-person

Sponsored by the Paterson Alliance, "the Get the Lead Out Rally - Child Wellness Day is a community event aimed at raising awareness about the dangers of lead poisoning, especially for children. The rally is scheduled for October 19, 2024, 12-4pm and will take place at Center City Mall in Paterson, NJ. This family-focused event will provide a space for lead testing, health screenings, and wellness resources for local residents. In addition to the health services, there will be activities like games, face painting, and giveaways to engage the community. The rally is designed to bring together families, local organizations, healthcare providers, and other community stakeholders to promote lead-safe living environments and ensure that residents have access to the resources they need to protect their health. It's also an opportunity for nonprofits, local businesses, and community leaders to partner with the Paterson Alliance to advocate for lead remediation and healthier homes in Paterson." Additional information is provided at the bottom of the page available here: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Paterson-Alliance-Lead-Program-.html?soid=1112711261369&aid=Dvs8QLSGU0Y>.

"Navigating Climate & Election Anxiety"
10/22/2024, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
& "Climate Action Now" App Action Party
8:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
- Webinar

This webinar sponsored by Elders Climate Action will be presented by Tamara Staton, Citizens' Climate Lobby's (CCL) Education & Resilience Coordinator. "Climate change stands as the defining challenge of our era, a topic that can feel overwhelming in its scope and implications. As we

grapple with this global crisis, many of us also face mounting anxiety about upcoming elections, whose outcomes could profoundly shape our response to climate change and impact the world we cherish.... we'll explore the intersection of climate and election anxiety.... [and] we'll introduce a practical 5-step framework designed to help you navigate these complex emotions and concerns skillfully." After the webinar, there will be a 15-minute Action Party on the Climate Action Now app, which "gives individuals the ability to take planet-saving actions from their phone in seconds." Additional information, including the registration link and a QR code to set up the Climate Action Now app in advance, is available here: https://www.eldersclimateaction.org/event/nc_oct2024/.

"Coastal Forests as Sentinels of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise" - Virtual
10/23/2024, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

In this webinar, Dr. Marcelo Ardón (Associate Professor – NC State University) will discuss ghost forests along the coast of the southeastern US and explain their connection to climate change and rising sea levels. "Along the southeastern US coast, it is becoming more and more common to see large patches of dead or dying trees where healthy forests used to be. These areas are called ghost forests, and they have been recorded since at least the 1920's. Ghost forests can be found on the Atlantic coast from New Jersey to Texas and as climate change persists, ghost forests are expected to become a more prevalent sight. But what causes this mass death of once healthy forests? What are the ecosystem impacts and can anything be done to save the trees?" Additional information, including how to join the Zoom viewing, is available here: <https://conservationwebinars.net/webinars/coastal-forests-as-sentinels-of-climate-change-and-sea-level-rise/view>.

"Preventing Lead Exposure in your NJ Community: Bright Futures Begin Lead Free" - Webinar
10/23/2024, 3:00 p.m.

Hosted by Lead-Free NJ and co-sponsored by Sustainable Jersey, this webinar will address

actions that municipalities and community advocates can take "to not only comply with state laws, but also go above and beyond.... At this webinar, you'll hear about:

- Racial and economic disparity in lead exposure
- NJ state law requiring lead paint inspections in rental housing built before 1978
- Free lead paint remediation and abatement program
- NJ state law requiring water utilities to replace lead service lines by 2031
- NJ state law requiring blood lead level testing of children
- Collaborative efforts to eliminate lead exposure
- Sustainable Jersey action items related to lead"

Registration is available here:

<https://tinyurl.com/3p9wjekt>.

**"Environmental Justice Concerns With Carbon Capture and Sequestration in the US Power Sector and Beyond" - Hybrid
10/28/2024, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m.
Princeton, NJ- In-person & Livestream on Media Central**

This talk is sponsored by the Princeton University Center for Policy Research on Energy and the Environment, and will be presented by Dr. Yukyan Lam, Director of Research and a Senior Scientist at the Tishman Environment and Design Center at The New School University. Dr. Yukyan's recent work with the Tishman Center "has focused on investigating the impacts of climate change mitigation policies and technologies on environmental justice communities and advancing approaches to address cumulative impacts in permitting." Additional information, including how to RSVP (for those without Princeton University IDs), is available here:

<https://cpree.princeton.edu/events/2024/environmental-justice-concerns-carbon-capture-and-sequestration-us-power-sector-and>.

**Princeton University Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment 2024 Annual Meeting - "AI for Energy and Energy for AI"
10/29/2024, 8:15 a.m. - 6:15 p.m.
Princeton, NJ - In-person**

"While the artificial intelligence boom is poised to transform how we understand and solve global challenges, its heavy reliance on energy and water

has led to concerns about its own impact on the environment. This year's Annual Meeting will explore how we can harness the power of AI to make rapid progress in global decarbonization efforts and navigate the risks that AI will create for achieving a clean and just energy future." The keynote speaker will be Melanie Nakagawa, Chief Sustainability Officer, Microsoft. Additional information and the link to register (various fees, including: **\$195 for general attendees, \$100 for non-profit organizations**) are available here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/andlinger-center-for-energy-and-the-environment-2024-annual-meeting-registration-1000124648747>.

**League of Women Voters of New Jersey (LWVNJ) Activist Trainings - Virtual
Various dates**

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey (LWVNJ) (of which **EJTF member Nancy Griffeth** is co-chair of the Natural Resources Committee) has been presenting a public series of virtual activist training sessions designed to equip participants "with the knowledge and skills needed to carry out dynamic organizing strategies that can effectively influence public policy and the state of democracy in New Jersey." The sessions scheduled for October 2024 are listed below and on [p. 10](#); descriptions of these and future sessions are available here: <https://www.lwvnj.org/training>.

**LWVNJ - "How to Be a One Person GOTV Machine!" - via Zoom
10/7/2024, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

"What can you do to get out the vote? Large Get Out the Vote (GOTV) campaigns require time, money, and a team to implement – but what role can you play as an individual community member? Join us to learn what resources we have available and how you can harness your own networks for digital and traditional nonpartisan GOTV action this fall! We will also discuss combatting mis/disinformation in your GOTV work and connecting with apathetic or unlikely voters. Thanks to our friends at the New Jersey Black Empowerment Coalition for collaborating with us on this training!" Registration is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/bdhvra9p>.

LWVNJ - "Election Protection and Know Your Rights" - via Zoom
10/23/2024, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

"Get ready for election day! Join us for a detailed discussion on individual voting rights, identifying and reporting mis/disinformation, what to look for at your polling place, and what to do if you encounter an issue. Stand ready to protect Democracy this fall." Registration is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/dy26pdsp>.

VIDEOS OF PAST EVENTS

"Why Faiths Need a NJ Green Amendment"
- Video of Webinar

In this webinar sponsored by Waterspirit, and featuring EJTF member Jo Sippie-Gora, "representatives from diverse faith traditions came together to explore the urgent need for a Green Amendment in New Jersey. This conversation emphasized the moral imperative to protect sacred Earth, drawing on teachings and principles from Islam, Indigenous wisdom, Methodism, and Unitarian Universalism. Their commentary solidified the moral responsibility people of all faiths have to ensure clean air, clean water, a stable climate and healthy environment for future generations. As the panel concluded [at minute 1:07:00 of the video], the leader of the Green Amendment movement, Maya K. van Rossum, urged attendees to transform their faith into action." She provided three specific ways for people to get involved. The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e3mhILHI49o>.

Eco-Logic Radio Shows:
"How We Win: The Fall of FERC"
- Recording of Radio Show

The Eco-Logic radio/internet program on WBAI (co-hosted by EJTF member Sally Gellert) aired this recent show, "How We Win: The Fall of FERC" related to EJTF's goals. "The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has been rubber-stamping industry requests for permits and escaped environmentalist scrutiny until about a decade ago when more people started paying attention. There have been marches and rallies and letter-writing and articles in a variety of places from print magazines to social media. When

there was no policy change, folks disrupted FERC meetings and had sit-ins and prayer vigils in front of FERC headquarters in Washington, DC.... This is a show about activists, how we operate, how we persevere, how we overcome feeling overwhelmed.... Our guests Ted Glick and Maple Osterbrink of Beyond Extreme Energy (BXE) have acted for justice for decades." 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>. The recording of this show is available here:

<https://www.wbai.org/archive/program/episode/?id=53090>.

"Offshore Wind Transmission and the Grid"
- Video of Webinar

This NJ Wind Works (a coalition of which **UUFANJ is a member**) webinar was presented by Eric Hines, Ph.D., P.E., who directs the offshore wind energy graduate program at Tufts University. "Our transition to clean energy means that two important things need to happen. First, we need to power up clean, renewable energy sources, which will include offshore wind. Second, we need to make sure our power grid can deliver that additional energy to our homes and businesses." This presentation [told] the story of how the decisions we make today will affect the performance of our future onshore to offshore grid in a world powered by renewables." The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=os57ji1sot4>.

"Getting to the Truth on Climate: Misinformation, Disinformation & Greenwashing" - Video of Webinar

This webinar, "Getting to the Truth on Climate: Misinformation, Disinformation & Greenwashing" with Margaret Marion Orr, was sponsored by Elders Climate Action. "Misinformation about climate change is a major hindrance to the actions that we need to take to fight this crisis. But fear not! You can be part of the solution! Dr. Hoeflich discuss[e] practical ways to identify and combat climate change misinformation through the lens of inoculation theory and related debunking research, with special focus on greenwashing." The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aY7AOmWd2Kk>.

"Electrify Your Life Workshop – HEAT PUMPS!" - Video of Webinar

The Elders Climate Action Electrify Your Life series is designed for elders who want to know how to plan and implement home electrification options. This webinar focused on heat pumps, with "renowned home electrification expert Sean Armstrong of Redwood Energy," who described selection from many alternatives, in any climate, of electric heat pumps for heating and cooling your home. In addition, he demonstrated how heat pumps are free of greenhouse gas emissions, and how they are also available to heat your water and even clean and dry your clothes. The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fYF3Z1v1sUo&t=9s>

"Exploring the Policy Landscape of Carbon Dioxide Removal" - Video of Webinar

Presented by the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) and the World Resources Institute (WRI), this briefing covered policy-making for carbon dioxide removal (CDR). "CDR - the practice of removing and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and ocean - comes in many forms, including direct air capture, soil carbon sequestration, ocean CDR, and forest restoration..... expanded policy development is needed to bring them to the scale needed to meet national climate goals...." Panelists from NGOs, academia, and the private sector explored "existing policies supporting different stages of CDR development, the level of CDR we expect to need, the potential for CDR in the United States, policy options to enable scaling to that level, and private sector perspectives on the policy landscape." The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VkJZ0BGXAzF4>

"Youth v. State of Alaska. The Right to a Safe Climate." - Video of Webinar

Sponsored by Elders Climate Action, in this webinar Our Children's Trust Staff Attorney Joanna Zeigler, with video and audio input featuring some of the Alaska youth plaintiffs, shared "their pursuit of climate justice through the courts. Eight young people across the state of Alaska recently filed Sagoonick v. State of Alaska II, a new

constitutional climate lawsuit to stop the Alaska LNG project and protect their rights to a safe climate. Joanna has been working with youth plaintiffs on a number of state lawsuits including Alaska and Hawai'i." The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXEmaANmIS4&t=4s>.

"The Problems of Plastics - Environmental and Environmental Justice Implications and Potential Policy Solutions" - Video of Webinar

This webinar was sponsored by the NJ League of Conservation Voters (NJLCV) and co-sponsored by the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC), Newark Green Team, New Brunswick NAACP, Save Coastal Wildlife, South Jersey Land and Water Trust, and NJ Highlands Coalition. "Plastics are everywhere - in our homes, cars, clothes, forests, oceans, and even bloodstreams. Emerging research continues to show that plastics have invaded every corner of our Earth, and often not by design. This webinar explored some of the problems with plastics - particularly as [they relate] to our environment and health, and discussed potential policy solutions such as plastic waste reduction opportunities and extended producer responsibility programs." Guest speakers were Nandini (Dini) Checko, Project Director at ANJEC, and Brooke Helmick, Director of Policy at NJ Environmental Justice Alliance (NJEJA). The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=USvji1yuLEY>

Fracked Gas-Powered Hydrogen: I'm Feeling Blue - Video of Webinar

This webinar was presented by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DNR) as part of its Hydrogen Series. In the webinar, "blue" hydrogen - hydrogen gas made from fossil gas - was described by Dr. Robert Howarth, "one of the most cited environmental scientists in the world with groundbreaking research into fracking, hydrogen energy and climate." Hydrogen gas is key in the proposed MACH2 project. In the words of EmpowerNJ, "MACH2 is the proposed 'hydrogen hub' targeting South/Central New Jersey, southeast Pennsylvania, and Delaware. The 'hub'

includes ~20 projects planned for this densely populated region but very few of us know much about hydrogen energy and its potential impacts, including the communities that are expected to 'host' dangerous and polluting projects that make up the 'hub.'" Dr. Howarth shared the science on hydrogen gas, how it is derived from fossil gas using carbon capture and storage, and explained the greenhouse gas consequences of hydrogen. An update on the MACH2 proposed hub was also provided. The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GmBB7dg73tg>.

"Understanding Environmental Justice Laws and Policies" - Video of Webinar and Slides

As part of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Region 2 Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (TCTAC), one of the TCTAC partners - New York University's Institute for Policy Integrity - hosted "Understanding Environmental Justice Laws and Policies," the first of a six-part training series "to provide environmental justice communities – and those who serve them – with the tools to effectively engage with government at all levels. This training provided a high-level overview of key laws and policies that require the consideration of environmental justice issues in decision-making at the federal and state level for New York and New Jersey." The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jqv7L0SUrIM> and slides from the webinar are available here: <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:VA6C2:530a5e91-a7bd-499c-8e06-1b581001f1d4>.

"Accelerating the Energy Transition and Industrial Decarbonization: The Powerful Role of Insurance" - Video of Webinar

This Princeton University Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment webinar was presented by Dr. Maryam Golnaraghi, Director, Climate Change and the Environment, The Geneva Institute. "Climate change is changing the characteristic of weather extremes and slow changing climatic trends (physical climate risk).

These combined with rising concentration of people and assets in high-risk areas, aging infrastructure and various macroeconomic factors, are leading to growing financial impacts on people, businesses, governments, investors and insurers. In the absence of appropriate risk mitigation measures, already in a few high-income economies with mature insurance markets, insurers are being forced to limit or cease offering new policies. Physical climate risk is also hindering the climate transition. Rising insurance costs and difficulty finding coverage, particularly where the risk of weather-related events is above average, are starting to limit the deployment of renewable projects.... Accelerating the at-scale commercial deployment of climate technologies will require unprecedented cross-sectoral collaboration from pre-commercialization stages to innovate risk management and financing. Re/insurers play a critical role." The video is available here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZA_KaMNSYo&t=81s.

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 September 2024 included a presentation by a guest speaker on "Storage Systems: Thermal & Solar Battery." The presentation begins at minute 39:54 of the video of the webinar, available here:

<https://tinyurl.com/2nhn7sp2>. Slides from the webinar are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/yc6t3uan>.

"Reacting to Industry's Needs: Nuclear's Role in Industrial Decarbonization" - Video of Webinar

Sponsored by the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES), this webinar describes the impact the recently-passed "ADVANCE Act" may have on decarbonization of the industrial sector, which is responsible for 30 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). According to C2ES, it "is often cited as one of the hardest to decarbonize sectors due to its need for clean,

uninterrupted, and scalable energy; one potential solution to meet industrial electricity and heating needs includes the deployment of new advanced nuclear reactors." The ADVANCE Act was included in the "Fire Grants and Safety Act," and its purpose is "to accelerate the development of generation IV nuclear reactor technology and keep existing United States nuclear electric power plants online." The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xCjID8RoePE>.

"New Jersey at a Crossroads: Squeaky Clean Energy or Fossil Fueled Disasters" **- Video of Webinar and Slides**

This webinar presented by EmpowerNJ (a coalition of which **UUFANJ is a member**) delineated "the vast differences between the effective and [the] false solutions currently being considered in Trenton. The policy choices we make today will either rapidly reduce pollution and energy costs while building the green economy, or they will entrench fossil fuel profits at the peril of our people and the planet." The webinar included a Briefing focusing on: "How we got here and the fight so far"; "False Solutions vs. Effective Solutions"; and "Legislation to watch." It also included a portion on Organizing, focusing on: "This political moment"; "What's ahead for this group"; and "How will we organize to meet this moment." The video is available here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1L3YRvXUraXSyw0CLARpnbGfRvmyLSWcq/view>, and the presentation slides are available here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wQM7Teixtaox0WmgsSeBIEE-6LJ0esuj/view>.

NEWS RELATED TO EJTF ISSUES **[covering 8/26/2024 – 9/25/2024]**

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Biden-Harris Administration Launches Environmental Justice Climate Corps

From the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) press release: "Today, September 25, in commemoration of Climate Week NYC, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and AmeriCorps announced the Environmental Justice Climate

Corps, a new partnership launched as part of President Biden's American Climate Corps to open doors for people to serve in careers that benefit disadvantaged and other low-income communities. This partnership will support more than 250 AmeriCorps VISTA members nationwide over three years, with each new participating member completing a one-year term of service. This historic initiative is the largest environmental partnership in AmeriCorps' history and EPA's first nationwide service effort. The Environmental Justice Climate Corps represents the Biden-Harris Administration's ongoing commitment to tackling the climate crisis and advancing environmental justice."

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-launches-nationwide-environmental-justice-climate-corps>

ELECTRIC VEHICLES & VEHICLE EMISSION REDUCTION

NJ Turnpike Expansion Update: Contracts Awarded, Activists Peeved

This article points out that, even though the environmental assessment for the controversial NJ Turnpike Expansion project has not yet been approved, and construction permits have not been issued, the NJ Turnpike Authority board of commissioners has approved a \$142 million design contract related to the project. Sam DiFalco of Food & Water Watch NJ stated that this "premature decision flies in the face of the crystal-clear demands of Hudson County and Newark residents to trade highway expansion for affordable and reliable mass transit options." <https://patch.com/new-jersey/newarknj/nj-turnpike-expansion-update-contracts-awarded-activists-peeved>

Murphy Administration Announces Opening of Income-Based Charge Up+ EV Incentive

NJ's basic "Charge Up New Jersey" electric vehicle (EV) incentive program provides a \$2,000 incentive for purchase or lease of an eligible EV. Gov. Murphy announced an additional \$2,000 income-based incentive for income-eligible applicants, who must prequalify online. They must either demonstrate proof that they participate in

another income-based state or federal program, or must submit tax information proving that they meet certain income eligibility requirements.

"Charge Up New Jersey" also offers a \$250 rebate for the purchase and installation of a qualifying Level 2 EV charger through the "In-Home EV Charger Incentive." Also see the article on EV charging incentives, below.

<https://www.nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/2024/approved/20240917.html>



Electric Vehicle Charging Incentives Available for Some N.J. Residents

Jersey Central Power & Light (JCP&L) has reopened the residential incentive portion of its "EV Driven" program. According to the JCP&L website, "JCP&L customers may be eligible for up to \$7,000 in incentives to prepare their property for EV charger installation, including:

- Up to \$1,500 for customer electrical upgrades required to install a qualified Level Two electric vehicle charger.
- Up to \$5,500 in utility upgrades, such as new poles, transformers and service wires, necessary to support the chargers.

Beyond the incentives for preparation work, additional bill credit incentives are available to encourage off-peak-hours charging."

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/electric-vehicle-charging-incentives-available-for-some-nj-residents-302243978.html>

Westfield's First Electric Police Vehicle Is Coming To Town

The Town of Westfield received a \$160,000 grant from the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) for purchase of an electric police vehicle and for installation of the EV infrastructure to support it. The town's Green Team, along with the town's administration, its police department, and its public works department, jointly worked together on the grant.

<https://patch.com/new-jersey/westfield/westfields-first-electric-police-vehicle-coming-town>

New Study Reveals Potential for Shore Power to Slash U.S. Port Emissions

The International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT) has published a working paper with results of the first study that conducted a nationwide screening of port emissions from at-berth vessels (the Working Paper - "Nationwide Port Emissions Screening for Berthed Vessels: Prioritizing U.S. Port Electrification to Improve Air Quality for Near-Port Communities" - is available here:

https://theicct.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/ID-181---US-shore-power_final.pdf).

They prioritized ports based on at-berth vessel air pollutant estimates and nearby populations in census tracts where the median household income was below the 2019 national median; not surprisingly, the ports of NY/NJ received Priority 1. The study "identified significant opportunities for ports to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions through the implementation of shore power technology, known in the industry as cold ironing."

<https://gcaptain.com/new-study-reveals-potential-for-shore-power-to-slash-u-s-port-emissions/>

In Congress, NJ Republicans in Lockstep Against Tougher Pollution Standards

The three Republican U.S. Representatives from NJ all voted in favor of H.J.Res.136 - "Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to 'Multi-Pollutant Emissions Standards for Model Years 2027 and Later Light-Duty and Medium-Duty Vehicles.'" As noted by NJ Spotlight News, "Federal climate legislation has an outsize effect on densely populated New Jersey, which is warming faster than almost anywhere in the

nation and remains acutely exposed to climate impacts, such as storm surges and rising sea levels. The state also suffers from pockets of poor air quality in large part due to vehicle emissions which leads to health impacts on its residents." This article describes impacts on NJ of vehicle emissions, and also of global warming in general, including the "urban heat island" effect.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2024/09/nj-republican-house-members-join-gop-colleagues-against-stricter-carbon-cutting-standards/>

LAND MANAGEMENT/ AGRICULTURE/FOOD

Federal Grant Awards \$801,000 to Promote Garden State Agricultural Products

\$801,000 in Specialty Crop Block Grants has been awarded for 14 NJ projects. According to the NJ Department of Agriculture (NJDA) press release, "The grants are part of the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) efforts to promote specialty crops in the nation and stimulate food and agriculturally based community economic development. Specialty crops include fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, horticulture, nursery crops and floriculture and account for more than 80 percent of the \$1.5 billion in agricultural sales annually in the Garden State.... To be eligible for the grant, projects are required to 'enhance the competitiveness' of specialty crops and might include, but are not limited to research, promotion, marketing, nutrition, trade enhancement, food safety, food security, plant health programs, education, 'buy local' programs, increased consumption, increased innovation, improved efficiency and reduced costs of distribution systems, environmental concerns and conservation, product development, and developing cooperatives." A list and descriptions of the 14 projects are available in the NJDA press release, here:

<https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/news/press/2024/approved/press240823.html>.

Report Issued: "A Strategy to Advance Carbon Sequestration On New Jersey's Natural And Working Lands"

The NJ Natural and Working Lands Strategy (NWLS) is the state's blueprint for enhancing carbon sequestration across NJ. The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the NJ Department of Agriculture (NJDA) have issued the comprehensive report "A Strategy to Advance Carbon Sequestration On New Jersey's Natural And Working Lands" (available here: https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/climatechange/nwls-final-2024_09_19.pdf). Directed to be prepared by NJ's Global Warming Response Act of 2006 (GWRA), the strategy - produced by the NJDEP with input from the NJDA and a series of stakeholder sessions - "aims to boost the capture of carbon dioxide on both public and private lands, including wetlands, aquatic habitats, agricultural areas, and forests. It outlines specific targets for land management practices - such as tree planting and wetland restoration - as well as suggested policy changes to support these efforts.... These lands include those that contribute the most to the storage and sequestration of greenhouse warming gases." Additional information is available here: <https://dep.nj.gov/climatechange/mitigation/nwls/nwls-faq/>.

New Options in One NJ Food Desert

This 4-1/2-minute news video describes "A Better Market," the market opened in Paterson by a local resident to provide fresh produce and other items to the community at reasonable prices. Most of the items come from Black-owned businesses, with the super-fresh produce coming from four farms, three of which are Black-owned, and one of which ("Green Acre Community Garden") is right across the street from the market.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/new-options-in-one-nj-food-desert/>

Montclair Man Feeding the Needy Sustainably With Urban Gardens

This article from "NJ Monthly" describes the multitude of urban gardening and environmental advocacy activities of Jose German-Gomes, founder of the Northeast Earth Coalition (NEEC). The focus is on the eight small community gardens

he runs in NJ, which "yield many hundreds of pounds of produce for the food insecure."
<https://njmonthly.com/articles/news/jose-german-gomez-montclair-northeast-earth-coalition-feeding-needy-sustainably-urban-gardens/>

Chair of Millburn Environmental Commission Speaks About the Building Native Habitats Resolution

In this article, the Chair of Millburn's Environmental Commission describes the Building Native Habitats resolution that was introduced in a recent township committee meeting. Other NJ municipalities have adopted a native plant ordinance, including Montclair, Madison, Chatham, Rahway and Mendham. If adopted, the resolution would call for "70% native species to be used for all new shade tree plantings within a calendar year" among other things.
<https://www.tapinto.net/towns/millburn-slash-short-hills/sections/green/articles/chair-of-millburn-environmental-commission-speaks-about-the-building-native-habitats-resolution>

FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE

Controversial Plan for Newark Power Plant Faces Growing Opposition

The controversial Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) proposed natural gas-fired power plant in Newark continues to be protested by environmental justice advocates led by the **EJTF partner** Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC). As the first project that was subject to NJ's Environmental Justice Law, the fact that it was approved by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has come under major scrutiny. Although the DEP put conditions on the approval, questions remain about how they would be enforced, particularly if there is a change in NJ state administration. An eloquent letter (available here: https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/25150270-20240918_faithleaders_openlettertopvsc), signed by 75 NJ faith groups led by Faith in New Jersey, "a multi-faith and multi-racial network of faith leaders and faith communities working together to advance a social and economic justice agenda at the local, state and federal level," was sent to the

PVSC, asking the commissioners not to approve the plant.
<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2024/09/controversial-natural-gas-power-plant-newark-meets-persistent-opposition/>

Williams Asks for Emergency Permit to Keep Transco Expansion Running

In a major win for the coalition of environmental groups who had appealed the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) approval of the Williams Co. subsidiary's Regional Energy Access Expansion (REAE) natural gas pipeline expansion project, a federal appeals court vacated FERC's order. Within weeks, the company filed a request with FERC for a temporary emergency certificate of public convenience and necessity for the project, which would keep REA facilities in service (a link to a PDF of the filing is available here: https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filelist?accession_num=20240906-5218). The company argued that the expanded pipeline is already in service and a court-ordered shutdown could imperil customers counting on gas this winter from the pipeline, and warned of "dramatic energy shortages" and "escalated energy costs" if it is shut down.
<https://www.eastdaley.com/media-and-news/williams-asks-for-emergency-permit-to-keep-transco-expansion-running>

RENEWABLE RESOURCES (other than Offshore Wind)

EPA \$156 Million Grant to Provide Solar Power, Lower Energy Costs and Advance Environmental Justice Across New Jersey

From the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website: "The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities \$156 million under the Solar for All [SFA] Program to develop long-lasting solar programs that enable low-income and disadvantaged communities to benefit from solar power. This award is part of EPA's historic \$27 billion Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund created under President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act.... New Jersey, through the Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU), has designed a SFA program (NJ SFA) that tackles the major barriers that have

prevented the adoption of solar energy by low-income and disadvantaged households. As a result of cross-agency collaboration, the state has determined four key pillars for this federal funding opportunity: residential solar, multi-family housing solar and storage, residential-serving community solar, and technical assistance and workforce development. The State's proposed use of funds across the four NJ SFA pillars is anticipated to serve tens of thousands of households in low-income and disadvantaged communities."

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-156-million-grant-provide-solar-power-lower-energy-costs-and-advance-environmental>

Governor Murphy Announces Information Hub to Aid Municipalities and Developers with Solar Projects

From the new "Landfill to Solar" website (available here: <https://nj.gov/landfillsolar/>), "Converting landfills to solar facilities involves repurposing capped landfill sites for solar energy generation. This innovative approach not only transforms previously unusable land into productive renewable energy sources but also contributes to environmental remediation and sustainable development goals at no cost to municipalities." The "Landfill to Solar" website brings together resources available from the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU), the NJ Economic Development Authority (EDA), and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), to provide both municipal governments and solar developers with a step-by-step guide to initiating and completing these solar projects.

<https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562024/approved/20240904b.shtml>

Murphy Administration Enacts Legislation to Incentivize Conversion of Brownfields into Solar Project Sites

Gov. Murphy signed new legislation (A4619/S3479) enhancing the Historic Property Reinvestment Program and the Brownfields Redevelopment Incentive Program. The portion of the bill related to brownfields modifies provisions of the NJ Economic Development Authority's (EDA) Brownfields Redevelopment Incentive Program Act to cover remediation activities such as the work needed to cap landfill sites. Solar projects located

on the site of a former landfill will be eligible to receive tax credits in the amount of 100 percent of the costs of remediating and capping the landfill, up to a maximum of \$8 million to \$12 million depending on the location of the project. A statement describing the bill is available here: https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2024/A5000/4619_S1.PDF.

OFFSHORE WIND



New Jersey Delays Offshore Wind Project Amid Supply Issues

The Leading Light Wind offshore wind project, which would be built 40 miles off Long Beach Island and would consist of up to 100 turbines, has asked the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU), for a pause in the project until late 12/2024, and the BPU has approved the pause. The cause for the request is related to a struggle to find a source for turbine blades. One turbine blade supplier withdrew and the remaining supplier initiated a significant cost increase. The project will continue with survey work and planning activities during the pause.

<https://newjerseymonitor.com/2024/09/25/new-jersey-delays-offshore-wind-project-amid-supply-issues/>

New Life for Abandoned Offshore Wind Leases?

Because of "slowing inflation, lower expected interest rates, and more attractive terms for offshore wind power now offered by New Jersey regulators," wind energy analysts predict that there is a strong market among developers to

purchase the leases abandoned by Ørsted last year. However, any such sales would not be expected to take place until after the Presidential and NJ gubernatorial elections. The U.S. Bureau of Energy Management (BOEM) would need to approve any lease transfers.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2024/09/orsted-abandoned-major-nj-offshore-wind-plans-now-set-sell-ocean-leases/>

Lawsuits Buffet US Offshore Wind Projects, Seeking to End or Delay Them

This article describes many of the federal and state lawsuits that have been filed against offshore wind development, focusing on multiple lawsuits that continue to be filed in NJ. For example, a lawsuit was filed in mid-September by the citizen group Save LBI (Long Beach Island). It claims that the Atlantic Shores project "would violate noise ordinances during pile driving and operation of hundreds of wind turbines." The group says it has more lawsuits in the works.

<https://whatsupnewp.com/2024/09/lawsuits-buffet-us-offshore-wind-projects-seeking-to-end-or-delay-them/>

"Ports of Opportunity: Advancing Offshore Wind Ports in the Tri-State Region" Report Issued

The Regional Plan Association (RPA), "an independent non-profit civic organization that develops and promotes ideas to improve the economic health, environmental resiliency, equity, and quality of life of the New York metropolitan area" and Karp Strategies, an urban planning adviser, have issued a report "Ports of Opportunity: Advancing Offshore Wind Ports in the Tri-State Region." The report emphasizes that, whatever may be occurring in the offshore wind sector, states should keep investing in wind-related port infrastructure, because otherwise there won't be jobs onshore for the projects out at sea. The projects need ports to manufacture the components, store them, piece them together, move them to sea, and then operate and maintain them. The report is available here:

<https://rpa.org/work/reports/ports-of-opportunity>.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Feeling the Heat: How Climate Change Is Affecting the Garden State's Valuable Agriculture Industry

This 27-minute NJ Spotlight News Special Edition video focuses on the impacts of both land-based and water-based NJ agriculture. The first part follows farm workers on a farm that has instituted many worker accommodations in response to increasing heat in NJ. The last part details impacts of climate change and offshore wind development on NJ's very lucrative Atlantic surf clam fishery, both in terms of what is happening in the ocean as wild clams are impacted by rising ocean temperatures and increased acidity, and also in terms of research and the beginnings of shellfish farming of the surf clams.

[ahttps://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/nj-spotlight-news-special-edition-feeling-the-heat-september-19-2024/](https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/nj-spotlight-news-special-edition-feeling-the-heat-september-19-2024/)

Cape May County Officials Denounce State's Proposed Flood-Control Rules

Cape May County officials organized a news conference with state, county and local officials as well as the general public, to voice their displeasure with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) "Resilient Environments and Landscapes" (REAL) proposed regulations, which are designed to respond to flooding and rising sea level impacts resulting from climate change. Prior to the news conference, a private meeting was held between Cape May County and its 16 municipalities, which have adopted resolutions formally requesting the governor and the DEP to approve the construction restrictions on a gradual basis. They cite extreme negative economic impacts if the regulations are implemented. Raymond Cantor, vice president of government affairs for the NJ Business & Industry Association, has asserted that the regulations are so drastic that they would force "a managed retreat from the shore" by making it too difficult to build new homes.

<https://ocnjdaily.com/news/2024/sep/06/cape-may-county-officials-denounce-states-proposed-flood-prevention-rules/>

Murphy Administration Releases Innovative 2024 Statewide Water Supply Plan to Modernize Water Policy and Enhance Climate Resilience

In the first major update of the NJ Statewide Water Supply Plan since 2017, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has released the 2024 version of the plan (available here: dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/water-supply-plan/2024-njswsp.pdf). For the first time, the plan "assesses water supply challenges resulting from climate change and offers climate resilience solutions.... The DEP has also developed a new interactive website (available here: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/394d98abc7eb41c59929e5095cdb5f85>) that outlines key information from the plan for specific audiences, including residential users, water professionals and others to summarize key plan topics, such as climate change and environmental justice." https://dep.nj.gov/newsrel/24_039/

Montclair Township Council Addresses Climate Change

At the August meeting of the Montclair Township Council, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Colliers Engineering representatives made a presentation on the "Resilient NJ Municipal Assistance Program." The program is designed to help municipalities deal with the effects of climate change, and Montclair is one of several NJ municipalities participating in the program. The presentation focused on environmental threats to the community, primarily flooding and mudslides from Orange Mountain. <https://www.tapinto.net/towns/montclair/sections/government/articles/montclair-township-council-addresses-climate-change-begins-township-manager-selection-process>

Jersey Shore Erosion 'Hot Spots' May Get Federal Scrutiny

A federal bill - H.R. 8812, the "Water Resources Development Act of 2024" - that has passed the U.S. House of Representatives, would approve hundreds of U.S. Corps of Engineers (COE) projects nationwide including dozens in NJ. NJ Representatives pushed for language that is included in that bill that would direct the COE to

study erosion "hot spots," where sediment is lost from a concentrated location more rapidly than from surrounding areas. This is a perennial problem on the NJ coastline.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2024/08/nj-lamakers-push-jersey-shore-erosion-hot-spots-study/>



LEAD REDUCTION IN HOUSEHOLDS

Governor Murphy Announces \$180 Million Awarded to Nonprofit Groups and Local Governments Through Lead Remediation and Abatement Program

Utilizing \$180 million in federal "State Fiscal Recovery Funds" included in the American Rescue Plan approved by President Biden during the pandemic, the NJ Department of Community Affairs (DCA) is making grants available to NJ communities through its Lead Remediation and Abatement Program (LRAP). The focus of the program is on households least able to address lead-based paint hazards with their own funds or other resources, and are more likely to experience other socioeconomic and environmental factors that negatively affect children's development beyond lead (links to eligibility criteria are available here:

<https://nj.gov/dca/dhcr/offices/lrap.shtml>). Eligible recipients can use the LRAP funding to address lead-based paint hazards through remediation and abatement.

<https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562024/approved/20240917b.shtml>

Race To Replace Lead Pipes Is On Pace, NJ's Largest Water Company Says

NJ American Water (NAW) has stated "it has replaced nearly 10,000 customer-owned lead and galvanized steel water service lines in its coverage area of about 2.9 million people." The replacements are required by a 2021 NJ law that gave community water systems 10 years to replace all of their lead service lines. NAW has stated that it is on schedule to do so, but one impact of this effort is an NAW-requested rate hike that was approved by the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU). <https://patch.com/new-jersey/westorange/race-replace-lead-pipes-pace-njs-largest-water-company-says>

Superfund Listing Proposed for Trenton Neighborhood Tainted by Lead

This 1-minute news video describes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposed listing on the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) of an area in Trenton termed the "Historic Potteries" site. The NJ Department of Environmental Protection Agency (DEP) had requested that the area be listed on the NPL. According to the EPA, "The Historic Potteries site consists primarily of residential, public school, and public park properties in or around the East Trenton and Top Road neighborhood in the city of Trenton, Mercer County, New Jersey..." Lead removal has already begun in parts of the area, but a Superfund NPL designation would result in additional resources being available. NJ already has the most Superfund NPL sites in the U.S. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/superfund-listing-proposed-for-trenton-neighborhood-tainted-by-lead/>

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$53.6 Million to Expand Weatherization Assistance Program and Lower Costs for More American Households

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) "announced that it has selected fourteen state and territorial weatherization offices to receive \$53.6 million in Sustainable Energy Resources for Consumers

(SERC) grants, which provide low-income households with energy saving measures and materials not traditionally included in DOE's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).... Funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.... DOE expects the projects to provide targeted benefits to disadvantaged communities through new partnerships with public and private entities that will reduce [the] energy burden [on] low-income families and support great-paying clean energy jobs." NJ was awarded \$1 million for the "Sustainable Energy Resources for Consumers" project in Bergen County. "Greater Bergen Community Action (GBCA) will use WAP SERC funding to upgrade energy systems for 72 homes in Bergen County, focusing on reducing energy costs and carbon emissions. The project will target 18 Justice40 census tracts, providing immediate and long-term relief to clients by addressing issues like high energy costs, cold air infiltration, heat loss, and energy-related health and safety concerns."

<https://www.energy.gov/articles/biden-harris-administration-announces-536-million-expand-weatherization-assistance-program>

POLLUTION

NJ Petitions Feds to Curb Air Pollution of 'Forever Chemicals'

This 1-minute news video describes the request submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and environmental departments in NC and NM for the listing of four PFAS chemical family of "forever chemicals" as hazardous under the federal Clean Air Act. The four (PFOA, PFOS, PFNA and Gen X) are among the most common of the PFAS chemicals. Air pollution from industries that use these chemicals is a chronic problem in NJ.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/nj-petitions-feds-to-curb-air-pollution-of-forever-chemicals/>

New Filter System Removing Microplastics From Public Water

4-1/2-minute news video shows the Grand Opening event of the NJ start-up PolyGone's Microplastic Removal Pilot Project and Educational Pavilion at the Atlantic County Utilities Authority

(ACUA). PolyGone, founded by two Princeton University graduate students, has developed a prototype microplastic filtration technology, which is being tested at a one-year pilot at ACUA. The Education Pavilion features an exhibition about microplastic pollution and PolyGone’s environmental mission.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/new-filter-system-removing-microplastics-from-public-water/>

Water Utility Launches Program for Bottle Filling Stations

New Jersey American Water, the largest water service provider in NJ, has announced a grant program for local municipalities to install water filling stations where people can refill their reusable water bottles. Grants of up to \$2,500 will be available for 12 municipalities in their service area, with priority given to communities of color and economically disadvantaged communities. The program hopes to address the proliferation of plastic bottles and their pollution, and also hopes

to foster positive feelings about using the company's filtered tap water.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2024/09/nj-water-utility-launches-reusable-water-bottle-filling-station-program/>

OTHER

Polluters Will Likely Exploit Ruling Overturning Chevron

This Sierra Club NJ article by Chris Hitchcock, Esq. describes the anticipated impact of the Supreme Court's *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo* case decision on environmental regulations and their implementation. In that decision, the Supreme Court overturned the 40-year-old "Chevron deference doctrine," which required courts to defer to government agencies’ interpretations of ambiguous statutory language.

<https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/blog/2024/09/polluters-will-likely-exploit-ruling-overturning-chevron>

EJTF’s GOALS for 2023/2024

- 1. Advocating for the adoption of the Green Amendment in New Jersey through work in our congregations and as a Task Force;**
- 2. Working toward resolving the many challenges in New Jersey related to food-insecurity, including but not limited to promoting regenerative agriculture, increasing accessibility of healthy food, reducing food waste, and encouraging community and family gardens;**
- 3. Supporting 100% renewable energy and energy conservation through measures such as the Clean Energy Equity Act, and those affecting transportation and Electric Vehicles (EVs).**
- 4. Advocating for better health and reducing climate change for all by protecting and expanding New Jersey’s public and urban forests.**

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

MORATORIUM MONDAYS CONTINUE

Please continue to contact Gov. Murphy every Monday and urge him to declare a climate emergency moratorium on fossil fuel projects! These efforts have been successful in that a number of projects have been stopped or delayed in the past. Either call through the Empower NJ 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.