



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

<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.

Heading Into the Future

The Environmental Justice Task Force (EJTF) of UUFANJ is heading into the future determined to step up our efforts to "educate, advocate, and mobilize" in the cause of environmental justice. Our current goals are described in the box below. We will continue to make our voice heard in the NJ legislature as we support key bills, such as the NJ Climate Superfund Act, and oppose others (see the box on [p. 19](#)). Also, we will encourage UUs to have an impact on the NJ Governor's race by interacting with gubernatorial candidates to highlight our issues (also see the articles on p. 17 [here](#) and [here](#) about "Enviro Fix in '26," a nonpartisan environmental agenda for the next governor, launched by NJ environmental advocacy groups).



EJTF's GOALS for 2024/2025

- 1. Advocating for the adoption of the Green Amendment in New Jersey through work in our congregations and as a Task Force;**
- 2. Working toward resolving the many challenges in New Jersey related to food-insecurity, including but not limited to promoting regenerative agriculture, increasing accessibility of healthy food, reducing food waste, and encouraging community and family gardens;**
- 3. Supporting 100% renewable energy and energy conservation through measures such as the Clean Energy Equity Act, and those affecting transportation and Electric Vehicles (EVs).**
- 4. Advocating for better health and reducing climate change for all by protecting and expanding New Jersey's public and urban forests.**
- 5. Advocating for a better understanding of the interconnected web of life by influencing education for people of all ages, including public school curriculum of K-12 students.**

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New "Target Zero" Law A Win for Safe Streets in NJ!!

- by Mike Skelly

In 2024, traffic-related fatalities in New Jersey climbed to 692, the second-highest number since 2007. The largest increase was among pedestrians: There were 223 pedestrian deaths in 2024, the highest number since 1988.

After more than two years of advocacy, Governor Murphy signed the Target Zero Commission Bill into law on Monday, January 13, taking a critical step towards making New Jersey streets safer for all users. The bill was passed by both the Senate and the Assembly unanimously on December 19, 2024. New Jersey becomes the first state in the nation to establish a Commission dedicated to reaching zero traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2040.

This is a victory that we worked on through UU FaithAction NJ for the last two years as a partner-member of the NJ Bike & Walk Coalition.

A similar Target Zero safety campaign in the Netherlands in the 1970s moved that country from a car-dominated culture to one of the world leaders in walking, biking, and mass transit. It took many years of concerted effort after setting up the safety goals and administrative institution, but the results have saved lives, and improved health, air quality, and the economy for the entire country.

Jersey City, New Jersey has already implemented such a program and has achieved similar benefits. They have successfully driven annual deaths on roads and walkways to zero.

We can be proud of this milestone and prepare to actively participate at the state, county, and local community levels to carry this forward.

The following is from Gov. Murphy's press release: "Governor Phil Murphy today [1/13/2025] signed A1476/S361 into law, creating the Target Zero Commission with the goal of eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries in New Jersey by 2040. The 13-member group will consist of state officials from the Department of Transportation (DOT), State Police, along with the Division of Highway Traffic Safety, the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, regional transportation officials, and others who will work together to make New Jersey's roads safer for drivers and pedestrians.... 'The Commission will collaborate to prioritize safety and mobility, forging a clear path to making sure everyone, whether walking, biking, driving, or using public transit, can travel safely in New Jersey,' said Governor Murphy.

The Target Zero Commission will focus on data-driven strategies that prioritize roadway design, speed management, and safety for all road users, including pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. The Commission will advise the Governor, Legislature, and the DOT regarding policies, programs, research, and priorities that will aid in attaining the goal of eliminating traffic fatalities. Under the law, the Commission is directed to propose an action plan within one year of the bill's signing, with a chance for the public to provide feedback on the proposed plan. The Commission will also collect traffic safety data for the public, including data on dangerous intersections and crash demographics. Additionally, the Commission will provide data and resources to local municipalities to assist them in developing their own Target Zero plans."

The press release, which includes accolades from numerous sources, is available here: <https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562025/approved/20250113a.shtml>.

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

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

FEBRUARY 2025						
(with hyperlinks to details on the following pages)						
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FUTURE EVENTS

2025 NJ Agricultural Convention and Trade Show

2/4/2025, 2/5/2025, & 2/6/2025 Atlantic City, NJ - In-person

The 2025 NJ Agricultural Convention and Trade Show is being hosted by the Vegetable Growers Association of NJ (VGA) in cooperation with Rutgers Cooperative Extension. This year's theme is "Strategies for Success." The trade show and VGA educational sessions will open on 2/4/2025; tickets for a range of prices, depending on the purchaser's status and number of days attending, are available here: <https://vganj.com/convention-tickets>. "The show will feature exhibits and displays from many of the industry's suppliers and business associates. In addition, a wide variety of educational sessions on topics ranging from growing crops to food safety, the latest ideas in agricultural practices and much more will be offered." Additional information is available here: <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/pdf/2025%20Friend%20Of%20Ag%20Letter.pdf> and the schedule is available here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eKPrM-OwsO5OUHuJZc6uywr8u2FRjyZF/view>. The concurrent 2025 State Agricultural Convention will open a business session on 2/5/2025. On that day and the following day there will also be informational sessions as well as presentations. Links to the Convention program, as well as a meal reservation form, are available here: <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/news/hottopics/topics241219.html>.

Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) First Quarter 2025 Public Hearing 2/5/2025, 1:30 p.m. - Virtual

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) will hold its first-quarter public hearing on Wednesday, 2/5/2025. The hearing is open to the public and will take place remotely via Zoom Webinar, and it will also be livestreamed on the DRBC's YouTube channel. Additional information including a link to the agenda and to register, and information about how to provide testimony, is available here: <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/meetings/upcoming/>.

"The Revolution Will Be Streamed: Approaches to News for a World in Crisis" 2/6/2025, 7:00 p.m. - Webinar

This webinar is sponsored by Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East (UUJME). "Partisan bias is widely discussed in news media and about news media organizations. However, in addition to partisan bias, news organizations and journalists perpetuate structural biases that perpetuate violent, stereotypical ideas and hopelessness about our world and our role in it. This webinar examines [how to] help news consumers evaluate sources, identify structural biases and what to do about them, and more effectively present their own ideas for change. Participants can choose to join a small group to examine a news article to discuss its structural biases, followed by a full group discussion of the article and Q&A." Additional information and registration are available here: https://www.uujme.org/media_bias.

DEP Liberty State Park Revitalization Program Comments Due 2/8/2025

The Liberty State Park (LSP) Revitalization Program Open House held on 1/25/2025 by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) provided an opportunity for public feedback prior to the groundbreaking of initial projects along the Audrey Zapp Drive Corridor. The Open House provided information on: development of the park's Holistic Long-term Master Plan; immediate improvements along the Audrey Zapp Drive Corridor; and the cleanup and restoration of the park's long fenced-off interior located to the west of Freedom Way. Comments may be made online, and the following online resources provide information:

- Commissioner LaTourette's opening remarks at the Open House (video available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SqDRHePplXg>);
- LSP Holistic Long-term Master Plan (video available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1LqbdQSXRZU>);
- Audrey Zapp Drive Corridor Priority Projects (video available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FnLt-ToJ8s>);
- The Open House presentation materials on: "What is Happening Now"; "Audrey Zapp Drive

Corridor"; and "Morris Pesin Drive Corridor + Waterfront," **and the links to comment**, are available here:

<https://dep.nj.gov/revitalizelsp/comment/>;

comments are due by 11:59 p.m. on 2/8/2025.

**NJBPU Technical Conference on NJ's
Net Metering Policies for Class I
Renewable Energy Systems
2/10/2025, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Webinar**

The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) is holding a Technical Conference for stakeholders to present their perspectives on possible designs of a net energy metering ("NEM") successor policy in NJ. "Net metering permits owners and operators of class I renewable energy generation facilities to receive credits for any electricity that is supplied back to the electric grid. In New Jersey, net metering is predominantly utilized for solar installations at residential, commercial, and public entity locations. Net metering must be offered at non-discriminatory rates to accommodate systems of any sized capacity." A public meeting was held on this topic by the BPU in November, for which the video and the presentation slides are available (see below). The presentations from this Technical Conference will be taken into consideration when the BPU develops a shortlist of potential NEM successor policy options in the subsequent phase of this stakeholder process. Among other things, presenters at the meeting are encouraged to describe major enablers and barriers to efficiently and fairly evolving the NEM structure. Post-Conference comments are encouraged; **the deadline for comments is 5:00 p.m. on 3/3/2025.** A link to the BPU Notice, which gives additional detailed information about the Conference and what it will cover; the link to post comments; and a link to public comments previously made by "Vote Solar" are all available here:

<https://tinyurl.com/3rpbazdz>. The video of the November 2024 public meeting is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/kwfu232m>, and the presentation from that meeting is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/42mhfxbj>.

**"Empowering Vulnerable Communities
Facing the Consequences of Climate
(Action)" - Webinar
2/10/2025, 2:55 p.m. - 4:10 p.m.**

This webinar, part of the Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability "Perspectives on the Climate Change Challenge" Seminars, will be presented by Dr. Michael Charles (Diné/Navajo), an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biological and Environmental Engineering at Cornell University, an Affiliate Faculty of the American Indian and Indigenous Studies Program, and a Faculty Fellow of the Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability. "Climate change poses threats to all life on our planet but the consequences do not impact all communities equally. With the complexity of the technological, political, and economic systems that humankind has built around ourselves, our solutions to address climate change also redistribute risks disproportionately. In this seminar, we will dive into the trade-offs that must be considered to make 'sustainable' decisions and how information can be used to advocate for the safety and growth of vulnerable communities. Particularly, we will talk about the role Indigenous communities can play in the transition towards renewable energy, food sovereignty, and just research governance." Additional information and the Zoom link are available here:

<https://www.atkinson.cornell.edu/news-events/climate-change-seminar/>.

**Mid-Atlantic Hydrogen Hub -
Phase 1 Award Virtual Community Briefing
2/13/2025, 12:00 p.m. - Webinar**

"The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) recently awarded the Mid-Atlantic Hydrogen Hub, led by the Mid-Atlantic Clean Hydrogen Hub, Inc. (MACH2), \$18.8 million (of the total project federal cost share up to \$750 million) to begin Phase 1 activities. This briefing, co-hosted with the MACH2 team, will provide more details on the Hub and its activities during Phase 1 of the project." ~~Additional information and registration are available here:~~

<https://tinyurl.com/yhnymu4u> [no longer available]. Also see the article on [p. 13](#).

"National Labs on the Cutting Edge of Climate Solutions" - Livestream
2/13/2025, 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

This briefing is part of the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) Congress briefing series, Climate Camp. "We will review climate science, cutting-edge innovations, and the role of the legislative process in climate mitigation and adaptation. The Department of Energy's 17 National Laboratories conduct groundbreaking research across 18 states. The National Labs are designed to be hubs of scientific inquiry that inform advancements in human health, infrastructure, energy, and national security. This briefing will highlight examples of this innovation in action.... [and] how the labs help shape future climate solutions.... The briefing will highlight Congress's role in funding this research network and setting its priorities, as well as the tangible benefits the National Labs provide to states and communities." Additional information and the link to RSVP are available here:

<https://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/021325camp>.

EPA National Environmental Justice Engagement Call - Virtual
Date & Time
2/18/2025, 2:00 p.m.

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 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 and the link to register are available here:

<https://tinyurl.com/ae2zv66p>

"Our Home Clean Energy Journey"
2/20/2025, 7:00 p.m. - Webinar

Organized by the Sierra Club NJ Chapter's Building Electrification Committee, this webinar will cover "one family's journey toward a clean energy home. Join in this family's journey toward a clean energy home via rooftop solar, heat pumps, induction cooking, and an EV. Sarah and David discuss the benefits and tribulations of home electrification projects in their big, drafty 85-yr-old home with a super complex HVAC system. Their remarks will include eight years of data and financials from the solar system and a couple years of experience with the other systems." Additional information and the link to register are available here:

<https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=701Po0000dskQsIAI&mapLinkHref=>.

"8th Annual Watershed Conference" of The Watershed Institute - Hybrid
2/20/2025, 9:00 a.m. - Virtual
& 2/21/2025, 9:00 a.m. - Virtual & In-person - Ewing, NJ

The 8th Annual Watershed conference is sponsored by The Watershed Institute; this year's theme is "Resiliency Through Restoration." "We will discuss strategies and ways to work together so that communities can become more resilient towards climate change and hazards by restoring essential environmental services in degraded watersheds. The conference will include opportunities for networking to foster understanding and collaboration between stakeholders across regions. Topics will include a wide net of important policy, science, stewardship, and education approaches." Links for additional information including the agenda, and to register (**Virtual attendance only = \$65.00; Hybrid - Virtual on 2/20 and in-person on 2/21 = \$120.00**), are available here:

<https://thewatershed.org/eight-annual-watershed-conference/>.

"Guardrails of Governance: Legal and Administrative Resilience in Trump 2.0"
2/21/2025, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Webinar

"This is the second webinar in the Security and Sustainability Forum's 'Navigating the Trump 2.0 Deregulatory Agenda' series [see [p. 8](#) for a video of the first webinar in the series]. It delves into potential risks to the rule of law and administrative governance in the newly elected Trump 2.0 administration, particularly in light of recent Supreme Court rulings affirming presidential immunity for official acts.... This panel explores the guardrails, checks and balances that the Trump administration will confront.... Attendees will gain insights into actionable strategies for federal, state, and local officials, public interest groups, and citizens to preserve institutional integrity and protect democratic governance during changing times. The webinar is a collaboration between the Security and Sustainability Forum, George Washington University's [GWU] Law School, and the GWU Environmental and Energy Management Institute." Additional information and registration are available here:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6173466863513748055>.

"The Art of Conservation"
2/26/2025, 6:00 p.m.
New Brunswick, NJ - In-person

The NJ League of Conservation Voters (NJLCV) is hosting this event at the Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers University. "We are thrilled to be joined by Jessica Tarlov, political strategist and the liberal co-host of The Five on Fox News. As the keynote speaker, she'll talk about what it's like to speak up for her views when she's in the minority and how pro-environmental issues can shape political discussion. Network with other like-minded individuals who are passionate about the environment as you make your way through the art gallery – while enjoying delicious hors d'oeuvres and an open bar. Proceeds will help power our work to counter misinformation, share environmental stories in the media, and educate and empower New Jerseyans to be engaged." Tickets (**\$125**) are available here:

<https://action.njlc.org/a/art-of-conservation-2024>.

"Compost Cafe - Transforming Food Waste, Together: A Call for Collective Action"
2/26/2025, 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
New Brunswick, NJ - In-person

"Are you ready to be part of the solution? Join us for an evening of drinks, discussion, and action on the future of food waste & organics recycling in New Jersey. Hosted by the NJ Composting Council, Inc. (NJCC) Education and Outreach Committee, this month's event brings together passionate composters, waste recyclers, and change-makers to take a deep dive into how we can drive the state's food waste recovery efforts forward.... Appetizers and the first round of drinks are on us!!" [Note: "The NJ Composting Council, a nonprofit [501(c)(6)] industry group, advances compost manufacturing, compost utilization, and Organics Recycling to benefit our members, society, and the environment in the state of New Jersey."] The event is free but registration is requested and is available here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfvgp07NuhafITwT65KYoyTDC0KSCjNzINOpagF6RSxVQodw/vieworm>.



New Jersey Youth Climate Convergence
3/1/2025, 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
New Brunswick, NJ - In-person

Food & Water Watch (**an EJTF partner**) is hosting the New Jersey Youth Climate Convergence on 3/1/2025 "in partnership with a growing number of youth and student-driven climate organizations across the state.... This will be a day full of educational programming, with workshops about strategic organizing training, environmental justice, and how we're pressuring New Jersey lawmakers to take action on climate change.... This event is geared towards high schoolers, college students, graduate students, and other

young people. All are welcome, especially brand-new youth activists!" Additional information and the link to register are available here: <https://www.mobilize.us/fww/event/748770/>.

36th Annual Pinelands Short Course 3/8/2025, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Galloway Township, NJ - In-person

The "Pinelands Short Course," a much-touted daylong event featuring educational presentations that explore the unique history, ecology, and culture of the Pinelands, is being held on 3/8/2025. This year's Pinelands Short Course will feature 37 presentations, including 24 new programs that will explore the region's unique history, ecology, culture, and music. The Short Course is hosted by Stockton University for the NJ Pinelands Commission. Registration is now open, and those interested are encouraged to register as soon possible because the course is very popular, seating is limited, and registration (**\$60**) is first-come first-serve. Additional information is available here:

https://www.nj.gov/pinelands/home/news/PSC_PinelandsShortCoursePressRelease2025%20--%20FINAL.pdf and the course schedule, descriptions of sessions, and the link to register are available here: <https://stockton.edu/aging/events/spring2025pinelandscourse.html>.

VIDEOS OF PAST EVENTS

"Thriving through Change: Opportunities for Local Climate Action" - Part 1 - Video of Webinar

This webinar presented by the Association of NJ Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) featured the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Chief Resilience Officer Nick Angarone and resilience planners from Arcadis, one of DEP's consultants on the Resilient NJ program. The webinar covered how to meet local climate action challenges, including: "how to understand how your community may be affected by flooding and other climate hazards; ... adaptation and mitigation actions that can improve community resilience; [how to] access resources for local government officials; and [how to] empower Environmental Commissions to take action to

increase the resilience of their communities." The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u3GNm3jvgQE>.

"People & Trees" Series - Episode 1 - Video

"People & Trees" is a video series presented by the NJ Tree Foundation, of which **EJTF member Peggy Middaugh is Board Secretary**. It "is an exploration and amplification of urban forestry told exclusively by the voices of people who live and work among the trees lining city streets. Designed to inspire and inform; the series will align with the social impact of green infrastructure along with the essential skills to cultivate a lifestyle of tree stewardship." The first episode visited the Bergen Square neighborhood of Camden, NJ "where Christoff Lindsey reigns as the King of Green Spaces. He introduces us to a new way of looking at urban forestry." The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4aDljBn1LQ&list=PLI0QWnNjfrZLbE8xlaRSytEXbjtmxhvDw&index=1>.

"Navigating the Trump 2.0 Deregulatory Agenda - Lessons from Environmental Officials in Trump 1.0" - Video of Webinar

Although it focused on federal agencies, this Security and Sustainability Forum webinar provided approaches on navigating political transitions, while preserving integrity and achieving goals, that would also be relevant on the state and local level. "The enduring message from the webinar was clear: staying proactive, fostering collaboration, and upholding core values like integrity and transparency can ensure that critical programs thrive despite external pressures. As we navigate future challenges, these principles remain as relevant as ever." The video is available here: <https://vimeo.com/1040547249>.

"Introduction to the Environmental Voter Project" - Video of Webinar

The Environmental Voter Project (EVP) is "a nonprofit organization that uses behavioral science to contact and mobilize millions of low-propensity environmental voters each year." This webinar, led by the group's Executive Director, included "an overview of why we mobilize low propensity climate voters, how we identify the voters, the

NEWS RELATED TO EJTF ISSUES
[covering 12/26/2024 – 1/25/2025]

types of mobilization campaigns we run, and our proven turnout results." The video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFafw1crLII>.

"Administrative Advocacy in New York and New Jersey; How Do State Regulations Advance EJ Accountability?"

- Video of Webinar

As part of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Region 2 Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (TCTAC), this webinar is part of a series of training sessions, presented by the NYU School of Law Institute for Policy Integrity, that focuses on providing Environmental Justice (EJ) communities with the tools to effectively engage with government at all levels. This webinar focused on environmental justice rules and regulations specific to NY and NJ, how environmental justice is considered in these states' regulatory processes, and ways that communities can engage the process. The video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JoewLFKrzlk&list=PLj4LVUnNLta-hzFBSnAvX1mVCiVtDfcGO&index=10>.

EPA National Environmental Justice Engagement Call

Video of 11/19/2024 Call

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 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." The video of the 11/19/2024 call is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2TxG9EmwZL8>.

GREEN AMENDMENT

Opinion: The Perfect Storm - Housing vs. The Environment

In this opinion piece by **EJTF member R. William Potter**, an attorney and former partner in the Princeton-based law firm Potter and Dickson, he describes clashes between NJ's "Mount Laurel Doctrine," which requires municipalities to facilitate affordable housing construction, and fundamental environmental values that will hopefully soon be enshrined in a NJ Green Amendment and NJ's updated State Development and Redevelopment Plan. He states that the Mount Laurel Doctrine has been misunderstood, and provides the example of a misuse of the Doctrine as related to a proposed development on a heavily wooded, hilltop site in West Orange.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2024/12/housing-vs-environmental-issues-nj-mount-laurel-doctrine-nj-state-plan-green-amendment/>

ELECTRIC VEHICLES & VEHICLE EMISSION REDUCTION

Princeton Schools Will Add 2 Electric Buses To Fleet By Next Summer

Utilizing funds from a NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) grant of up to \$620,000, plus revenue from the sale of an older bus and a \$40,000 federal clean vehicle credit, the Princeton Public Schools (PPS) are purchasing two electric buses and a fast-charging station which can send energy back to the grid during high-demand periods. This "move toward electric buses was developed in partnership with Sustainable Princeton, a local nonprofit that assists the school district in its sustainability efforts."

<https://patch.com/new-jersey/princeton/princeton-schools-will-add-2-electric-buses-fleet-next-summer>

DEP Just Released the eMobility Planning Toolkit

The "eMobility Planning Toolkit" released by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is "a guide for local leaders on how to identify the transportation needs and preferences of residents to develop thoughtful electric, shared-use mobility solutions." It "features numerous resources, links, mapping applications, practical action steps, outreach approaches, and real-life examples to support the data analysis and meaningful community engagement necessary to conduct diverse and inclusive transportation needs assessments. It also offers strategies for utilizing electric vehicles in transportation plans to improve air quality in areas disproportionately impacted by environmental and public health stressors." Additional information, including a link to the toolkit, is available here:

<https://dep.nj.gov/drivegreen/emobility-planning-toolkit/>.

FOSSIL FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE

Trump Rule Allowing Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to Be Transported by Rail Vacated by Court

On 1/17/2025, "the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit overturned the LNG [Liquefied Natural Gas] by Rail Rule adopted by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration [PHMSA] under the [first] Trump Administration. The Rule, adopted in 2020, was challenged legally as recklessly endangering the public by a group of environmental organizations, Tribes, and several state Attorneys General. Delaware Riverkeeper Network and 4 other environmental groups were represented by Earthjustice in the lawsuit. The safety of LNG transport by rail was understudied by PHMSA, according to the court, [the court ruling is available here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tHKAmrl2IG1xNarrMPxsVs2qSr-XK_v/view] and the rule was vacated and remanded, restoring a longstanding ban on the transport of LNG by Rail that was based on public safety. Delaware Riverkeeper Network opposed the transport of LNG for years due to the planned transport of LNG by New Fortress Energy from Bradford County, PA to Gibbstown NJ for export at

the proposed Gibbstown LNG Export Terminal and also worked to stop the transport nationally alongside many communities and organizations across the country."

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xNqhfreSxEakfgTconyxIW4JrwAVsGt2/view>

RENEWABLE RESOURCES (other than Offshore Wind)



Murphy Administration Celebrates 5 Gigawatt Solar Energy Milestone – More Than Doubling Solar Energy Output Since 2017

From Gov. Murphy's press release (available here: <https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562025/approved/20250123d.shtml>): "New Jersey's solar energy portfolio grew from 2.41 GW at the end of 2017 to 5 GW by December 2024, a remarkable achievement that reflects the state's aggressive push toward clean energy. Collectively, there are now over 209,000 installations throughout New Jersey. In 2024, New Jersey saw nearly 400 megawatts of solar capacity installed, with a robust pipeline of grid-scale, community solar, along with the Dual-Use Agrivoltaics Pilot Program and rooftop solar yet to be developed. The considerable growth in solar helps the State achieve Governor Murphy's Executive Order 315 goals, which sets the goal of 100% of the electricity sold in the State to be derived from clean sources of electricity by January 1, 2035." A 1-minute news video, "**NJ Hits a Solar Energy Milestone**," is available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/nj-hits-a-solar-energy-milestone/>.

LAND MANAGEMENT/ AGRICULTURE/FOOD

NJEDA Board Approves \$30 Million Program to Strengthen Food Security and Access in NJ Food Desert Communities

From the NJ Economic Development Authority press release: "Last month [12/2024], the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) Board approved the creation of the Food Equity and Economic Development in New Jersey (FEED NJ) Pilot Program, a \$30 million competitive grant program that will support food security projects in New Jersey's Food Desert Communities (FDCs). [Additional information about the FEED NJ program is available here: <https://www.njeda.gov/feednj/>.] Building on the success of the NJEDA's Atlantic City Food Security Grants Pilot Program, FEED NJ will award grants of up to \$500,000 to for-profit and nonprofit entities working to improve residents' ability to access fresh, affordable, and healthy food." <https://www.njeda.gov/njeda-board-approves-30-million-program-to-strengthen-food-security-and-access-in-nj-food-desert-communities/>

CSIT Awards Grant Funding to Seven Innovative Startups Aiming to Strengthen NJ's Food Security Efforts

From the NJ Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) press release: "The New Jersey Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology (CSIT) awarded over \$500,000 in funding to seven New Jersey startups under the Food and Agriculture Research & Development Pilot Seed Grant Program. The funding will support startup companies in the development of commercially viable technologies that combat food insecurity, helping to increase access to nutritious foods and alleviate food deserts." A list of the awardees is included in the press release, available here: <https://www.njeda.gov/csit-awards-grant-funding-to-seven-innovative-startups-aiming-to-strengthen-njs-food-security-efforts/>.

Jessica Niederer is Creating a Model for Sustainable Farming

Jessica Niederer grew up on the 80-acre Niederer family farm on Titus Mill Road in Pennington, NJ, and she started Chickadee Creek Farm, which she now owns and operates with a dedicated farm team, by leasing 5 acres from her parents in 2010. She "began using organic practices, following the rules of the National Organic Program to grow vegetables. She immediately began the process toward organic certification (beginning in 2010 and completing in 2012), and today Chickadee Creek Farm is 100 percent Certified Organic." The farm "is dedicated to producing the highest quality certified organic vegetables, herbs, and flowers while nurturing the land, our team, and our community." This article describes her story and her approach to farming. <https://realwomanonline.com/jessica-niederer-is-creating-a-model-for-sustainable-farming/>

OFFSHORE WIND

Trump Temporarily Halts Leasing and Permitting for Wind Energy Projects

Pres. Trump issued an order (available here: <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/memorandum-temporary-withdrawal-all-areas-the-outer-continental-shelf-from-offshore-wind>) in the form of a "Memorandum for the Secretary of the Treasury; The Attorney General; The Secretary of the Interior; The Secretary of Agriculture; The Secretary of Energy; and The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency" entitled "Temporary Withdrawal of All Areas on the Outer Continental Shelf from Offshore Wind Leasing and Review of the Federal Government's Leasing and Permitting Practices for Wind Projects" that directs a full review of wind leasing and permitting practices for both onshore and offshore wind projects and, effective 1/21/2025, pauses all "consideration of any area in the OCS for any new or renewed wind energy leasing" as well as "approvals, rights of way, permits, leases, or loans for onshore or offshore wind projects pending" review. The memorandum does not revoke existing leases, instead directing "the Secretary of the Interior... [to] conduct a comprehensive review of the ecological, economic, and environmental

necessity of terminating or amending any existing wind energy leases, identifying any legal bases for such removal, and submit... recommendations to the President." Also see the article [below](https://apnews.com/article/wind-energy-offshore-turbines-trump-executive-order-995a744c3c1a2eddb30cacf50b681f13).
<https://apnews.com/article/wind-energy-offshore-turbines-trump-executive-order-995a744c3c1a2eddb30cacf50b681f13>

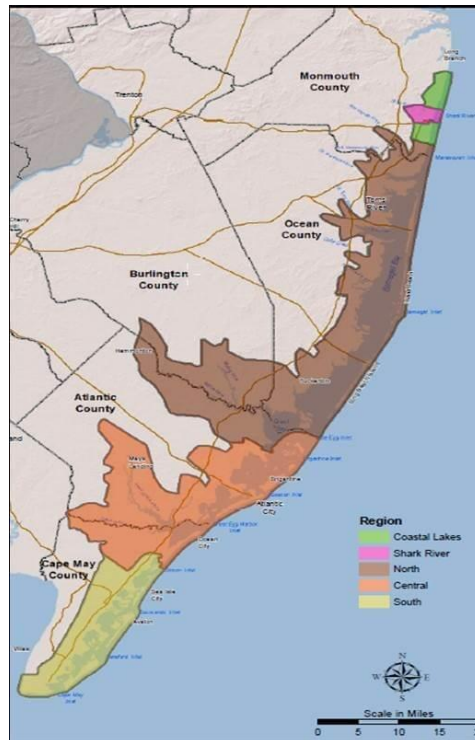
Van Drew Declares Trump's Offshore Wind Order a 'Significant Victory'

This 5-minute news video relates Pres. Trump's recently-issued order on wind energy to the situation in NJ. According to a previous news report (available here: <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/01/nj-rep-jeff-van-drew-drafts-trump-executive-order-freezing-offshore-wind-development/>), President-elect Trump had asked NJ U.S. Representative Van Drew to draft an executive order related to offshore wind energy; Van Drew did so, and now has said that the order that Pres. Trump has now issued (see the article on [p. 11](#)) utilizes much of the language he had previously provided. In this video, Gov. Murphy said NJ has not ruled out taking legal action if existing leases are impacted, but that it will "depend on the situation at hand."
<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/van-drew-declares-trumps-offshore-wind-order-a-significant-victory/>

Still Unable to Find Equipment Makers, New Jersey Offshore Wind Project Seeks 2nd Delay

The Leading Light Wind offshore wind project, which would be built 40 miles off Long Beach Island, NJ and would consist of up to 100 turbines, had previously asked the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU), for a pause in the project until late 12/2024, and the BPU had approved the pause. The cause for that request was related to a struggle to find a source for turbine blades. Now, Leading Light Wind has asked the BPU for an additional five months delay, until 5/20/2025, stating that "The offshore wind equipment market continues to experience significant price volatility and the company has not yet identified a solution to that volatility."
<https://apnews.com/article/offshore-wind-new-jersey-leading-light-pause-6c2777622c034ae03e87948503a59821>

CLIMATE CHANGE



Army Corps of Engineers Revises Plan for Bayside Flood Protection

This 5-minute news video describes the scaled-down version of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) plan to address NJ back bays coastal storm risk management in the areas shown on the map above (the integrated feasibility report and environmental impact statement document is available here: https://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Portals/39/docs/Civil/NJBB/Dec-2024-Report/NJBB_CSRM_Supplemental_Draft_Integrated_Feasibility_Report_and_EIS.pdf). The original version of the plan included controversial floodgates, which had not been subject to an environmental impact assessment, and were criticized by environmental advocates. The revised plan focuses on elevating structures, restoration of marshlands and nature-based approaches, and is estimated to cost \$8 billion, rather than the \$16 billion estimated for the original plan.
<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/army-corps-of-engineers-revises-plan-for-bayside-flood-protection/>

Climate Change Risk Hits NJ Homeowners' Insurance

This 5-minute news video describes the NJ-related findings of a new U.S. Senate Budget Committee report "Next to Fall: The Climate-Driven Insurance Crisis Is Here – And Getting Worse" (available here:

[https://www.budget.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/next_to_fall_the_climate-driven_insurance_crisis_is_here_and_getting_worse.p](https://www.budget.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/next_to_fall_the_climate-driven_insurance_crisis_is_here_and_getting_worse.pdf)

[df](https://www.budget.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/next_to_fall_the_climate-driven_insurance_crisis_is_here_and_getting_worse.pdf)) Three counties in NJ (Cape May, Atlantic, and Hudson) are ranked in the top 100 by insurance non-renewal rate in 2023. And although NJ as a whole ranks 35th by non-renewal percentage in 2023, it ranks 8th by non-renewal rate percent change between 2018 and 2023. The video also addresses potential impacts the California wildfires may have on the entire insurance industry.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/climate-change-risk-hits-nj-homeowners-insurance/>

US Supreme Court Rejects Big Oil Attacks on Hawaii Climate Lawsuit

A group of oil companies had filed a petition to the U.S. Supreme Court to hear their case for dismissal of a climate lawsuit brought by Hawaii (i.e., *City and County of Honolulu v. Sunoco et al.*), and the U.S. Supreme Court has declined to hear the case. This has the result that the case can continue to be heard in the state court, and it has implications for dozens of other state and local lawsuits against oil companies, including several in NJ. The oil industry had argued that the lawsuit sought to regulate interstate and international carbon emissions, which states don't have the right to do, and thus the case couldn't be brought in state court. The Hawaii Supreme Court had previously ruled that the case wasn't about the regulation of carbon emissions, but rather "seeks to challenge the promotion and sale of fossil-fuel products without warning and abetted by a sophisticated disinformation campaign. This case concerns torts committed in Hawaii that caused alleged injuries in Hawaii."

<https://www.commondreams.org/news/hawaii-climate-lawsuit>

Municipalities Are Passing Resolutions Supporting the NJ Climate Superfund Act

The **EJTF partner** Food & Water Watch has stated that it is key for the NJ Climate Superfund Act bill to be supported by municipalities, and has prepared a "Guide to Passing Municipal Resolutions to Support the Climate Superfund Act" to assist in this process (available here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/10IpeG8GhYHtoRr7ikSqIYnFn_mDb9ZybK1KaNMQk8vE/edit).

The bill (S3545/A4696), which is being considered by the NJ legislature, would make the largest fossil fuel corporations pay for the damages caused by climate change. It has been reported that some municipalities are supporting the bill by passing resolutions, including Hoboken, Parsippany, and also Morris County. Articles about Hoboken and Parsippany are available here:

Hoboken:

<https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/2025/01/09/hoboken-council-supports-nj-climate-superfund-act/>

Parsippany:

<https://parsippanyfocus.com/2025/01/23/parsippany-troy-hills-passes-resolution-in-support-of-nj-climate-superfund-act/>

OCED Awards Final Two Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs to Establish Critical Energy Infrastructure in America's Heartland and Mid-Atlantic

From the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) press release: "OCED awarded the Mid-Atlantic Hydrogen Hub, led by Mid-Atlantic Clean Hydrogen Hub, Inc. (MACH2), with \$18.8 million (of the total federal cost share of up to \$750 million) to begin Phase 1 activities. The Hub plans to develop hydrogen production facilities using both established and innovative electrolyzer technologies, which could help reduce costs and drive further technology adoption. The clean hydrogen produced by the Hub would be used in industrial applications - such as power generation and replacement fuel for process heaters - and

heavy-duty transportation, with several refueling stations planned to serve sanitation trash trucks, street sweepers, cargo handling equipment, and fuel cell electric buses." (A community briefing is to be held 2/13/2025 - see [p. 5](#) [note: no longer available on OCED website].)

<https://www.energy.gov/oced/articles/oced-awards-final-two-regional-clean-hydrogen-hubs-establish-critical-energy>

Murphy Seeks to Lock In Key Clean-Energy Goal

In his final State of the State address (available here:

<https://nj.gov/governor/news/news/562025/approved/20250114z.shtml>) Gov. Murphy stated: "As you

know, our Administration has already set one of the most ambitious clean energy goals in the country: running New Jersey on 100% clean energy by 2035. And to make sure our state remains on track to reach that goal, I am calling on the Legislature... to codify our clean energy standard into law. And taking this step is not merely about reducing our reliance on fossil fuels. This is also about securing our state's energy independence - and creating good-paying, union jobs in the clean-energy industries that will power our future." A bill that would codify the clean energy target (S237) was passed by the Senate Environment and Energy Committee 3/14/2024 but has not moved further, and the Assembly version (A1480) has not yet been voted on by the Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/01/new-jersey-gov-phil-murphy-wants-nj-2035-clean-energy-goal-locked-in/>

CSIT Awards Over \$2.7M to Support Clean Energy Startups With Demonstration Projects

From the NJ Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) press release: "The New Jersey Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology (CSIT) awarded over \$2.7 million in grant funding to 11 New Jersey startups under Round Two of the Pilot Clean Tech Demonstration Grant Program. The funding will support pilot demonstration projects from startup companies creating technologies that mitigate the emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants." A list of

the awardees is included in the press release, available here:

<https://www.njeda.gov/csit-awards-over-2-7m-to-support-clean-energy-startups-with-demonstration-projects/>.

FOREST HEALTH



JCP&L Parent Company FirstEnergy Eclipses 100,000 Trees Planted and Donated

In 2020, FirstEnergy Corp., the parent company of Jersey Central Power & Light (JCP&L) launched its tree planting and donation program, and since then the FirstEnergy Green Teams - teams of employees at each FirstEnergy operating company in five states who volunteer their time (the first of which was formed in NJ in 2016) - have planted over 100,000 donated trees. More than half of the FirstEnergy tree-planting events were held in underserved areas.

<https://www.tapinto.net/towns/phillipsburg/columns/jcp-and-i-in-the-community/articles/jcp-l-parent-company-firstenergy-eclipses-100-000-trees-planted-and-donated>

LEAD REDUCTION IN HOUSEHOLDS

Eleven AGs Defend EPA's Rule Lowering Lead and Copper in Drinking Water

From the NYU School of Law State Energy & Environmental Impact Center website: "New York Attorney General Letitia James led 11 attorneys general [including NJ's] in filing a motion to intervene in *American Water Works Association v. EPA*, a challenge to EPA's revised, stricter drinking water regulations for lead. In their brief [available

here: <https://www.njoag.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Motion-to-Intervene-in-LCRI-Challenge-1-13-25.pdf>], the AGs highlighted how lead can leach into drinking water via lead service lines and other plumbing materials, which can result in serious health risks such as brain, cardiovascular, and nervous system issues, birth defects, and cancer. The AGs also noted how low-income populations are disproportionately affected by lead, as they are 'more likely to live in older housing that contains lead service lines.'" Also see the article on [p. 16](#) for other NJ Attorney General cases filed related to environmental regulations. <https://stateimpactcenter.org/ag-work/ag-actions/eleven-ag-defend-epas-rule-lowering-lead-and-copper-in-drinking-water>

POLLUTION

Bill to Curb Packaging Waste Stalls Again After Critics, Supporters Seek Changes

This *New Jersey Monitor* article describes the outcome of the 1/13/2025 legislative hearing on the "Packaging Product Stewardship Act" bill (S3398/A5009). The bill has been considered in the Senate Environment and Energy Committee five times this legislative session, and the latest hearing on it "ended without a vote after calls for changes to the measure by supporters and critics.... Though environmental advocates broadly support the bill, they expressed worry over exemptions that would allow some packaging to continue unchanged if replacements are technologically or financially unfeasible, including packaging that contains toxic materials controlled elsewhere in state law." The bill, sponsored by Sen. Bob Smith, while primarily focused on plastic packaging, addresses all types of packaging and would establish an "Office of Plastics and Packaging Management" in the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and also a "Packaging Reduction and Recycling Fund." <https://newjerseymonitor.com/2025/01/14/bill-to-curb-packaging-waste-stalls-again-after-critics-supporters-seek-changes/>

Princeton Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Ban Back in Effect Through March 14

This article from Princeton's *Town Topics* describes the current state of implementation of the gas-

powered leaf blower ordinance that was approved by the Princeton Town Council in 2021, after almost a year of deliberations. A Councilwoman who was closely involved in development of the ordinance said that while many are playing by the rules, there is still room for improvement. The article also describes other landscaping initiatives in Princeton.

<https://www.towntopics.com/2024/12/18/gas-powered-leaf-blower-ban-back-in-effect-through-march-14/>

OTHER

NJ Coast Protected by Biden's Sweeping Offshore Ban

In November 2024, a letter was sent to then-President Biden from a number of U.S. Representatives, including NJ Representative Pallone, asking him to use his authority under Section 12(a) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) to permanently withdraw unleased and at-risk areas of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) from fossil fuel development. Prior to leaving office, Biden issued a memorandum to "withdraw from disposition by oil or natural gas leasing" the federal waters along the entire Atlantic Coast, most of the Pacific Coast and parts of the Gulf of Mexico. [Note: the link to Biden's memorandum in the article (on the whitehouse.gov website) no longer works, but the memorandum with accompanying map is available in the Federal Register, linked here:

https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/sites/default/files/documents_with_attached_files/375719/167797.pdf.]

This law has been used by a number of previous presidents, and efforts to overturn any of their previous withdrawals have not been upheld. Overturning the ban would require Congress to pass legislation doing so. A 2018 NJ law bans offshore drilling in NJ state waters.

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/2025/01/nj-coast-protected-by-biden-offshore-drilling-ban/>

Greenstein, Smith Bill to Prohibit the Trade of Invasive Plant Species Advances from Committee

The "Invasive Species Management Act" (S1029) was reported out of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee. The Act "prohibits sale,

distribution, import, export, and propagation of certain invasive species; [and] establishes NJ Invasive Species Council." Under the bill, a "prohibited invasive species" is defined as "an invasive species whose introduction causes, or may cause, substantial economic or environmental harm or harm to human health, or substantially threatens, or may threaten, natural resources or the use of natural resources in the State, which species has been listed in section 4 of this act or the rules and regulations adopted by the department to implement this act." Conditional use waivers for invasive plant species for specific applications under strict and closely controlled conditions would be allowed.

<https://www.njsendems.org/civicalerts.aspx?aid=537>

Red Bank Planning Board Approves Environmental Resource Inventory Draft

After a public hearing to review and discuss the draft Environmental Resource Inventory prepared for the Red Bank Environmental Commission by BFJ Planning (available here:

<https://www.redbanknj.org/DocumentCenter/View/15996/Environmental-Resources-Inventory-PDF>), the Red Bank Planning Board unanimously approved the draft inventory report as an amendment to the borough's Master Plan. The inventory is intended to represent a comprehensive, objective documentation of natural resources and environmentally significant features within the Borough, with text, tables and maps. It is envisioned to be useful to residents, officials, and governing bodies in identifying environmental challenges and prioritizing necessary actions to preserve natural resources, and to safeguard the health and welfare of residents.

<https://www.tapinto.net/towns/red-bank/sections/government/articles/red-bank-planning-board-approves-environmental-resource-inventory-draft>

NJDOT Announces \$18.7 Million in Federal Grants to Improve Local Transportation

From the NJ Department of Transportation (NJDOT) press release: "Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside grants will help municipalities in North Jersey – The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), in

partnership with the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) and the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization (SJTPO), today [12/30/2024] announced eight grants totaling \$18.7 million as part of the 2024 Regional Transportation Alternatives Program (RTA Set Aside). 'The New Jersey Department of Transportation is committed to advancing Governor Murphy's vision of a safe transportation system that accommodates all users – whether they are pedestrians, bicyclists, or mobility-impaired,' NJDOT Commissioner Fran O'Connor said. 'These grants use federal funding for larger pedestrian safety and bikeway projects that will improve the quality of life for all.'"

https://nj-dot.nj.gov/transportation/uploads/comm/news/details/comm_np_20250102_131927_NJDOTAnnounces18.7millioninfederalTA-SetAsideGrants.pdf



AG Platkin Files Actions to Protect and Defend Federal Environmental Regulations from Legal Attack

From Attorney General Platkin's press release: "Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin today announced three actions to defend key federal environmental protections that protect the health of all New Jerseyans. These filings come at a time when the incoming Trump Administration has threatened to reverse science-based regulations that protect clean air and water.

- In one action, New Jersey, California, and Connecticut are filing an amicus brief on behalf of 18 states to support a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Final Rule establishing nationwide drinking water standards for certain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

In a second case, New Jersey and nine other states have filed a motion to intervene to defend an EPA Final Rule to strengthen the standards for lead in drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act [see the article on [p. 14](#)].

- In a third case, New Jersey and a coalition of other states and local governments are asking to intervene in lawsuits to defend California's Clean Air Act waiver for several vehicle emissions regulations. These EPA waivers allow California to have cleaner air standards, including for the greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles that contribute to climate change, to go above and beyond federal standards. This process also permits states like New Jersey to do the same." Links to the court documents filed are in the press release available here:

<https://www.njoag.gov/ag-platkin-files-actions-to-protect-and-defend-federal-environmental-regulations-from-legal-attack/>.

Environmentalists, Fearing Backslide, Look To N.J. Gubernatorial Candidates to Go Green

This *New Jersey Monitor* article describes the nonpartisan environmental agenda, "Enviro Fix in '26," prepared by environmental groups for the next NJ governor, because "looking to state leadership to protect the Garden State's air, water, and natural resources [is] more important than ever... [and they] expect all of the candidates for governor to demonstrate this commitment to the residents of this state.... Sen. Bob Smith (D-Middlesex), who chairs the Senate's environmental committee, joined environmental advocates... at their news conference at the Statehouse to second their call to action [a 4-minute news video is available here:

<https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/nj-environmental-groups-launch-new-agenda/>]. He [Sen. Smith] listed greenhouse gas reduction and investments in the electric grid as priorities." See the article [here](#) for additional details about "Enviro Fix in '26."

<https://newjerseymonitor.com/briefs/environmentalists-fearing-backslide-look-to-n-j-gubernatorial-candidates-to-go-green/>

Advocates, Elected Officials Launch Enviro Fix in '26, a Nonpartisan Environmental Agenda for the Next NJ Governor

A NJ League of Conservation Voters (NJLCV) press release states that "Enviro Fix in '26 brings together environment, public health, faith, and local community advocates to lay out key environmental and health issues facing New Jersey in 2026 and beyond.... Today's [1/23/2025] announcement is just the beginning of a comprehensive effort to make the environment a top issue on the campaign trail by educating voters about the policies our state needs to adopt to protect our health, lower costs, and combat environmental threats." The following are policy priorities of the agenda:

- Building and modernizing a clean energy future.
- Safeguarding New Jersey families and businesses from climate change and investing in resilient communities.
- Ensuring that all New Jerseyans are able to breathe clean air.
- Preserving open spaces and expanding access to parks.
- Expanding public transportation with clean and reliable options so every New Jerseyan can get around - regardless of their ZIP code.
- Safeguarding our statewide clean water resources.

(Also see the article [here](#))

<https://www.njlc.org/news/advocates-elected-officials-launch-enviro-fix-26-nonpartisan-environmental-agenda-next-nj>

Fulop Releases Sustainability Plan: 'Climate Change Is the Defining Issue of Our Time'

Jersey City Mayor Steven Fulop, a candidate for NJ governor, has released his statewide sustainability plan (available here: <https://stevenfulop.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Fulop2025-EnvironmentWP-R3.pdf>). Among other things, "The 12-page white paper proposes several different ideas such as enacting the Liberty State Park Protection Act, implementing a statewide moratorium on warehouse approval pending a statewide study, and raising state energy efficiency targets..."

Increasing New Jersey's energy efficiency goal from the current 2% to a more ambitious 7%... expand[ing] clean energy technology, mandat[ing] electric vehicle charging ports as part of each utility's capital program, restoring funding and staffing to the state Department of Environmental Protection, and ending the bear hunt.... Fulop also mentions a desire to preserve nuclear power... [and that] New Jersey is perfectly positioned to

build the nation's largest network of responsibly developed offshore wind projects and [that] Mayor Fulop has a proven track record of moving towards renewable energy in Jersey City."
<https://hudsoncountyview.com/fulop-releases-sustainability-plan-climate-change-is-the-defining-issue-of-our-time/>

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.

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

TAKE ACTION ON KEY NJ LEGISLATIVE BILLS TO SUPPORT OR OPPOSE!

Additional information on how to take action is available on the UUFANJ "First Fridays" page (scroll down to "October 2024"), available here: <https://bit.ly/1st-fridays>. Links to the bills are included in the headings, below.

- **Support S3545/A4696 – "Climate Superfund Act"**

This bill would hold fossil fuel extractors and refiners that do business in NJ, and are responsible for more than 1 billion tons of greenhouse gas pollution since 1995, liable for damages for the costs of climate change. The bill empowers the NJ State Treasurer to assess the damages caused by climate change over the past 30 years, and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to collect the damages and use the funds for climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. [Note: S3545 was successfully voted out of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee on 12/12/2024.] You can send a letter to Gov. Murphy, legislative leadership, and your legislators, calling on them to support the Climate Superfund Act, at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/3ftctx3v>.

- **Strengthen and Pass S237/A1480 – "Clean Energy Standard"**

This bill seeks to achieve 100% clean electricity in NJ by 2035; however, amendments are needed to further support labor and ensure that only truly squeaky clean energy qualifies.

- **Oppose S2425/A3645 – "Low Carbon Fuel Standard"**

This bill would require New Jerseyans to subsidize expensive dirty alternatives to gasoline (like the misleadingly-named "Renewable" Natural Gas (RNG), biomass-diesel, biogasoline, and fuels produced from carbon capture technology, hydrogen and electrofuels, which worsen climate change and create deadly co-pollutants). The bill's intended theoretical greenhouse gas emission reductions rely on a complex credit trading scheme, creating a market that is prone to fraud, greenwashing, and that may well increase the pollution burden on low income communities of color.

- **Oppose S2827/A4493 – "Emissions Reduction Innovation Act"**

While its stated intent is to reduce emissions in overburdened communities, this bill ultimately requires ratepayers to give billions of dollars to utilities to subsidize false solutions like the misleadingly-named "Renewable" Natural Gas (RNG), carbon capture, and hydrogen. These approaches perpetuate our reliance on dirty fossil fuels, increase climate and other hazardous air pollution, jeopardize public health and prevent the transition to truly clean renewable energy technologies by extending the operation of polluting facilities.

- **Support S3783 – Artificial Turf Prohibition for Certain Entities**

This bill prohibits municipalities, school districts, and State departments and agencies from purchasing, installing, or using artificial turf.

- **Support SR113 – Urges DEP to Cease Funding Synthetic Turf**

This bill urges DEP to cease funding synthetic turf field projects through the Green Acres program, and prioritize investing in natural grass playing fields.