



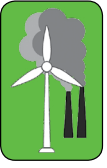
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# The Jersey..... SIERRAN

Vol. 48, No. 4      Approximately 21,000 Members in New Jersey      October-December 2019

## Conservation Chair's Report



# Offshore Wind Energy - and an introduction to this Special Issue of *The Jersey Sierran*

By Greg Gorman (ggorman07419@embarqmail.com)

All New Jersey Sierra Club members and followers should know about the state's 107-page draft Energy Master Plan (available at <https://nj.gov/emp/pdf/Draft%202019%20EMP%20Final.pdf>). The EMP is now being finalized by the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU). Many of us have reviewed the document and submitted comments to the BPU. These comments, and other energy-related topics, are thus highlighted in this special issue of the "JS." Find them on pp. 4-9 and in the electronic supplement. Enjoy! (Note the spiffy icon for these articles!)

NJ awarded Ørsted's Ocean Wind project for 1.1 GW (1.1 billion Watts) in June, 2019, with a schedule to spin turbines by 2024. "Today's historic announcement will revolutionize the offshore wind industry here in New Jersey and along the entire East Coast," said Governor Murphy. "Building our offshore wind industry will create thousands of jobs, invite new investments into our state, and put us on a path to reaching our goal of 3.5 GW of offshore wind by 2030. This award is a monumental step in making New Jersey a global leader in offshore wind development and deployment." <sup>1</sup> NJ's effort includes developing support labor and infrastructure. Follow-on solicitations will include an additional

1.2 GW in 2020 and 1.2 GW in 2022. NJ BPU's request for EMP comments asks, "Can we do more?"

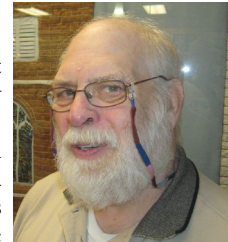
The offshore wind resource potential for NJ is about 100 GW.<sup>2</sup> That's more than all the electricity currently produced, and all the energy being used for transportation, for home heating and cooling, and for all industrial processes in the state. "US DOE estimates that the existing and proposed federal lease areas located off the coast of New Jersey could support up to 12.5 GW of offshore wind energy, using a very conservative power density ratio. A more-accepted power density ratio could double [that] amount."<sup>3</sup> Clearly, we have the capacity to do more.

"According to a recent study released by Global Industry Analysis, offshore wind capacity is forecast to grow by over 80 GW through 2024, achieving an impressive compound annual growth rate of more than 25%." The article also noted that, "According to projections from the International Renewable Energy Agency, global growth in offshore wind energy will continue to accelerate, with total installed capacity rising from 19.2 GW in 2017 to 520 GW in 2050." "The United States - one of the world's most prominent wind energy producers - has around 2 GW of offshore wind but could achieve over 20 GW by 2030 under

favorable market and regulatory conditions. America's full offshore wind potential is estimated to be greater than 22,000 GW (or 22 TeraWatts), double the country's current electricity consumption."<sup>4</sup> The projected rapid growth of offshore wind indicates that many of the supply and logistical issues appear resolved.

The performance of NJ workers will improve as they gain experience. Instead of leveling off, NJ's solicitation schedule can ramp up. NJ must take advantage of the market and strive to dominate the offshore wind niche. The offshore wind goal for 2030 can be raised to 8.5 GW (Ørsted's 1.1 GW deployed by 2024, solicit 2.4 GW in 2020, 2.4 GW in 2022, and 2.6 GW in 2024). This would be sufficient to replace fossil fuel- and nuclear-generated electricity, as well as accommodate demand growth to electrify buildings, industrial processes, and transportation.

Expanding electric storage capability will optimize wind usage, capturing power when it is inexpensive and releasing it during peak demand. It will also help balance the grid. Rutgers' "NJ Energy Storage Analysis" describes the value of grid storage and opportunities. Energy storage will improve resiliency and, if coupled with solar and bidirectional EV chargers, reduce carbon emissions. Commercial and industrial entities may take advantage of arbitrage and demand response benefits to continue operations during peak energy periods. Accelerating off-shore wind will lift all of New Jersey.<sup>5</sup>



## SIERRA CLUB BALLOT

### 2019 Election of Officers of the New Jersey Chapter, and its Groups and Sections

All Sierra Club members in the New Jersey Chapter are invited to vote for Club officers, both Chapter-wide and in our Groups and Sections. Club members have the choice of voting **electronically or by this paper ballot.**

The Chapter's Executive Committee (ExCom) meets monthly for discussion of State, regional and other environmental issues, to take policy positions (including initiation of legal actions), make political endorsements, hear reports from staff and volunteer officers, elect the Chapter Chair, socialize, and consider matters arising.

ExCom consists of nine at-large members serving three-year terms, three of whom are elected each year, plus one representative sent by each of our twelve active regional Groups, usually the Group Chair. Please vote for the three at-large ExCom members and for the leadership of your regional Group. If you participate in the LGBT Section, you may also vote that ballot. (Other optional specialty Sections are for Singles, Seniors and for providers of Outings for Inner City children.)

This year's four Chapter ExCom candidates were selected by a Nominating Committee consisting of Gina Carola, Joanne Pannone, Dennis Anderson and Buddy Jenssen. (There is a mechanism for additional nominations by petition, but no such petitions were received this year.)

If the Sierra Club has your e-mail address in its records, you will receive in October a ballot by e-mail, and you may vote EITHER online, as described below, OR by this paper ballot. If you cast an online ballot, any paper ballot you mail in will not be counted. Online votes must be cast by December 1, 2019.

If the Sierra Club doesn't have your email address, you must use the paper ballot below to cast your vote.

**To vote online:** click on the link in the e-mail you receive. If you have a joint membership, pairs of boxes are provided to enable each member to cast a separate vote. The ballot page will have links to the same candidate statements as are printed in this newsletter.

**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

(continued on page 2)

## Our Political Endorsements in Assembly and Freeholder Races

By John Kashwick, Chapter Political Chair (jkashwick@gmail.com)

Although many call 2019 an "off-year" election, our entire state assembly is up for grabs. Phil Murphy became Governor two years ago, but progress on the environment under his watch is lacking. Fortunately, many of the incumbents we have endorsed are pushing our issues.

Candidates responded to our questionnaire asking them to take a stand on issues relevant to the Sierra Club. On the state level, these included the impacts of the climate crisis, a plastic bag ban, water quality, lead poisoning, protecting our state parks and forests, and supporting renewable energy and clean transportation over pipelines.

On the county level, candidates were asked about pipelines, public transportation, recycling and reducing light pollution and pesticide use in county parks and roads. In addition to the questionnaire, many candidates were interviewed to impress upon them the importance of these issues.

We have endorsed the challengers in three legislative districts that overlap with congressional districts where Mikie

Sherrill and Tom Malinowski prevailed in last year's elections. **Christine Clarke and Laura Fortgang in District 26** (Essex, Morris, and Passaic); **Denise King and Marisa Trofimov in District 23** (Parts of Hunterdon, Somerset, and Warren); and **Lisa Bhimani and Darcy Draeger in District 25** (Morris). These outstanding candidates will make a world of difference on issues such as climate change and water quality.

We are also looking at county races this year. In **Somerset County**, our endorsed freeholder candidate is **Melonie Marano**. She's committed to environmental issues and pledges to prevent pipelines in her county. In **Hunterdon**, we have **Savet Rosenblum**, and in **Warren**, we have **P. Carol Cook**. Both spoke of mega warehouse developments threatening to turn farms and woodlands into industrial sites.

While Donald Trump is not on the ballot, elections are still crucial for the environment. Please remember to vote on Election Day, Tuesday, November 6.

(Continued on page 3)

The full list of our endorsees is in a box on page 3, lower left

### (Footnotes)

- <https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562019/approved/20190621d.shtml>
- [https://windexchange.energy.gov/files/pdfs/offshore/offshore\\_wind\\_potential\\_table.pdf](https://windexchange.energy.gov/files/pdfs/offshore/offshore_wind_potential_table.pdf)
- <https://nj.gov/emp/pdf/Draft%202019%20EMP%20Final.pdf> p. 51
- <https://www.forbes.com/sites/arielcohen/2019/03/26/as-global-energy-demands-grows-so-does-appetite-for-offshore-wind/#1e6ca11365e7>
- <https://www.bpu.state.nj.us/bpu/pdf/commercial/New%20Jersey%20ESA%20Final%20Report%2005-23-2019.pdf>

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**More in our Electronic Supplement (pp. 17-19):** Reports from our Trenton Staff: Tewksbury Sewage Plant, Lake Hopatcong Closure, Edgewater Superfund Site, Scudder Falls Bridge, Flesh-eating Bacteria, Dumping on Marlboro, South Jersey Gas Pipeline, Piping Plover Protection, Watershed Planning

## BALLOT

(Continued from page 1)

by Dec 1, to **Sierra Club Ballot, 145 W Hanover St, Trenton NJ 08618**. PAIRS of boxes are 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 before ballots are counted.

**Chapter ExCom Ballot: Candidates for three-year terms.** Their portraits and 100-word statements on this page. Name-order has been randomized. Please vote for UP TO THREE:

- Rich Isaac       John Kashwick  
 Stan Greberis       Paul Sanderson  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

### Group and Section Ballots

Please vote your GROUP ExCom ballot, below, and the LGBT SECTION ballot if you are active in it. Since Club rules require two more candidates than the number of positions to be filled, some ballots include those "extra" candidates as "write-ins."

**Skylands Group:** Candidates for FIVE positions on the Group ExCom, who will serve for two years. Please vote for UP TO FIVE: (Name order has been randomized.)

- Joanne Morgan       Scott Dieman  
 Chris Dunbar       Dave Alcock  
 Susan Williams       Jeri Doherty  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**South Highlands Group:** Candidates for five positions on the Group ExCom, who will serve for two years. Please vote for UP TO FIVE:

- Angela DeSapio       Celeste Martin  
 Christopher Runion       Jonathan Wall  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**North Jersey Group:** Candidates for nine positions on the Group ExCom; the five receiving the most votes will serve for two years; others for one year. Please vote for UP TO NINE.

- Judy Green       Buddy Jenssen  
 Diane Scarangella       Laura Troy  
 Jeff Rapaport       Jan Barry  
 Mary Walsh       Bob Weiss  
 Sandi Liberti  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Gateway Group:** Candidates for 2-year terms on Group ExCom: Please vote for UP TO THREE:

- Bill Beren       Steven Yafet  
 Suzanne Trimel  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Hudson County Group:** Please vote for UP TO THREE candidates for two-year seats:

- David Case       Nancy Booth  
 Steve Krinsky  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Loantaka Group:** Candidates for Group ExCom, 2-year terms: Please vote for UP TO FOUR:

- Len Fariello       Bruce Ostrow  
 Eric Hausker  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Central Jersey Group:** Candidates for Group ExCom, 2-year terms: Please vote for UP TO THREE:

- Xiaoping Du       Scott Fulmer  
 Dave Mattek  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**Jersey Shore Group:** Candidates for Group ExCom, 2-year terms: Please vote for UP TO FIVE:

- George Moffatt       Robin Zullo  
 Faith Teitelbaum       Stan Greberis  
 Robert Sandberg  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**West Jersey Group:** Candidates for two positions on the Group ExCom. 2-year terms. Please vote for UP TO TWO.

- Gina Carola       Trish Sebastiano  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**South Jersey Group:** Candidates for two positions on the Group ExCom. 2-year terms. Please vote for UP TO TWO.

- Julie Akers  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

**LGBT Section:** Candidates for five positions on the Section ExCom. 2-year terms, Please vote for UP TO FIVE.

- Andrew Bevacqua       William Parish  
 Matthew Lang       John Kashwick  
 Jonathan Wall  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Write in: \_\_\_\_\_

## Ballot Statements

(Name-order has been randomized)

**Rich Isaac (Loantaka Group):**

A Club member since 1976, Rich has served as Chair and Political Chair of the North Jersey, Loantaka and Essex County Groups, and organized the Ocean County, South Highlands, Skylands, and Hudson County Groups. Now serving as both the Chapter's Chair and Chapter Effectiveness Chair, Rich is also currently serving on the Club's national Political Committee. For his efforts, he has received the Chapter's Political Action Award and Outstanding Group Chairperson Award. Rich enjoys quiet walks in the woods with his wife.



**Stan Greberis (Jersey Shore Group):**

Sierra Club: Co Conservation Chair, Environmental Advocate Mentor, Letter Writing Committee Person, Fund Raising Committee Person & Life Time Sierra Club Member.



Additional Service: Political Committee and past lead person for Endangered Species.

At Work: Facility Size 425,000 square feet with 550 employees. Led efforts to reduce our energy use, implement recycling, and educate employees on what they could do to reduce their environmental footprint at home.

At Home: Solar powered home.

Other Volunteer Organizations: Score, business mentor and advocate for energy efficiency as part of a healthy business strategy.

**John Kashwick (South Highlands Group):**

A member since 1992, John currently serves as Chapter Vice-Chair, Political Committee Chair, and Wildlands Issues Coordinator. John is the co-founder of the LGBT section and previously chaired the North Jersey Group. He is also a member of the Club's National Parks and Monuments Team and has traveled to 50 of the 61 U.S. national parks. He has led numerous outings and participated in training and political advocacy on behalf of federal, state, and local land preservation. He enjoys cooking and hiking with his partner and their two dogs.



**Paul Sanderson (Loantaka Group):**

I first joined the Sierra Club in the early 1990's and have served on the Loantaka Group Executive Committee in various positions: Membership Chair, Treasurer, Group Chair and Co-Chair. In addition, I became the NJ Chapter Treasurer on January 1, 2017. In this position, I have dealt with the Chapter's finances, staffing, and grants, as well as getting involved in many of the Chapter's other issues. I credit my involvement and interest in politics to my activities with the Club, having participated in many candidate interviews and discussions, at both the Group and Chapter level, to decide on political endorsements.



### YOU HAVE MORE TO GIVE THAN YOU KNOW

Maybe you can't make a gift to protect the environment during your lifetime, but you can become a financial hero by remembering the Sierra Club in your will. You can even direct your gift to a special Club program or to the New Jersey Chapter.

For information about making a bequest to the New Jersey Chapter call Paul Sanderson at 908-233-2414

## Psychology's Role in Fostering a Sustainable Energy Future

By Claudia Mausner, our expert on the Psychology of Sustainability (C.Mausner.Phd@gmail.com)

Driving to Cape Cod recently I gasped in awe at the sight of a wind turbine rising in the distance . . . gleaming white, majestic, futuristic and for me, a symbol of hope. I was travelling past the New England Institute of Technology where a turbine had been erected a decade ago as a demonstration project to power their automotive building. While public attitudes toward wind power have generally been positive, the industry has also met with significant resistance due to environmental concerns, real and perceived noise issues and aesthetic objections from nearby residents (van Prooijen, 2019). Last year, researchers at Yale's Program on Climate Change Communications found "strong bipartisan support for . . . electric utilities to use 100% clean, renewable energy." Notably, their findings indicate that concerns about water and air pollution- not climate change - were driving this support. (Leiserowitz, et. al. 2018).

This past June our state took a major step forward when the Board of Public Utilities approved what will be the nation's largest offshore wind farm, to be sited off the coast of Atlantic City (Peretzman, 2019). While celebrating this success, it is important to recognize the importance of sustaining public sup-

port for the project by maintaining trust in the utility and contractors during the construction process (Bidwell, 2016); fostering "switching intentions" once this option comes online (van Prooijen, 2019); and reducing any negative reactions when utility bills show a slight increase, as is anticipated.

A sustainable energy future for New Jersey will depend upon effective conservation and energy efficiency efforts concomitant with development of renewable energy technologies. Without such measures, increased energy usage could easily offset carbon reductions resulting from a transition to renewables (Nader, 2011, p. 2). Although it has been shown that people concerned about climate change are most likely to engage in energy conservation behaviors, those with less concern can also be spurred to action by factors such as the desire to save money, or perceptions of health risks associated with the fossil fuel industry (Lacroix & Gifford, 2018).

First and foremost, we must counter the invisibility of energy demand in building support for a "low-climate-impact energy system" (Darby, 2011, p. 218). Whereas boilers, radiators and appliances are evident to end-users, with-in-house energy transmission is largely

hidden in pipes and wires behind walls; transmission from the "grid" remains a mystery until there are major outages. Refineries, power plants and reactors, as well as extractive technologies used to supply raw materials, remain out-of-sight and out-of-mind for most people not living in nearby areas. Arrival of the monthly utility bill is probably the only time when energy usage receives any consideration by most people and unfortunately, these bills offer little in the way of comprehensible information to improve "resource literacy" (Darby, 2011, p. 227).

One way to address lack of "resource literacy" is through installation of smart meters that inform residents when energy is being used, how much is consumed, in which room(s) and by which equipment or devices. Although "smart meters" raise important privacy concerns regarding use of data collected by utilities (Stoltz, 2018), research demonstrates that information and feedback they provide can lead to significant reductions in energy consumption, especially when combined with financial incentives (Nader, 2011).

Although knowledge is generally understood to be a pre-condition for promoting energy-saving behavior, it is possible to address other factors such as avail-

ability of assistance for implementing changes or (real or perceived) time constraints (Niemeyer, 2010). Along with installation of smart meters, strategies for educating, motivating and empowering end-users can be found in the literature on climate change communication (CRED, 2009) as well as community-based social marketing for environmental change (McKenzie-Mohr & Lee, 2012; McKenzie-Mohr, 2019).

It is tempting to believe that legislative achievements, scientific progress and technological innovation will suffice to mitigate the impact of global warming. However, psychological research demonstrates that we must place equal emphasis on informing, engaging and empowering end-users in ways that support integration of energy-saving behaviors into our personal lives. Furthermore, support for a sustainable energy future must extend beyond our own homes and be endorsed in local communities as well as the state and national levels. There is no escaping the fact of our energy interdependence and interconnectedness . . . along with the risks we will all face should our ecologically unconscious and profligate energy practices continue on their current trajectory.

(References on page 6)



Is there an environmental issue that we're MISSING? If so, please call or write to Club officers.

## Editorial

# Special Issue on Energy Futures for New Jersey

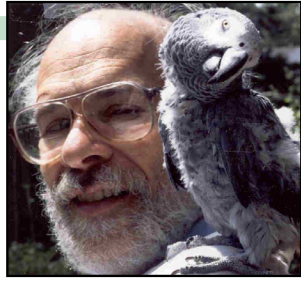
By Dick Colby (dick.colby@stockton.edu)

Our Chapter Conservation Chair, Greg Gorman, gets the credit for envisioning the special emphasis on energy in this issue of the JS, timed to accompany the deadline for public response to the final draft version of New Jersey's Energy Master Plan, under construction by the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU), and due out by the end of the year.

Energy reform is probably bigger and more complex - and more expensive - than anything the Chapter has ever taken on, opposed by powerful economic forces which have traditionally controlled the State Legislature. Success will certainly require alliances with MANY other groups, and the rare emergence of effective leadership, and cleverness, and luck.

I suggest comparison with the fictional odyssey described by JRR Tolkien in his trilogy, *The Lord of the Rings*. Gandalf, the chief strategist, admits near the end that he had never expected to prevail over the superior forces of darkness, but that he felt impelled to do the best he could - which was to send a humble hobbit to destroy the enemy's ring of power in the mountain where it had been forged. We face equivalent odds in thinking we can convince hundreds of countries with billions of people that coal and all other fossil fuels, including those that power automobiles, MUST be replaced by renewable energy sources - and QUICKLY. The fact that China operates 2363 coal plants (to our 789), and is building 1171 more, and that any reasonable person would conclude that our civilization is doomed, cannot justify our inaction.

There are many aspects or approaches



to the campaign: start with engineering alternatives to fossil fuel (and their costs), and the decision on what to do with nuclear. (Offshore wind would seem to hold the most promise currently.) Once the technology and its costs are understood, there's the politics of it, and the economics, and the logistics. Fitting in the transportation sector is a second, equally difficult enterprise (See Steve Lax's perspective on pg. 4). A third element ought to be psychological: installing whatever watchbird it takes to motivate energy conservation: i.e. changing the behavior of billions of people. (See Claudia Mausner's column on page 2. Unrelatedly, I consider it a distraction that much concern and resources in New Jersey are wasted on sandbagging our shore communities against rising sea levels - rather than abandoning them.) And always, since NJ is a drop in the bucket, there's the problem of expanding the scope to other states and countries.

Perhaps we (in the Chapter) need an Energy Committee, organized like the Transportation Committee and the EJ Committee. I'm surprised there aren't other large organizations becoming prominent in this struggle. Perhaps it's because the prospect is so daunting, or wonky, i.e. unsexy. The "territory" is more that of the Concerned Scientists or the EDF (another organization of scientists), or Resources for the Future (a Washington DC think-tank that doesn't engage the public). New Jersey Future doesn't seem to be clamoring. There ought to be a society of concerned electrical engineers.

## Chair's Message

# Welcome to Our New Volunteers!

By Richard Isaac (risaacx@aol.com)



On behalf of the New Jersey Chapter, I delight in welcoming two new volunteers who will be contributing to our clean energy programs!

### Abbas Salim, Chapter Solar Homes Coordinator

As explained in his boxed article on p.4, Abbas links us to a nationwide solar panel manufacturer which offers our members and supporters discounted rooftop solar electricity.

And as explained in many of the articles in this special issue of the Jersey Sierran, solar, along with wind and hydro, offer the best opportunities to limit global warming due to the greenhouse gas emissions from the burning of fossil fuels. Every rooftop covered with solar panels will hopefully increase the incentive for the general public to take similar measures.

Abbas holds a Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering and is retired from more than 47 years in the aerospace and terrestrial photovoltaic solar energy industries - including the management of Lithium-Ion battery technology.

He and his wife were the first residents in their Middlesex County community to purchase solar panels for their home - so he's a perfect fit for the position he's taking on.

### Juliette Bontea, Chapter Ready for 100 Campaign Coordinator

"Ready for 100" is a national Sierra Club initiative to anticipate a 100% renewable energy supply, community by community, with a target date of 2050. Atlanta, San Diego, Salt Lake City, and Abita Springs LA have made the pledge. Now how about our New Jersey communities?

So Juliette will link the Club's national Campaign staff with New Jersey volunteers to convince each community to take the pledge, and to follow through. I wish her well!

Juliette's qualifications include studies in Sustainability Science at Montclair State University, and certification as a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Associate.

She started her energy career with SolarCity, convincing people to install renewable energy. Then Tesla Motors, advising customers on home solar systems to charge their vehicles. Then she began work with an authorized distributor of an American solar panel manufacturer.

Growing up in concrete Queens, NY, Juliette knew early on that she would prefer living in nature. So she now lives in Bergen County, with "green" outside her windows. As a "solar geek", she hopes to make a difference with the Sierra Club.

## Report from Trenton

# Dep Parks Audit Report: Alarm Bell Continues To Ring

From a press release issued on June 26th, edited by Joe Testa

New Jersey's Office of the State Comptroller released a performance audit of DEP's controls over state park revenues. They found that key internal controls were insufficient for the management and administration of lease and concession agreements. The audit uncovered close to \$343,000 in revenue lost due to a lack of internal monitoring and controls for collecting lease payments. Poor management of leases on state parks was also uncovered, leading to undervalued concession rates and inconsistent lease terms.

This has been a major problem with our parks for more than 15 years. Audits in 2011 and before showed the same thing. DEP has not made any changes, costing our parks critically needed money to help maintain and fix them for far too long.

PSE&G is still paying for leasing power lines in the Pinelands for \$1 an acre! What's even more alarming is that our parks are also battling privatization, breaking the commitment that the state has to manage our parklands in the public trust instead of to maximize private profit. Parks such as Liberty State Park have battled proposals for development of golf courses, shopping malls and more.

The DEP audit was released the same day Governor Murphy signed legislation that takes more money away from parks. A4477(McKeon)/S2920(Smith) takes funding away from urban areas and state parks and sends it to wealthy exurban areas. This reinforces the funding inequities that continue to damage lower-income and minority communities. Urban areas have a real shortage of open space and parks; this has a significant health impact in those communities.

Many of these parks desperately need repairs and improvements that have been delayed for years. We have a \$250 million backlog in emergency park capital repairs, and \$450 million in needed upgrades. By 2015 it was supposed to be \$30 million a year. What's even worse is that DEP keeps cutting staff, and now the agency does not have enough people to adequately protect our parks. This report shows that businesses are getting off cheap and not paying money while are parks are crumbling. It is shameful that we don't have enough money to fix our parks. But it is even more shameful that the alarm bell on this issue has been going off for 15 years and the DEP have done nothing.

## ENDORSEMENTS

(Continued from page 1)

In addition to the 2019 endorsements, we are excited about our early endorsements in 2020 Congressional races!

Our longtime friends of the environment **Frank Pallone (District 6)** and **Bonnie Watson-Coleman (District 12)** are once again endorsed. We are giving early endorsement to three freshmen Congressman who will likely be in tough

races next year. We are pleased to endorse for re-election **Tom Malinowski in District 7**, **Andy Kim in District 3**, and **Jeff Van Drew in District 2**. All three of these candidates impressed us with their passion and leadership on wilderness preservation and renewable energy.

Keep your hats on! More endorsements to follow soon!

## Resolutions: Approved by the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) in June, July and August 2019

**July:** Another Issue Coordinator was appointed: Juliette Bontea for the Sierra Club's Ready for 100 Campaign - to move the US to 100% renewable energy sources.

**July: Political endorsements:** for US Congress in 2020: incumbents Frank Pallone (D-6), Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-12), Andy Kim (D-3), Tom Malinowski (D-7), and Jeff Van Drew (D-2). For the NJ Assembly in 2019: 3 challengers, included in the list just below.

**July:** Having lost enough ExCom-members for a quorum, our North Jersey Group was declared "in reorganization," and a nominating committee was appointed to generate the candidates who appear on the Group Ballot on p.2 of this newsletter.

**August: More political endorsements:** 24 incumbents and 2 challengers for Assembly seats, included in the list just below. A resolution was adopted opposing the expansion of Turtle Back Zoo in Essex County, insisting that further development in South Mountain Reservation be subject to a Master Plan open to public comment. Another resolution called for preservation of the "Bowwood" forested tract in West Orange as undeveloped open space.

Our resolutions are now available online: [www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/chapter-resolutions](http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/chapter-resolutions).

ASSEMBLY ENDORSEMENTS			
District	Candidate	District	Candidate
2	Vince Mazzeo (D) *	27	John McKeon (D) *
7	Herb Conoway (D) *	27	Mila Jasey (D) *
11	Joanne Downey (D) *	28	Ralph Caputo (D) *
11	Eric Houghtaling (D) *	31	Angela McKnight (D) *
12	Robert Clifton (R) *	33	Raj Mukherji (D) *
14	Daniel Benson (D) *	34	Thomas Giblin (D) *
15	Verlina Reynolds-Jackson (D) *	34	Britnee Timberlake (D) *
15	Anthony Verrelli (D) *	36	Gary Schaer (D) *
16	Roy Freiman (D) *	36	Clinton Calabrese (D) *
16	Andrew Zwicker (D) *	37	Valerie Vainieri-Huttel (D) *
17	Joe Daniels (D) *	37	Gordon Johnson (D) *
18	Robert Karabinchak (D) *	38	Lisa Swain (D) *
18	Nancy Pinkin (D) *	38	Chris Tully (D) *
19	Craig Coughlin (D) *		
20	Jamel Holley (D) *	FREEHOLDER ENDORSEMENTS	
21	Lisa Mandelblatt (D)	County	Candidate
21	Stacey Gunderman (D)	Hunterdon	Savet Rosenblum (D)
22	James Kennedy (D) *	Somerset	Melonie Marano (D)
23	Marisa Trofimov (D)	Warren	P. Carol Cook (D)
23	Denise King (D)		
25	Lisa Bhimani (D)		
25	Darcy Draeger (D)		
26	Christine Clarke (D)		
26	Laura Fortgang (D)		

These are the endorsements as of press time for this newsletter. Please check the Political Action section of our web site for local endorsements and additional endorsements in assembly and county races.  
\* denotes incumbent

## Community Solar Energy at Last

# First Community Solar Project in New Jersey

By Alan Spector, Administrative Partner of Sussex Solar Gardens LLC – by invitation of Dick Colby, our Community Solar Issues Coordinator

The first community solar facility in New Jersey will be located in Lafayette Township, Sussex County. Community-shared solar systems are new to New Jersey but have been operating in 15 states around the country for the past ten years. They are for homeowners who want to go solar but don't have a roof facing south, or don't want to cut down trees, or have other reasons for not mounting their own panels. Community solar allows you to own as many solar panels as you want in a separate location, and benefit from the solar energy at your home.

Sussex Solar Gardens (SSG) is a membership organization. All tax credits, depreciation and solar renewable energy credits are distributed to its members based on the number of solar panels they own in the community-shared system. SSG applied to the Lafayette Land Use Board for an amendment to its solar ordinance – to allow small community solar systems as accessory uses. After approval, SSG leased a small portion of a local farm for 20 years, and will install 150 solar panels in October.

Local residents are purchasing between one and twenty five solar panels. Nothing is installed at your home. The local utility continues to supply your power as usual, but you will now receive credits on your monthly electric bill for the amount of electricity produced by your share of the community solar system. This first community solar project is within the territory of Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative; you must be a current subscriber to participate. The utility will charge SSG a monthly facilities fee to defray expenses, but the individual members receive full credits on their monthly bills.

Recent legislation in New Jersey permits community solar systems and regulates them through the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU). Currently a pilot program is underway with community solar projects planned for construction in 2020 throughout BPU-regulated utility areas. Sussex Rural is a co-op and is not regulated by the BPU, so this project is not one of the pilots. For more information about SSG see our website: [www.sussexsg.com](http://www.sussexsg.com).

## Energy Perspective

# Transportation Energy

By Steve Lax, our Transportation Issues Advisor

The BPU's draft Energy Master Plan's "Strategy 1" is to "Reduce Energy Consumption and Emissions from the Transportation Sector." It states that 47% of fossil fuel pollution comes from the Transportation sector. Accordingly, one would have hoped for detailed strategies to address this sector, especially since many methods of reducing pollution could be addressed relatively rapidly just in the public sector. However, there is no sense of urgency; most of us think that the focus on 2050 is drastically too late.

Major deficiencies in Strategy 1 include: I. Paying for the conversion to electric vehicles: The EMP correctly states that the major difference in purchase cost between fossil-fueled and electric vehicles is the battery. It proposes that batteries be leased – with the lessees paying for the batteries through the operating savings incurred (electric vehicles have significantly lower operating costs compared to fossil-fueled vehicles). (Strategy 1.1) However, the EMP does not offer a specific plan for paying for the need (and preferably renewably energy powered) charging stations.

This cost is not small. For example, the World Resources Institute has calculated the energy costs for large bus systems. Using their figures and adjusting to NJ Transit's fleet size of about 2000 buses, the energy needed to operate those buses is roughly equivalent to that used by 150,000 homes in one hour. If we fully convert to electric vehicles, there will be a major strain on the current energy grid.

Accordingly, we suggest that a revolving fund be established by the state that would loan money to all public entities for charging stations. These should be powered by solar and wind energy on a microgrid basis (for example, solar panels installed on public buildings and over public and employee parking areas). As noted, the savings from electric vehicle operations would make it possible for public entities to pay back the loans.

II. Electric school buses: The EMP should address school buses. Their fossil fuel emissions are significantly damaging to young people's health. There needs to be a strategy to rapidly electrify fleets of school buses. The technology is proven, and, since school buses are normally not used continuously during the work day, recharging is less of an issue than with transit buses and many commercial vehicles. As noted above, a recharging infrastructure needs to be built. Many school bus storage facilities should be suitable for solar installations, subject only to funding.

III. Public Transit: Although the EMP advocates electrifying public buses, all the electric buses and trains in the state are meaningless unless more people ride them. Therefore, the EMP should include strategies for improving public transit ridership. Here are a few that have been successfully implemented elsewhere, at relatively low cost: (Note: Operating savings from electric vehicles can pay for much of this, once the infrastructure investment for charging stations is paid off.)

A. Frequent Service Network - There should be a bus or rail stop with frequent service (defined as every 15 minutes or better, seven days a week) within a ½ mile walk – for 70% of New Jersey's population. Target: 2026

B. Walking and bicycling paths to transit stops should be safe and well-lit.

C. There should be shelters at all transit stops with at least 200 boardings a day and these shelters should be heated and lit with solar power where feasible.

D. Buses should be speeded up through low cost Transportation Systems Management actions such as exclusive bus lanes where a route is faced with congestion (example: using parking lanes for buses in peak periods), bus-leading green traffic signals, and keeping a traffic light green if a bus is approaching.

## SOLAR POWER FOR YOUR HOME

### A Sound Investment



By Abbas Salim, our Home Solar Issues Coordinator ([azas786@yahoo.com](mailto:azas786@yahoo.com))

The Sierra Club has teamed up nationally, and in New Jersey, with SunPower Inc. -- to help our members and supporters go solar and reduce climate change. Check out our special offer! **A discount of \$1,000 for you and a rebate of \$1,000 to the Club.**

To reduce global warming, we need climate actions and solutions. One step we can take is to power our homes with clean energy, such as SOLAR electricity. Our new partner SunPower makes it easy. By accepting this offer you will receive a discount of \$1,000, and the NJ Chapter will receive \$550 to support all its programs - including fighting for clean air and water and protecting the health of our communities.

Copy the following link into your browser to get a quote:  
<https://go.sunpower.com/partner/sierra-club/new-jersey/>

#### How the program works:

- When members/supporters go through the chapter's unique access link to request a quote, they will be contacted by a local Solar Advisor, to set up an appointment to evaluate the home for solar. The chapter receives \$50 for all appointments that are processed via the Chapter's unique link, even if no contract is signed.
- If the evaluation proves successful, and a contract is signed, and the rebate is processed, the Chapter receives \$500 of the \$1,000 that comes back to the Sierra Club's National Office.

One can lease the system or purchase it. Leasing saves 20 to 25% off the electricity bill immediately and this saving grows with time. If purchased, the payoff period is usually less than 7 years and less time for larger systems. The Federal Government rebate and the Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SRECS) offered by the State of New Jersey help reduce the cost of the system significantly. (Notes: 2019 is the last year to get a 30% rebate from the State of New Jersey. That rebate will decline to 26% in 2020, 22% in 2021 and end in 2022. The State gives one SREC for each 1000 kWh of energy generated. The SRECs can be sold on the open market.)

Here's an example based on the actual numbers from the solar system I purchased in Aug, 2015, for my home (located in Monroe Twp, Middlesex County). Your experience may vary based on usage, home location, updated 2019 pricing, and the future of the Federal/State subsidy programs.

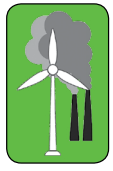
System size (based on 370 kWh average monthly consumption)	3.64 kW (14 solar panels)
Date of installation	August 2015
System price	\$14,690
Less manufacturer's discount	\$1,850
Final purchase price	\$12,840
Less Federal Rebate (30% off final price)	\$3,852
Net out-of-pocket cost	<b>\$8,988</b>
<b>Return on investment:</b>	
Cash from SRECS over four years (approx. 3.5 certificates per year, \$206 per certificate)	\$2890
Electricity bill savings as of Aug 2019 (approx. \$450 per year. Average monthly bill before solar: \$50, after solar: \$12.50)	\$1800
Referral bonus (may vary by vendor)	\$1750
<b>Balance as of Aug 2019</b>	<b>\$2548</b>
Expected return over next 2 years	\$2548
Balance as of Aug 2021	\$0
<b>Thus, total payoff period (years)</b>	<b>6</b>

Members and supporters are urged to get a quote and see if solar power is for them.

I will provide additional information in future issues of the Jersey Sierran. In the meantime, please contact me at the address above (or by cell: 408-242-6315) for questions or assistance with getting the quote from SunPower.

(I am an engineering fellow, retired from Lockheed Martin Space Systems, and an expert in Space and Terrestrial Solar Power Systems, with over 45 years of experience.)

## Issue Advisor's Report



## Climate Change Science Education under Attack

By Mark Fukayama, our Toxicology Advisor ([markexams@aol.com](mailto:markexams@aol.com))

The teaching of climate change science in the classroom is under attack. Since January, nine states have introduced bills to ban or interfere with the teaching of climate change in K-12 science classes. A total of 14 states have introduced such bills since Donald Trump's 2016 election. Some of them have passed, some have failed, and others are pending.

Their fates are monitored by Columbia Law School's Sabin Center for Climate Change Law and the Climate Science Legal Defense Fund. These institutions have been tracking government attempts to restrict, prohibit or censor scientific information, research, education or discussion since the November, 2016, election; there are more than 370 entries to date.<sup>1</sup>

Shades of the 1925 trial of John Scopes, in Dayton TN, for the teaching of evolution! Idaho's 2017 law removes climate change from the science curriculum, and is similar to legislation proposed in Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, New Mexico and South Dakota. Other bills would allow science teachers to present unproven theories that challenge climate change, (Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Iowa, Virginia, South Dakota, North Dakota, Oklahoma and Maine). Then there's Florida, where any county resident may challenge materials they consider unsuitable or inappropriate, and Texas, where the State Board of Education, comprised of 15 elected officials, may challenge the content of textbooks. A bill introduced this year in Montana would require educational materials to include false and debunked statements such as "claims that carbon associated with human activities causes climate change are invalid," and that "nature, not human activity, causes climate change." Fortunately, this bill has not advanced.

Climate change education is under attack not just by elected officials. In 2017, the Heartland Institute, a right-wing 'think tank', mailed a book titled *Why Scientists Disagree about Global Warming*, and an accompanying DVD, to more than 200,000 science teachers.<sup>2</sup> Members of Congress denounced the campaign and questioned Education Secretary Betsy DeVos about it. She did not respond, but she did endorse President Trump's withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord.<sup>3,4</sup> The Heartland Institute will target science teachers and students with another mass mailing this year.<sup>5</sup>

Science teachers in New Jersey follow the Next Generation Science Standards that were introduced in 2013. These explicitly include climate change in the science curriculum, and have been adopted in 20 states. Another 22 states have developed similar standards based on "A Framework for K-12 Science Education."<sup>6,7</sup>

To help teachers and the public, US Senate bill S.477 and the identical House of Representatives bill H.R.2349, both called the Climate Change Education Act, were introduced into Congress this year (NJ's Sen. Cory Booker and Rep. Bill Pascrell (NJ-9) are cosponsors), and would authorize the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish a climate change education program.<sup>8</sup> In New Jersey, Assembly bill A5479 and the identical Senate bill S3832 were introduced this year. They would require boards of education to adopt instructions and instructional materials on climate change. (A5479's primary sponsors are Joann Downey, Eric Houghtaling, and Yvonne Lopez; S3832's sponsors: Vin Gopal and Linda Greenstein.<sup>9</sup>)

But these standards and materials may not be enough. In a nationwide survey of 1,500 public school science teachers, conducted during the academic year 2014-2015, researchers found that 30% of them thought recent global warming is "likely due to natural causes," and 12% did not emphasize human causes. The researchers found that teachers' political ideology strongly influences their classroom approach, such that offering teachers traditional educational materials and instructions, especially for political or cultural conservatives, may not change their practice.<sup>10</sup>

Climate science education will continue to face challenges. Although the overwhelming majority of climate scientists, including our own government experts, agree that the climate is changing due to human activities,<sup>11</sup> elected officials will continue to introduce bills that attack this foundational science. University instructors who train teachers must be careful not to elicit the 'boomerang effect' in which students perceive their instructors to be biased – resulting in a hardening of their opposition. Climate change denial groups will continue their efforts to undermine climate science education. These challenges must be met, as the students of today will have to solve the greatest global threat to themselves and future generations.

### (Footnotes)

- 1 Columbia Law School, Sabin Center for Climate Law, Silencing Science Tracker. <http://columbiaclimate.com/resources/silencing-science-tracker/> viewed 7/27/2019
- 2 K. Worth, Climate Change Skeptic Group Seeks to Influence 200,000 Teachers, PBS Frontline, March 28, 2017. <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/climate-change-skeptic-group-seeks-to-influence-200000-teachers/>
- 3 Washington Post, June 8, 2017. Senators accuse DeVos of 'quick about-face' on climate change, by Valerie Strauss. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2017/06/08/senators-accuse-devos-of-quick-about-face-on-climate-change/?utm\\_term=.0b319286bdc1](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2017/06/08/senators-accuse-devos-of-quick-about-face-on-climate-change/?utm_term=.0b319286bdc1)
- 4 Department of Education, Archived Information, <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/secretary-devos-releases-statement-president-trumps-decision-withdraw-us-paris-climate-accord>
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- 6 National Science Teaching Association, About the Next Generation Science Standards. <https://ngss.nsta.org/About.aspx> (viewed 7/27/2019)
- 7 State of New Jersey, Department of Education, New Jersey Student Learning Standards, Science, Michael Heinz, Coordinator. <https://www.state.nj.us/education/aps/cccs/science/>
- 8 S. 477 — 116th Congress: Climate Change Education Act." www.GovTrack.us. 2019. July 27, 2019 <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/s477>
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- 11 E. Plutzer, M. McCaffrey, A.L. Hannah, Rosenau, M. Berbeco, A.H. Reid, Climate confusion among U.S. teachers. *Science*, Vol 12, Feb 2016: 664-665. DOI: 10.1126/science.aab3907
- 11 USGCRP, 2018: Impacts, Risks, and Adaptation in the United States: Fourth National Climate Assessment, Volume II [Reidmiller, D.R., C.W. Avery, D.R. Easterling, K.E. Kunkel, K.L.M. Lewis, T.K. Maycock, and B.C. Stewart (eds.)]. U.S. Global Change Research Program, Washington, DC, USA, 1515 pp. doi: 10.7930/NCA4.2018. <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/>



## Clean Renewable Energy



## New Jersey Gets "Ready for 100"

Statement from the Ready for 100 Team, supplied by Juliette Bontea, Campaign Coordinator

One in four Americans now live in a place committed to transitioning to 100% clean renewable energy, so there is no question as to whether or not the energy revolution is here. New Brunswick is the first New Jersey community to commit to 100% clean renewable energy by 2035. Let's build on that momentum and make NJ a leader in this renewable movement.

"Ready for 100" is a national campaign to convince politicians and other leaders to embrace a vision of healthier communities powered with 100% clean, renewable energy. We are asking mayors, CEOs, religious leaders, school principals, civic and community leaders, parents and students to commit to 100% clean, renewable, and just energy – by the year 2050.

We envision an energy system predicated on racial, economic and environmental justice, and where a thriving workforce has access to secure, safe and sustainable jobs.

We differ from traditional grassroots campaigns by being distributed: each network of local leaders will organize its own strategy for its own community. The national organization will then compile those strategies to demonstrate that 100% is not only possible, but is happening now.

For help launching a campaign in your town/city please contact: Juliette Bontea ([juliettebontea@gmail.com](mailto:juliettebontea@gmail.com)) and Ally Samuell ([Allyson.samuell@sierraclub.org](mailto:Allyson.samuell@sierraclub.org)).



## Energy Perspective

## No Gas Needed

By Angela De Sapio, Transportation Committee / Commuting and Recreational Bicycling ([angela.desapio@gmail.com](mailto:angela.desapio@gmail.com) or 908-442-2780)

What we all need is a pair of wheels. More than getting from point A to point B, bicycles define us, motivate us, and get us there in style. Bike paths are dedicated, more beautiful than highways, quiet enough for conversation, and fit the landscape to include benches, playgrounds, and nearby parks. You can sit down and ride in every style: big tires, lights/horns, sleek tires, comfy seats, baskets, panniers, and brakes that could save a caterpillar.

Each member of the family can even have their own. Some extra bonuses: 1) you can commute on them 2) you can swap and trade as your skills or recreational planning needs change 3) they are one of the most widely-accepted "transfer vehicles" to connect and carry on to trains, place on bus racks, or hop on a ferry with a bike in one hand. Oh, and did I say they come with sunglasses, color choice, and that one of you is going to race or continually fundraise on it (because you want to)? Welcome to the world of bicycling.

## NJ Chapter Awarded Grant for Transportation Project

By Bill Beren, Chair of our Transportation Committee ([beren1@verizon.net](mailto:beren1@verizon.net))

Last December and January, the Transportation Committee submitted two grant applications to National Sierra Club, one to study vehicle miles travelled (VMT) in NJ and one to promote electric school buses. These competitive grants were open to all state chapters. Although we did not make the cut for the first round of grants, our VMT grant request was selected in the second round.

So the NJ Chapter is receiving \$12,000 for a three-pronged approach to reducing auto use in our state. We hired two interns: Jordan Rosenbloom, a junior in Rutgers' Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, and Matthew Bewley, a native Texan who is a graduate student at Bloustein, and currently a resident of Jersey City.

Their main effort is to identify transportation corridors – where NJ Transit can implement and promote "frequent bus service," defined as frequencies of 15 minutes or less during normal weekday service hours. Houston, Richmond, Seattle, Austin and other American cities have used this concept to accomplish substantial increases in ridership. Jordan and Matt are working not only with NJ Transit, but also with community groups in North Jersey to incorporate community concerns about bus service into their final recommendations, in keeping with Sierra Club's Environmental Justice goals.

A second task is to promote the extension of the Hudson Bergen Light Rail from its current terminus in North Bergen (Hudson Co) into Bergen County communities along the right of way of the old Northern Valley RR, terminating next to Englewood Hospital. This would relieve auto congestion along Rte 1/9 in Bergen County, by providing a reliable and fast commute to and from Hoboken, Jersey City, and NYC. The extension has been on the drawing board for over a decade, but NJDOT is short of funds to conduct initial engineering studies. We intend to generate public pressure to move ahead with this project.

The grant's third "prong" is to look at NJ Transit's public information system, particularly its website, and make recommendations for making it more user-friendly and inclusive. A major goal is to consolidate all public transit schedules and route descriptions. Currently, information on private bus routes is only available from each private carrier. The NJ Transit website has links to 45 such carriers, which include some county and university bus systems, and ferries. A one-stop shopping option would be helpful, particularly when riders have to transfer between carriers to complete their trips.

The grant program will last through Dec 31st of this year. We'll keep you informed.



# energy special

The Sierra Club's **READY FOR 100 Campaign** is a national effort to inspire our political leaders to embrace a vision of healthier communities powered by 100% clean energy. The goal is to accelerate a transition to 100% renewable energy for all. A #RF100 Starter Kit provides a vast array of links to information on best practices, and examples of projects. The Kit can be accessed easily in the ELECTRONIC version of this newsletter – on p.17: available from the Chapter website (click Newsletters).

## More on RF100:

### How Towns Can Fight Climate Change

By Pat Miller, of our Jersey Shore Group, and Co-Founder, Middletown for Clean Energy (Sierra Club RF100 campaign) (patmiller@comcast.net)

We in this battle agree that our highest priority is getting to 100% clean energy as quickly as possible. New Jerseyans have recently been focusing on making the state's 2019 Energy Master Plan (EMP) as strong as possible. But more locally, my husband Steve and I are working toward this goal in Middletown and Monmouth County at large. At the urging of its citizens, Middletown has recently taken steps in this direction.

The Sierra Club's Ready for 100 campaign is helping cities and towns across the nation toward saving the earth for future generations. Several hundred citizens of Middletown wrote letters to the town politicians demanding a path to 100% clean energy. Their response was to create and staff a Sustainability Office, and commit to work with our group on an Energy Plan. Using Sustainable Jersey's Monmouth Hub, we are taking these steps, both in Middletown and other Monmouth County towns:

**Commit to 100% Clean Energy.** No fossil fuels and no nuclear by 2050, with intermediate milestones. If towns are reluctant to make the commitment in writing, we simply lay out the steps to make it happen in the Energy Plan.

**Adopt Clean Aggregated Electricity.** There is one step so cost-effective for a town to take that will reduce its emissions by as much as 20%, that it should actually precede making a plan. That is to adopt aggregated electricity with as high a percent clean energy as possible, graduated to 100% by 2030 or 2035. New Jersey's program provides for towns or groups of towns to contract with third party electrical supplier with bids and contract handled by a consultant at no cost to the town. The cost of electricity to the residents, businesses and municipality will be less than they are paying their utility now because of volume savings as well as the lower price of renewable electricity. (You can buy 100% clean energy for your household immediately by switching online to a third party supplier. Directions for switching to a low cost supplier are at [electric.smiller.org](http://electric.smiller.org).)

**Develop an Energy Plan.** A town's Energy Plan takes the provisions of the state EMP and applies them to the local level. Sustainable Jersey provides guidelines for actions towns can take to lower emissions. It also publishes all NJ towns' Certification Reports, listing the actions taken in pursuit of certification. The one town that has achieved Gold Star in Energy, Woodbridge, provides an excellent example.

Like the EMP, categories of towns' Energy Plan actions would include the following:

**Transportation:** Conservation (eg, public transportation, ride sharing); transition to electric vehicles (EV) of municipal fleet; charging stations in businesses and multi-family housing.

**Renewable and Distributed Energy:** Rooftop solar and community solar; onshore wind where possible.

**Efficiency and Conservation:** Building efficiency and landscaping. Existing state efficiency programs must be adopted, publicized, perhaps incentivized, and finally regulated. Tree ordinances are important for carbon sequestration, and other landscaping measures reduce heat, conserve clean water, or provide local food.

**Buildings:** Net-zero carbon buildings; rooftop solar; transition from fossil fueled to electric; EV-ready construction.

**Codify and Enforce the Plan.** The Energy Plan will not get us to 100% Clean unless the provisions of the plan are codified into ordinances or regulations and enforced. A transition will take place over time in many areas. Building regulations will affect new buildings at first, then major renovations, then requirements at the time of sale, and so on. Energy efficiency measures and the switch to all-electric appliances and heating can be incentivized at first, then included in regulations as above. Later market forces will drive transition, such as when gasoline-fueled vehicles are no longer made. At every step a priority must be to help low-income and climate justice communities with the transition, as well as to encourage local business and jobs.

## An energy grant for your town?

### BPU Grant for Town Energy Plans

By Steve Miller, Climate Chair for our Shore Group; Co-Founder, Middletown for Clean Energy (Sierra Club "RF100" campaign) (stevemiller@comcast.net)

Many NJ towns, like Middletown (Monmouth Co), are running on shoestring budgets in order to keep property taxes low. Towns seek grants to undertake special projects. Following is a proposal by Middletown for Clean Energy (a Sierra Club "Ready for 100" project) to help fund Fall, 2019 development of a Middletown Energy Plan. Evaluate your own town: can you apply this process to launch your own Energy Plan?

The NJ BPU Clean Energy Program is offering \$5K to \$25K grants to develop towns' Energy Plans to align with the NJ 2019 Energy Master Plan. The grant process and requirements are described at <http://www.njcleanenergy.com/main/grants-solicitations/grants-and-solicitations-0>

Middletown for Clean Energy proposes to assist Middletown's Sustainability Manager to realize her first priority: a 2019 Middletown Energy Plan. This involves:

#### Creation of an energy profile

A look at energy use as a whole: business, residential, and community (municipal and schools).

A short term and a long-term plan, to include principles of the NJ 2019 Energy Master Plan, applicable Actions of Sustainable Jersey, the August, 2010 draft "An Energy Plan for Middletown Township", and input from residents and businesses throughout Middletown's dozen neighborhoods and zip codes.

**Requirements:** The application for a grant must include documentation affirming following minimum participation:

Two Government entities, which can be municipal, school, or county; we strongly encourage a joint plan between the municipality and Middletown Public Schools.

One business or business association. Middletown possibilities include the Eastern Monmouth Chamber of Commerce, or individual businesses, such as AT&T, likely Middletown's largest energy user; a clean energy business, such as a Middletown-based solar installation company; a car dealer with knowledge of upcoming vehicle technology; or an electrical or HVAC contractor.

One nonprofit. This might be a local church with strong environmental commitment associated with members of Middletown for Clean Energy; Lions Club or similar; and Sierra Club.

One transportation partner. A school bus company is a possibility.

The proposed project budget would include: consultants, benchmarking, audit services, meeting space ...

Evaluation criteria (grant applicants are rank-ordered, based upon total point score):

**Planning Committee:** Diverse list of willing partners to participate in the Community Energy Plan committee - (30 points) Partners could be any, or all, of the above and many others.

**Past Success:** Demonstrated success in participating in Clean Energy Programs and energy and emissions reduction programs in the past: (20 points) Middletown has completed a LONG list of Sustainable Jersey clean energy activities by both Middletown Township and Middletown Township School System. These "actions" are carefully documented at <http://www.sustainablejersey.com/>.

Identified Opportunities to enhance clean energy production or reduce energy use, encourage waste and emission reduction: (20 points) Middletown can describe numerous planned and/or possible opportunities: the municipal complex, the planned microgrid, the proposed train station solar canopy... One of the largest Green House Gas emission reductions (in addition to a lower electric bill) could be achieved by creating a renewable "Electrical Aggregation" for Middletown residents and businesses. Middletown could seize an opportunity to create a regional electrical aggregation by joining with Red Bank, which is presently considering an electrical aggregation.

## PSYCHOLOGIST'S COLUMN

(Continued from page 2)

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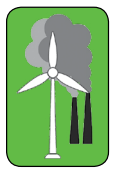
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Reports from Trenton



# Carbon Neutral Not Good Enough in Energy Master Plan

By Jeff Tittel, Director of the New Jersey Sierra Club, circulated by app.com on June 20

The climate crisis is here and already impacting New Jersey. Greenhouse gas emissions globally set an all-time high last year. Our oceans are warming 40 percent faster than previously believed. The IPCC has given us 12 years before the worst climate impacts will become irreversible.

Gov. Phil Murphy's state Board of Public Utilities recently released its Draft Energy Master Plan dealing with many issues affecting climate change and green energy. There is a growing sense of urgency to do more in combating climate impacts, but the EMP does not address natural gas.

There are things to like in the draft EMP, especially in electrifying the transportation sector and dealing with home heating. There is also a lot that's missing, including any mention of a moratorium on fossil fuel projects.

What's really troubling is the plan redefines clean energy as carbon neutral. This is a cynical move with major consequences. Clean energy is usually defined as wind, solar, energy efficiency, hydro and geo-thermal. Carbon neutral, by contrast, means that carbon will still be released. The definition includes natural gas, fossil fuel plants with carbon sequestration, nuclear power plants, incinerators, biomass, carbon credits and offsets. Redefining clean energy as carbon neutral will include a lot of dirty fuels. This is an Orwellian approach that sells out renewable energy by promoting natural gas and nuclear power.

The only reference to renewable energy in the draft EMP calls for 50% renewable by 2030. There's no mention of raising that percentage higher beyond that. That means the other 50 percent of our energy can come from dirtier carbon neutral sources like natural gas and nuclear. The plan doesn't mention the nuclear subsidy, which locks us into buying 32% of our energy from nuclear from now on. That will require nuclear plants stay open after their licenses have expired. The nuclear subsidy will also continue taking money away from wind and solar.

The draft EMP doesn't call for a moratorium on fossil-fuel pipelines and power plants. The call for 100% Clean Energy only applies to power sold in the state. That means power plants shipping power out of state could still be built. The Meadowlands power plant can be built and ship its power to New York. CPV Woodbridge and Sewaren 7 can operate and send power to Long Island. There's also nothing in the EMP about closing the state's two remaining coal-powered plants. These power plants, plus the changing definition of clean energy to carbon neutral, means we will increase greenhouse gases and not reach our 100% renewable energy goals.

Murphy's plan reinforces the need for a moratorium on all fossil-fuel projects. Permits for the NESE pipeline were rejected, but they've just reapplied for the permits. The PennEast pipeline has been delayed, but continues to move forward. The Murphy administration has approved all of the permits for three pipelines and three power plants, plus some of the permits for other pipelines and power plants. They've also approved an LNG port in Gibbstown. NJ Transit wants another power plant in the Meadowlands. If the eight proposed pipelines and five proposed power plants are built, New Jersey's greenhouse gases would increase 32%. The draft EMP shows us the administration wants the state to continue relying on dirty fuels.

One of the major positives in the EMP is for the first time emphasizing energy efficiency in homes and businesses and electrifying the transportation sector. We don't just need a plan. We need to get regulations in place to move us forward. The plan sets goals for 330,000 electric vehicles on our roads by 2025 and building a statewide EV charging infrastructure.

The EMP lays out goals for cutting vehicle miles traveled and reducing port and airport emissions. It also calls for increasing clean transportation options in low- and moderate-income and environmental justice communities. However by defining clean energy as carbon neutral, the plan promotes the continued operation of polluting incinerators, all of which are located in environmental justice communities in New Jersey. There's also no mention of fixing the solar program, which will soon collapse unless the cost cap is eliminated.

The draft EMP is an outline, and it's the public's job to fill in the gaps and make sure clean energy remains 100% clean. We need to make sure the Murphy administration doesn't get away with changing the definition of clean energy and steering us away from 100% renewable energy.

New Jersey was once a leader in clean energy. We need to develop bold initiatives to catch up to states like California, Washington, Hawaii, Maryland and Massachusetts and others that have done far more to combat climate change.

The governor says he doesn't call balls and strikes on pipelines and power plants, but he just handed the game to the gas and nuclear industry. The public must turn out for stakeholder meetings to make sure we get to 100% renewable and zero carbon. BPU will host public meetings on the draft EMP on July 17 in Trenton (Statehouse), Aug. 8 in Newark (Seton Hall) and Sept. 12 in Camden (Kroc Center). We must continue calling for a moratorium on all fossil-fuel projects. We cannot be carbon neutral. Our climate and our environment depend on it.

## Pollution as Trespass

By Leland Beaumont, member of our Jersey Shore Group (lee@simplyquality.org)

Trespass is unwelcome encroachment upon another's property. We recognize it in many forms: trespass to the person (e.g. assault and battery), interference with possession of personal goods (robbery), and trespass onto land. The castle doctrine is the common law concept that persons have no duty to retreat in their home (or "castle"), and may use reasonable force, including deadly force, to defend their property, person, or another person. This is the basis for various stand-your-ground laws.

It's time we recognize pollution as a form of trespass. If a truck dumps toxic waste on your front lawn, it is a trespass violation. If a coal-burning power plant pollutes the air you breathe and pollutants enter your lungs, it is a similar trespass violation. Don't mess with our clean air.



# Our Critique of NJ's Energy Master Plan

Offered by Chapter Director Jeff Tittel, on July 26th

The Energy Master Plan (EMP) does not express a sense of urgency on climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in New Jersey.

The EMP should establish goals of 100% renewable energy by 2035 and zero carbon emissions by 2050 – economy-wide. We should have 12 GW of offshore wind in place by 2035, and 3.5 GW by 2025. We should also have at least an additional 15 GW of solar by 2035.

The Plan fails to impose a moratorium on fossil-fuel projects. Rather, it allows for the continuation of 15 proposed natural gas projects: 8 pipelines, 6 power plants and 1 port for compressing and shipping Liquid Natural Gas. If all of them are built, greenhouse gas emissions in NJ will increase 32 percent. That will block efforts to reach 100% renewable. Previous Governors have used moratoriums to tackle pressing environmental issues. Gov. Murphy should impose a moratorium on fossil-fuel projects.

Gov. Murphy has broken his commitment to the people of New Jersey on Clean Energy. The EMP redefines Clean Energy as Carbon Neutral, which means that carbon will still be released. That allows natural gas and other fossil fuel power plants with carbon sequestration, nuclear power plants, incinerators, biomass electricity, and carbon credits and offsets. Carbon credits and offsets allow companies to pay to continue releasing greenhouse gases. A better (and more common) definition of Clean Energy would allow only wind, solar, hydro and geothermal, and would highlight energy efficiency.

The EMP does not set a new renewable energy goal beyond the current goal, which is 50% by 2030. Based on its definition of 100% Clean Energy by 2050, half of our energy can then be from dirty fuels. We may not even reach 50% renewable because of the cost cap on solar. If the cost of solar goes up by 7% or more, the BPU is allowed to evade the Renewable Portfolio Standard for that year.

The EMP makes no mention of the state's two remaining coal-fired plants, or plans to close them.

The definition of Clean Energy in the EMP doesn't encompass impacts from natural gas pipelines and compressor stations.

There is no reference in the EMP to the nuclear subsidy, which ties us to buying 32% of our energy from nuclear indefinitely. Nuclear plants will now have to stay open beyond the expiration of their licenses. The subsidy can also go to new nuclear plants.

The EMP still does not regulate CO<sub>2</sub>, even though the state has had the authority to do so since 2005.

The EMP calls for cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050. That's not good enough, considering that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says we have just 12 years to prevent the most severe climate impacts from becoming irreversible.

We're calling for 12 GW of offshore wind operating by 2035, and 3.5 GW by 2025, and at least an additional 15 GW of solar by 2035.

20 percent of all solar should be community solar, with half set aside for low- and moderate-income residents.

The EMP should include programs specific for Environmental Justice communities, which suffer disproportionately from pollution and limited access to clean energy. That includes a transition to high-quality green jobs that includes re-education, community solar programs, and EV charging networks.

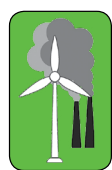
One positive in the EMP is the emphasis on energy efficiency and reducing natural gas for home heating.

There are some positives in the transportation sector: the goals for 330,000 electric vehicles by 2025 and construction of an EV charging station network.

The EMP does not properly address NJ Transit's environmental performance and the need to electrify buses.

The EMP should also include regulations for black carbon – soot – a byproduct of burning fossil fuels and an ongoing threat to respiratory health.

New Jersey was once a leader on Clean Energy but has fallen behind other states. We need to take bold steps to catch up, but the Murphy Administration keeps kicking the can down the road.



## NJ Back into RGGI

From a press release issued on June 3rd

We are delighted to report Gov. Murphy's long-awaited return of New Jersey to the Northeastern States' Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a compact between nine mid-Atlantic and New England states to limit emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). The accomplishment is a "restored Rule" in the official NJ Register, and is for a cap of about 18 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.

We lost eight years of program benefits under ex-Gov. Christie, during which our emissions have risen. Murphy's move is also a message of rebuke to Pres. Trump's so-called Clean Power Plan, and of comfort to other countries offended by Trump's withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accords.

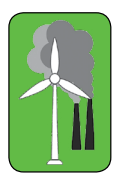
RGGI uses a cap-and-trade auction process to encourage market efficiencies, investments in renewable energy, and improvements in power-plant technology to reduce power plant emissions. New Jersey was a charter member of this effort in 2007, but left in 2012.

Our rejoining will enable the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to use the community and stakeholder process to target CO<sub>2</sub> reductions to Environmental Justice (EJ) communities, moving New Jersey to a green economy, and achieving greater CO<sub>2</sub> reductions by 2030. During our earlier participation, RGGI created \$151 million in economic value and almost 1,800 jobs in our state, not to mention 10% greenhouse gas reduction in the first three years.

New money is now coming from RGGI. We need to make sure it is not diverted into the general fund, or spent on other energy projects that are not clean. The world has changed since 2007 when this Rule was originally adopted. Its original funding formula allowed natural gas and coal plants, and planting trees for carbon sequestration. Now the priorities are energy efficiency, community solar, electric vehicles, and for EJ and low- and moderate-income communities.

We should consider how our "RGGI Renaissance" will affect current proposals for five new natural gas power plants, eight pipelines, and an ocean terminal for liquid natural gas. These projects would seem incompatible with RGGI's CO<sub>2</sub> Budget Trading Rule Proposal, which sets NJ on a path to reduce its baseline CO<sub>2</sub> allowance from an initial cap of 18 million tons in 2020 to 12.6 million tons by 2030.

## Member's Analysis



# Comments on New Jersey's Draft Energy Master Plan (EMP)

by Alfonso Gandica, member of our North Jersey Group and retired Senior Engineer, Atlantic City Electric.

My suggestions explore areas not mentioned specifically in the EMP that I think complement its seven strategies and are key factors for attaining their success.

### Solar Domestic Water Heating

There is no mention whatsoever of this excellent technology. According to the US Department of Energy, "water heating accounts for 18% of a typical US home energy use"<sup>1</sup> and "solar water heaters can be a cost-effective way to generate hot water for your home. They can be used in any climate, and the fuel they use – sunshine – is free."<sup>2</sup>

### Fuel Cells for Power Generation

The EMP considers Fuel Cells but mostly in the context of electric vehicles. I suggest additional economic and environmental benefits from the use of Fuel Cells for distributed power generation as old central generating plants are retired – due either to the current economics of electricity generation or obsolescence.

### Gas Engine-Driven Heat Pumps

This is another technology not mentioned in the EMP, despite its prospect for reducing electricity demand and consumption. GEHPs are more efficient than air-to-air heat pumps. "A review of gas engine driven heat pumps for residential and industrial applications" that appeared in the January 2009 issue of Renewable and Sustainable Energy Review states "Main applications of GEHPs are for space and water heating/cooling purposes. However, they can be integrated to other applications, especially to drying processes."<sup>3</sup>

### Ground Source Heat Pumps

Another unmentioned technology. These are more efficient than air-to-air heat pumps: "central heating and/or cooling systems that transfer heat to or from the ground. They use the earth all the time, without any intermittency, as a heat source (in the winter) or a heat sink (in the summer)."<sup>4</sup>

### Waste-To-Energy Plants

This technology is mentioned three times in the EMP, but without including its major benefits:

90% reduction of the municipal solid waste volume to an inert ash (saving space in landfills), and complete elimination of the highly toxic leachates that are produced in existing landfills, most of which are not lined. Professor Nicholas J. Themelis, Director of the Earth Engineering Center at Columbia University has demonstrated that, for each ton of waste processed by these plants, there is a one-ton reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to the burning of fossil fuels. Operation must comply with the strictest environmental controls for both air and water emissions.

Denmark is the most advanced country in the deployment of these plants; the latest addition is the Amager-Bakke plant in Copenhagen.<sup>5</sup> This plant processes about 400,000 tons of municipal solid waste annually, produced by about 600,000 residents and 46,000 companies. It supplies 62,500 households with electricity and 160,000 households with district heating; its rated capacity is 57 MW.

#### (Footnotes)

1. <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/heat-and-cool/water-heating>
2. <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/water-heating/solar-water-heaters>
3. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1364032107001268>
4. [https://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geothermal\\_heat\\_pump](https://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geothermal_heat_pump)
5. [https://www.volund.dk/Waste\\_to\\_Energy/References/ARC\\_Amager\\_Bakke\\_Copenhagen](https://www.volund.dk/Waste_to_Energy/References/ARC_Amager_Bakke_Copenhagen)

## Report from Trenton



# Big Victory! DEP Stops NESE Pipeline Permits

From a press release issued on June 5th, edited by Irene Gnarra

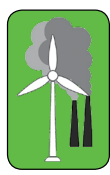
The DEP has denied Coastal Wetland, Flood Hazard Area and Waterfront Development permits for the dangerous Williams Transco Northeast Supply Enhancement Project (NESE). This pipeline would have carried natural gas from fracking sources in Pennsylvania, across New Jersey and under New York Bay to electric power plants on Long Island. In New York the Cuomo Administration also recently rejected permits for NESE.

The pipeline would provide no benefit to the people of New Jersey – unless you regard more water pollution and the chance of explosion as beneficial. It would have cut through contaminated sites, and impacted New York Bay. DEP's denial is based on inability to meet the state's Surface Water Quality Standards. Construction would have disrupted a million cubic yards of contaminated sediment, releasing toxic chemicals into the Bay. The project's compressor station (in NJ) would have released air pollutants including methane, ethane and MTBEs. Wetlands would have been destroyed.

The fight isn't over. DEP's denial was "without prejudice," which means that Transco can come right back and re-apply. It has already done so in New York, so the fight continues. If Gov. Murphy is serious about reducing greenhouse gases and moving us toward 100% renewable energy, he could place a moratorium on all fossil-fuel projects. That would help prevent NESE from resurfacing.

The New Jersey Sierra Club is part of the Stop NESE Coalition, helping to produce 10,000 people showing up for protests opposing this dangerous project. This is a huge victory for all of us.

## Energy Perspective



# Gaps in New Jersey's Energy Master Plan

By Sue Dorward, Sustainability & Energy Coordinator, Raritan Valley Community College

New Jersey's draft Energy Master Plan (EMP) focuses on goals across a wide range of topics: transportation, renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation, efficient buildings, grid modernization, environmental justice, low- and moderate-income communities, and innovation. It addresses community solar, net-zero carbon buildings, and even switching from oil and propane to electric heating. Perhaps most exciting is the innovation section, which proposes establishing a New Jersey Green Bank, lowering capital costs for renewable energy projects, workforce development programs, a WIND Institute, a Carbon-Neutral New Technology Incubator, and a Clean Buildings Hub.

As a master plan, it is short on details. The appendix describes eight studies, many of which are ongoing, meant to provide data to inform the master plan. The draft concludes with a request for feedback in the form of 28 questions, as broad as "What policy, legislative, or regulatory mechanisms can New Jersey develop to ensure that it can most cost-effectively pursue a 100% carbon neutral power sector?" While seeking input and gathering data are both admirable and useful, it leaves us wondering how much this information will be used to shape the final master plan, due to time constraints if nothing else.

The draft has noticeable gaps. Carbon offsets and negative emissions (reducing the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the air, through reforestation and improved farming practices for example) get only a cursory mention<sup>1</sup>, with no associated goals. The plan also overlooks carbon capture from natural gas power plants, carbon utilization (such as in concrete, as Piscataway's Solidia is doing), and carbon storage (the NJ Geological Survey has identified an offshore formation suitable for CO<sub>2</sub> storage). One could argue that these things go beyond energy or could be lumped into the plan's innovation category. But as they enable a broader approach to fossil fuel use, including the ability to continue running natural gas plants for grid reliability (pending a revolution in energy storage), they deserve explicit consideration.

Similarly, reducing emissions from natural gas and coal is hardly mentioned. One plan goal indicates the early stage of the BPU's deliberation on this: "Begin stakeholder engagement to explore rules to limit CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from Electric Generating Units." The draft goes on to mention the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), which is a power-sector emissions cap-and-trade program that NJ just rejoined and for which the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recently adopted rules. The draft states merely that "additional regulation of CO<sub>2</sub> may be prudent to ensure attainment" of the state's goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050. How about a moratorium on new natural gas pipelines, or a deadline by which the state's two remaining coal plants must be shut down?

The BPU solicited comments on the draft plan through mid-September. I hope that they are able to use these along with the studies mentioned to help shape the final EMP, due in December. After years of neglect, the BPU and DEP are building their expertise in climate matters. A solid plan is long overdue, and new data and ideas will keep coming. Writing this plan is one of the biggest, hardest, and most impactful tasks asked of our state employees. Are they up to it? We'll find out in December.

#### (Footnote)

- 1 NJ's natural areas offset 8.1% of NJ's emissions!

## Report from Trenton

# Elcon Rejected, Toxic Disaster Averted – for Now

From a press release issued on May 1st, edited by Irene Gnarra

At a special meeting in Falls Township (Bucks County PA), the Supervisors unanimously rejected Elcon's application to build a hazardous waste treatment facility on 22 acres in the Keystone Industrial Port Complex. The facility was designed to process 150,000 to 210,000 tons of chemical and pharmaceutical waste per year. The site was just across the Delaware River from Trenton.

The Supervisors rejected Elcon's proposal because of the potential impact on public health, safety and the environment. The plant would also have been incompatible with local zoning, on the grounds that a hazardous waste unit cannot be considered an industrial facility.

Both delivery and storage of hazardous materials would pose serious threats. 17 to 25 truck movements were expected daily, delivering deadly chemicals to be burned, and removing toxic ash to a landfill. It would be natural to expect accidents such as spills. The Philadelphia Water Co. testified that one spill would have been "catastrophic." Drinking water in lower Bucks County and across the river in New Jersey would have been compromised.

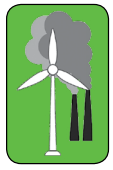
The burning of hazardous waste, such as industrial solvents, hospital wastes and transformer electrolytes, does not obliterate these substances, but rather converts them to other volatile chemicals that are released as noxious fumes into the atmosphere. This incinerator would have hurt the economy by deterring residents and other businesses from locating downwind. A riverfront site has extra value: across the country, communities are promoting smart residential, recreational and commercial establishments on their riverfronts. Our rivers should belong to all of us.

In addition, Elcon has a poor track record: its similar facility in Israel has caused serious environmental problems there. We hope that Falls Twp, NJ-DEP and PA Governor Wolf will continue to protect our environment by rejecting all proposals like Elcon's.

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You can save paper and postage by opting for our electronic version. It's in color, has extra (supplementary) pages, and will arrive several weeks before the paper version. Just send your name and membership number to the Editor: [Dick.Colby@Stockton.edu](mailto:Dick.Colby@Stockton.edu) – with "Electronic JS" in the Subject line.





## An Essay on Climate Change

By Nicholas Polimeni, member of our Jersey Shore Group, and Freehold Township High School ([nicholas.polimeni@outlook.com](mailto:nicholas.polimeni@outlook.com))

In a world fractured by political strife and seemingly on the brink of nuclear war, it is easy to overlook the source of our gradual demise: climate change. Our shortsightedness and complacency is only further encouraged by politicians like Donald Trump, who often claim that renewable sources of energy will cause unemployment and economic decline (Gander).

Yet, the model behind environmental reforms for the past three decades, called sustainability, is based around the relationship between economic, social, and environmental concerns; the goal being to address humanity's needs today while ensuring our future needs can be met as well.

Donald Trump and other politicians have to face a reality check. We either pay the economic costs of climate change in the near future, or we slowly transition to avoid most of those costs. We should consider sustainability as an investment rather than an expense. However, the steps to a sustainable future seem elusive at best.

The first step must be to address the economic factors that drive environmental destruction, the most notable being externalities, a measure of the spillover costs or benefits that producing or consuming something has. In other words, how much people pay or gain from other's actions. One of the best ways to illustrate this concept is through air pollution.

When industries release emissions, they do not pay to do so. Yet, we collectively pay because pollution creates many global problems and adversely impacts our health. These costs are not reflected in the price of products that release pollutants into the air. For example, you do not pay directly for the emissions your clothes made, because the firm you bought it from did not either, but we collectively pay the damages that its emissions caused. When costs of consumption are shared, rather than individual, it creates what is known as a tragedy of the commons, where our common resources are irreversibly harmed because no one has responsibility for them. Additionally, as the costs are artificially low when common resources, like air, are involved, the market overproduces, perpetuating this damage.

There have been various policy attempts to reduce air pollution, like cap and trade, where an allowance of pollution is granted to a firm and these allowances can be bought or sold to other firms. However, this does not address the economic cause that is externalities. In order to do so, firms, and the consumers who buy their products, must pay the total costs for the resources they exploit, including shared resources. Only when the true costs of our actions are reflected in the price will there will a desire to change and the innovation that accompanies it.

For our industries to pay the full price of their production methods, subsidies on nonrenewable energy, like oil, must also be eliminated, especially considering that most taxpayers are not aware of these enormous expenditures. For example, one estimate by the International Monetary Fund found that governments spent around \$5.3 trillion in 2015 on oil subsidies (The Global Addiction to Energy Subsidies). Governments must also ensure that corporations have responsibility for the common resources they exploit by charging a fee for their use.

Some current legislation aims to increase the costs of pollution in this way, such as the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act in the United States, which directly taxes pollution, but has yet to become law (Deutch).

Perhaps even more important is the acknowledgment that renewable energy is responsible for more jobs and economic growth than fossil fuels, despite what many conservative politicians may claim, especially in the United States. A report by the Environmental Defense Fund in 2018 found that 4 million Americans were employed in the clean energy sector, far outpacing fossil fuels like coal, which employs only 160,000 Americans (Clean Energy Is Building a New American Workforce).

The remaining steps are global. To spur innovation and sustainable growth, protections on intellectual property must be enforced and created in a way that encourages collaboration. The abuses of late, most notably in China, regarding intellectual property must be addressed by international bodies. The source of innovation, our scientific and education sectors, must also be promoted with the removal of global information and trade barriers; by allowing technology, information, and products to circulate on a global market, incentives to innovate and gain a share in this market will be stronger than ever, creating a true open future.

And finally, people must demand that their governments cooperate in global movements to solve our environmental and economic challenges; agreements like the Paris Climate Agreement of 2015 must become the norm rather than the exception. While agreements like these are not always successful in ensuring the full commitment from all nations, they aid in developing a global movement. For instance, despite the United States' intention not to comply with the Paris Agreement on a national level, movements on the local level, like in Pittsburgh (Whither the World after America's Retreat?), and on the corporate level, like with Apple and Morgan Stanley (Business Support for the Paris Agreement), all of which are complying with the goals of the agreement, create an inspiring path forward.

Climate change may seem to be a distant issue, but with heatwaves (Heatwaves Are Killing People), droughts, and other changes dramatically altering the lives of people even today, the necessity for change is clear. We can only hope that the conversation will soon become less about the costs of change and more about the benefits these changes will bring us.

Today, the choice is ours: to prevent climate change and engender a safe, green, and open future, or to pay for our current irresponsible actions with a treacherous future.

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## Environmental Justice in Energy Planning

By our Conservation Chair, Greg Gorman ([ggorman07419@embarqmail.com](mailto:ggorman07419@embarqmail.com))

New Jersey's draft 2019 Energy Master Plan (EMP) should encourage municipalities that house predominantly low- and moderate-income (LMI) or environmental justice families to develop community energy plans and implement them with state support. America's reliance on fossil fuels has imposed an enormous burden on these communities. Our homes, workplaces, and playgrounds are in the shadows of polluting natural gas power plants. LMI and EJ households spend proportionately more of their incomes on energy, compared to households in more affluent communities. They are sometimes forced to choose between paying to keep the lights on, to have a warm meal, or to purchase medicine.

The EMP proposes increased commitments to micro-grids, solar, and wind energy. To reduce pollution even further, the NJ BPU can incentivize the conversion of natural gas power stations and Combined Heat and Power facilities to "Energy Storage" facilities.

To reduce the financial burden of energy, LMI and EJ communities can start by calculating their Municipal Carbon Footprints, and initiating a strategic energy planning process suggested by the US Department of Energy.<sup>1</sup> The NJ Economic Development Authority could develop a community support initiative patterned after California's "Clean Energy in Low-Income Multifamily Building Action Plan." This plan seeks to formulate policies and actions to accelerate the implementation of distributed energy resources to include demand response, on-site renewable energy, electric vehicle infrastructure, energy storage, and energy and water efficiency strategies.<sup>2</sup>

NJ's Clean Energy programs often require home-ownership to enable full participation; but EJ homes are primarily rented. The NJ Comfort Partners Program, designed to overcome this barrier, is a free energy-saving and energy-education program available to any qualified New Jersey household with significant energy use and an income at or below 250% of the federal poverty guidelines. The program has helped more than 114,000 families since 2001.<sup>3</sup> NJ needs to improve its participation and initiate an extensive outreach program.

We applaud the NJ EMP for its effort to ensure that all communities can breathe clean air, live free of dangerous levels of toxic pollution, and to share the benefits of a prosperous and vibrant clean economy.

### (Footnotes)

1 <https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2018/03/f49/strategic-energy-planning.pdf>

2 See Haramati, Mikhail, Eugene Lee, Tiffany Mateo, Brian McCollough, Shaun Ransom, Robert Ridgley, and Joseph Sit. 2018. Clean Energy in Low-Income Multifamily Buildings

Action Plan. California Energy Commission. Publication Number: CEC-300-2018-005-SF (This report is available at [https://www2.energy.ca.gov/sb350/barriers\\_report/](https://www2.energy.ca.gov/sb350/barriers_report/)).

3 <http://www.njcleanenergy.com/main/rebates-and-promotions/rebates-and-promotions>

## Report from Trenton



## Environmental Injustice of NJ Incinerators

From a press release issued on May 22nd

According to a new study by New York City's New School, 80% of the incinerators in the US are located in environmental justice communities. New Jersey's incinerators are in Newark, Camden, Rahway, Westville and Belvidere (Essex, Camden, Union, Gloucester and Warren Counties, respectively); the latter is closing. The study reports that trash incineration is in general decline – for economic reasons: operation is costly compared to landfilling, and there is increasing attention to issues of toxic stack emissions, zero waste, environmental justice and climate change.

Environmental justice communities are low income communities. In New Jersey it is no different: our incinerators are sited in low income and minority communities, which thus receive a disproportionate amount of downwind pollution, not to mention truck traffic. New Jersey's incinerators pollute the Ironbound area of Newark, not Short Hills; Union County's incinerator is in its only black community, Rahway, and South Jersey's facilities are not in Haddonfield. Incinerators are a failed technology of the 1970s and should go out of style along with disco music and platform shoes.

Comparing incinerators with fossil fuel electric power plants: some studies show much dirtier smokestack emissions. That's because natural gas is much "cleaner" than municipal and industrial solid wastes, which produce more particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides (SOx), dioxins, nanoparticles, lead and mercury. Then there's the incinerator ash: more dioxins and heavy metals like lead and mercury. Some of the health burdens that have been documented in environmental justice communities include elevated blood lead levels, asthma, preterm births, and increased cardiovascular disease-related morbidity and mortality rates.

The Covanta-owned, Essex County Resource Recovery incinerator in Newark emits more lead than any other incinerator in the country: 600 pounds/year. It receives half of its garbage from New York City, and only generates 65MW of power. Covanta Camden is number two at 380 pounds of lead. That lead is not only in the air, but is adsorbed by the soil in which children play. Another pollutant is cyanide. Add to this the emissions from heavy duty diesel refuse trucks, especially volatile organic carbon compounds.

The children in Newark comprise 13% of the children in the state with elevated blood lead levels. The incinerator's lead adds to multiple sources in the home and school environments, and may compound the potential health risks of the already overburdened EJ community.

One argument for incinerators is that they also produce some electricity. Not much: the Camden facility generates 21MW, and Westville 14MW, replaceable by a few solar farms. New Jersey has given them direct subsidies, loan forgiveness, and three or four bailouts to keep them from going bankrupt. The incinerator in Warren Co. is closing because it is not financially viable.

Covanta Camden has paid fines for five violations, Covanta Essex three, and the facility in Rahway three or four, all for exceeding permitted levels for particulate matter, SOx, and carbon monoxide.

We hope this study by the New School will wake-up the Murphy Administration's DEP to the need to shut down these incinerators. It would help the Governor keep his commitment, in Executive Order 23, to help and protect EJ communities.

## Member's Report

## Trees Threatened by Insects

By Joanne Pannone, Chair of our Central Jersey Group and our GMO Issues Coordinator  
(jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com)

The New Jersey Forest Service, in the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), has issued Pest Alerts for invasive species of insects attacking trees and shrubs in New Jersey. Unfortunately, NJDEP's budget cuts means that we need to help watch out for them. Most are discovered by civilians who find them and, out of curiosity, make inquiries about them. Pest Alerts are posted in Forestry Offices, Environmental Centers, and County Extension Offices; they are published by the USDA Forest Service.

The Gypsy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*) was introduced to Massachusetts in 1869 by a French botanist who was trying to develop the silkworm industry. Some moths escaped: now they populate 19 states. Without intervention, this pest advances about 13 miles per year. Their caterpillar stage defoliates trees, making them stressed and susceptible to borers, fungal infections, and drought. A stressed tree may die from defoliation and the impact may not be seen for years. Historically, there has been a gypsy moth outbreak every 8-12 years. In 1981 they defoliated 800,000 acres in NJ.

Over the next few years, 99% of NJ's ash trees will die due to an infection of the Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*). Originating in China, eastern Russia, Japan and Korea, it was first discovered near Detroit, Michigan in 2002. New Jersey forests contain 24.7 million ash trees; the beetles are in 24% of all forests. This metallic green insect infects and kills all varieties of ash except mountain ash. The beetles are strong fliers, and good at finding ash trees. They also travel by attaching to cars, and being in transported firewood, nursery trees and saw logs. Their larvae feed on the inner bark and disrupt the movement of water and nutrients. It takes 2-4 years for infested trees to die.

The Asian Longhorned Beetle (*Anoplophora grabripennis*) produces tunneling larvae that girdle tree stems and branches, leading to dieback of the tree crown and, eventually, death to the tree. It probably immigrated to the USA from China - in solid wood packing materials. Up to now, it has been intercepted at ports, and in warehouses throughout the US. But budget cuts have reduced the number of inspectors.

The Eastern Pine Looper (*Lambdina pellucidaria*), aka yellow-headed looper or pitch pine looper, has a history of defoliating New Jersey pines. The caterpillar of this moth eats the needles of the pine trees, defoliating and weakening them, and making them more susceptible to disease and attacks from other insects such as the Southern pine beetle.

Another pine tree pest is the Sirex woodwasp (*Sirex noctilio*), also arriving in solid wood packing materials. It has caused up to 80% of pine tree mortality. They are 1" to 1.5" long. The foliage of infested trees usually wilts. At egg laying sites, larval galleries are tightly packed with a very fine sawdust and, as the adults emerge, they chew round exit holes.

There's currently a pest alert for the Oak Leafier (*Croesia semipururana*) and the Oak Leafroller (*Archips semiferanus*). Both are actually native species feeding in the early spring on oaks. The newly hatched Oak Leafier enter opening buds and eat immature leaves, resulting in destruction of new growth and defoliation.

The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (*Halyomorpha balts*) is an invasive pest that attacks agricultural crops and is a nuisance when it winters indoors. Almost any crop is at risk, since the adults feed on leaves and stems, and the nymphs feed on fruits, sucking up their sugars and other nutrients. When disturbed, they emit a very unpleasant odor.

Mixed infestations of scales and adelgids are causing Hemlock decline. Elongate Hemlock Scale (*Fiorinia externa*) are soft bodied, legless and wingless, and are enclosed in an elongate, parallel-sided carapace only 2mm long. Dispersal between trees is primarily by wind or birds. They cause dieback of major limbs, and little chance for recovery. The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (*Adel's tsugae*) is a small aphid-like insect that also threatens hemlock, especially in New Jersey.

The world is warming and the bugs love it. Sierra Club activists are taking aggressive steps to be sure that municipalities are using best silviculture control practices to avoid destroying trees needlessly. We all need to become citizen scientists and keep a vigilant watch for these pests. If you see suspect insects on a tree, freeze samples in a jar, and take them to your local County Extension Service as soon as possible. Master Gardeners will also identify and report any problems you have with your plant life. Rutgers Master Gardeners educate the community about research-based horticulture and gardening practices through a network of trained volunteers, backed by Rutgers University faculty and staff. Their reports are also sent to the State Department of Agriculture, State plant regulatory officials, the State Entomologist, the NJ Forest Service and NJDEP's Office of Natural Resources.

All this information was gathered from Pest Alerts distributed by the State Forestry Services, Division of Parks and Forestry, DEP (www.njparksandforests.org).



## Skylands Group

(Sussex and northern Warren Counties)

Web-site: <http://SkylandsGroup.org> or click from the NJ Chapter's web-site.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SkylandsNJSC>

E-mail: [ggorman07419@embarqmail.com](mailto:ggorman07419@embarqmail.com); Phone: 973-886-7950

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE and other OFFICERS: (ExCom Members are elected to serve 2-year terms; term-expire date in parentheses):

<b>Chair:</b> (12/31/20)	Greg Gorman	<a href="mailto:ggorman07419@embarqmail.com">ggorman07419@embarqmail.com</a>
<b>Vice Chair:</b> (12/31/19)	Susan Williams	<a href="mailto:SkylandsGroup@gmail.com">SkylandsGroup@gmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary:</b> (12/31/20)	Norene Haberski	<a href="mailto:norenehaberski2@gmail.com">norenehaberski2@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b> (12/31/19)	Jeri Doherty	<a href="mailto:bjd8974@gmail.com">bjd8974@gmail.com</a>
<b>ExCom at large:</b> (12/31/19)	Dave Alcock	<a href="mailto:dwhoob@hotmail.com">dwhoob@hotmail.com</a>
	(12/31/20) Nicole Guerrieri	<a href="mailto:SierraClubNicole@gmail.com">SierraClubNicole@gmail.com</a>
	(12/31/19) Scott Dieman	
	(12/31/19) Chris Dunbar	<a href="mailto:chrisdunbar458@gmail.com">chrisdunbar458@gmail.com</a>
	(12/31/19) Joanne Morgan	<a href="mailto:jojommorgan@yahoo.com">jojommorgan@yahoo.com</a>
	(12/31/19) Anthony Riccardi	<a href="mailto:anthony.j.riccardi@gmail.com">anthony.j.riccardi@gmail.com</a>
<b>Conservation Chair:</b>	Greg Gorman	<a href="mailto:ggorman07419@embarqmail.com">ggorman07419@embarqmail.com</a>
<b>Outings Chair:</b>	Dave Alcock	<a href="mailto:dwhoob@hotmail.com">dwhoob@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Outreach Chair:</b>	Joanne Mogan	<a href="mailto:jojommorgan@yahoo.com">jojommorgan@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Environmental Justice:</b>	Susan Williams	<a href="mailto:SkylandsGroup@gmail.com">SkylandsGroup@gmail.com</a>
<b>Political Co-Chairs:</b>	Nicole Guerrieri	<a href="mailto:SierraClubNicole@gmail.com">SierraClubNicole@gmail.com</a>
and:	Susan Williams	<a href="mailto:SkylandsGroup@gmail.com">SkylandsGroup@gmail.com</a>
<b>Co-Publicity Chairs:</b>	Jeri Doherty	<a href="mailto:bjd8974@gmail.com">bjd8974@gmail.com</a>
and:	Joanne Mogan	<a href="mailto:jojommorgan@yahoo.com">jojommorgan@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Nicole Guerrieri	<a href="mailto:SierraClubNicole@gmail.com">SierraClubNicole@gmail.com</a>
<b>Open position available: Membership Chair</b> - please contact Greg!		

GENERAL MEETINGS: SECOND TUESDAY of each month and open to the public. We meet from 7-9pm at the Unitarian Fellowship, 1 West Nelson St, Newton.

The Skylands Group of the NJ Sierra Club serves the environmentally sensitive region of Sussex and Northern Warren Counties in Northwestern NJ.

We offer a variety of opportunities for the public to learn about and connect with their natural environment, including informative films and speakers at our monthly general meetings; exploration of the great outdoors on hikes, edible plant tours and picnics; public outreach via town tabling; and visits to schools to teach students about the environment. Our hope is to foster a love of and deep respect for our great outdoors.

As advocates, The Skylands Group works with other grassroots organizations to protect open spaces and water quality; promote clean energy; oppose privatization of our water and land public trust resources; and other local, national and global environmental issues as they arise.

We table annually at Luscroft Farm's Medicine Wheel Festival in May, host a summer picnic in July, conduct a Drive Electric Event in September at the GreenLife Market in Andover Township, and celebrate winter holidays in December. All our events are free of charge and open to the public.

CURRENT CAMPAIGNS: The Skylands Group advocates the protection of the Sparta Mountain Wildlife Management Area from logging done under the guise of creating 'healthy forests.'

The Skylands Group supports Green New Deal, Sunrise Movement, Sierra Club's Ready for 100 Campaign, and projects to move toward a Clean Energy Economy.

The Skylands Group supports the residents opposing ill-conceived dump sites such as those found in Wantage and Vernon.

The Skylands Group also opposes the Munsonhurst Planned Residential Development, which will adversely affect the ecology of a Natural Heritage Priority Site in Franklin Twp (Sussex Co).

## South Highlands Group

(Hunterdon and southern Warren Counties)

WEBSITE: <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/south-highlands/>

MEETUP: <http://www.meetup.com/NJSierraClub/>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/53817136187/>

## OFFICERS:

<b>Chair:</b>	Jonathan Wall *	<a href="mailto:jonwall@jonwall.com">jonwall@jonwall.com</a>
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Celeste Martin *	<a href="mailto:onecentral@mac.com">onecentral@mac.com</a>
<b>Secretary:</b>	Amy Weeder *	<a href="mailto:aweeder@comcast.net">aweeder@comcast.net</a>
<b>Conservation Chair:</b>	Nancy Carringer	<a href="mailto:ncarringer@yahoo.com">ncarringer@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Political Chair:</b>	Karen Becker*	<a href="mailto:karbecker@gmail.com">karbecker@gmail.com</a>
<b>Children's Programs:</b>	Kimberly Borin	<a href="mailto:storiesofourown@mac.com">storiesofourown@mac.com</a>
<b>Environmental &amp; Social Justice:</b>	Angela De Sapio *	<a href="mailto:angela.desapio@gmail.com">angela.desapio@gmail.com</a>
<b>Environmental Education:</b>	Dan Dolce*	<a href="mailto:dandolce48@hotmail.com">dandolce48@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Highlands Issues Coordinator:</b>	Cinny MacGonagle *	<a href="mailto:cmacgonagle@yahoo.com">cmacgonagle@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Outings:</b>	Jonathan Wall *	<a href="mailto:jonwall@jonwall.com">jonwall@jonwall.com</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	John Kashwick	<a href="mailto:jkashwick@gmail.com">jkashwick@gmail.com</a>
<b>Webmaster/Listmaster:</b>	John Kashwick	<a href="mailto:jkashwick@gmail.com">jkashwick@gmail.com</a>
(* Group Executive Committee Member)		

GENERAL MEETINGS: All our general meetings are held at the Hunterdon North County Library, 65 Halstead St, Clinton, 08809 on the first Wednesday of each month. Meet and Greet at 7pm followed by program at 7:15 pm. Meetings are free but donations are gladly accepted. There are no speaker programs in July and August. Please check [www.meetup.com/NJSierraClub/](http://www.meetup.com/NJSierraClub/) for updates.



## Group News

FROM  
AROUND  
THE  
STATE

## HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR GROUP (BY COUNTY)

**Skylands Group:** Sussex & northern Warren

**South Highlands Group:** Hunterdon & southern Warren

**North Jersey Group:** Bergen & Passaic

**Gateway Group:** Essex

**Hudson County Group:** Hudson

**Loantaka Group:** Morris & Union

**Central Jersey Group:** Mercer

**Raritan Valley Group:** Somerset & Middlesex

**Jersey Shore Group:** Monmouth

**Ocean County Group:** Ocean

**West Jersey Group:** Burlington, Camden & Gloucester

**South Jersey Group:** Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland & Salem

*These designations are approximate: members are welcome to participate in whichever Group(s) they find convenient*

(Groups are arranged in rough geographical sequence: North to South)

**Each Group is invited to designate a Group Environmental Justice Officer**

**Oct 2 (Wed):** Plastic, Plastic Everywhere! Sylvia Kay, NJ Chapter Executive Committee Member, presents on how single-use plastics—a significant source of marine and land debris—threatens humans and wildlife. A clear source of greenhouse gases contributing to climate change, such debris contaminant food chains. Get informed about this important topic and what municipalities can do to fight back.

**Nov 6 (Wed):** Wild Utah! Travis Hammill, South Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) Eastern Grassroots Organizer, to present a slideshow on the status of the Utah wilderness movement, including the effort to protect the Greater Canyonlands and Bears Ears regions. This inspirational must-see event will educate all on the initiatives to preserve and protect our public lands.

**Dec 4 (Wed):** A Monument is Born: The Story of Katahdin. Just before leaving office President Obama proclaimed the 87,000 acre Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in north-central Maine. The Maine Woods were made famous by the writings of Henry David Thoreau in the 1850s, and later saw such visitors as Theodore Roosevelt and Maine Governor Percival Baxter, who later designated the lands to the immediate west of the National Monument to become Baxter State Park. Hear the story behind the monument, see photos and hear about the firsthand experience of John Kashwick and Jonathan Wall's travel to the Monument.

**OTHER EVENTS:**

**Oct 6 (Sun):** Walk and Guided Historic House Tour. 1pm, Join us for a short walk on the Steelworkers Historical Greenway and then a tour of the 1760 Joseph Turner House. This walk-and-talk led by William Honachefsky, Jr., author of "High Bridge" will involve both a discussion on efforts to protect the state's natural environment and historic heritage. We will initially meet at The Commons at the Wye Park on Main Street in High Bridge where the Columbia Trail begins. After our hike we will gather at the Turner House at 117 Van Syckles Road, Hampton, NJ. Group Leaders: Jonathan Wall and John Kashwick. To sign up please contact Jonathan Wall at jonwall@jonwall.com or sign up on Meetup.com/njsierraclub.

**Oct 9 (Wed):** Executive Committee/Planning Meeting. 7:30 pm, At the offices of Dr. Jonathan D. Wall, 21 Water Street, Clinton. The meeting is casual and informative. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend to learn more about the Club. Hear about and discuss issues, plan future events, and become more active. (Please contact jonwall@jonwall.com or sign-up on Meetup.co)

**Current Issues:**

**Oppose Mega-Warehouses.** There are several massive warehouse projects that are proposed for Hunterdon and Warren Counties. We are working with other groups to oppose these projects that threaten to spread industrial sprawl to our farms and natural areas. For more information, please contact Canny MacGonagle—cmacgonagle@yahoo.com

**Dark Skies.** Voorhees State Park in Hunterdon County is home to the NJAA Observatory which relies on dark skies. The South Highlands Group is initiating a campaign to have our county and local municipalities adopt stricter ordinances to reduce excessive light pollution which not only conflicts our view of the night sky but also wastes energy and harms wildlife and human health. We look forward to presenting on this topic in 2020.

**North Jersey Group**

(Bergen and Passaic Counties)

**WEBSITE:** <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/north-jersey>  
**MEETUP:** <http://www.meetup.com/NJSierraClub/>  
**FACEBOOK:** <https://www.facebook.com/northjerseysierraclub>

The North Jersey Group is currently in reorganization, with new officers to be elected by means of the ballot on p.2 of this Newsletter. It is currently managed by a Steering Committee consisting of:

Buddy Jenssen	buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
Diane Scarangella	diascat@hotmail.com
Mary Walsh	blehlwalsh@hotmail.com
Jeff Rappaport	jefrap@optonline.net
Sandi Liberti	dillon7744@yahoo.com
Bob Weiss	
Jan Barry	

**Trail Maintenance:** Marty Cohen                      martincohen@verizon.net

**MEETINGS AND EVENTS:**

Unless otherwise noted, meetings and outings are free and open to general public. Please check our Meetup page, Facebook page, or web site for meeting dates, times, and topics (see above for URLs). You can also email us at northjerseysierraclub@gmail.com

**Gateway Group**

Serving Hillside, Elizabeth, and Essex County (except for Livingston, Millburn and Roseland)

The Gateway Group was organized in January 2011. Please contact any of the leaders below if you are interested in joining our campaigns to protect the environment. There are several Gateway Group positions open.

**Our website:** <http://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/Gateway/>. (also accessible from the NJ Chapter website)

Please also join the Gateway Group on **Facebook** at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Gateway-Group-NJ-Sierra-Club/128998363842782>.

**OFFICERS:**

<b>Co-Chairs:</b>	Suzanne Trimel	973-509-8335	suzanne.trimel@gmail.com
and	David Yennior	973-844-1384	dyennior@gmail.com
<b>Vice-Chair,</b>			
<b>Conserv'n Chr:</b>	Caroline Kane	646-961-9003	ckane678@verizon.net
<b>Secretary &amp; Treasurer:</b>	Anne Hirs	973-844-1121	annehirs@msn.com
<b>Program Co-Chairs:</b>	Suzanne Trimel	973-509-8335	suzanne.trimel@gmail.com

and	Steven Yafet	908-354-2537	syafet@gmail.com
<b>Publicity Chair:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		
<b>Political Chair:</b>	Bill Beren		Beren1@verizon.net
<b>Fundraising Chair:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		
<b>Membership Chair:</b>	Steven Yafet	908-354-2537	syafet@gmail.com
<b>Water, Newark Issues:</b>	Bill Chappel	973-623-6490	chappel.bill@gmail.com
<b>Recycling,</b>			
<b>Passaic River Issues:</b>	David Yennior (see above)		
<b>Elizabeth Issues:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		
<b>Outings Chair:</b>	Dionne Howe	206-430-0288	dionnelhowe@gmail.com
<b>Group Executive Committee:</b>	David Yennior, Bill Chappel, Suzanne Trimmel, Steven Yaffet, and Caroline Kane.		

Please contact Suzanne Trimel or David Yennior, Gateway's Co-Chairs, if you have ideas or suggestions for a meeting-topic or program, or conservation project. We are very grateful for the contributions of Anna Whitley, John Beadle, Barbara Conover, ZaSah Khademi, Bill Chappel, Steven Yafet, Anne Hirs, Paula Borenstein, and Brenda Toyloy.

We invite YOU to join in our activism and ask your support as we strive to address the many issues facing our urban as well as suburban communities. Note several vacant positions listed above.

**LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS:** There are no events currently on the calendar. For up to date information about programs please check our website.

**Hudson County Group**

**Website:** <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/hudson-county>.  
**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/HudsonCountySierraClub>  
**E-mail:** hudsonsierraclub@gmail.com  
**Instagram:** @sierraclub\_hcg

**OFFICERS: (\*=ExCom)**

<b>Chair:</b>	David 'Ace' Case*	accase88@gmail.com
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Pramod Raju*	modisone@gmail.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	Patricia Hilliard*	hilliard_patricia@hotmail.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Patricia Hilliard*	hilliard_patricia@hotmail.com
<b>Conservation Chair:</b>	John Ottomanelli*	otto.pittsburgh@gmail.com
<b>Political Chair:</b>	Pramod Raju*	modisone@gmail.com
<b>Ready for 100:</b>	Allyson Samuels	allyson.samuell@sierraclub.org
<b>Delegate to ExCom:</b>	Pramod Raju*	modisone@gmail.com
<b>Membership:</b>	Andrea Rodriguez*	aarodriguez87@gmail.com
<b>Publicity:</b>	Pramod Raju*	modisone@gmail.com
<b>Outings / Events:</b>	Steve Krinsky*	stevekrinsky@comcast.net
<b>At-Large:</b>	Nancy Booth*	boothnancy2011@hotmail.com
<b>Instagram:</b>	<i>Open position!</i>	
<b>Web-Master:</b>	<i>Open position!</i>	

**MEETINGS AND EVENTS:**

**Oct 20 (Sun):** ExCom meeting at Hudson County Community College from 12:30 to 3pm.

**Dec 15 (Sun):** Holiday Party in downtown Jersey City, NJ.

**Outings:** We will be doing nature walks in our local parks. Check the online calendar or social media for updates.

**Current Campaigns:** Contact us if you are interested in helping with these:

**#MoratoriumMondays!** Call Gov. Murphy to tell him you want a moratorium on all new fossil fuel projects in the state of NJ. Even here in Hudson County, we've seen enough of fossil fuels, tank farms and pipelines. Help make the change to renewable energy. Stop the Meadowlands Power Plant - no more Fossil Fuel Projects! [www.empowernewjersey.com](http://www.empowernewjersey.com)

**Climate Change:** Hudson County is especially vulnerable to climate change and rising seas levels. This thing ain't over! We are neither helpless nor hopeless - but we need all the help we can get. We have joined with other leading environmental groups to form the Hudson Climate Coalition. Together, we will demand change from politicians at each level of government. We plan to meet with state and federal legislators to demand support for the Green New Deal and related policies. The ReadyFor100 campaign is working to build awareness and grass roots support as we transition to 100% renewable energy locally by the year 2050, or sooner. Get involved and be part of the solution.

**Hackensack River Greenway:** Sierra Club is working to connect existing parks with new rights of way along the Hackensack River to create a "Hackensack River Walkway" from one end of the county to the other. We are working to see that the Hackensack becomes Hudson County's "Green Coast."

**Green New Deal:** Creating the green infrastructure of the future. Building our local economy, creating good paying union jobs, and empowering urban communities who have been the victims of environmental injustices for too long.

**Community Solar for Hoboken:** We've sent the Board of Public Utilities a letter of support for Hoboken's application to be one of New Jersey's five pilot projects, based on Hoboken's population of low- and moderate-income residents.

**Loantaka Group**

(Morris and Union Counties (except for Elizabeth and Hillside), plus Livingston, Millburn and Roseland, approximately)

**WEBSITE:** <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/>  
 Loantaka now has a Facebook page. Please check it out and like it:  
<https://www.facebook.com/LoantakaGroupNJSC>

**OFFICERS:**

**Group Chair (Acting):** Paul Sanderson    908-233-2414    paulmsanderson@aol.com

(Continued on page 12)

## GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 11)

<b>Treasurer:</b>	Paul Sanderson	908-233-2414	paulmsanderson@aol.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		
<b>Conservation Chairs:</b>			
<b>Morris County:</b>	Len Fariello		len@wildlifepreserves.org
<b>Union County:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		
<b>Political Chair:</b>	Clea Carchia	908-892-7229	info@cleacarchia.com
<b>Programs:</b>	<i>Open position!</i>		
<b>Fundraising Chair:</b>	Eric Hausker	732-669-0719	ericbiomass@gmail.com
<b>Outings Chair:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		
<b>Publicity Chair:</b>	Wynn Johanson	908-464-0442	johansons@comcast.net
<b>Membership:</b>	Bruce Ostrow	973-625-0792	ostrowb@gmail.com
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Wynn Johanson	908-464-0442	johansons@comcast.net
<b>Upper Passaic River Coor:</b>	Kathy O'Leary	908-647-2870	kolearypcnj@gmail.com

If you might be interested in getting involved, come to one of our Executive Committee Meetings on the first Tuesday of the month and get to know us. Or come to one of our General Meetings on the second Wednesday of the month. There are no obligations and there will be no pressure.

To find out our activities, go to: <http://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/>  
To join our e-mailing list, go to: <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/nj-loantaka-news.html>

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:** are held on the FIRST TUESDAY of the month at 7:30 pm at Library of the Chathams, 214 Main St, Chatham. All members are welcome at Executive Committee meetings. Right now, we have 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 at 7:30 pm at the Library of the Chathams, 214 Main St, Chatham. Come learn something new and make some new friends. We'd welcome the chance to meet you and to introduce ourselves. Please see the schedule, below, and join us!

**DIRECTIONS:** posted on our website: <http://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/>.

### MEETING SCHEDULE:

**Oct 9:** We have meet & greet with candidates Lisa Mandelblatt and Stacey Gunderman, who are running for the NJ 21 District Assembly. There will be a short speech by Christine followed by a Q&A session.

**Nov 13:** View and Discuss the documentary "The River and the Wall" about the effect of US Immigration policy on the last remaining wilderness in Texas - the Rio Grande and it's ecosystems. Go to <https://theriverandthewall.com/> for more detailed information.

**Dec 11:** Come to our annual Holiday Party. We have a gathering where we mingle and listen and try to find out what issues are important with our members. We ramp up the refreshments and hone our listening skills, so come out and enjoy some time with us.

**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 to safeguard 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 Paul at 908-233-2414.

Consult our website (<http://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/>) for more information.

## Central Jersey Group

(Mercer County and neighboring towns in adjoining counties)

**Web-site:** <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/central-jersey>. Or click from the NJ Chapter's web-site. Please see the Outings List in this newsletter - or on Pineypaddlers.com.

### OFFICERS:

<b>Group Chair:</b>	Joanne Pannone	609-443-6992	jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com
<b>Group Vice Chair:</b>	Xiaoping Du		xiaping_du@yahoo.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	Leona Fluck		leona@pineypaddlers.com
<b>Outings Coord:</b>	George and Leona Fluck		leona@pineypaddlers.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Steve Eisenberg		steveis@optimum.net
<b>Programs:</b>	Joanne Pannone		jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com
<b>Conservation Chair:</b>	Kip Cherry		KipAtTheSierraClub@gmail.com
<b>Recycling:</b>	Sylvia Kay		sylviakay222@gmail.com
<b>Trails:</b>	Dave Mattek		MattekDC@aol.com
<b>Webmaster:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		
<b>Education:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		

**MEETINGS SCHEDULE:** The Central Jersey Group is continuing with its popular monthly meetings at Mercer County Community College from September through April. Everyone welcome, but please rsvp to [kipatthesierraclub@gmail.com](mailto:kipatthesierraclub@gmail.com) so we buy enough pizza!

MCCC is located at 1200 Old Trenton Rd, West Windsor, 08550. Plenty of parking will be available in the normally-closed lot at the entrance to the Student Center. Just drive around to the entrance and you should find the entrance-arm in the up-position.

**ON THE CONSERVATION FRONT:** we have been fighting the Elcon Toxic Waste Treatment Facility, proposed for Falls Township, PA, a half-mile from the Delaware River - with other environmental groups: the issues are drinking water and air quality. We offered testimony to Hamilton Twp on a proposed solar field project on Sweetbriar Av: the plan calls for the destruction of more than 800 trees in a very wet location near Assunpink Creek. The Eastern Bluebird Nestbox and Trail Monitoring Program continues. We commented opposing the Meadowlands Power Plant. We are also working with the Transportation Committee's Campaign for Electric School Buses. We are pipeline fighters: against PennEast in the central and western part of the state, South Jersey Gas and New Jersey Natural Gas in the Pinelands, and the Pilgrim Pipeline in the north. These projects would all contribute to global climate change and

endanger our local environment. We lobbied for a moratorium on pipelines. Support Empower New Jersey-No Fossil Fuels.

Get Sierra news by joining the New Jersey Sierra Club.

**Outings:** George and Leona Fluck conduct weekly outings. All the dates were not available at the writing of this article. Check Pineypaddlers.com, and the Outings section of this Newsletter.

## Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties and surrounding areas)

**WEBSITE:** <http://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/Raritan-Valley/>  
**FACEBOOK:** <https://www.facebook.com/RaritanGroupNJSC/>  
For current outings, please see the Outings List in this newsletter - or on Pineypaddlers.com.

### OFFICERS:

#### Chair and Conservation

<b>Chair:</b>	Gary Frederick	609-203-3382	gary.frederick3@gmail.com
<b>Membership:</b>	<i>Open position!</i>		
<b>Political Chair:</b>	Daphne Speck-Barynski	732-390-5311	speckbartyn@comcast.net
<b>Publicity Chair:</b>	<i>Open position!</i>		
<b>Secretary:</b>	<i>Open position!</i>		
<b>Treasurer:</b>	S.Pasricha		spjersey@email.com
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Paul Ehrlich		phehrlich-nj@outlook.com
<b>Outings/Events</b>			
<b>Co-Chairs:</b>	S. Parischa, Brianna Cerione, Bernadette Maher		
<b>College Liaison:</b>	<i>Open position!</i>		
<b>Bee affairs:</b>	Brenda Bradley		

Our **monthly committee meetings** are held on FOURTH WEDNESDAY of each month, from 7pm to 8:30, in New Brunswick. Meetings are free and open to the public. We discuss the environmental news important to New Jersey and the Raritan Valley, plus discuss upcoming events, speakers, volunteer efforts, etc. To confirm the location of the meeting, please contact Gary Frederick at [gfredsierra@gmail.com](mailto:gfredsierra@gmail.com).

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

1. **Opposition to gas and oil pipelines** that threaten our communities' air and water.
2. Conservation and protection of the **Raritan River basin** area.
3. Passage of and responsible enforcement of environmentally friendly **zoning and development ordinances**.
4. **Prevention of conserved land** from commercial or other development. We are for preservation of open space and preventing diversion of land from the state's Green Acres program to commercial development.

We encourage you to attend your town's planning/zoning board or land use board meetings. If you are aware of development proposals in your town that may have a negative environmental impact, please let us know by attending our meetings and by contacting Gary Frederick at [gfredsierra@gmail.com](mailto:gfredsierra@gmail.com). We are also interested in any environmental news or events affecting Middlesex and Somerset counties and invite you to submit those items, as well.

## Jersey Shore Group

(Monmouth County, approximately)

**WEBSITE:** <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/Jersey-Shore/>  
**FACEBOOK:** <https://www.facebook.com/JerseyShoreNJSC/>

### OFFICERS:

<b>Group Chair:</b>	Dennis Anderson	732-970-4327	dennisaza@aol.com
	6 Maple Ave, Matawan NJ 07747		
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Bob Grize	732-892-0684	nyucwnyppb@aol.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	John Luard	732-708-9221	John.Luard@gmail.com
<b>Conser. Co-Chairs:</b>	Faith Teitelbaum	732-513-5445	faithtei@aol.com
and:	Bob Sandberg	732-241-7757	Sandberg00@gmail.com
and:	Stan Greberis	732-431-0082	grapefruit@msn.com
<b>Social Media Chair:</b>	Yazmin Sourias		yazming915@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Pat Fuschetto	732-308-4588	fusche40@yahoo.com
<b>Political Co-Chairs:</b>	Robin & Harold Zullo		
<b>Outings Chair:</b>	John Luard	732-708-9221	John.Luard@gmail.com
<b>Outings Leaders:</b>	Needed!		
<b>Membership Chair:</b>	Wael Kanj		waelkanj@gmail.com
<b>Program Chair:</b>	George Moffatt	732-544-1726	gmoffatt@aol.com
<b>Climate Chair:</b>	Steve Miller	732-671-5917	SteveMiller@Comcast.net
<b>Fund-raising</b>			
<b>Co-Chairs:</b>	Mark Fukayama	908-902-1555	markexams@aol.com
and:	Faith Teitelbaum	732-513-5445	faithtei@aol.com
<b>Communications</b>			
<b>Chair:</b>	Wael Kanj		waelkanj@gmail.com
<b>High School Coor:</b>	<i>Open Position!</i>		
<b>Letter-writing Committee:</b>	Mark Fukayama, Steve Miller and Stan Greberis		

### Jersey Shore Group Happenings:

**Progress at Whale Pond Greenway** - The Jersey Shore Sierra Club is a partner of the Whale Pond Brook Watershed Association, whose goal is to restore the banks and water quality of Whale Pond Brook and create a greenway from the ocean at Long Branch to the uplands in Tinton Falls.

We are working with the Long Branch Green Team in Long Branch. In Ocean Township we are aiming to create a trail in the Whale Pond Preserve, part of 350 acres of open space in the rectangle formed by Rte 35, Industrial Way West, Rte 18, and W. Park Av. The WPBWA, as a non-profit, has engaged a forester to tell us how to best manage the land. To help: contact Faith Teitelbaum at [Faithtei@aol.com](mailto:Faithtei@aol.com).

### MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Our general membership meetings take place at 6pm on the fourth Monday of the month at Brookdale Community College's Lincroft Campus (BCC). We are delighted

that the college has invited us to continue the joint meetings of Sierra members, BCC students and the public through 2019. Our meetings, billed by BCC as “Science Monday,” average 75 attendees a month, with some talks peaking at 120 to 150 people. The cooperative effort between Sierra and BCC extends the “reach” of both organizations into the Monmouth community. Our BCC liaison is Dr. Patricia Dillon, biology professor in the college’s Science Department.

We meet at BCC to share our speakers with environmentally-concerned BCC college students, the general public, and other environmental organizations. A buffet is available for the students and adults at 6pm. The programs start at 6:30pm.

To get to Brookdale, take GSP Exit 109 to Rte 520 West (Newman Springs Rd, which becomes E Main St at the Lincroft campus). Exit the traffic circle into the campus and follow the signs to the Warner Student Life Center (SLC), where the meeting usually is in the Twin Lights Rooms I and II. Use parking lot 7. As you walk towards the building complex, Warner will be down the slope on your left. If lot 7 is full, use parking lots 5 or 6. A campus map is at [http://www.brookdalecc.edu/PDFFiles/MAPS/MAP\\_04\\_08.pdf](http://www.brookdalecc.edu/PDFFiles/MAPS/MAP_04_08.pdf).

**Sept 23:** Rep. Frank Pallone on Energy – The Congressman, now chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, will explain what the newly organized House Committee’s agenda will be, and his hopes that both sides of the aisle will work together. The House controls the nation’s budget, but it needs Senate support for many other environmental and energy bills.

**Oct 28:** Red Knots and Horseshoe Crabs – Tim Dillingham, director of the American Littoral Society, will explain how the Spring deaths of the red knots and the dearth of horseshoe crabs in Delaware Bay are related. Invite also extended to Raritan Watershed to discuss their marine life census, which includes horseshoe counts.

**Nov 22:** The Plight of Our Bees – Robert L. Gant, a biology instructional assistant and adjunct at BCC, will discuss the plight of bees, which pollinate one-third of our produce, an important role as opponents of global warming note. Cattle, sheep, antelopes, deer, and yes, even giraffes and their relatives, produce as much greenhouse gasses a day as an automobile, which is why nutritionists urge us to eat more fruits and vegetables, many of which, of course, are pollinated by bees.

**Dec 1:** Our Group Holiday Party – While this is the time for edelweiss, white winter roses, holly boughs, and poinsettias (but don’t eat those), you are invited to bring safer and somewhat more tasty fare, along with bit of vin if you wish, to round out our annual tasty Group buffet. Time is 3 to 5 pm at Dennis Anderson’s house at 6 Maple Av, off Middlesex Rd, Matawan. Use MapQuest for directions, but beware, there are two Middlesex Roads in Matawan. If you get lost, call him at 732-970-4327. Members of other Sierra Groups and the state ExComm are invited. The password? “Happy holidays!”

Speakers Contact – George Moffatt, Jersey Shore Program Chairman, 732-544-1726 or [gmoffattgt@aol.com](mailto:gmoffattgt@aol.com).

## Ocean County Group

WEBSITE: [MEETUP.COM/SIERRA-CLUB-OCEAN-GROUP](http://MEETUP.COM/SIERRA-CLUB-OCEAN-GROUP)

### OFFICERS:

**Acting Chair & Conservation Chair:** Margit Meissner-Jackson [sylviaJ1910@yahoo.com](mailto:sylviaJ1910@yahoo.com)  
**Vice-Chair & Treasurer:** Laura Stone [Laura36@yahoo.com](mailto:Laura36@yahoo.com)  
**Outings & Envl Ed’n:** Terrance Brown [terrybrown@comcast.net](mailto:terrybrown@comcast.net)  
**Recording Secretary:** Nancy Brown [nancybrown624@comcast.net](mailto:nancybrown624@comcast.net)  
**Political Chair:** Margaret Mary Piccolo [gogreenp1@yahoo.com](mailto:gogreenp1@yahoo.com)  
**Membership Chairs:** Ray & Cathy Kozakerich [raykozak@comcast.net](mailto:raykozak@comcast.net)  
**Group ExCom Members:** William Rodgers  
 And: Peter Leighton [JPLeighton1@verizon.net](mailto:JPLeighton1@verizon.net)  
 And: Joyce Isaza [JPLeighton1@verizon.net](mailto:JPLeighton1@verizon.net)  
**Hospitality, Fundraising, Publicity, Webmaster:** *All Open Positions!*

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:** 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 over-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: <http://sierraclub.org/new-jersey/West-Jersey/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WestJerseyGroupNJSC> Log on and Like Us

Follow us on Twitter @Wjsierraclub and Instagram @wjsierraclub

### OFFICERS:

**Group Chair:** Gina Carola 856-848-8831 [ginaceee@verizon.net](mailto:ginaceee@verizon.net)  
**Vice-Chair:** Frank Zinni [efzin4@aol.com](mailto:efzin4@aol.com)  
**Secretary:** Ellen Zinni [efzin4@aol.com](mailto:efzin4@aol.com)  
**Treasurer:** Trish Clements [patri3210@gmail.com](mailto:patri3210@gmail.com)  
**Publicity Chair:** Anne Caridi [annecaridi@yahoo.com](mailto:annecaridi@yahoo.com)  
**Political Chair:** Linda Rubiano [Linda\\_Maritz@yahoo.com](mailto:Linda_Maritz@yahoo.com)  
**Pinelands Rep:** Lee Snyder [pinelands1@hotmail.com](mailto:pinelands1@hotmail.com)  
**Greenways Coord’s:** Frank and Ellen Zinni [efzin4@aol.com](mailto:efzin4@aol.com)  
**Conservation Chair:** Stacey Ayala [thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com](mailto:thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com)  
**Delegate at Large:** Aida Ayala [thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com](mailto:thunderwolfgalaxy@yahoo.com)  
**Membership Chair:** Mike Brown 856-547-9221 [eyebrown@verizon.net](mailto:eyebrown@verizon.net)  
**Fundraising Chair:** *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831  
**Smart Growth Chair:** *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831  
**Programs Chair:** *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831  
**Outings Chair:** *Open position!* Call Gina to volunteer. . 856-848-8831  
**Media & Communications:** Tony Hagen [hagenajohn@verizon.net](mailto:hagenajohn@verizon.net)

### Social Media

**Coord’s:** Evan Kostka [evan.kostka@gmail.com](mailto:evan.kostka@gmail.com)  
 and Dayna Hovern [dayna.hovern@gmail.com](mailto:dayna.hovern@gmail.com)

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** are held at 7:30 pm on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of each month, September thru May, at the Quaker Meeting Hall on Friends Ave in Haddonfield. Inclement weather may cancel. Please call 856-848-8831 if unsure.

**Directions:** From I-295, take exit 34B 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 (Brace Rd). Make the next right and then the next left 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 in the lot next to the Meeting House and enter the auditorium through the doors on the right side of the building. Do not go into the Meeting House.

**Sept 11:** New Jersey’s State Parks – Take a tour of New Jersey’s State Parks, Forests and Historic Sites via a slide show.

**Oct:** no meeting

**Nov 13:** Circuit Trails - Sonia Szczesna of Tri-State Transportation will tell us how her organization is creating a network to provide alternative modes of transportation, getting people out of cars and designing Complete and Green Streets.

**Dec 11:** Join us for our Year-End Wrap Up and holiday party. Bring a favorite munchie to share as we discuss our successes and ongoing efforts from 2019 and plan for 2020. Door prizes and great camaraderie.

## South Jersey Group

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

### OFFICERS:

**Group, Outings Chair:** Tom Boghosian 609-625-0878 [boghosian1@verizon.net](mailto:boghosian1@verizon.net)  
**Vice-Chair:** *Open Position!*  
**Conservation Chair:** *Open Position!*  
**Pol. Chair, Calendars:** Dick Colby 609-965-4453 [dick.colby@stockton.edu](mailto:dick.colby@stockton.edu)  
**Membership Chair:** *Open Position!*  
**Secretary/Treasurer:** Julie Akers 609-432-3280 [julieakers56@gmail.com](mailto:julieakers56@gmail.com)

The officers listed above are wearing out (with respect to the Club), and would more than welcome new blood, with ideas and energy for local projects. Please contact Dick Colby for a discussion. Otherwise, our consuming conservation issue, adopted just after the Group was founded in the 1970s, continues to be protection of the Great Egg Harbor Wild & Scenic River, and continues to consume the energies of those few officers who remain active both within the Sierra Club and in the Watershed Association (GEHWA) that 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](http://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 e-mail [dick.colby@stockton.edu](mailto:dick.colby@stockton.edu). Dick is also an Atlantic County Parks Commissioner; contact him if you might be interested in attending monthly meetings of the Commission, which are open to the public.

Tom Boghosian is an avid kayaker (- certified as a Maine Guide!), both ocean-going and in fresh waters, possibly willing to lead trips. Julie Akers is also president of Atlantic County Friends of the Parks, and 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. Contact Dick for copies of some of our preliminary maps. Dick has also produced a brochure describing 14 historic walks in 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, fueled by new legislation that prods the BPU, and a new president of Atlantic Electric Co. (3) If you know an Atlantic County Freeholder, please consider lobbying her/him to take on Clark’s Landing as an historic county park. (4) With the passage of a plastic-bag-restricting ordinance in Longport, there’s lobbying work to be done in each of our other municipalities! (5 etc.) Many other South Jersey issues are described in previous issues of this Newsletter, available on the Chapter website.

### Some Possibly Relevant Activities of Allied Organizations:

Sept 4, Oct 2, and Nov 6: (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. Warren Fox Nature Center (WFNC\*), Atlantic County Park in Estell Manor, Milepost 15 on NJ Rte 50, 3½ miles south of Mays Landing. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280. Website: <https://www.facebook.com/Atlantic-County-Friends-of-the-Parks>.

**Oct 9 and Dec 11:** (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: George Luciano Center, Cumberland County College. Cumberland County development issues are commonly discussed, including art, historical and recreational attributes of the area. Contact Karla Rossini (CU) at 609-774-5853 or [karla.rossini@cumauricriver.org](mailto:karla.rossini@cumauricriver.org). Website: [www.cumauricriver.org](http://www.cumauricriver.org).

**Oct 16 and Dec 18:** (alternate third Wednesdays), 6:30pm: Great Egg Harbor Scenic and Recreational River Council: Representatives of the 12 municipalities discuss river management strategies. Open to the public. WFNC\*. Contact Julie Akers, 609-432-3280.

**Sept 25, Oct 23, Nov 27 and Dec 25!:** (fourth Wednesdays), 7pm: Atlantic Audubon Society is a lively member-organization with strong environmental programs and an excellent monthly on-line newsletter. Membership is free. Meetings are in the Galloway

(continued on page 14)

**Become active in one of your Group’s conservation campaigns! Attend a Group meeting! Meetings offer interesting speakers and topics, nice fellow-members, and usually food!**

## GROUP NEWS

(Continued from page 13)

Twp Library, 306 E Jimmie Leeds Rd. [www.AtlanticAudubon.org](http://www.AtlanticAudubon.org).

**Sept 28:** Great Egg Harbor River Watershed Association's annual kayak/canoe outing on the River. Contact Lynn Maun, 856-649-2792 or email [lynnkmaun@comcast.net](mailto:lynnkmaun@comcast.net).

350.org South Jersey is an organization that opposes Climate Change, and that may or may not be extant. Leaders were (at least) Glenn Klotz: [glennk1949@gmail.com](mailto:glennk1949@gmail.com), and Ron Hutchison: [Ron.Hutchison@Stockton.edu](mailto:Ron.Hutchison@Stockton.edu).

## Singles Section

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

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

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.

### OFFICERS:

<b>Interim Co-Chairs:</b>	Ron Pate and Jimi Oleksiak
<b>Outings Chair:</b>	<i>Position open</i>
<b>Conservation Chair:</b>	<i>Position open</i>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<i>Position open</i>
<b>Social Chair:</b>	<i>Position open</i>
<b>Vice Social Chair:</b>	Jeff Sovelove
<b>Programs:</b>	<i>Position open</i>
<b>Publicity:</b>	<i>Position open</i>
<b>Membership:</b>	<i>Position open</i>
<b>Nominations:</b>	<i>Position open</i>

**Executive committee members:** Rozanna Fanelli, Joyce Haddad, Ron Pate, Jeff Sovelove, Daphne Speck-Bartynski

**PURPOSE:** Our purpose is to acquaint single adults with the natural history and beauty of the surrounding area, to promote environmental conservation, and to provide recreational and social activities for 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 list on the online calendar on the Chapter's web site: [sierraclub.org/new-jersey](http://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 will be 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 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 hikers are required to sign a liability waiver.

## Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Section

Our mission of this Section is to support Sierra Club goals, and to promote activism within the LGBT community through letter writing, phone calls, and other active support for environmental issues. Anyone is welcome to join our outings regardless of sexual orientation.

**WEB SITE:** <http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/LGBT/>

**MEETUP:** <http://www.meetup.com/njsierraclub>

**FACEBOOK:** <https://www.facebook.com/njsierralgbt>

### OFFICERS:

<b>Co-Chair:</b>	Robert Zitzman *	<a href="mailto:robertmz@att.net">robertmz@att.net</a>
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(\* Section Executive Committee Member)

### MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

Check [Meetup.com/njsierraclub](http://www.meetup.com/njsierraclub) or [www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/LGBT/](http://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/LGBT/) for outings listings. You can also receive updated information by joining our email list. Please contact John at [jkashwick@gmail.com](mailto:jkashwick@gmail.com) to be included in the list.

Please see the website, and/or contact John Kashwick as above.

**Volunteers Needed!** We are continuing to recruit volunteers and outings leaders. For more information, please email John at [jkashwick@gmail.com](mailto:jkashwick@gmail.com) or Robert at [robertmz@att.net](mailto:robertmz@att.net).

## 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)

More New Jersey events are posted on a web site: <http://www.funtravels.com>. 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 web site <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](mailto:azatz@funtravels.com), and invites members to check her web site at [www.funtravels.com](http://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](mailto:phehrlich-NJ@outlook.com)). He vice-edits the Essays Section of the Senior Section website. 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 me for editing and approval and it will be posted on our website.

## Sierra Student Coalition

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

**National Website:** <http://www.ssc.org/>

## Introducing Children to the Outdoors Section

(another Chapter-wide special interest activity with the motto: No Child Left Inside!)

### OFFICERS:

**Chair:** *Open Position!*

Also known as Inner-City Outings, ICO is a public service program that provides outdoor trips to children, active in 50 of the Club's 59 Chapters, including the New Jersey Chapter since at least 1998. Marty Cohen has led our participation for most of that time, producing about five trips per year for students in the Clemente Middle School in Paterson. He has just asked to be replaced. We will provide training leading to certification. Would someone or someones please contact Rich Isaac ([risaacx@aol.com](mailto:risaacx@aol.com)) to take over from Marty? There will be a statement from Marty in the "On the Trail" column of the next (Jan-March) issue of this Newsletter.

## On the Trail On the Trail in the Great Smokies

By Tony Hagen, Media and Communications Chair of our West Jersey Group  
([hagenajohn@verizon.net](mailto:hagenajohn@verizon.net))

I once matched steps with an Appalachian Trail (AT) thru-hiker up in the north of New Jersey. A seasoned hiker can do 20 miles in a day, but the actual length of a hike is more determined by the availability of water and shelter. This guy was trying to get past something they call the Lemon Squeezer. Along the way we were attacked by a hawk which was apparently protecting a nestling. It dive-bombed us repeatedly as we walked along the trail. We both moved as rapidly as we could.

Eventually I had to break off. This guy kept up a heck of a pace and there was no way I could keep up. A few months later I heard that he did make it all the way to Mount Katahdin, the AT's northern endpoint in Maine.

I still try to do a bit of the AT whenever I get a chance. Recently I walked up Clingmans Dome, the highest point in Great Smokies National Park (in Tennessee, on the AT) and turned off sideways for an hour or so onto the AT itself. Going up the mountain, the trail was paved and there were hundreds of people, but the second I got on the AT there was nobody. I came to an outcrop with a sublime view of a valley and mountains off in the distance. It was one of those at-peace-with-nature moments when you are one with the birds and butterflies flitting from plant to plant, and on my way back I did encounter one other hiker.

That was strange to me, not seeing anybody on a trail so close to a major tourist



destination—the spiral walkway that affords a good view from the summit of Clingmans, 6,643 feet in elevation. I heard one adolescent tell her father she wanted to hike the AT for a bit but she was immediately redirected. The dad wanted to get back to the parking lot and presumably a cold drink.

Most of the people doing the Clingmans walk had no water with them, no sun hats, or serious shoes. It is just a half-mile hike or so from the parking lot, although it's angled almost 45 degrees in most places, and it does get hot.

Worse: the parking lot was jammed, and the line of cars stretched down the approach more than a quarter mile, and was longer when I left in the early afternoon. There was something depressing about people sitting in their cars, waiting for a parking space, rather than parking by the side of the road and hiking in.

It later occurred to me to just rip out the roads and put in an electrified trolley with way-points at the trailheads. What will it be like in another 20 years?

My point is that our parks need rescuing. People need to be trained in how to appreciate them. If a youngster wants to get out and see what the AT is like, perhaps she should be indulged for a few hundred yards. It won't kill us, and maybe she'll grow up to be a great conservationist. The world needs more of these.

Also that we still have lots of great hiking in New Jersey. Including our portion of the AT, if the hawks will indulge us.





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**Community Outreach Coordinator:**  
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If no one is in the office to take your call, please leave a message on the answering machine. Please SPELL YOUR LAST NAME, and state whether the phone number you leave is for daytime or evening.

## OUTINGS

(Continued from page 15)

Beechwood. Option for late lunch at Shady Rest Restaurant. Leaders: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

**Dec 14 (Sat): Watchung Reservation, Mountainside (Union Co).** 10am. <http://ucnj.org/parks-recreation/paths-trails-greenways/watchung-reservation-2/>. 7 miles in 3-4 hours in hilly terrain, moderate difficulty. Features: Nature & Science Center, Deserted Village of Felville, Seely's Pond, Sierra Trail. Facilities: There is a heated restroom building during the hike. Requirements: Hiking boots and a day-pack with water and lunch. Registration required via web: Start with the calendar at <https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey> and click on the "Watchung Reservation Hike," then click on RSVP. Directions for the meeting place will be sent via email to members who register. Leader: Jimi Oleksiak <The\_Hikist@Mac.com>.

**Dec 18 (Wed): Hike Historic Smithville and Tour Smithville Mansion (Burlington Co).** 10am. 4 miles, easy pace. After the hike we'll tour the Mansion decorated for a "Christmas Around The World" theme (small fee), by local garden clubs. Details at [www.smithvillemansion.org/](http://www.smithvillemansion.org/). Option for late lunch at Vincentown Diner. Meet at Smith's Woods at Historic Smithville Park, East Railroad Ave, Easthampton. Leashed dogs are welcome. Co-leaders: Leona F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com, and Joanne Pannone: 609-443-6992 or jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com. (C)

**Dec 21 (Sat): Raritan Bay Hike and Potluck Lunch, Keansburg (Monmouth Co).** 11am. We will start with a pot-luck lunch and ice-breaker at Noon and then walk to the Raritan Bay (2 miles round trip) to continue socializing. Optional beach cleanup (bags provided) and walking meditation explanation. This will be an ongoing series that introduces the Tree of Life and its connection to the environment (plants, colors, and our thought processes). Location: 12 5th St, Hazlet Township, 07734. Leader: Elly Faden <efaden1@gmail.com> or 732-639-3593. Registration required via Web: Start with the calendar at <https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey> and click on the "Raritan Bay Hike and Potluck Lunch," then click on RSVP. Potluck coordination will be done via email to members who register.

**Dec 21 (Sat): D&R Canal Hike on The First Day of Winter (Burlington/Mercer Cos).** 10am. 5 miles, easy pace. It's the first day of winter - let's take a walk on the towpath from Bordentown to Trenton. Leashed dogs are welcome! Meet at the RiverLine parking lot in Bordentown City. Option for late lunch at Heart of Bordentown (HOB) Tavern. Inclement weather cancels. Leona and George F: 609-259-3734 or Leona@pineypaddlers.com. (C)

**Dec 26 - Dec 31: Patriots Week in Trenton - History of the American Revolution in NJ (Mercer Co).** Learn about the American Revolution during Patriots Week. Every day of the week offers fun and history for the entire family. See the First and Second Battles of Trenton Reenacted and participate in Walking Tours of the Trenton Battlefields. Check website for events: [www.patriotsweek.com](http://www.patriotsweek.com). Contact us to meet for various events: Leona F: leona@pineypaddlers.com, and Joanne P: jpatmeadowbrook@gmail.com. (C)

## JANUARY

Jan 1 (Wed): New Year's Day Paddle on the Wading River (Burlington Co). 10am. Ring in the New Year with the NJ Sierra Club. The section we paddle will depend on river conditions. Enjoy a tailgate get together after the trip. Bring something to share. Experienced cold weather paddlers only. Contact leaders to confirm trip and details: George & Leona F: 609-259-3734 or leona@pineypaddlers.com. (W)

## Upcoming ExCom Meetings

All members are welcome to attend these monthly statewide policy deliberations, held on SECOND SATURDAYS. Details, including agendas and travel instructions, are available from Rich Isaac, the Chapter Chair. (Best confirm!)

Conservation and/or Political Committee meetings usually start at 10am; Environmental Justice Committee at noon. Lunch is otherwise shared at noon. The main meeting starts at 1pm, and is usually followed by a meeting of the Transportation Committee.

**September 14, October 12 and November 9:  
All at Reformed Church of Highland Park, 19-21 S. 2nd Ave.**  
(No meeting in December)



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*The Jersey Sierran* appears in January, April, July and October. The deadline for copy is on the 10th of the month, two months before appearance. Members are cordially invited to propose articles, essays, letters, poetry and artwork. (Group/Section News columns are prepared by Group/Section Chairs; Outings are vetted by the Chapter Outings Chair, Ellen Blumenkrantz.)

*Opinions, unless otherwise attributed, are of the writer only. Advertised products and services carry no Club endorsement.*

Thank you to all who contributed to this issue! This newsletter is produced mostly by volunteers.

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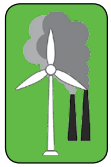


**F94Q W 4000 -1**

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

\* Indicates Chapter-wide elected ExCom members. \*\* Indicates committee chair or co-chair





## Ready for 100% - Clickable Starter Guide

Here are links to documents produced by the campaign (See box on p. 6)

### Values and campaign overview

**\*\*Campaign Principles <=> start here!\*\***

[Ready for 100 Organizing Toolkit](#)

### Guidelines

[Guidelines and Recommended Actions for 100% RE Communities](#)  
[Compliance Guidance for RF100](#)

### Why this matters and what is possible

[Groundswell - From Power to Empowerment](#)

[We Have the Power- 100 Percent Renewable Energy for a Clean Thriving America](#)  
[-Environment America](#)

### How it is working

**\*\*Cities Are Ready for 100% Renewable Energy - 10 Case Studies\*\***

[City Climate and Energy Plans - Lead Authors](#)

### How to talk about it

**\*\*Campaign 1-pager for tabling\*\***

[Paper petition](#)

[Ready for 100 Message Box](#)

[Clean energy quick statistics](#)

[Logos](#)

### How to make it happen

**\*\*Template campaign plan\*\***

[Ready for 100 Organizing Toolkit](#)

### What does implementation look like, how does my city actually get to 100%

[100% RE Building Blocks \(@Global100RE\)](#) This tool was prepared by the Global 100% Renewable Energy campaign, an international coalition of NGO's working towards 100%, which RF100 is involved in. The building blocks are both a guideline for city action and a tool to evaluate the performance and achievements of a community's efforts. [Executive Summary](#), [Full Publication](#)

[Carbon-Free Cities Handbook](#) This report from Rocky Mountain Institute outlines a range of actions – and associated resources – for cities globally to move toward climate-neutrality and see results within a year. 100% renewable energy is featured, including sample RFPs for municipal procurement. [Overview](#), [Full Report](#).

[NAACP's Just Energy Policies: Model Energy Policies Guide and Compendium](#) The Model Energy Policies Guide provide guidelines for state and local energy policies. Based on industry analysis, these standards are rigorous, yet attainable. If adopted nationwide, these policies will help to prevent climate change, as well as protect the well-being of communities. [Policy Guide](#). The Just Energy Policies compendium outlines how each state can make sure their energy policies protect communities from harmful energy production processes while providing equitable access to economic opportunities like green jobs in energy efficiency and clean energy. [Executive Summary](#), [Full Report](#).

[Pathways to 100: An Energy Supply Transformation Primer for U.S. Cities](#) Cities and their partners can use "Pathways to 100" to 1) understand their unique energy landscape, 2) identify strategies that are applicable to their utility and state policy context, and 3) organize city staff and external networks to support energy supply transformation. "Pathways to 100" includes an Appendix that can help cities embed equity in their city energy supply system transformation. [Overview](#), [Full Report](#)

## Report on Bergen County's Quanta Superfund Site

From a press release issued on May 1st, edited by Irene Gnarra

Workers at the Quanta Site in Edgewater have installed a tent-like structure, hoping to contain its toxic naphthalene fumes. EPA officials had argued that the fumes should pose no health risks, even though Edgewater residents have been complaining for nine months about health problems resulting from breathing the noxious fumes. In April, a state report found that the elevated levels of naphthalene coming from the site could indeed cause harmful short-term health issues for residents.

So EPA is finally doing something about the putrid odor, and the report that naphthalene can cause cancer. The four-story "tent" might help contain the pollution, but we believe that air scrubbers should be installed as well. Residents will continue to be at risk.

The release of naphthalene began when Honeywell started digging up contaminated soil in 2017, as part of its cleanup plan. Honeywell wishes to prevent coal tar, arsenic and oil byproducts from being discharged into the Hudson River – by encasing them in concrete. Levels of naphthalene spiked in June, 2017, but continued almost daily through March of 2018, when work at the site was temporarily halted. The state health report found that, at peak, naphthalene levels reached nearly 1 milligram per cubic meter. Half that amount can cause respiratory damage.

The Quanta site is located in a very densely populated area, and is one of the most contaminated sites in the state, with its tons of volatile organic compounds, arsenic, lead and hydrocarbons. We think the current soil and groundwater plans are insufficient. The site is on fill in the Hudson River where river water and seasonally high-water tables can move the contaminants around. That is why there should be a comprehensive cleanup, not just stabilization.

The chemical vapors at the Quanta site become worse in warm weather. Honeywell's \$72.2 million clean-up plan is not removing the contamination because the EPA is allowing them to cut corners. EPA must assure that the community's unique problems are resolved.

### Reports from Trenton

## DEP Sells Out Clean Water, Approves Tewksbury Sewage Plant

From a press release issued on June 3rd

The DEP recently granted a water pollution permit for a new sewage treatment plant that will allow the Bellemead Development Corporation to discharge treated wastewater into the Rockaway Creek in Tewksbury (eastern Hunterdon Co). The New Jersey Highlands Council had said the project violates the Highlands Regional Master Plan. An old permit for the project was set to expire at the end of July.

This plant would allow overdevelopment of an environmentally sensitive area, and pollution of a high-quality stream. In addition to more sprawl, it would threaten the drinking water of millions of people. The DEP has ignored its own rules, siding with polluters over the public.

An Appellate Court had ruled in 2017 that the DEP failed to consult with the Highlands Council before granting the old permit. Under the Highlands Act, the Highlands Council must be consulted on any changes in sewer service for the region.

The DEP granted the new permit despite public opposition and obvious environmental and public safety concerns, and despite the Council's argument that it would promote overdevelopment and water pollution in an environmentally sensitive conservation area.

The Bellemead project dates back more than 20 years. It began as an office park, then became a housing development. It is unclear what the current project will be, but the DEP still approved the sewage plant.

Rockaway Creek is almost entirely a Category 1 (pristine) stream, although the sewage outfall will enter a portion of the river not designated C1. Rockaway Creek is also tapped for two major water supply intakes. C1 waterways benefit from anti-degradation protections: there should be no measurable or calculable change in water quality.

## Lake Hopatcong Closure Result of Long-Term Failures at DEP

From a press release issued on July 1st, edited by Joe Testa

This past summer the DEP warned people to stay out of Lake Hopatcong, New Jersey's largest lake, because of a massive harmful algal bloom (HAB) encompassing most of the lake. Swimming areas have been closed, and DEP urged people not to participate in water sports or have any contact with the water. On the July 4 holiday, the largest recreation lake in the state was closed. This is shameful indicator of our failure to protect our waterways.

The Lake Hopatcong algae bloom was triggered by a combination of warm weather, still water and high levels of nutrients. A series of intense storms followed by temperatures 80 degrees and above washed large amounts of nutrients including phosphorus into the lake and allowed bacteria to thrive. The phosphorus level in the lake is the highest in 17 years of data. DEP said it is the largest algae bloom they've seen, and could last for months depending on weather conditions.

DEP's failure to follow the Clean Water Act and to have adequate watershed management, stormwater control, and septic and sewer regulation has led to the situation where this HAB could occur. The state has established TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Load) standards for lakes, but DEP has never set ways to enforce them. Overdevelopment has put more houses and septic on every lot in the area; more fertilizer from these yards gets washed into the lake. This has turned Lake Hopatcong into an algae-polluted swamp.

Lake Hopatcong (which joins Morris, Passaic and Sussex Counties) is headed toward an ecological disaster. Algae blooms produce toxins that endanger people, pets and wildlife, causing severe skin rashes and other illnesses. People can't swim, and shouldn't even touch the water. The lake will atrophy and stink as the algae sucks oxygen out of the lake. What's left will be a giant, stagnant pool of polluted water, creating an environmental and public health disaster. This is a clear sign of a failure to protect the clean water that our residents, visitors, and commerce depend on.

Other New Jersey swimming areas, including Spruce Run in Hunterdon County, have also been closed or under advisories to swimming and water sports recently. The lake at Swartswood State Park reopened after a HAB. Lake Mohawk in Sparta had an ongoing advisory.

The Murphy Administration has failed to reverse eight years of Christie rollbacks on waterway protections that have led to increased pollution and overdevelopment. Those rollbacks weakened protections for stormwater, allowed development in environmentally sensitive areas impacting water quality, and reduced protections for streams and stream buffers.

The state needs to take immediate action to reduce pollution into our lakes and waterways. We need to establish stream buffers and enforce real TMDL standards in our lakes; toughen rules on stormwater management and bring back Septic Management Districts; and reduce overdevelopment and sprawl in environmentally sensitive areas. Otherwise the pollution will only get worse.

## Reports from Trenton

# Scudder Falls Bridge Tolls Will Worsen Traffic, Pollution

From a press release issued on May 28th

Drivers using the Scudder Falls Bridge on (former) I-95 between Mercer County and Bucks County, PA, began paying a toll in July. Drivers with E-Z Pass now have \$1.25 taken from their accounts. Other drivers have their license plates scanned and are billed \$2.60 by mail. There are no toll booths. The money is intended, by the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission, to fund a \$534 million replacement for the bridge.

But consider the consequences! Drivers will avoid the toll by diverting to other - free - bridges. That will increase congestion in those areas, and change traffic patterns. The lost toll revenue will force the Bridge Commission to keep raising the toll. Ask not for whom the bridge tolls, it tolls for thee!

Construction began in 2017 and is expected to be completed in 2020. The new dual-span bridge will be widened to a total of nine lanes - six traffic lanes plus three auxiliary lanes for merging traffic. It will include new pedestrian and bike paths. The project also includes improved interchanges with connecting roads, 14-foot shoulders and noise abatement walls.

The alternative bridges include Calhoun Street in Trenton, Washington Crossing and the Lambertville Free Bridge. Expect more traffic on older bridges that are not up to standard, and more congestion in adjoining neighborhoods and towns. The project designers didn't consider those changes in traffic patterns. I-276, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Extension to the New Jersey Turnpike, is renumbered to I-95, and will also divert cars and trucks from the Scudder Falls Bridge, further reducing toll revenue. The bridge replacement project was prompted after the 57-year-old bridge was classified as "functionally obsolete." Concerns included capacity, safety deficiencies, lack of shoulders and the geometry of the interchanges.

The Scudder Falls Bridge needed to be repaired and modernized, but this project goes far beyond what was needed.

# SCI Report on Dirty Dirt Gets Senate to Act

From a press release issued on June 24th

The state Senate has passed a bill addressing New Jersey's ongoing problems with illegal dumping of contaminated materials. This came right after the latest "Dirty Dirt" report, by the Special Commission of Investigation (SCI), detailing illegal dumping in Marlboro (Monmouth Co). The SCI reported that a company called DGRT Services dumped more than 1,500 truckloads of construction site and recycling center debris, including possible carcinogenic toxins, on a 17-acre horse farm on Harbor Road.

The Senate bill, S1683 (Smith), tries to fix this problem. The SCI's first "Dirty Dirt" report, in 2016, exposed the rampant problem of soil brokers and dirty dirt. But the illegal dumping is still happening, risking the environment and public health. That's because neither the DEP nor the full Legislature has had the courage to intervene. As reported by the SCI, the waste industry has ties to organized crime syndicates.

The SCI's new report, on the Marlboro dumping, says that New Jersey currently "lacks the authority to properly oversee elements of its recycling program." As a result, "unscrupulous individuals with criminal records and/or ties to organized crime" have profited, at the expense of legitimate recycling businesses.

In other examples: for more than a year the DEP refused to use its authority to stop illegal dumping in Vernon (Sussex Co) while a toxic dirt pile continued to grow. A judge has now ordered cleanup of the site, but there are ongoing concerns that toxins from the pile have impacted the groundwater. The first SCI report also detailed the illegal dumping of 400 truckloads of contaminated material in the Cliffwood Beach section of Old Bridge (Middlesex Co), where pollutants could be washed into the Raritan Bay. In Palmyra (Burlington Co), illegal dumping of contaminated materials right along the Delaware River threatened to impact water supply and fisheries, and could wash into people's homes.

S1683 would tighten regulations by expanding the requirement for background checks to a broader range of persons involved in the solid waste industry, such as sales persons, consultants, and brokers. The companion Assembly bill is A4267 (McKeon, Space, Wirths & Pinkin), referred to the Environment & Solid Waste Committee on June 27, 2018, from which it has not moved. But the overriding problem continues to be DEP's lack of enforcement.

# Flesh-Eating Bacteria in New Jersey

From a press release issued on June 19th

The number of cases of flesh-eating bacteria in the Delaware Bay area of NJ is increasing, according to a new study published in *Annals of Internal Medicine*. Researchers say that warming water temperatures and decreased water quality may be responsible. The bacteria can cause severe skin rashes and other illnesses.

This is just the latest example of the growing dangers of climate change and the state's failure to address climate impacts and protect our waterways. People should not have to be afraid to swim, fish, and otherwise enjoy using our offshore waters.

The study was conducted by specialists at Cooper University Hospital in Camden, the University of Sciences, and the Geisinger Health System. They detailed five cases of bacterial infection from the Delaware Bay area in 2017 and 2018. Four of the five patients survived. All had existing illnesses or medical conditions that may have made them more vulnerable to the bacteria.

Climate change is bringing warmer temperatures, more rain and longer summer seasons. The impacts include increased stormwater pollution, allowing many kinds of bacteria to thrive. Flesh-eating bacteria have previously been reported in the Gulf Coast and in Chesapeake Bay, but rarely as far north as the Delaware Bay.

This year has also seen stinging jellyfish from Barnegat Bay south to North Wildwood, also because of warming waters and increased pollution. High levels of fecal bacteria are again being reported at shore beaches. There have also been pollution problems in fresh water: Swartswood Lake State Park (Sussex Co) had to close its swimming area because of a hazardous algal bloom.

In 2018 there were 155 advisories or beach closures resulting from high bacterial levels along the Jersey Shore. A third of them occurred during the second week of June. The DEP said that was the worst week for beach water quality at the shore since 2007.

Stormwater pollution from combined sewer overflow, septic runoff and leaky sewer pipes are bringing nutrients into our waters that make pollution worse. Other factors include overdevelopment and farm practices, which add even more nutrients to the water.



# Win! SJ Gas Sent Back to Pinelands Commission

From a press release issued on June 5th

A New Jersey Appellate Judge has granted the Sierra Club's motion to require the NJ Pinelands Commission to reconsider its approval of the South Jersey Gas (SJG) Pipeline. The court rejected SJG's argument that it should review the Commission's decision as it pertains to the so-called Reliability Line.

Originally, the Pipeline was meant to fuel the BL England Power Plant, at Beasley's Point (Cape May Co), traversing Cumberland, Atlantic and Cape May Counties. But that plant has since been closed, and is being dismantled. Then SJG concocted an argument that backup is needed for domestic customers in Cape May Co: the Reliability idea.

The Sierra Club hopes the Pinelands Commission will officially rescind its Pipeline approval. Our main argument continues to be that the Pipeline would violate the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan, which requires that new infrastructure benefit primarily the residents of the Pinelands itself.

In April the Commission tabled a vote to rescind their approval of the pipeline, perhaps because SJG claimed that our pending lawsuit had priority over this matter. SJG also noted lack of proper notice and a public hearing.

We have been fighting the BL England Plant since 1998 - because of its smokestack emissions and its thermal pollution of the Great Egg Harbor Bay. It was originally fueled by coal, then oil, and even (as a failed experiment) by solid waste.

# Cancelled Concerts Will Help Protect Piping Plover

From a press release issued on June 14th

The discovery of a nest for the federally protected Piping Plover, near the site of the proposed Sandy Hook Summer Concert Series, prompted cancellation of the concerts. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said regulations ban any activity within 1,000 meters of the endangered birds' nests.

Piping Plovers are a very unique, endangered shorebird species. Concerts tend to attract many people who might trample on the nests. The noise also scares the birds and can disrupt nesting. The National Park Service and the Sandy Hook Foundation made the right call by cancelling the concerts.

Sandy Hook produces 40-50 percent of New Jersey's hatchlings each year. Piping Plovers nest there for a few months before moving on. There are fewer than 3,000 nesting pairs along the Atlantic Coast. More than 20 nests have been built on Sandy Hook's beaches this year.

Since the Endangered Species Act became law in 1973, 54 species have been removed from the endangered list. Another 21 have improved from endangered to threatened. Unfortunately, the Piping Plover remains one of the most endangered.

*Reports from Trenton*

# DEP Must Act Quickly to Reverse the Toxic Brew in our Lakes and to Prevent an Ecological Disaster

*From an Op-Ed release to nj.com/opinion on July 24 – by Chapter Director Jeff Tittel (Jeff.Tittel@Sierraclub.org)*

This past summer, New Jersey's water problems hit home. The threat was everywhere, from beaches and bays to inland lakes and streams to reservoirs and drinking water. Stormwater runoff, leaky sewer pipes, failing septic and unchecked agricultural uses brought nutrients and sewer overflows into our waterways. Toxic chemicals from our industrial past contaminated our water.

The state has caused this by faulty watershed planning and stormwater management, and failure to set Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) standards to limit pollutants and cleanup of toxic sites. We are having a water crisis and a climate crisis, and the two are interrelated.

The most alarming example is Lake Hopatcong, which straddles Sussex, Passaic and Morris Counties. This largest recreational lake in the New Jersey was closed for 4 weeks due to massive algal blooms. Nearly 90 percent of the Lake's shore is developed, producing stormwater runoff that dumps nutrients into the water. Greenwood Lake (shared by Passaic Co and New York's Orange Co), another of our largest recreational lakes, was also shut down. Both lakes are managed by toothless commissions that have no control over land use and stormwater issues. The result is a toxic brew made even worse by climate change: creating warmer water and more rain. Our lakes could begin to eutrophy, killing off aquatic life. The water will stink. Our lakes will become giant, stagnant pools of water.

Other lakes face similar threats from algal blooms. Spruce Run Reservoir (Hunterdon Co) was closed for swimming for more than a month. Swartswood Lake (Hunterdon Co) and Rosedale Lake (Mercer Co) were closed for extended periods. Only three percent of New Jersey waterways meet all the criteria for being swimmable, drinkable and fishable.

The DEP has said that nitrification of our lakes has a "low priority because it does not directly relate to human health issues." That is wrong. The state does not use nutrients as a factor in their cleanup plans for the lakes.

Coastal areas are also suffering. Between 2014 and 2018 there were 100 beach closures and 370 swimming advisories because of high bacterial levels. Sea level rise is causing increases in sunny-day flooding. Barnegat Bay remains one of the most ecologically threatened bays in the nation. Clinging jellyfish that thrive on algae have spread from Barnegat Bay (Ocean Co) as far south as North Wildwood (Cape May Co), putting much of the coastline at risk. Cases of flesh-eating bacteria are reported more frequently in Delaware Bay.

Dangerous chemicals are contaminating our water. Lead in drinking water is a pervasive problem. Children in Newark and other cities have more lead in their blood than in Flint, Michigan. More than 30 towns in Bergen County alone have tested with high lead levels.

Pollution from runoff gets into our water systems and corrodes pipes, causing more lead to leach into the water. Nearly 20 percent of the people in New Jersey are exposed to PFOA and PFOS, dangerous fluorochemicals used in making Teflon and flame-retardant materials. Chromium, chlorochemicals, benzene and other organic chemicals have also polluted our water. There are 3,500 sites in NJ where groundwater is contaminated within the time of travel to drinking water wells.

New Jersey should learn from other states, including New York, which has a strong program to go after Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) and lake management rules. The Lake George Commission has real authority to regulate stormwater and control overdevelopment to protect their lake. The Lake Tahoe Commission in California has similar power. Lake Hopatcong is our Lake George and needs the same protections.

The Murphy administration has let things worsen by leaving Christie-era rollbacks of critical water protections in place. We must reverse rollbacks and strengthen rules on Stormwater Management, Flood Hazard and Water Quality Planning. We need to restore Septic Management Districts and expand stream buffers. We must rehabilitate wetlands and natural systems, and halt logging projects. We need better watershed planning. CAFRA rules should not allow overdevelopment in environmentally sensitive areas. We need real TMDL standards limiting pollutants.

DEP needs to act quickly to prevent an ecological disaster. We need funding to replace lead pipes and other aging infrastructure, and to retrofit stormwater systems in existing developments. We must invest in more restoration projects and reform agricultural practices that discharge pollutants. We need to accelerate cleanup of toxic sites. We also must focus on combating climate change, including a moratorium on all fossil-fuel projects. Is the glass half empty or half full? This year, you can't swim in it, touch it, and you definitely don't want to drink it.

*Source:*

<https://www.nj.com/opinion/2019/07/ecologist-dep-must-act-quickly-to-reverse-the-toxic-brew-in-our-lakes-and-to-prevent-an-ecological-disaster.html>

