In our July–September issue of The Jersey Sierran, we announced the endor- sements of several incumbents who are seeking reelection to their State Senate and Assembly seats. We have since examined additional note- worthy races and endorsed 14 more candidates.

Endorsements are primarily based on the candidate’s environmental record, specifically those who support and pro- mote legislation that protects the envi- ronment and mitigates climate change in a just and equitable way. Sponsor- ships and cosponsorships are consider- ably important, beyond just the voting record. We also give weight to candi- dates who champion environmental justice issues and who address the con- cerns of marginalized communities.

Note: Our endorsement in the Gov- ernor’s race will be announced soon. Please check our website: www.sierra- club.org/new-jersey/press-releases.

The general election will take place on Tuesday, November 2nd. This year there will be additional options for in-person early voting, as well as Vote-By-Mail. Visit your County Clerk’s website for information and then make a plan to vote. Please consider voting for the candidates we have endorsed.

We support a bill to ban certain uses of neonics. These are chemicals which kill honeybees and other pollinators. According to the NRDC, “A2070/S1016 would prevent commercial logging on our public lands. There is also a pending bill to increase funding for beach replenishment on our shores. While we understand that having broad beaches is good for tourism in our shore towns, beach protec- tion should include sustainable prac- tices such as the creation of permanent dunes. Simple beach replenishment can be destructive to wildlife and is likely to wash away in the next storm. We are opposing this bill unless it is revised to adopt more sustainable means of shore protection.”

The Committee is charged primarily with taking positions on pending State legislation...”

 Parliament of making half of all new cars, trucks and SUVs sold in the U.S. zero-emis- sions by 2030: primarily lithium- ion battery-powered electric vehicles. These nontraditional heat processes offer better thermal efficiency, lower emission- s, and lower operating costs result- ing in a cost—effective and quality prod- uct for the consumer. The global number of electric vehicles (EVs) is expected to jump more than 14 times to 4.5 million by 2030, according to the International Energy Agency’s (IEA’s) Stated Policies Scenario. This incorporates existing government poli- cies. The IEA also produced a “Sustain- able Development Scenario” that is fully compatible with the climate goals of the Paris Agreement, and incorporates the targets of the EV50@30 Campaign to collectively reach a 30% market share by 2030 for electric vehicles in all modes except two-wheeler. The Sustain- able Development Scenario would require 245 million EVs by 2020. President Biden has just announced a goal of making half of all new cars, trucks and SUVs sold in the U.S. zero-emis- sion vehicles by 2030: primarily lithium- ion battery-powered electric vehicles.
ballot below to cast your vote.

- To vote online: click on the link in the envelope you receive and follow the instructions.

- To vote by paper ballot: Please vote the ballot below; then clip the ENTIRE ballot on the heavy-dashed line, and return it in your own envelope, to arrive by Nov 15, to Sierra Club Ballot, 145 W Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618.

Pairs of names have been assembled to enable two members of family memberships to cast separate votes.

Note that a properly-clipped ballot will include the mailing label above. This is to verify your membership; it will be removed or otherwise obliterated before ballots are counted.

Chapter ExCom Ballot: Candidates for three-year terms. They were invited to submit portrait and 100-word statements, which are on p. 2. Name order has been randomized. Please vote for maximum 3 candidates to serve three year terms until December 2024.

- Kip Cherry
- Stan Garber
- Allie Horn
- Sylvia Kay
- Judy Minot

Group Ballots: You may vote for your region’s candidates. The rules require two more candidates than the number of positions to be filled, some ballots include those extra candidates as write-in candidates. Spaces. Candidates that are written in must be Club members, so please do not contact them.

Groups are organized mainly by County: see the assignments under the Group News label on p. 1 of this Newsletter: four digits = group number, 4001 = Gateway Group, 4002 = Jersey Shore Group, 4003 = Loantaka Group, 4004 = North Jersey Group, 4005 = Skylands Group, 4006 = West Jersey Group, 4008 = Hunterdon-Warren Group, 4009 = Raritan Valley Group, 4001 = Hudson County Group, 4010 = Gateway Group, 4101 = Hunterdon-Warren Group. The arrangement below is generally North-to-South. Please locate and vote for your Groups below.

Skylands Group (4005): Vote for maximum six candidates. The top five leading candidates serve two-year terms, i.e., until December 2023.

- Matthew Avallone: Write-in 3
- Jeri Doherty: Write-in 2
- David Alcock: Write-in 1
- Joanne Green: Write-in 3
- Chris Dunbar: Write-in 2
- Mary Walsh: Write-in 1
- Alisa Atlantic: Write-in 2

North Jersey Group (4004): Vote for maximum five candidates to serve two year terms, i.e. until December 2022.

- Diane Scangarella: Write-in 2
- Cecelia McVey: Write-in 2
- William Jones: Write-in 2
- Barbara James: Write-in 1
- Paul Doak: Write-in 2
- Chris Davis: Write-in 2
- Allie Horn: Write-in 2
- Stan Garber: Write-in 4
- Matthew Avallone: Write-in 6

Gateway Group (4010): Vote for maximum seven candidates. The top five candidates will serve two-year terms, i.e., until December 2023. The next 2 leading candidates will serve until December 2022.

- Bill Beren: Write-in 2
- Suzanne Trimmel: Write-in 1
- Steve Yafet: Write-in 1
- Steve Krinsky: Write-in 1
- Andy Vai: Write-in 1
- Kent Furey: Write-in 2
- Bill Beren: Write-in 2
- Stan Garber: Write-in 5
- Matt Yafet: Write-in 6

Candidate statement: Suzanne Trimmel has led communications and media relations at multiple global human rights NGOs and environmental organizations in New York City. She currently works as a communications consultant on social impact campaigns related to health, the environment, human rights and women's advancement. As a mid-level executive, she is a volunteer leader for Montclair Democratic Club and a certified Rutgers environmental steward and master gardener.

Candidate statement: Steven Yafet has served on the Gateway ExCom for the past several years, and represents the Gateway Group before NJ Transit and the New Jersey Transportation Authority. He is Past Chair of the Board of Directors of the Montclair Bird Club.

Hudson County Group (4009): Vote for maximum three candidates to serve two year terms, i.e., until December 2023.

- Steve Krinsky: Write-in 1
- Nancy Booth: Write-in 1
- Dave Case: Write-in 2

Loantaka Group (4003): Vote for maximum five candidates to serve two year terms, i.e., until December 2023. The 6th candidate will serve until December 2022.

- Paul Sanderson: Write-in 1
- JonathanConnor: Write-in 1
- Bob Zegar: Write-in 1
- Paul Sanderson: Write-in 4
- Sandy Schmied: Write-in 5

Central Jersey Group (4001): Vote for a maximum of seven candidates. The top five candidates will serve two year terms, i.e., until December 2023. The next 2 leading candidates will serve until December 2022.

- Kipling Du: Write-in 1
- David Mattake: Write-in 1
- Joanne Callahan: Write-in 1
- Kevin Corcoran: Write-in 1
- Robin Zullow: Write-in 1
- Steve Beren: Write-in 2
- Steve Beren: Write-in 2
- Steve Beren: Write-in 3
- Steve Beren: Write-in 4

Jersey Shore Group (4002): Vote for maximum five candidates to serve two year terms, i.e. until December 2023.

- Faith Tellentum: Write-in 2
- Stan Garber: Write-in 6
- Wael Karaj: Write-in 1
- George Moffatt: Write-in 1
- Robin Zullow: Write-in 1
- Annette Carola: Write-in 2
- Trish Sebastiano: Write-in 2

Ocean County Group (4012): Vote for maximum four candidates to serve two year terms, i.e. until December 2023.

- Laura Bewley: Write-in 1
- William Rodgers: Write-in 1
- Terrence Brown: Write-in 1
- Robin Borman: Write-in 1

West Jersey Group (4006): Vote for maximum five candidates to serve two year terms, i.e. until December 2023.

- Trish Sebastiani: Write-in 1
- Alice Carolia: Write-in 1
- Dave Case: Write-in 2
- Julie Aker: Write-in 1
- Allan Horn: Write-in 2
- Kevin Corcoran: Write-in 3

South Jersey Group (4007): Vote for maximum five candidates to serve two year terms, i.e. until December 2023.

- Stan Gerberis: Write-in 2
- Mary Walsh: Write-in 1
- Judy Minot: Write-in 3
- Allie Horn: Write-in 2
- Stan Garber: Write-in 1

REPORT FROM OUR TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Transportation Committee Advocates for Better Public Transit
By Bill Beren, Committee Chair (Beren@verizon.net)

In Feb 2020 we released two reports that urged NJ Transit to improve how it promoted bus and rail service. The reports were prepared by two interna- tional consultants: Matthew Bewley and Jordan Rosen- bloom, under the guidance and direc- tion of the Sierra Club member Steven Yafet. In the intervening year and a half we have had three virtual meetings with NJ Transit’s senior managers to discuss our recommendations. Both NJ Transit and our Commit- tee members have characterized these meetings as “very productive,” in spite of the travel disruptions caused by COVID-19.

Still on the table are major recom- mendations that NJ Transit con- solidate trip status and parking functions for all transportation services, includ- ing private bus carriers, publish online transportation maps for all of NJ’s 21 counties, and promote “frequent service corridors” (defined as having no more than 20 minute headways) as a way to increase bus ridership. This last item is particularly important, as NJ Transit is proposing a major redesign of bus service in Essex Coun- try. The Club has actively participated in NJ Transit’s “stakeholder” meetings. We have to say, the consultants hired by NJ Transit to perform the redesign are not currently incorporating Frequent Ser- vice guidelines into their recommen- dations. But the Club will continue to work towards a new Bus Network Plan that includes an undergraduate degree from New York University and graduate de- grees from Columbia University and The College of New Jersey. I’ve also been involved in K-12 education for the last fifteen years.

Ballot Statements by Candidates for Chapter ExCom
(Randomly arranged)

Stan Gerberis (Jersey Shore Group): I have served on the Chapter ExCom member, Co-Con- servation Chair, Environmental Ad- visor, Letter Writ- ing, Fund Raising Committee & Life Member. I have been a member of the Board of Directors of the Montclair Bird Club.

Judy Minot (Hunterson-Warren Group): Judy’s focus is combating the ef- fects of catastroph- ic climate change. By using communication and writing skills honed over 35+ years in television and marketing, she is helping to promote the Chapter’s already en- ergy and experienced organizers. In only 20 months volunteering with the SCG, she has done a great deal at the local level: Serves as Chapter Secretary; Was appointed to a vacant slot on the Execu- tive Committee; Grant Writing Coordi- nator – helped secure 3 grants for over $43,000; Co-chair of Communications Committee; helped form that commit- tee and the Green Infrastructure Com- mittee; Serving on Search Committee to hire a new Chapter Director.

Allie Horn (South Jersey Group): No materials submitted at press time.

Kip Cherry (Central Jersey Group): I’m a licensed NJ Professional Land Use Planner with almost 50 years’ experience in envi- ronmental and ur- ban planning, his- toric preservation, and architecture issues. Raised in Princeton. Recent Club activities: elec- tric school bus legislation, saving mi- gratory bird habitat at the Mercer Corpo- rate Center, defeating the ELCON hazardous waste facility proposed near Trenton, educating local people on the impact of fruit-growing of the Spot- ted Lantern Fly, and supporting mass transit and the Dinky line. I’m Conservation Chair for my Group, and Vice President, Chapter ExCom, Trans- portation, Political Endorsements, and Legislative Committees.

Sylvia Kay (Central Jersey Group): My profession- al background is in business, includ- ing research and marketing at The Times, NBC and I.B.M. I have served on the Jersey Sierra Newsletter. My ac- ademic background includes an undergraduate degree from New York University and graduate de- grees from Columbia University and The College of New Jersey. I’ve also been involved in K-12 education for the last fifteen years.
The climate crisis is real and clearly needs to be addressed. The World Meteorological Organization, in its recent survey report, has said that the average global temperature in 2020 was about 2.2 degrees F. above pre-industrial levels. At the same time, results from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, with input from leading climate models developed by leading centers in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and France for the United Nations’ assessment of global warming are now predicting that the warming could very likely accelerate. Accordingly, to the authoritative report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, just released, the recent warming changes in the climate are widespread, rapid, and intensifying.

Here in New Jersey, the temperature is up about 3 degrees in the last century. And, as everyone knows, as the temperature rises, so does the sea level. In fact, sea level rise is happening much faster in New Jersey than anywhere else in the US. According to the NJDEP’s most recent report, sea level is expected to rise by 1.5 feet by 2030, and possibly 6.3 feet by 2050.

To address the climate crisis, New Jersey passed the Global Warming Response Act in 2007 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% below 2006 levels by 2050. This is a laudable goal, but New Jersey has a long way to go to accomplish it. As of March, 2020, NJ’s two fossil fuel power plants generated about 2,200 MW of electricity: 1,783 MW by the Lin- den power plant and 1,400 MW by the Bergen gas plant. By contrast, the largest renewable generators in New Jersey are quite small: the Ben Morel Solar Farm, Tinton Falls Solar Farm, Pilesgrove Solar Farm, and Atlantic City Wind Farm projects. Two of those, 100 MW, 19.9 MW, and 7.4 MW, respectively.

Offshore wind will create substantially more electricity than solar, and it’s desperately needed to stop the existential threat we’re facing. "Osted’s offshore wind farm, which has already been approved, will provide 1,100 MW, and several other proposed projects will provide several thousand more MW off of the New Jersey and Long Island coasts, with 7,500 MW projected by 2035. An additional benefit of offshore wind as a renewable energy source is that it is reliable: the wind where the turbines will be placed blows pretty much all the time. Accordingly, in an important move that will help address the climate crises, our NJ Chapter recently created an Offshore Wind Committee." Its mission will be to support offshore wind energy in New Jersey as an essential part of moving away from a reliance on fossil fuels.

We will provide grassroots support for offshore wind projects in New Jersey, and inform the public and our members on the importance of offshore wind, using scientific facts and highlighting green economic benefits, hopefully addressing existing misinformation and opposition to this form of clean energy.

The Offshore Wind Committee is Co-chaired by Allie Horn and Faris Jebra. I invite others who may be interested in helping our efforts to contact me at richard.isaac@sierraclub.org.

To begin the process of educating our members and the public about the benefits of offshore wind, I’d like to mention that Anglers for Offshore Wind Power has a video showing the new marineline habitat created by the Block Island Wind Farm off Rhode Island, the first and currently the only offshore wind farm in the U.S. Recreational anglers fish right underneath the turbines, with each turbine creating 80-90 vertical feet of new fish habitat on each pylon for species including fluke, mackerel, and striped bass.

The video can be seen at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AYbEUgZ0YMw.

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**NJ’s Green Amendment Gains Momentum**

We are delighted that the Green Amendment, SCR 30/ACR 80, is gaining ground in the New Jersey Senate. The resolution now has 19 Senate sponsors: Senators Lagana, Kean, Rice, and Schepisi are the latest to add their names onto the measure. In order to pass, it would need to be sent to the SC leadership, to the Executive Committee, to the Legislative and Oversight Committee, and then to the Senate. It also currently has 43 sponsors in the Assembly. In order to pass, it would require 76 votes in the Senate, and 48 votes in the Assembly.

If placed on the ballot and passed in a referendum by New Jersey’s voters, the amendment would also require the State to preserve public natural resources and prevent them from destruction or damage.

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**Our Chapter’s New Offshore Wind Committee**

**CHAIR’S MESSAGE**

The climate crisis is real and clearly needs to be addressed. The World Meteorological Organization, in its recent survey report, has said that the average global temperature in 2020 was about 2.2 degrees F. above pre-industrial levels. At the same time, results from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, with input from leading climate models developed by leading centers in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and France for the United Nations’ assessment of global warming are now predicting that the warming could very likely accelerate. Accordingly, to the authoritative report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, just released, the recent warming changes in the climate are widespread, rapid, and intensifying.

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**RESOLUTIONS AND HIGHLIGHTS, CHAIR’S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST**

**OUT OF THE BOX**

Continued from page 1

Major auto companies broke their reliance on fossil fuels and stepped out of the box to support this aspiration, and have committed to keep us on track to achieve the global commitments of the Paris Climate Agreement. 170

Maximizing the benefits of these renewable energy sources will require large-scale storage. Presently, energy storage is provided primarily by lithium battery units. But if we are to achieve success, we need to step out of the box and deploy alternative energy technologies. Sodium ion batteries offer a safer, low-cost solution for data centers, telecoms, and home and grid scale applications.

"Osted, is building a renewable hydropower production facility in the Netherlands. It is being connected to a local grid network by electrolyser directly to an offshore wind farm in the Dutch North Sea. This will enable the large-scale supply of renewable electricity required for production of renewable hydrogen. 180 The "green" hydrogen is used to support industrial processes or to supply fuel cell infrastructure. 190"
advocate the development and adver- tisement of Frequent Service corridors as the best way to move residents out of their cars and into public transit.

Club Receives Grant to Promote Electrification of Trucks and School Buses

At the end of July, we were awarded a $15,000 grant by the National Sier- ra Club’s Clean Transportation for All campaign (CTA) to support the effort of electrifying NJ’s fleets of school buses and medium- and heavy duty trucks. Transportation Committee member Kip Cherry and others were instrumen- tal earlier this year in getting the State Assembly to pass A1971 (sponsored by Sen. Diegnan and the author), which would require manufacturers of all types of electric vehicles to report on how well the vehicles perform — to establish a baseline for the making of the needed 35-5 bus fleet replacement by 2050. The $16,000 diesel powered school buses to zero-emission electric school buses in the next decade

The report found that cumulative ben- efits of the ACT and HDO Rules for the State of New Jersey from 2024 through 2050 would include:

- Reducing 223,750 tons of greenhouse gas emissions, equivalent to about 45,000 cars driving 16,000 miles a year.
- Avoiding 124,500 tons of nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions, equivalent to about 22,000 cars driving 16,000 miles a year.
- Avoiding 2,700 tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions, equivalent to about 475 cars driving 16,000 miles a year.
- Preventing 13,000 premature deaths, 250 hospital admissions and emergency room visits, and 136,000 respiratory-related illnesses and re- duced activity and workdays, especially in Environmental Justice communities, where elevated incidences of asthma and other lung diseases are associated with heavy truck traffic and port-related activity.
- Avoiding roughly $30 billion in health care costs over 30 years, including $11.6 billion, including public health, transportation, and environmental costs; and on behalf of $1.3 billion per year in investments in public EV charging infrastructure.

The fight goes on. Before the pipe- line can move forward, it still must be approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Delaware River Basin Commission and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection. Gover- nor Murphy has opposed PennEast, but needs to be pressured in this election year to finally end this project, since he faces opposition from unions who say the pipeline will bring jobs. You can help by adding your name to a Sier- ra Club petition at https://addp.sier- racub.org/campaigns/stop-the-pen- nestreet. It is high time for the Governor to stop PennEast once and for all.

Food production and consumption account for much of the world’s dimin- ishing environmental resources. Per- sons who are most responsible for a substantial proportion of planet- warming greenhouse gases. Food’s harms include: food waste; global hunger and poverty; the demand for animal products in devel- oping countries; the availability of food products, in some cases at the expense of human health and other crises, the ethically and sus- tainability of raising animals in confined spaces; and the conversion of great swaths of land and water for agri- culture to raise crops for livestock.

Food waste is a major problem for many communities. In the United States, it is estimated that 40% of the food produced is wasted each year, amounting to about 114 million metric tons of food. This waste occurs at every stage of the food supply chain, from production to consumer. Food waste is not only a waste of resources, but it also has significant environmental and economic implications. For instance, producing food involves using large amounts of water, land, and energy, and the waste of this food results in wasted resources.

In addition to the environmental impacts, food waste also has economic implications. The cost of food waste in the United States is estimated to be $161 billion per year. This cost includes the cost of producing food that is wasted, the cost of disposing of food waste, and the cost of food that is wasted but not consumed.

Food waste is not just a problem in developed countries. It is a global issue that affects communities around the world. Food waste is particularly prevalent in low-income countries, where food is less accessible and more expensive.

Although food waste is a serious issue, there are efforts being made to reduce it. For example, some food retailers are implementing strategies to reduce food waste, such as using “sell-by” dates instead of “use-by” dates to extend the shelf life of products. Others are donating excess food to food banks and shelters.

Reducing food waste is essential to achieving the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 12, which aims to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. Achieving this goal requires collective action from governments, businesses, and consumers.

In conclusion, food waste is a major problem that has both environmental and economic implications. Reducing food waste requires collective action from all stakeholders, and it is essential to achieving the SDGs. By working together, we can reduce food waste and create a more sustainable future for all.

By Gary Frederick (Constitution Chair of our Ramitar Valley Group)

Despite Supreme Court Ruling, the Fight Against PennEast Goes On
OUT OF THE BOX
continued from page 3

costs. With NJ offshore wind and solar program ramping, planned natural gas power-generating facilities and infrastructure will become stranded assets. Rate-payers will soon be paying both for their construction and decommissioning, in addition to paying to close the coal plants. The New Jersey State Pension Fund has invested $500 million in climate-friendly funds, so why aren’t they divesting an estimated $4 billion in publicly traded fossil-fuel companies? Time to step out of the box toward a clean energy future.

Footnotes
1) Malkin, Nina “These 15 American Cities Are Setting the Example of Climate Change” https://www.huffken.com/slidehotel/these_15_american_cities_are_set_the_example_of_climate_change_tak
5) Hayley S. Hirsh, Yuiian Li, Darren H. K. Tan, Minzhong Zhang, Enyou Zhao, and Y. Shirley Meng “Sodium-Ion Batteries Paving the Way for Grid Energy Storage” https://www.mdpi.com/2072-666X/14/10/2294
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OFFICERS

Co-Chair: Diane Scangarella* dscangalore@hotmail.com
Co-Chair: Buddy Jennisen* buddy.jennisen@gmail.com
Treasurer: Buddy Jennisen* buddy.jennisen@gmail.com
Secretary: Laura Torre* ltorre1019@gmail.com
Political Co-Chair: Open Position
Outings Chair: Mary Walsh* north.outings.chair@newjersey.sierraclub.org
Conservation Chair: Judy Greene* jggreen547@gmail.com
Member: Jeff Rapaport* jfrap@optonline.net
Marketing/Website Co-Chairs: Marie Mannino mannino@yahoo.com and Louis Discepolo loudny@yahoo.com
Innerey County Outings Chair: Sophia Neudorf sophianeue@gmail.com and Erica Coover ecoover@drew.edu
Youth Outreach Chair: Erica Coover ecoover@drew.edu and Sophia N. niioso sierraclub.org
Event Planning/Chair Membership Chair: Hanna Atlas h.atlas425@gmail.com
Environmental/Diversity Chair: Marie Mannino mannino@yahoo.com and Louis Discepolo loudny@yahoo.com
Youth Outreach Inner City Outings: Sophia Neudorf sophianeue@gmail.com and Erica Coover ecoover@drew.edu
ExCom Member: Bob Weiss* bobweiss1967@gmail.com

INTITIATIVES:
The North Jersey Group is committed to coalition building through out- reaching and planning with other Sierra Groups and with local and state non-profit organizations. Our collaborations focus on: (1) engaging municipal re- solutions that support town-level adoption of renewable energy strategies and the environmentally friendly development of affordable housing; (2) opposing gas-fired plants and the construction of pipelines, train terminals and the use of tankers and trains to transport liquefied and natural gas and other dirty fuels; (3) advocating for renewable energy sources; (4) opposing commercialization and development of county, state and local parkland and open spaces; (5) advocating for renewal not capitalizing on contaminated soil on undeveloped public land and the restoration of that land to its natural state; (6) advocating for the clean-up of polluted waterways and for the transition to non-polluting sources of transport on the Hudson and other NJ/NYC waterways; (7) working closely with others to create links with local schools, parents, other youth groups, and Sierra Club certified hikers to help young people learn to appreciate and protect the planet as they explore the natural world.

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The duly elected nine-member Executive Committee benefits from the assistance of our allies and volunteers. If you are interested in participating at a planning level and/or as a member or leader of one of our committees (see the Committee Descriptions below), please contact the Group Co-Chairs or the Committee Chair.

OFFICERS

Co-Chair: Diane Scangarella* dscangalore@hotmail.com
Co-Chair: Buddy Jennisen* buddy.jennisen@gmail.com
Treasurer: Buddy Jennisen* buddy.jennisen@gmail.com
Secretary: Laura Torre* ltorre1019@gmail.com
Political Co-Chair: Open Position
Outings Chair: Mary Walsh* north.outings.chair@newjersey.sierraclub.org
Conservation Chair: Judy Greene* jggreen547@gmail.com
Member: Jeff Rapaport* jfrap@optonline.net
Marketing/Website Co-Chairs: Marie Mannino mannino@yahoo.com and Louis Discepolo loudny@yahoo.com
Innerey County Outings Chair: Sophia Neudorf sophianeue@gmail.com and Erica Coover ecoover@drew.edu
Youth Outreach Chair: Erica Coover ecoover@drew.edu and Sophia N. niioso sierraclub.org
Event Planning/Chair Membership Chair: Hanna Atlas h.atlas425@gmail.com
Environmental/Diversity Chair: Marie Mannino mannino@yahoo.com and Louis Discepolo loudny@yahoo.com
Youth Outreach Inner City Outings: Sophia Neudorf sophianeue@gmail.com and Erica Coover ecoover@drew.edu
ExCom Member: Bob Weiss* bobweiss1967@gmail.com

INTITIATIVES:
The North Jersey Group is committed to coalition building through out- reaching and planning with other Sierra Groups and with local and state non-profit organizations. Our collaborations focus on: (1) engaging municipal re- solutions that support town-level adoption of renewable energy strategies and the environmentally friendly development of affordable housing; (2) opposing gas-fired plants and the construction of pipelines, train terminals and the use of tankers and trains to transport liquefied and natural gas and other dirty fuels; (3) advocating for renewable energy sources; (4) opposing commercialization and development of county, state and local parkland and open spaces; (5) advocating for renewal not capitalizing on contaminated soil on undeveloped public land and the restoration of that land to its natural state; (6) advocating for the clean-up of polluted waterways and for the transition to non-polluting sources of transport on the Hudson and other NJ/NYC waterways; (7) working closely with others to create links with local schools, parents, other youth groups, and Sierra Club certified hikers to help young people learn to appreciate and protect the planet as they explore the natural world.

North Jersey Group Executive Committee Members.
The Executive Committee made a number of new appointments in the last quarter. We welcome Rachel Tarzia as a new member of the Executive Committee, and Claire Coltota as the new Political Chair.

The Program Committee is planning a members’ meeting for the Fall. We will notify our group members of the topic and date when those plans have been finalized. Please contact the program co-chairs if you have ideas or suggestions for a meeting-topic or program, or conservation project.

FUNDRAISING: Our first effort at fundraising last year raised $150 despite the impact of the pandemic on people’s ability to shop and dine. We are in the process of organizing our second annual silent auction for this fall, and we look forward to having more members participate. Funds raised will support new and expanded membership programs and outings.

CONSERVATION NEWS: The Gateway Group has been active on a number of fronts. Our members have responded to an alert put out by the staff to urge Governor Murphy to allocate funds to purchase the rail right-of-way from Norfolk Southern as the first step in building the Essex Hudson Greenway along the old Montclair Iberia Railway line. We have also participated in the stakeholder meetings sponsored by NJ Transit regarding its plans to re-imagine bus service to and from Newark. Our comments have supported the development of Frequent Service corridors along major routes where bus service will have consistent headways of 15 minutes or less. Such corridors have proved to increase ridership in almost every city where Frequent Service Corridors have been established and actively promoted by the local transportation agency.

We are also actively involved in the fight to stop the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission from building a new, fracked gas power plant at its Newark facility. The power plant was designed in the wake of an extended power outage after Superstorm Sandy that threatened to send millions of gallons of untreated sewage into Newark Bay. Recognizing the impact such an event would have on the ecology of Newark Bay, the Sierra Club and other local and statewide environmental groups are proposing that the gas plant be replaced by renewable energy sources such as solar or tidal power.

Continuing our involvement with plans to expand the Turtle Back Zoo, the Group has also commented on plans to expand the Wildwood exhibit at the Zoo. It appears that the plans to build a new $300 million steel-mill themed zoo with a 500 seat amphitheater on wetlands outside of the current zoo’s footprint have been halted, but we remain vigilant in the event that the county submits a new application for its construction.

Hudson County Group
Website: http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey-hudson-county
E-mail: hudsonsierranj@gmail.com
Facebook: @HCSierraClub
Instagram: @HCSierraClub
Twitter: @hcsirraClub
OFFICERS: (*=ExCom)
Chair: Pramod Raju* modisone@gmail.com
Secretary, Treasurer, Conservation Chair: Patricia Hilliard* hilliard_patricia@hotmail.com
Political Chair: Ricardo Pereira* rpereira.1995@gmail.com
Delegate to Chapter: Open Position
Membership: Open Position
Publicity: Alec Hilton* alec Hilton@gmail.com
Outings / Events: Steve Krinsky* stevekrinsky@comcast.net
As-Large: Denise Howe bootshancyj10@hotmail.com
SCHEDULE: The Hudson Group will continue to meet remotely for now. General meetings are held five times a year, usually on Sundays from 12:30-2pm. Members are strongly welcome and encouraged to join the meetings. Contact any of the officers for details on how to join the meeting.
Outings: We are planning a number of activities in the near future: nature walks, shoreline clean-ups and public forums in the fall. Check the calendar for details.
Hudson County Group Goals/Projects for 2021
1. Sustainability/Youth/Education. Sustainability includes recycling, composting, green infrastructure, mass transportation and renewable energy. We want to create a task force to coordinate these issues in our schools, and in our municipalities. Let us know if you would like to help build this task force.
2. Environmental Justice: Because pollution and environmental degradation tend to harm low-income communities and people of color, we include social justice issues in all of our work. We want to create an Environmental Justice committee to connect with social justice groups in Hudson County to plan actions on this issue. Let us know if you would like to be part of this planning.
3. Political Action. In addition to preparing for upcoming elections in NJ, we hope to meet with sympathetic public officials to discuss strategies to show support for a number of environmental bills now in Trenton. These include the Liberty State Park Protection Act, the Essex Hudson Greenway, the Clean Energy Equity Act and more. We will also continue to meet with the Governor and the state legislature to oppose fossil fuel infrastructure. We also support the efforts of the Don’t Gas The Meadows coalition in support of renewable energy for NJ Transit. Let us know if you would like to join our campaign.
4. Communications/Social Media. We have created a team of social media activists who can utilize a number of formats to promote environmental issues and campaigns as well as email and the Sierra Club website. More traditional press will be included as well. Join us if you’d like to help.

Current Campaigns: Please join us. We can help with any of these:
Liberty State Park – The Liberty State Park Protection Act would end efforts to privatize the park once and for all! A rally will be held in support of this Act on September 25, at 5:00 pm at the south seaf Flag Plaza near the Alex Sldg. Join us to show your support for protecting the park. We also support the work that will begin soon on the interior of the park, creating 180 acres of wildlife habitat and 50 acres of active recreation for the community.

Climate Change: New studies show that Hudson County will be harder hit by sea-level rise and catastrophic flooding than any other NJ county. The NJ Sierra Club has joined with other leading environmental groups to form the Hudson Climate Coalition. We are working to build awareness and grass roots support as we transition to 100% renewable energy locally by the year 2050, or sooner. Please get involved and be part of the solution.

Environmental Justice: Low-income communities and black and brown communities suffer the most from environmental destruction: elevated levels of cancer, respiraitory disease, lead poisoning, and a host of other problems. Hudson County has had a disproportionate burden from landfills and waste transfer stations than its share of environmental poisoning for generations. We must stand up for social justice in these communities! Join us to take action.

Parks and Greenways: The Hudson County Group of the NJ Sierra Club is working to support and expand green spaces in Hudson County. We want to connect existing parks and trails, and create the Crossroads Campaign. This includes Skyway Park on the Hackensack River, the newly proposed Essex-Hudson Greenway, the Bergen Arcades, the 6th Street Embankment and more. We want to see the shoreline along the Hackensack River become Hudson County’s “Green Coast.” Learn how you can help.

LOANTAKA GROUP
(Morris and Union Counties (except for Elizabeth and Hillside), plus Livingston, Millburn and Roseland, approximately)
Website: http://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/
Loantaka now has a Facebook page. Please check it out and “like” it: https://www.facebook.com/LoantakaGroupNJ/

OFFICERS:
Chair: Paul Sanderson
Treasurer: Paul Sanderson
Secretary: Jonathan Conno
Conser. Chair: Allen Swanson
Political Chair: Priiti Thakker
Programs: Bob Zega
Fundraising Chair: Open Position!
Outings Chair: Kevin O’Brien
Publicity Chair: Open Position!
Membership Chair: Open Position!
Website: Open Position!
Webmaster: Open Position!
Coordinator: Open Position!

If you might be interested in getting involved, please attend one of our Executive Committee Meetings: the first Tuesday of each month (except July and August)—and get to know us. Or participate in one of our General Meetings on the second Wednesday of the month (except July and August). There are no obligations and there will be no pressure. Currently all meetings are being held by Zoom technology.

More of our activities are at: http://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/
To join our emailing list, go to: http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/nj-loantaka-news.html

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: are held on the FIRST TUESDAY of the month: 7pm, by Zoom technology. All members are welcome. There are currently some open positions on it! If you would like to find out more, please contact Paul Sanderson.

GENERAL MEETINGS: are held on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of the month — 7:30 pm by Zoom. Learn something new and make some new friends. We’d welcome the chance to meet you and to place ourselves, even by Zoom. Please see the schedule below and join us! Instructions for access are posted on our website: http://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/

MEETING SCHEDULE: Currently, all Executive Committee and General Meetings are being held safely by Zoom technology; however, in-person meetings at the Chatham Library may resume in September or shortly thereafter.

Sept 8: Please check the Loantaka website.
Oct 13: Please check the Loantaka website.
Nov 10: Please check the Loantaka website.
Dec 8: Please check the Loantaka website.

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ACTIVITIES: The Loantaka Group is working with concerned citizens and local environmental organizations to protect open space and wildlife habitat in Morris and Union Counties and the water resources on which we all depend. In addition, the Group is actively involved in State-wide initiatives involving air quality, transportation, and environmental legislation. Volunteers are always welcome. Call Pam at 908-457-3441. Consult our website (http://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/) for more information.

CENTRAL JERSEY GROUP
(Mercer County and neighboring towns in adjoining counties)

Website: http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/central-jersey. Or click from the NJ Chapter’s website. In normal times we would offer a variety of outings! Not now until the pandemic is over!

Here are the issues we are working on currently:

1. Against the Gibbstown LNG terminal.
2. Against the Hughes Warehouse expansion on Rte 1 and Quakerbridge Rd.
3. Against Synergy Solar in Hamilton: Sweetbrier Ave which threatens the community in the already flood-prone Lower Assunpink Creek area.
4. Monitoring the new QuickCheck in the Mill Run Watershed – for flooding potential.
5. Against the Transco pipeline, which threatens the habitat of the endangered tree bark. Middlesex County invasions can be reported to the NJ DOA.
7. Against the Hughes Warehouse development.
8. Opposing gas pipelines and compressor stations generally.
9. For the park at Miry Run – dam site 21.
10. Opposing logging public land areas because we don’t have 90 years to grow new tree canopies.
11. Promoting electric school buses.
12. Opposing NJ’s gas-powered electric plants.

We look forward to in-person get-togethers but until then our monthly lecture series will remain virtual. The Central Jersey Group will post any new activities on the New Jersey Sierra Club website, Central Group Facebook page, and PineyPaddlers.com. Stay home, be patient, stay safe! And don’t stop lobbying for our environment!

The Bedminster Trump National Golf Course situation in the Highlands Preservation Area needs new permits from the NJ Water Supply Authority. www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/blog/2020/10/trump-s-bedminster-golf-course-water-hearing-delayed-again

The NJDEP upgraded regulations for Category 1 waterways to protect water supplies for NJ residents.

The Clean Ocean and Safe Tourism (COAST) Anti-Drilling Act has been reintroduced by Congressman Frank Pallone. If enacted, this legislation will protect our coasts from oil/gas exploration, development, and production. https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/blog/2021/05/ag-dep-holds-polluters-accountable

We encourage you to get involved by sending your town’s planning and zoning board members a copy of this newsletter. If you are aware of developments in your town that may have a negative environmental impact, please contact us and join our meetings. We are also interested in any environmental news or events affecting Middlesex and Somerset counties and invite you to submit those items as well.

RARITAN VALLEY GROUP
(Middlesex and Somerset Counties and surrounding areas)

Group Chair: Dennis Anderson 732-970-1327 dennisaza@aol.com
Treasurer: John Luard 732-708-9221 John.Luard@gmail.com
Conservation Chair: Faith Yeteilbaum 732-913-5445 faiethiel@aol.com
Webmaster: John Luard 732-708-9221 John.Luard@gmail.com
Outings Chair: John Luard 732-708-9221 John.Luard@gmail.com
Group Executive Committee Members: Gary Frederick, S. Pasricha, Teresa Callahan, Brenda Bradley, and: Bob Sandberg 732-241-7757 Sandberg00@gmail.com Grapefruit@msn.com

We keep you informed of all the activities related to environmental protection, conservation, and advocacy in Middlesex and Somerset counties. In the words of the late Dave Mattek, “be patient, stay safe!”

The issues of interest to our communities include but are not limited to:

1. Opposition to gas and oil pipelines and new fossil fuel infrastructure that threaten the air, water, and our health.
2. Against Transco and conservation of the Raritan River basin area.
3. Passage of and responsible enforcement of environmentally friendly ordinances.
4. Land conservation, preservation of open space and protection of Green Acres.

News from the Raritan Valley area:

- Williams Transco applied to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to extend their NESL project application for two more years. The pipeline permits were previously rejected by the NJDEP.
- Williams Transco applied to FERC for another fracked gas expansion project – the Regional Energy Access Expansion Project (REAE). Additional volatile compounds spilling into local waterways are reported near Old Bridge CO 207 & Neshanic Station St. So, an explosion in 2013 injured 2 workers at CO 205 (Branchburg Township). The Sierra Club filed a motion to intervene in opposition to Williams Transco’s REAE project. https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/blog/2021/05/sierra-club-fights-new-williams-transco-pipeline
- NJ Transit’s Kearny Marcus gas-fired power plant plans were withdrawn.
- Thank you to the Somerset County Board of Commissioners for leading the state in passing a resolution opposing Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company’s dangerous proposal to build compressor stations that threaten our health and environment. https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/blog/2021/02/somerset-county-opposes-tennessee-gas-compressor-station
- Allentown has removed trees at the Hidden Oak Woods development in the northernmost Franklin Township of East Brunswick, an area once known as Hickory Swamp. Thank you to our friends from the Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership in New Brunswick & the Lawrence Brook Watershed Partnership in Milltown for filing an amicus brief in the township’s lawsuit.
- Spotted lantern flies have been spotted in Somerset County and don’t need to be reported. However, please continue to destroy them, plus remove their egg sacs from tree trunks. Middlesex County invasions must be reported to the NJ DCA.
- The Bedminster Trump National Golf Course situation in the Highlands Preservation Area needs new permits from the NJ Water Supply Authority. www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/blog/2020/10/trump-s-bedminster-golf-course-water-hearing-delayed-again

JERSEY SHORE GROUP
(Monmouth County, approximately)


Group Chair: George Moffatt 732-544-1726 gmoffattgt@aol.com
Treasurer: Wael Kanj  waelkanj@gmail.com
Outings Chair: Faith Yeitbaulm 732-913-5445 faiethiel@aol.com
Membership Chair: John Luard 732-708-9221 John.Luard@gmail.com

We are interested in any environmental news or events affecting Monmouth County and invite you to submit those items as well.

Like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/RaritanGroupNJSC
Tweet with us - https://twitter.com/RaritanSierra

CLIMATE UPDATE: We created a “50 x 30 Team” to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions 50% by 2030.


THE TEAM: The NJ-wide Sierra Club “50 x 30 Team” advocates at household, comm-
munity, state, and federal levels to set detailed goals to reduce the major sources of GHG.

**EXAMPLE ACTION:** In August, 2021, the “50 x 30 Team” drafted recommendations for Governor Murphy’s review in Environment/Energy Policy Advisor. Her recommendations will be incorporated, and the recommendations forwarded to Gov. Murphy.

**YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO “Save the World”:** Each “50 x 30 Team” member will be encouraged to engage in “Climate Action Now” educational and activist events.

**SIGN UP NOW:** for the “50 x 30 Teams”. You will receive agendas and Zoom info to attend “50 x 30 Teams” meetings (typically 7PM, the 3rd Thursday of each month). For more information or to sign up, see article elsewhere in this issue (paper or electronic), or contact stevenmiller@comcast.net (Climate Chair, Jersey Shore Group)

**MEMBER MEETINGS:** We are presenting Zoom webinars, usually on the fourth Monday of each month at 7PM. Currently scheduled Webinars:

**September 27:** Water Issues in New Jersey: Daniel J. Van Abs, PhD, FAICP/PP, Associate Professor of Professional Practice for Water, Society and Environment, Rutgers University. Details and registration will be on our website.

**Speakers Contact:** Mary Reilly, 908-731-2266 or Mary@reillygreen.com

If you are not getting emails announcing our webinars, please send one to Wael at waelsj@gmail.com, or sign up at our website.

**OCEAN COUNTY GROUP**

Website: MEETUP.COM/SIERRA-CLUB-OCEAN-GROUP

**OFFICERS:**

- Acting Chair & Conservation Chair: Margit Meissner-Jackson sylvia1910@yahoo.com
- Vice-Chair & Treasurer: Laura Stone l315@yahoo.com
- Outings & Events Ed: Trevor Brown terrysbrown@comcast.net
- Recording Secretary: Nancy Brown nancybrown2652@comcast.net
- Political Chair: Margaret Mary Piccolo gogoreep@juno.com
- Membership Chair: Tony Hagen hagenajohn@verizon.net
- Group ExCom Members: Williams & Wade Rodgers
- and: Joyce Isaza realtymstr@aol.com

**Hospitality, Fundraising, Publicity, Webmaster:** all open positions!

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:** Normally held bi-monthly at the Skywalk Cafe in Toms River, except July and August.

**ACTIVITIES & ISSUES:** Our group is focused on a number of critical issues. Locally and state-wide— we are fighting a myriad of development issues. Along with our allies we are working hard to save Barnegat Bay and the Pinelands, two natural gems in Ocean County.

**WEST JERSEY GROUP**

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

Website: sierraclub.org/new-jersey/West-Jersey

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/WestJerseyGroup/NJSC Log on and Like Us! Follow us on Twitter @Wj Sierraclub and Instagram @wjsierraclub

**OFFICERS:**

- Group Chair: Gina Carola 856-888-8811 gina@verizon.net
- Vice-Chair: Frank Zimm ezfinz@aol.com
- Secretary: Ellen Zinni ezfinz@aol.com
- Treasurer: Patricia Yelton payelton10@gmail.com
- Publicity Chair: Anne Caridi anncaridi@yahoo.com
- Political Chair: Linda Ribulano Linda_Marzita@yahoo.com
- Pinelands Rep: Open Position!
- Greenways Coord’s: Frank and Ellen Zinni ezfinz@aol.com
- Conservation Chair: Stacey Ayala thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com
- Delegate at Large: Aida Ayala thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com
- Membership Chair: Mike Brown 856-547-9221 eyebrown@yahoo.com
- Fundraising Chair: Open position! Call Gina to volunteer: 856-888-8811
- Smart Growth Chair: Open position! Call Gina to volunteer: 856-888-8811
- Programs Chair: Open position! Call Gina to volunteer: 856-888-8811
- Outings Chair: Open position! Call Gina to volunteer: 856-888-8811
- Media & Communications: Tony Hagen hagenajohn@verizon.net
- Social Media Coord’s: Open position! Call Gina to volunteer: 856-888-8811

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** are held at 7:30 pm on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of ALTERNATE MONTHS, September thru May, at the Quaker Meeting Hall on Friends Ave in Haddonfield. Inclement weather may cancel. Please call 856-888-8811 if unsure.

**Directions:** From I-295, take exit 134B onto Rte 70 West. Follow the signs for Rte 41 South, which is Kings Hwy (you will have to exit to the right into a jug handle and then turn left onto Rte 41 (Kings Hwy). Cross over Rte 70 and you will be briefly on Rte 154 (Kings Rd). Make the next right and then the next right onto Kings Hwy. After about 1 mile, you will cross Grove Rd (Indian King Tavern is on the right corner). After crossing Grove Rd, go two more blocks and turn right on to Friends Ave. Go one block to the Meeting House. Park on the lot, turn left onto Friends Ave and enter the auditorium through the doors on the right side of the building. Do not go into the Meeting House.

**Special Notice:** Meetings will resume September 8th. Please check our Facebook page for info on Zoom presentations. We sign up to receive email on this website. Send your request to gina@verizon.net or anncaridi@yahoo.com and we will add you to our email list. And please, MASK ARE REQUIRED if we are able to meet in person.

**Seat 8:** Horseshoe Crabs, Oyster Reefs and Wetlands. Zach Nickerson, Education Outreach Coordinator for the Liaitonal Society will tell us about his work on the coast to create horseshoe crab, oyster reef, and wetland projects. This presentation may be presented in person at the Friends Meeting House if the room is available. If not, it will be a zoom presentation. Please check our Facebook page for updates. Or send an email to gina@verizon.net for an update.

**Nov 1:** Urban Airshed Reforestation Program - Camden. Meredith Brown of the New Jersey Trust for the Land will update the group on efforts over the last 18 months. This presentation may be presented in person at the Friends Meeting House if the room is available. If not, it will be a Zoom presentation. Please check our Facebook page for updates. Or send an email to gina@verizon.net for an update.

**Dec 8:** To be announced.

Please check the West Jersey Group’s Facebook page for updates. https://www.facebook.com/WestJerseyGroupNJSC

In the meantime, please wear your mask, continue to physically distance and stay safe for now. (561-4565 x 31, gina@verizon.net to get involved in any of our many initiatives on climate change.

**SOUTH JERSEY GROUP**

(Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland and Salem Counties, approximately)

**OFFICERS:**

- Group Chair: Tom Boghosian 267-930-8588 boghosian1@verizon.net
- Vice-Chair: Open Position!
- Conservation Chair: Open Position!
- Political Chair, Calendars: Dick Colby 609-965-4453 dick.colby@stockton.edu
- Membership Chair: Open Position!
- Secretary/Treasure: Julie Albers 609-432-3280 juliealbers56@gmail.com

**The offices listed above are wearing out (at least with respect to the Club), and would more than welcome new blood, with ideas and energy for local projects. One alternative is to fold back into the West Jersey Group (from which we originated in the mid-’70s). Please contact Dick Colby for a discussion. Otherwise, our conserving conservation is adopted by the Board for sponsorship of the BPU, and that produces the Big Rig, the Great Egg Harbor Wild & Scenic River, and continues to demand the energies of those few officers who remain active both within the Siera Club and in the Watershed Association (GEHWA) that has spun off from the South Jersey Group. Very few of our local members seem interested in the meetings we once scheduled (monthly, from the early 1980s until 2005). For now, we’ll continue to be listed in this Newsletter, and offer a point of contact for Club members in South Jersey who want help with local issues. We strongly recommend GEHWA’s website for keeping up with local issues, and for links to many other local, regional, state and national environmental organizations: www.gehwa.org. If you have topics (and places) for meetings, please let the officers know about them. We welcome general comments from Club members in South Jersey. To be placed on a carefully guarded distribution list for local issues and meetings, please email dick.colby@stockton.edu. Dick is also an Atlantic County Parks Commissioner, contact him if you are particularly interested in attending monthly meetings of the Commission, which are open to the public, but currently held on-line.

Tom Boghosian is an avid kayaker (certified as a Maine Guide!), one oceangoing and in fresh waters, possibly willing to lead trips, Julie Albers also works with Atlantic County Friends of the Parks, and is President of the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association.

**Current Issues:** (1) We’ve been blue-blazing the southern portion of what will be a continuous footpath between the southern and northern tips of New Jersey. Many others (and other groups) are contributing. Detailed maps and route descriptions are now available on the Chapter’s website. Dick has also produced a brochure describing 15 historic points of interest on the footpath near Egg Harbor City. Every municipality ought to have its own such brochure: this is a hint for you to try your hand at it! (2) There is “movement” on the prospect for a Community Solar experiment in South Jersey, to be operated by the Atlantic County Utilities Authority. (3) The North Atlantic Regional Plan. Paris has also discussed the potential for Atlantic City Electric Co. (3) With the passage of Statewide plastic- and paper-bag-restricting legislation, there’s educational work to be done! (a etc.) Many other South Jersey issues are described in previous issues of this Newsletter, available on the Chapter website.

**Some Allied Organizations, likely meeting by Zoom:**

- Sept 21 & Nov 23: (alternating fourth Tuesdays), 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor Watershed Assn. Activities related to Center for the Wild & Scenic River System. All are welcome. If a physical meeting takes place, it will be a zoom presentation. Please check our Facebook page for updates. Or send an email to gina@verizon.net for an update.
- Oct 13 & Dec 8: (alternate second Wednesdays), 7pm: bi-monthly meeting of Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries (another “Partnership River” under federal protection): Meeting place (if physical): Warren Nature Center (WFNC*), Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor, Milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50; 3½ miles south of Mays Landing. Contact Julie Albers, 609-432-3280.
- Sept 1, Oct 6, Nov 3 & Dec 1: (first Wednesdays), 6:30pm: Atlantic County Friends of the Parks: Monthly meetings of a group which works to improve and promote the Atlantic County Park System. All are welcome. WFNC* if the meeting would be physical. Contact Julie Albers, 609-432-3280. Website: https://www.facebook.com/Atlantic-County-Friends-of-the-Parks.

**Oct 13 & 15:** (alternate third Wednesdays), 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Recreational River Council. Representatives of the 12 municipalities discuss and implement river management strategies. Open to the public. By Zoom or at the WFNC*. Contact Julie Albers, 609-432-3280.

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GROUP NEWS
continued from page 9


SINGLES SECTION
(A chapter-wide special interest section offering hikes/cleanup, social gatherings, meetings, etc.)

Website: http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/sierra-singles

OFFICERS:
Interim Co-Chairs: Ron Pate and Jimi Oleksiak
Outings Chair: Joyce Haddad
Conservation Chair: Position Open!
Treasurer: Position Open!
Social Chair: Position Open!
Vice Social Chair: Jeff Sovelove
Programs: Position Open!
Publicity: Position Open!
Membership: Position Open!

Nominations:
Executive committee members: Rozanna Fanelli, Joyce Haddad, Ron Pate, and Jeff Sovelove.

We’re a friendly, active group of individuals who enjoy hiking, biking, canoeing/kayaking, as well as a variety of social and cultural activities throughout the year. This section was created to offer a variety of singles-oriented activities to NJ Sierra Club members.

PURPOSE: Our purpose is to acquaint single adults with the natural history and beauty of the surrounding areas, to promote environmental conservation, and to provide recreational and social activities for all members. All activities shall be consistent with Sierra Club purposes. We are not a local group; we’re a statewide additional “layer” of club involvement. Everyone is welcome to join us.

COMMUNICATIONS: The best way to be notified of upcoming events is to join our free listserv. Anyone may subscribe by going to: http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/NJ-SINGLES-NEWS.html and clicking on “Join or leave the list.” You may subscribe and unsubscribe at will; directions on how to unsubscribe are at the bottom of each announcement. We recommend joining the listserv to receive announcements for all of our events a few weeks before each event. Events are also listed on the online calendar on the Chapter’s web site: sierraclub.org/new-jersey. You can also “like” us on Facebook: “Singles Group New Jersey Sierra Club.” Activities will also be posted on Meetup.

SOCIAL GATHERINGS:
Social dinners: Join us for dinner the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, at a variety of restaurants in different locations. Jimi Oleksiak, the leader, will announce the details one week in advance through a listserv message. An RSVP is required as described in the announcement.

HIKES AND OTHER OUTINGS: The Singles Section sponsors many outings, ranging from beginners’ level of hikes to advanced difficulty. Some of these are listed in the Outings section of this newsletter; others will be announced on our listserv, the Chapter’s online calendar, Facebook and Meetup. Hikes are for anybody who is capable of hiking the distance described. It is up to the person who wants to hike to determine their own ability and limits. All hikes are required to sign a liability waiver.

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER (LGBTQ+) SECTION
Our mission is to support Sierra Club goals, and to promote environmental activism and social equity. We are an inclusive group and all are welcome to join our events.

Website: http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/LGBT/
Meetup: http://www.meetup.com/njsierrclub/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/njxisrerglbt

OFFICERS:
Chair: William Parish * whparish1@gmail.com
Secretary: John Kashwick * John.Kashwick@newjersey.sierraclub.org
Treasurer: Jonathan Woll * docjswll@gmail.com
Outings Chair: Robert Zitzman * robertmzi@yahoo.com
Fundraising: Matthew Lang * matthewlang58@gmail.com
Webmaster/Listmaster: John Kashwick * John.Kashwick@newjersey.sierraclub.org

(* Section Executive Committee Member)

Please check web site for further meetings and events.

SENIOR SECTION / FIFTY-PLUS SECTION
(A chapter-wide special interest section which offers a weekly to monthly calendar of activities and events, including hikes, clean ups, social gatherings, dinner get-togethers and other functions intended for those members over fifty).

In addition, a monthly Buy & Sell newsletter is sent out to members free of charge, in which they can list items they are searching for or want to buy.

The mission of this section is to support Sierra Club goals, and to promote activism through letter writing, phone calls, and other active support for environmental issues.

We work through a “list-serve,” by which members learn about current environmental issues, and how they can be supported. Please find more news at Website: http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/senior-section.

Arline Zatz is the editor and Chair of the Senior Section/Fifty-Plus Section. She can be reached at azatz@funtravels.com, and invites members to check her web site at www. funtravels.com for trips, tips, and travel information regarding New Jersey and other states.

Paul Ehrlich is the Vice-Chair (phehrlich-NJ@outlook.com). He vice-edits the Essays Section of the Senior Section web site. These essays are written by members of the NJ Sierra Club, and focus on environmental issues, including reports of environment-related news that may not be easily accessed by many members, opinions on how to deal with environmental problems, and support/criticism of environmental actions taken by organizations and individuals. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU’VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THAT YOU’D LIKE TO TELL A LARGE AUDIENCE? Send an essay to Arline and Paul for editing and approval and it will be posted on our web site.

SIERRA STUDENT COALITION
(a semi-autonomous organization of college and high-school students)

National Website: http://www.ssc.org/

ICO: INSPIRING CONNECTIONS OUTDOORS
(www.ssc.org) Our mission is to support Sierra Club goals, and to promote environmental activism and social dynamics. Our events are different. They are more than service projects to remove trash, reseed, or clear fencerows. They are designed to foster a sense of community, and to allow individuals to make new friends, all while shielding our faces from the intense glare of the sun.

While planning our trip, we came up with a few rules to follow. First, we all had to dress in layers so that we could adjust our clothing according to the weather. We also brought along extra socks and gloves to prevent our hands and feet from becoming too cold. Finally, we made sure to bring plenty of water and snacks for our long journey.

During the hike, we tried to stay relaxed and enjoy the scenery around us. We stopped frequently to rest and take in the beauty of nature. We also took turns leading the way, so everyone had a chance to experience different aspects of the trail.

One of the highlights of the trip was the time we spent at the campfire. We gathered around and shared stories and laughter. It was a great way to bond with each other and to enjoy the outdoors.

As the sun began to set, we made our way back to the start of the trail. We were tired but happy to have had such a wonderful experience. We all agreed that we would definitely do this again.

In conclusion, the outing was a tremendous success. We managed to complete all the activities planned and still had plenty of time to enjoy nature. The ICO members were pleased with the outcome of the trip, and we all look forward to our next adventure.

The Jersey Sierran | October-December 2021

Winter Expedition in Colorado

By Vittoria Socolo, a 17 yr. old member of our Loantaka Group

I stared at the black speckles forming under the surface of my red and raw thumb. I prayed this wasn’t the beginning of frostbite. I blew hot air on my fingers and continued to flick the wheel of the lighter over and over again, but no flame. There wasn’t even a measy spark. I forced the tears to remain in my eyelash crystals and tried to shake my vision. Crying would do nothing except make my eyelashes crystallize and hinder my vision. To my surprise, attempting to prep the stove for dinner and light the fuel cup was always the hardest part of my day.

During the spring semester of my junior year, I spent four months at the High Mountain Institute in Leadville, Colorado. Over the course of the program, I embarked on three expeditions. Hauling my 100-liter backpack for the first time on the first expedition was scary, but it was the second expedition that I was unprepared for. Winter trip consisted of ten days on telemark skis, dragging a sled bound to my waist, and digging out quigloos to sleep in.

After a three mile climb uphill to the next campground and excavating a new rowd each other’s body heat until we fell asleep. When I saw tears well up in one of my tarp mates’ eyes on her day to take the sled, I took it for her. My tarp group never argued, even though we rarely split work evenly. There were days when some of us had to be held closer a little longer than others to survive. For our tarp group of four to function, we learned to rely on each other.

The biggest lesson I learned from every single expedition is that taking care and supporting others is important for a positive group dynamic. Yes, expeditions were immensely difficult, but the outdoor environment is what brings people closer together and makes the whole experience worthwhile.
Guidance for Sierra Club Activities in a Time of Covid Plague

Issued to all Club entities by Club President Ramon Cruz on August 2, 2021.

Effective immediately, the Sierra Club is reinstating our mask mandate at all indoor activities and events regardless of vaccination status. The Activities & Events Calendar found at https://www.sierraclub.org/nj/activities/events can be used to plan future activities. For more information about masking for events, please visit https://www.sierraclub.org/coronavirus/masking. All Outings are generally open to non-members, unless otherwise stated.

NOTES ON OUTINGS:

Facial coverings (masks, cloth, etc.) are required. Smokers are requested to smoke 6 feet away from participants. Watercraft trips let you experience the unspoiled parts of our region. Bring plenty of water and a lunch (except for those activities where a break for lunch is scheduled). Please check the schedule for your outing for specific requirements. The size and skill of each party must be appropriate to the section of river. Most trips do not require advanced paddling skill or exceptional physical fitness. In addition, the leader can provide specifics about equipment that will be needed. It is highly recommended to familiarize yourself with the calendar at https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey, and click on the Group Outing date. Also, please send outing write-ups for January of the following year to the beginning of one of our quarterly publications pertinent to the activity or the Group in which you are interested.

GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS (roughly north to south)

Skylands: Dave Alcock - davealcock@hotmail.com
South Highlands: Jonathan Well - JWesis@gmail.com
North Jersey: Co-Chair: Ellen Blumenkrantz - elblumenkrantz@hotmail.com, and Mary Walsh - mwalsh4175@gmail.com
Central Jersey: Joyce Hobbs - joelhobbs@comcast.net and Robert Zisman - rob_zisman@comcast.net
Loantaka: (Morris Co). 10am. 4-5 miles, easy pace. Bring lunch, coffee, snacks and water. Leader: John Luard. Group size is limited 12 participants. Please contact Joye Luard at jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com, or Joanne Pannone 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

GROUP OUTINGS COORDINATORS (roughly north to south)

VACANT

Notes restaurants are required to wear a mask at both indoor and outdoor activities. The Sierra Club strongly recommends eligible club members get vaccinated as quickly as possible to avoid being unvaccinated. Vaccinated attendees are less likely to spread COVID-19.

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Dec 12 (Sat): Watchung Reservation, New Providence (Union Co). 10am. Singles Hike. 7 miles in moderate hills. There will be a shorter trail version of the route, 4.5 miles, easy hills with a second leader. Features: The deserted village of Felicetown. Facilities: There is a bathroom near the parking lot and a heated bathroom in the middle of the hike. Requirement: Hiking boots. Transportation: Drive, or use RTD隔from BART, bike, or walk. Bring drinking water and snacks. Minimum: 50 expected. Raincheck. Pre-registration required. Group size is limited to 12 participants. Registration required via Web. Start with the calendar at https://www.sierranej.org/new-jersey and click on the Watchung Reservation hike, then click on RSVP Leader. Jim Oleksiak, The Jerseycan.

Dec 11 (Sun): Whitesbog Village Holiday Hike (Burlington Co). 10am. Singles Hike. 7 miles in near the parking lot and a heated bathroom in the middle of the hike. Requirement: Hiking boots. Transportation: Drive or use RTD from BART, bike, or walk. Bring drinking water and snacks. Minimum: 50 expected. Raincheck. Pre-registration required. Group size is limited to 12 participants. Registration required via Web: Start with the calendar at https://www.sierranej.org/new-jersey and click on the Whitesbog Village hike, then click on RSVP Leader. Mary Prachthauser, The Jerseycan.

Dec 12 (Sun): Hike Cheesequake State Park, Old Bridge (Middlesex Co). 10am. We’ll use a path to cross over the Lock 1 “swinging bridge” as we walk along the towpath; perhaps see the resident ospreys. Leader: John Luard. Group size is limited to 12 participants. Please register online at: Jersey Sierra Club website.

Dec 9 (Fri): Local Community Events
- Branch has a nature center with hands-on exhibits and an observation deck that offers a 360’ view of the Pinelands. Leashed dogs are welcome. Meet at Jones Branch Park, 110 Double Trouble Rd, Blackwood at 9am. Bring drinking water and snacks. Minimum: 6 expected. Raincheck. Pre-registration required. Group size is limited to 12 participants. Registration required via Web: Start with the calendar at https://www.sierranej.org/new-jersey and click on the Jones Branch Park hike, then click on RSVP Leader. Dick Colby, The Jerseycan.

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Managing Plastic Waste: Two Current Bills

By Sylvia Kay, Our Zero Waste Issues Coordinator

In the last six months, two pieces of legislation have emerged in New Jersey: S2515 and A5803. The Club currently endorses Bob Smith’s S2515, but not McKenna’s A5803. The two bills offer an interesting snapshot of the challenges facing lawmakers and industry. Projections for the increased use of plastics over the coming decades are huge, so we must find solutions to manage the plastic waste crisis. Solutions to the management of plastic waste is vital. The US is already the world’s greatest plastic user, from plastic bags to pla- stic straws (except on special request) and specific food content containers. These bans will go into effect over the coming year. It is hoped our New Jersey legislators will continue to grow innovative recycling regulations with their support of S2515.

Incessantly shrill gas-powered leaf blowers (GLBs) are not only bad for our ears, but also a danger to our mental and physical health and our environment. GLBs can generate over 105 decibels (DB) of noise at the operator’s ears (12, 13) and low frequency noise-polluting waves that damage long distances and penetrate the walls of nearby homes. (1) According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, hearing loss occurs after two hours exposure at 85 DB, and even continuous sound at 70 DB can harm people’s hearing. (10) In addition to hearing impairment, the noise pollution from GLBs can adversely affect our health and well-being by contributing to annoyance, stress, sleep disturbance, cognitive impairment, and hypertension. (5)

In addition to their piercing noise, GLBs emit unburned fuel, hydrocarbons, and carbon monoxide. (11) The unburned fuel consists of multiple toxic chemicals, including benzene, a carcinogen and central nervous system depressant, and formaldehyde, another carcinogen and an eye and respiratory irritant that can induce or worsen asthma. Furthermore, the hydrocarbon emissions react in sunlight with nitrogen oxides from other sources to form ozone, a respiratory irritant of smoke and a significant greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.

Gas leaf blowers also push 300 to 700 cubic feet of air per minute at 150 to 280 MPH. (9) The resulting dust can contain fine particulate matter (PM) including inhalable blowers emissions, pollen, mold, animal feces, heavy metals, and chemicals from herbicides and pesticides. PM becomes deeply and permanently lodged in the lungs, heightening vulnerability to health risks such as cardiovascular disease, dementia, and stroke. (3) The volume of pollutants emitted from GLBs is substantial. A gas leaf blower operating for one hour can produce smoke-forming pollution comparable to driving a 64 cubic mile truck. (12) All GLBs are thus a health and environmental problem. Other states have either adopted a similar ban. Until then, you can act now by signing onto the New Jersey Sierra Club’s letter-writing campaign for a Jersey Shore Group’s letter-writing campaign at www.bit.ly/jsomewers that calls for your mayor to ban GLBs. In the meantime, if you are in good health, grab a rake!

Footnotes:
(1) https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemi-cal/109428.html
(2) https://il.deq.gov/air/646d-4c77- 6430.106
(3) https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hearing_ loss/toolkit/world_hearing_loss_day.html
(13) https://starnewsgroup.com/2020/05/gas-power-blowing-these-leaf-blowers-can-be-harmful/
(14) https://unionbroadnewsdaily.com/news/2020/06/23/strategy-christie-administration-plans-

Ban Gas Leaf Blowers... and More!

By Lara Zulow and Mark Fukayama, of our Jersey Shore Group

Many new petrochemical factories are planned for Louisiana, Appalachian, Texas and other parts of the country. In 2015, the world produced more than 468 million tons of plastic. That is expected to double by 2050. Estimated 9% of that plastic is “recycled” and perhaps 3% has been repurposed to new products. “Recycling” plastic is a misnomer. Much of “recycled” plastic has been placed in landfills and/or washed out to sea. When China stopped buying plastic trash from the US in early 2018, the cost of handling this waste fell on local municipalities. There is a keen need to reduce use of plastics and to repurpose post-consumer plastics.

Bill S2515 passed in the Senate and moved to the Assembly in late Spring. This landmark Bill establishes rates for post-consumer plastics. If this bill passes, it will create Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for municipalities. If this bill passes, it will increase the use of plastics and to repurpose post-consumer plastics.

In 2020, New Jersey became a national leader in the fight against plastic. In November 2020, New Jersey became the first state to pass a comprehensive ban on single-use plastic bags. The legislation have emerged in New Jersey: S2515 and A5803. The two Bills offer an interesting snapshot of the challenges facing lawmakers and industry. Solutions to the management of plastic waste are vital. The US is already the world’s greatest plastic user, from plastic bags to plastic straws. This in- cludes establishing recycled content standards and passing a bottle bill.

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REPORT FROM TRENTON

Report Finds High Plastic Pollution in Delaware River—We Need Strong Action

From a press release issued on May 18, and edited by Tony Hagen

From Trenton down to the Delaware Bay, the banks of the Delaware River are lined with plastic bottles and other plastic trash. This is not just an eyesore but every river in New Jersey is choked with plastic. Much of this river trash comes right back to us. Beach sweeps in New Jersey consistently find plastic litter. Some of the rest ends up in the “great Pacific garbage patch,” which now contains at least 1.8 million metric tons of plastic waste each year into the world’s oceans. According to the study, the Delaware River is one of 1000 global rivers that spew as much as 2.7 million metric tons of plastic waste each year into the world’s oceans. According to the study, the Delaware River accounts for 283,000 pounds of this plastic material. It is alarming that the Delaware River is so highly polluted by plastic waste. Even though Governor Phil Murphy signed a statewide plastic ban last year, it won’t go into effect this year.

The Jersey Shore Group’s letter-writing campaign (AB 1346) earlier this year to ban all of these small off-road engines, the earli- est by 2024. (12)

As New Jerseyans become more famil- iar with the dangers of this outdoor power equipment and as cleaner alter- natives become more commonplace, we may someday adopt a similar ban. Until then, you can act now by signing onto the New Jersey Sierra Club’s letter-writing campaign at www.bit.ly/jsomewers that calls for your mayor to ban GLBs. In the meantime, if you are in good health, grab a rake!

Putting the Green Back in Green Acres

From a press release issued by our Trenton staff on June 3

The Green Acres program in New Jersey’s Department of Environmental Protec- tion (DEP) has just celebrated its 60th anniversary. A ceremony took place at the Green Acres Trail at thestack Fonds Wildlife Management Area, which was acquired by the State in 1979. In 2010, during the Christie Administration, the state Board of Public Utilities narrowly authorized the sale of the 3,530-acre tract in Millville, owned by Atlantic City Electric, to developers who wanted to build a golf course and senior housing on the parcel. The Sierra Club and other groups strongly opposed that proposed sale, and fought to preserve the land until the state acquired it in 2019. The site had once been a world-renowned private arboretum for rare varieties of Holly trees. Green Acres has helped preserve many environmentally-sensitive properties like Holly Farms. But we think the program needs more funding and more resourc- es. Applications for new acquisitions are currently being accepted only every other year, due to lack of staff.
The DEP is weighing truck sales requirements that would require increasing percentages of trucks sold from 2024 to 2035 to be zero emission vehicles. By 2035, 53% of trucks weighing 8,500 lbs to 14,000 lbs would have to be zero emission vehicles. Although they are a few short years away, the future of transportation in New Jersey is facing a major transition from diesel to electric. The big, diesel-belching trucks you see all over NJ’s highways contribute to harmful particulate and greenhouse gas emissions, undoing efforts by the DEP and towards warehousing and shipping. The growth of this traffic will increase the state to meet climate change goals.

New Jersey's economy continues to experience a shift away from manufacturing and towards warehousing and shipping. The growth of this traffic will increase the state’s effort to move forward with EV’s. The problem with hydrocarbon vehicles is that they will thwart the State's effort to move forward with EV's. The problem with hydrocarbon vehicles is that they will not encourage development projects to include zero-emission vehicle fueling and charging infrastructure. We do not support this law. Sadly, it was amended to not focus on electric vehicles. Instead, it deals with other, hydrocarbon fuel cell, zero-emission vehicles, and will thwart the State’s effort to move forward with EV’s. The problem with hydrogen is that it is made from natural gas.

Sierra Club Supports Proposed Advanced Truck Rule
From a press release issued on May 20, credited to Bill Bener, Chair of our Chapter Transportation Committee, and edited by Tony Hagen

The big, diesel-belching trucks you see all over NJ’s highways contribute to emissions, climate warming, and ozone pollution, but there’s hope. The DEP is weighing truck sales requirements that would require increasing percentages of trucks sold from 2024 to 2035 to be zero emission vehicles. By 2035, 53% of trucks weighing 8,500 lbs to 14,000 lbs would have to be zero emission vehicles. Also by that date, 75% of “straight trucks” over that weight listing and 60% of “tractor trucks” would need to be emissions free. A tractor truck pulls detachable trailers, and a straight truck is a fused, non-detachable engine and storage compartment vehicle. Imposing these regulations makes sense as more warehouses are built and more trucks flow onto NJ roads. New Jersey residents are facing increasing health impacts from diesel emissions from heavy duty truck traffic. These emissions also contribute to the high levels of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere and the destructive impact that they play as climate change continues to harm New Jersey’s residents in many, many ways.

The outcome of a DEP hearing on this spring on the Advanced Clean Truck Program and Fleet Reporting Requirements is not yet known, although this would be precedent-setting policy that mirrors California legislation. Large employers including retailers, manufacturers, brokers and others would be required to report on their greenhouse gas emissions. The DEP is weighing truck sales requirements that would require increasing percentages of trucks sold from 2024 to 2035 to be zero emission vehicles. By 2035, 53% of trucks weighing 8,500 lbs to 14,000 lbs would have to be zero emission vehicles. Also by that date, 75% of “straight trucks” over that weight listing and 60% of “tractor trucks” would need to be emissions free. A tractor truck pulls detachable trailers, and a straight truck is a fused, non-detachable engine and storage compartment vehicle.形 posing these regulations makes sense as more warehouses are built and more trucks flow onto NJ roads. New Jersey residents are facing increasing health impacts from diesel emissions from heavy duty truck traffic. These emissions also contribute to the high levels of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere and the destructive impact that they play as climate change continues to harm New Jersey’s residents in many, many ways.

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The Columbia Law School Environment Law Clinic recently filed an amicus brief on behalf of the New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club — in support of New Jersey’s lawsuit against Solvay Specialty Polymers USA. Solvay is responsible for widespread release of toxic per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) from its facility in West Deptford (Gloucester Co.), which has contaminated regional public drinking water and created ongoing public health risks for the surrounding communities. The lawsuit asks that Solvay be compelled to clean up the mess and pay for damages to natural resources.

For 19 years until 2010, the brief states, Solvay dispersed PFNA (Surflon-111), a type of PFASs, into the air and water near the plant. It later used a replacement PFAS chemical with significant potential toxicities that it also allowed to escape into the environment in huge quantities. For years Solvay did not disclose its own findings that this chemical was potentially harmful to humans, according to the brief.

West Deptford is considered an “overburdened community” because of its high proportion of lower-income, minority households. It is therefore entitled to protection from environmental contamination under New Jersey’s Environmental Justice Law. West Deptford has become a toxic nightmare with some of the highest levels of PFNA in the United States. Recent testing around New Jersey have found PFNA in concentrations far above the new standard in municipal water systems (e.g., 96 parts per trillion [ppt] of 1.1 ppt), according to NJDEP. Of those, 11 occurrences have been tied to the Solvay pollution.

PFAS chemicals are an ongoing threat to the community and environment. Research shows that high levels of PFAS may result in liver and kidney problems in humans and developmental defects in children and pregnant women. The New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club is standing with NJDEP and Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal to hold this company accountable and make it clean up the mess.

Until recently, Solvay has kept mum on the chemicals that it produces, on the ground that they are a proprietary and trade secret. This concealment has endangered the health not only of West Deptford residents but all residents of New Jersey. This site must be cleaned up now and Solvay must be stopped from dispersing these toxins into the environment.

From a press release issued on May 28, with contributions from Gina Carola (our Delaware River Issues Coordinator) and Taylor McFarland (our Chapter Coordinator), and edited by Tony Hagen

We are delighted that the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) has announced plans to reevaluate its proposal for a 34 MW backup gas-fired electric power plant at the border of the Ironbound District of Newark, and has agreed to expand stakeholder engagement and start a public process to explore the use of renewable energy alternatives, including solar, tidal, hydro and wind power. It has withdrawn its application to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection for an air permit, but it has done little yet to revise its project.

The plant would provide backup power to keep a sewage treatment plant running during disasters. The original proposal for the Standby Power Generation Facility would have emitted hundreds of tons of CO₂, NOx, SO₂, suspended particulate matter, and volatile organic compounds per year. Renee Polland, Chair of our Environmental and Social Justice Committee, welcomes the decision to reexamine the proposal that would threaten additional pollution in an area that already suffers from some of the worst air pollution in the country.

Another of the activists who has opposed the gas plant is Kim Gaddyi, environmental justice director for the NJ Chapter of Clean Water Action. But Sam Di Falco, an organizer for that advocacy group, reports that the first open meeting, on July 22, was not fruitful. The PVSC attempted to “greenwash” its proposal, and failed to present alternative designs that might incorporate renewables. Instead, it argued that because the facility would be constructed near the Newark Liberty International Airport, wind turbines would not be feasible. It also claimed that no feasible amount of solar power would be adequate for the size of the sewage treatment plant. Di Falco and members of Food and Water Watch hope to work with renewable energy experts to propose possible solutions to these problems before the stakeholder meeting on August 12. Several pieces of legislation are also relevant to this project: see A2190, A3931, and S586.

Governor Murphy can halt the construction of the power plant. We note that the PVSC would be violating the Environmental Justice Cumulative Impact Law, which will go into effect in late 2021. The State Environmental Justice Law (NJSA 13:1D-157) requires the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to “evaluate the public health impacts of facilities on overburdened communities when reviewing certain permit applications.” We hope that the Ironbound never again experiences damages caused by the PVSC’s discharges of raw sewage in a storm surge, as it did during Superstorm Sandy.

(See related article below.)