Community Solar Program Makes Big Strides
By Abbas Salim • azas786@yahoo.com

In 2019, New Jersey established the three-year Community Solar Energy Pilot Program, administered by the NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU). Gov. Phil Murphy has called the pilot program a national model for making solar accessible to underserved communities and a key part of the state’s commitment to transition to 100% clean energy by 2050.

To achieve this goal, the Clean Energy Initiative has charted a plan to install 32 gigawatts (GW) of solar power by year 2050. As of October 31, 2021, 3.7 GW of solar had been installed in New Jersey, including a blend of installations, such as residential, nonresidential, grid-supplied and community solar. With over 165,000 solar installations, the Garden State is No. 1 in the United States for installed solar capacity per square mile.

The most important benefit of community solar is that it makes clean energy available and affordable to those who otherwise could not have it. About 8% of US residents can’t own or lease rooftop solar systems. This may be because their roofs are unsuitable or they live in multifamily housing. In addition, many can’t afford the up-front cost of solar panels. Community solar, therefore, is available to businesses and residents to benefit from clean energy.

Based on its pre-established criteria, the BPU approved 45 project applications in October 2019 for the program’s first year and 105 applications in October 2021 for the second. These projects are expected to generate a total of 24.3 gigawatts (MW) in electrical capacity and serve nearly 45,000 homes; 51% of this capacity is set aside for low and moderate income (LMI) households. These projects are located throughout the state (Figure). Of the second-year projects, 98 are located on rooftops, five on landfills, and one on a brownfield. Pilot year-one projects are fully subscribed and subscription for the second-year projects is expected to start sometime in the second quarter of 2022.

How Does Community Solar Work?
In a community solar program, a solar developer sets up a solar farm and offers subscriptions to utility customers in the area. Based on their previous consumption, many can’t afford the up-front cost of solar panels. Community solar, therefore, is available to businesses and residents to benefit from clean energy.

National Board Election Coming!
The 2022 election for the Sierra Club’s Board of Directors begins in March. National Board members are elected for three-year terms. All Sierra Club members will soon receive ballots.

The New Jersey Chapter recommends a vote for Kate Bartholomew, Cheyenne Branscum, Maya Khosla, and Aaron Mair in the upcoming election for the Sierra Club’s Board of Directors.

The Big Win: New Law Sets Recycling Standards
By Sylvia Kay • Zero Waste Coordinator

After multiple revisions, New Jersey’s recycled content bill (S2915/A647) was signed into law by Gov. Phil Murphy on January 17, 2022. It won by a nice margin in both houses: 48 to 26 in the Assembly and 32 to 15 in the Senate. The bill had been vigorously edited and amended over the past year to accommodate many opposing sides and to circumscribe many complex factors.

The recycling content law is a big win and puts New Jersey in one of the leading positions for recycled content legislation.

In brief, the law regulates the percentage of postconsumer recycled content (PCR) in rigid plastic containers, plastic carryout bags, plastic garbage bags, glass containers, and paper carryout bags (Table). It bans the sale of polystyrene packing material (such as peanuts). It takes effect in phases that commence in 2024, and gives oversight, with potential waivers, to the Department of Environmental Protection.

Key points debated over the year include the regulation of milk and food containers, as well as specific percent- ages of PCR. In the final version, milk packaging is exempt, as are packaging for infant formula, medical products, many dietary products, and identified hazardous products. In the final version, rigid food containers (not bottles) are exempt for five years.

Of greatest importance, the recycling content law will reduce reliance on virgin materials and decrease our dependency on fossil fuels for plastic production, particularly single-use plastics. This new law will expand the market for recycled materials and promote a circular economy. It will assign specific responsibilities to industry for repurposing postconsumer materials.

There are a number of states tackling the complexities of PCR legislation. The laws in two states, California and Washington, have specific metrics for recycled content as well as phased-in periods with escalations. New Jersey’s recycled content law resembles the legislation in these states due to its detailing of PCR rates and target dates. The law is a robust piece of legislation and thanks should be given to the strong leadership in the Senate and Assembly and to their dedicated staff members, to Gov. Murphy, and to a strong and dedicated coalition of environmental groups for this truly big win.

For Related Reading
News release from Beyond Plastics: https://bit.ly/3fBkeEk
Article on similar process in other states: https://bit.ly/3MwWAI

In his intervention with the PVSC, Murphy gave vital acknowledgement of PCR rates and target dates. The law was signed into law by Gov. Murphy on January 17, 2022.

TABLE: Postconsumer Recycled Content (PCR) Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Requirements</th>
<th>Target PCR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rigid plastic containers</td>
<td>10% - 50% (2024)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic beverage containers</td>
<td>15% - 50% (2024)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic carryout bags</td>
<td>20% - 40% (2027)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper carryout bags (thickness)</td>
<td>G-70 mm &lt;0.80 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass containers (sheets)</td>
<td>5% - 10% (2027)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large paper carryout bags</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small paper bags (1 lb)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*With plastic containers, PCR must increase by predetermined increments every three years. With plastic bags, manufacturers must reach target levels within five years. Credit: Tony Hagen

Starting with this quarterly issue of The Jersey Sierran, electronic distribution is being extended to 62,000 nonmember Champions who have previously supported the NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club. If you are not a member, now is the time to become more active! See the membership coupon on page 12.

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The New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club wishes to thank all those who pro-
vided the Chapter with financial support during 2023. Listed below are the names of those members and friends who contributed $100 or more during the calendar year. Please be assured that all contributions are very much appreciated, regard-
less of the amount.

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Sign up for alerts on helpful actions you can take as an NJ Chapter member to address urgent environmental needs and support Chapter initiatives: Visit https://www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/action-alert-signup-form

The NJ Chapter Tackles PFAS Contamination

By Judy Minott • Chapter Secretary

In 2020 the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) adopt-
ed strict drinking water standards for three chemicals in the perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) family. Many New Jersey systems soon found they were exceeding the new standard. In both cases, water tests exceeded the state’s maximum contaminant level. This has contributed to increas-
ing concern about PFAS chemicals in New Jersey.

What are PFAS?
PFAS are a class of chemicals that contaminate our drinking water, air, and soil. PFAS pollution is a pub-
ic health crisis. “PFAS have the ability to persist in all forms of media, making their contamination ubiquitous.
People in New Jersey have been exposed to these chemicals in their air and drinking water for decades. This is extremely concerning because very low doses can cause significant health ef-
fections,” explained Anjuli Ramos-Busot, NJ Chapter Director.

Health problems associated with PFAS include infertility, immune system dis-
function, cancer, liver damage, developmental disorders, and thyroid disease.

PFAS are found in hundreds of products that we use daily, including
nonstick cookware, firefighting foam, moisture- and stain-resistant clothing (eg, Gore-Tex), carpeting and upholstery, and cleaning products. PFAS are also used in food contain-
ers, grease-resistant food packaging, water-proof of mascara, sunscreen, and shaving cream.

Beginning in 2002, the Environ-
mental Protection Agency (EPA) took action to monitor PFAS chemicals in consumer products and control their manufacture and import. The chemical industry, in the intervening time, has worked to develop
similar replacements, but these can just be as toxic and are not subject to regulation.
The burden of mitigating this pollution is referred to as “chemical whack-a-mole.” There are now more than 4,700 chemicals in the PFAS family.

PFAS are often called “forever chem-
icals” because they remain in the environ-
ment for an almost limitless amount of time and bioaccumulate in the bodies of humans and animals. A 2015 Cen-
ters for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) study estimated 97% of Ameri-
cans have PFAS in their blood. PFAS are also pervasive in wildlife.

No Easy Solutions
When it comes to PFAS, New Jersey is one of the most heavily contaminated states. Removing PFAS from drinking water is costly for municipalities. For homeowners with well systems there is no perfect solution.

Various types of water treatment sys-
tems are usually recommended for removing PFAS from home drinking water. Both require regular main-
tenance. Granular activated carbon or solid carbon block filters are relatively low-cost. They are effective at removing
PFAS from drinking water. An example is a Gravity 10,000 filter, such as perflu-
oroctanoic acid (PFOA) and perflu-
oroctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). High pressure membrane filtration, such as reverse osmosis (RO), is more effective

The PFAS that New Jersey has been exposed to include PFOA, PFOS, and some other PFAS.

“People in New Jersey have been exposed to these chemicals in their air and drinking water for decades.”

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For a wider range of PFAS although it is generally more expensive and produc-
es a significant amount of wastewater.

The Sierra Club is high-
ly engaged in the fight against PFAS contamina-
tion. The NJ Chapter has filed an am-
sicus brief in support of a DEP lawsuit against Solvay Specialty Semiconductors to compel the cleanup of the company’s West Deptford site. In January the Sierra Club joined a lawsuit to force the EPA to close loopholes that allow com-
panies like Solvay to underreport their levels of PFAS contamination.

Our Chapter staff is currently working with Senators Linda Greenstein (NJ-14) and Bob Smith (NJ-17) to raise awareness of the levels of PFAS contamination. We welcome your support if you are interested in helping the Chapter with this important issue.

Find Out More
PFAS Contamination in New Jersey
Military Sites
Drinking Water
Other Known Sites
www.jersey.gov/DEP_WaterWatch負け
PFAS Action www.njchapter.org/
This is a moment of transformation and growth for the Chapter, and I am excited to be part of it. I come to the Sierra Club with a background in climate science and air quality. I earned my Bachelor of Science in chemistry from the University of Puerto Rico before getting my Master of Science in Earth and the Environment from Rutgers University. I previously volunteered with the NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club and was the Quality Issues Coordinator—one of many reasons why I’m so excited to be back as the new Chapter Director!

I’ve always been passionate about protecting the environment, from doing highly technical scientific work to raising awareness about climate change and sustainability. I have dedicated my life to understanding the complex issues of environmental pollution and climate change so that I can carry over the message to those who may not be as aware.

I’m very proud to be leading the Chapter, because the work that the Sierra Club does in New Jersey is more important than ever. We’re a small state, but one with so much environmental beauty. We are also an area where we are seeing the impacts of climate change, which makes us very susceptible to environmental toxins. Even “small pollution” is big pollution for New Jersey.

In my role as Chapter Director, I will harness the science and facts to inform our mission and focus on those environmental challenges where advocacy and engagement are most needed. My priorities include working to protect overburdened communities, reduce carbon emissions, protect our air and water, and fight for a just and equitable future. With Gov. Phil Murphy starting his second term, and the changes and transition happening within our Chapter, our volunteers are more important than ever. Over just the past few months, we have developed new relationships with organizations and expanded our small commercial customer base from forests to cleaning up PFAS, reducing plastic waste and promoting renewable energy. We can get even more done with your help! Please email me at anjuli.ramos@sierraclub.org to learn more about volunteering with us today. For our current volunteers, a huge thank you from myself and my staff! We wouldn’t be as effective as we are today without your help.

The Jersey Sierran
April-June 2022

**POLITICAL CHAIR’S REPORT**

Together We Are Powerful

By Karen Becker • politicalchair@newjersey.sierraclub.org

When you open the homepage for the national Sierra Club, you are greeted with graphics and images representing the many climate and environmental concerns that our organization champions. You also see a simple block of text with a not-so-simple message. The bold heading “Together, We Are Powerful” is followed by these words: “This country belongs to all of us. Together, we can help deepen the movement for a liveable planet, safe communities, and a democracy that works for everyone.” It’s not too difficult to visualize the Sierra Club mobilizing for a liveable planet with safe communities. What does democracy have to do with our mission?

Our country was founded by change-makers who were dedicated to creating a better tomorrow. The colonists had no voice in their governance, so the change-makers of 1776 went to work on behalf of our American democracy. Our near-perfect union gave us the freedom to do what we want. Today, we’re seeing the changemakers of 2022 rise to the occasion and work together to uphold democracy in our communities. Our work is about protecting our communities and our environment.

Our Chapter was founded as an environmental group and our work has evolved over the years. When our Chapter was founded in 1977, we worked on behalf of the environment. As our work evolved, we became concerned about the effects of climate change and realized that the fight against climate change was linked to the fight against pollution. We’ve continued to work on environmental issues, but our work has evolved over the years. When we opened the homepage for the national Sierra Club, you are greeted with images and graphics representing the many climate and environmental concerns that our organization champions. You also see a simple block of text with a not-so-simple message. The bold heading “Together, We Are Powerful” is followed by these words: “This country belongs to all of us. Together, we can help deepen the movement for a liveable planet, safe communities, and a democracy that works for everyone.” It’s not too difficult to visualize the Sierra Club mobilizing for a liveable planet with safe communities. What does democracy have to do with our mission?

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Our Chapter’s Transportation Committee was instrumental in achieving some major victories in the fight to reduce pollution. We worked to introduce the transportation sector’s carbon footprint.

Our campaign to elect the state’s 22,000 school buses helped get legislation passed in both the Assembly and Senate, but time ran out to reconcile the differences in the two bills before the end of the legislative session on January 10. However, we are working with the two prime sponsors, Sen. Patrick Riley (D4) and Assemblyman Fred W. Steineke (R29) of the 18th District, so that $15 million in annual funding is included in next fiscal year’s budget.

We are also happy to report that the first five electric school buses in the state were put into service by Student Transportation of America for students in the Trenton Public Schools. We are pleased to note that the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has incorporated the two prime sponsors’ requirement that all electric vehicles funded by their grants include dataloggers and report performance statistics such as mileage between recharging the battery.

This requirement was inserted into the pending legislation on amend- ments proposed by the Transportation Committee. In 2022, the Committee will continue our educational outreach on electric school buses. We’ll be host- ing webinars and conducting research needed to speed the adoption of electric school buses.

Included in last year’s Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act are additional funds for electric school buses (between $2.5 billion and $5 billion) that will be distributed later this year by the US Environmental Protection Agen- cy (EPA). Guidelines and rules for this grant program will be published by the EPA sometime this spring. The bill also includes funding for the long-de- layed Gateway tunnels that will serve NJ Transit and Amtrak passengers between New Jersey and New York City. Additional funds may be available to jump-start the extension of the Hudson Bergen Light Rail from North Ber- gen to Englewood.

In December, the DEP formally ad- opted the Advanced Clean Truck rule, which sets goals for the sale of electric delivery vehicles in the state starting in 2035 and continuing to 2050. For more about the Advanced Clean Truck rule, visit https://bit.ly/3oVjsA5.

We need to shed light on the issue of light pollution. One of the newest committees formed by the New Jersey Chapter is the Light Pollution and Nights Skies Committee. We plan to advocate for statutes and ordinances that regulate lighting so we can start enjoying the night skies once again and mitigate the adverse effects on wildlife and human health.

Part of the Sierra Club Grassroots Network, our Committee shares the goal championed by the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA): to preserve and enjoy the natural nighttime environment. The IDA estimates that 35% of artificial light in the United States is unnecessary and 600 million trees must be planted annually to offset the carbon emissions from this waste. While it may seem like a futile effort in a state as densely populated as New Jersey, there is still a lot we can do. If you are disturbed by the plummeting popu- lations of fireflies, butterflies, song- birds, hummingbirds, bats, owls, and the prey they need to survive, such as the mice and insects of the world, then please consider advocating for your community for common-sense curbs on nighttime illumination.

Using a friendly tone, start by talking to your neighbors and community leaders about the need to curb out- door lighting. Explain the effects of poor lighting on wildlife and human health. Encourage the use of soft–yellowish lighting with color temperatures of 3,000 degrees Kelvin and below to cut back on harmful blue light. Educate your community about lighting and safety. Instead of leaving lights on all night long, install motion detectors and interior lighting could save money by contributing to reduce violent crime? The intersections of these fields are promising avenues for research.

As you walk up their driveway, the lights will gently brighten and then dim a few minutes after you have entered their home. Our Committee is not advocating a return to the Dark Ages, but moving forward to an age of progressive light- ing. Brighten the streets when needed and dim them when you are done. That’s the bright idea for our future.

If you want more information or are interested in joining us, please check out our webpage at: https://newjersey.sierraclub.org/night-light-pollution or email docjdwall@gmail.com.

References:

For more about graphics, contact Tony Hagen, Editor of the Jersey Sierran, at editor@newjersey.sierraclub.org.

To get involved in video production, reach out to Judy Minot, Chapter Secretary/Communications Co-Chair, at secretary@newjersey.sierraclub.org. To help with social media, write to Megan Steele at megan.steele@sierraclub.org.

Do you have graphic design skills? Do you have video design skills? Would you like to work on video production? Do you want to help further the Sierra Club’s goals?

The NJ Chapter is looking for volunteers who can produce content in the form of visual, graphics, and writeups based on ideas and information provided by our Chapter leadership.

Your work can increase awareness of climate, environmental, and environmental justice issues, promote the natural beauty of our state, and encourage others to join us!
There are currently three offshore wind (OSW) projects slated to be built off the coast of New Jersey, with more to come! Ocean Wind I and II will be adjacent to one another off the coast of Atlantic City, stretching toward Cape May; and Atlantic Shores will be just north of those wind farms, reaching toward Barnegat Light.

The New Jersey Chapter of the Sierra Club created the Offshore Wind Committee in the summer of 2021 to promote the socially and environmentally responsible execution of proposed OSW projects off the New Jersey coast. Our goal is to equitably advocate for the best interests of our communities and the consequences of our choices on our economies and to promote accurate information about OSW. To begin achieving these goals, we are currently working with a coalition of environmental organizations to develop educational materials that can be used nationwide.

Generating power from the wind offers an opportunity for New Jersey to be a leader in tackling the climate crisis while creating thousands of safe, high-paying jobs, especially in ar- eas along our shore that have seasonal economies. Offshore wind jobs offer training and good salaries and benefits, not just during construction but during maintenance and operation.

For marine life, the climate crisis is well underway, and we owe it to these creatures to act. Turbines serve as artificial reefs, which can attract and harbor marine species. The resulting abundance of fish can be extremely bene- ficial for larger marine life, as well as for the fishing industry. New Jersey’s current offshore wind plans incorpor- ate safety measures and construction restrictions that benefit marine life and go beyond what is already re- quired by law.

The OSW committee also considered the potential impacts on birds. Studies have found that most birds live or migrate within three miles of the shore. The current plan is to locate the turbines at least 12 to 15 miles out to sea. At that dis- tance, the risk of collision for migratory birds is extremely low. As a safeguard, the OSW committee could consider using technology that would allow migratory birds pass through.

Our ocean and our shore communities deserve better than the effects of climate change. OSW can play an important role in climate change mitigation. For more information about the work of the Offshore Wind Committee, visit our pages on the NJ Chapter website and keep an eye out for our upcoming toolkit soon!

Each year in New Jersey, over 100 million metric tons (tCO2e) of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e) greenhouse gases pour into the atmosphere from industry, generating plants, heating systems, and the transportation sector.

The state Department of Environ- mental Protection (DEP) has formu- lated draft rules to reduce these emiss- ions, but these fall well short of what is needed. The rules would affect fossil fuel–fired electricity generat- ing plants, commercial and industrial fossil fuel–fired boilers, and use of No. 4 and No. 6 fuel oils. Among fossil fuel plants, gas–fired generators contribute 85% of state’s greenhouse gas emissions.

The draft rules would allow new plant construction and many exemptions that would cost us precious time in the effort to mitigate global warming.

“New Jersey is in urgent need of CO2 regulation. In theory, these rules are the best opportunity for the DEP to achieve the easiest and cheapest- est greenhouse gas emissions reduc- tion possible, but they are too weak,” said our Chapter Director, Anjali Ra- mos-Busot.

New Jersey’s Global Warming Response Act in 2018 set a goal of reducing state greenhouse gas emissions by 80% of 2006 levels by 2050. This is known as the “80 x 50” tar- get. In its draft rules, the DEP notes that annual emissions in the state must be reduced by 7.5 tCO2e/year.

However, the DEP estimates that the rules would cut emissions from the electricity generating sector by just 2.5 tCO2e/year, “starting in 2025, when the rules are expected to be fully im-plemented.”

“Scientific evidence suggests there needs to be a 4.5% reduction in green- house gas emissions by 2050. This would limit overall global warming to 1.5°C; and in November 2021, the Mur- phy administration set a “50 x 30” tar- get, or a 50% reduction by 2030. The DEP draft rules need substantial revi- sion to help, and here’s why:

Electricity generating plants would be exempt under more than 50% of their heat input is derived from fossil fuel combustion. This could exempt co- generators and co-fired plants.

Electricity generating plants would be exempt if less than 10% of their an- nual electricity output is channeled to the grid, so plants, such as ret- fineries, retain most, if not all, of their electricity generated; and New Jersey’s two reﬁneries account for 16% of in- dustrial CO2 emissions.

Only existing or new fossil fuel– fired plants with capacity of 25 MW or greater would be exempt. New hot water heaters and small boilers could be exempt if alternate forms of ener- gy are determined to be “infeasible.”

Also, boilers with maximum heat input of less than 1 million British thermal units per hour would not be affected; the DEP does not track these via per- mitting and has no count of how many there are.

Incinerators would be exempt if they burn waste rather than fossil fuels, and burning of coal–derived gas, biogas, and landfill gas also would not be affected.

Public comments on the proposed DEP rule changes will be accepted through March 6, 2022: www.nj.gov/ dep/rules/comments

What Blows in the Wind and Retires in May?

By Sylvia Kay • Zero Waste Coordinator

Question: What happens to plastic carry–out bags and paper carry–out bags on May 4, 2022?

Answer: Banned!

This ban is strictly for the thin plastic carry–out bags. The ban would limit the use of thin carry–out bags by restaurants, food stores, and retail stores. These bags are exempt until May 4, 2022.

Current exemptions include man- ufacturers’ prepackaged food items, small portion cups, cups, and plates, trays, egg cartons, and cutlery. In addition, exemptions include manufacturers’ prepackaged food items, small portion cups, cups, and plates, trays, egg cartons, and cutlery. In addition, exemptions include manufacturers’ prepackaged food items, small portion cups, cups, and plates, trays, egg cartons, and cutlery. In addition, exemptions include manufacturers’ prepackaged food items, small portion cups, cups, and plates, trays, egg cartons, and cutlery. In addition, exemptions include manufacturers’ prepackaged food items, small portion cups, cups, and plates, trays, egg cartons, and cutlery. In addition, exemptions include manufacturers’ prepackaged food items, small portion cups, cups, and plates, trays, egg cartons, and cutlery. In addition, exemptions include manufacturers’ prepackaged food items, small portion cups, cups, and plates, trays, egg cartons, and cutlery. In addition, exemptions include manufacturers’ prepackaged food items, small portion cups, cups, and plates, trays, egg cartons, and cutlery. In addition, exemptions include manufacturers’ prepackaged food items, small portion cups, cups, and plates, trays, egg cartons, and cutlery. In addition, exemptions include manufacturers’ prepackaged food items, small portion cups, cups, and plates, trays, egg cartons, and cutlery. In addition, exemptions include manufacturers’ prepackaged food items, small portion cups, cups, and plates, trays, egg cartons, and cutlery.

What you can buy:

• All reusable plastic food containers and reusable service items will be banned from use or sale by New Jersey providers in New Jersey such as restaurants, food stores, convenience stores, retail stores, and nonprofit handling food.

• Banned polystyrene items include cups, plates, trays, egg cartons, and cutlery.

• Reusable exemptions include man- ufacturers’ prepackaged food items, small portion cups, cups, and plates, trays, egg cartons, and cutlery. In addition, exemptions include manufacturers’ prepackaged food items, small portion cups, cups, and plates, trays, egg cartons, and cutlery. In addition, exemptions include manufacturers’ prepackaged food items, small portion cups, cups, and plates, trays, egg cartons, and cutlery. In addition, exemptions include manufacturers’ prepackaged food items, small portion cups, cups, and plates, trays, egg cartons, and cutlery. In addition, exemptions include manufacturers’ prepackaged food items, small portion cups, cups, and plates, trays, egg cartons, and cutlery. In addition, exemptions include manufacturers’ prepackaged food items, small portion cups, cups, and plates, trays, egg cartons, and cutlery. In addition, exemptions include manufacturers’ prepackaged food items, small portion cups, cups, and plates, trays, egg cartons, and cutlery. In addition, exemptions include manufacturers’ prepackaged food items, small portion cups, cups, and plates, trays, egg cartons, and cutlery. In addition, exemptions include manufacturers’ prepackaged food items, small portion cups, cups, and plates, trays, egg cartons, and cutlery. In addition, exemptions include manufacturers’ prepackaged food items, small portion cups, cups, and plates, trays, egg cartons, and cutlery. In addition, exemptions include manufacturers’ prepackaged food items, small portion cups, cups, and plates, trays, egg cartons, and cutlery.

More information on the bans can be found at: www.nj.gov/dep/plas- tic–ban-law/#Foam_products

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

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Electric Vehicles Will Make Fossil Foils of Fossil Fuels – Eventually

By George Moffatt • gmoffatt@jouii.com

A tidal wave of electric vehicles (EVs) is heading our way, but will they reduce our carbon emissions and other pollutants? It’s complicated.

In 2020, there were some 276 million registered vehicles in the United States. About 1.4 million were EVs and 5.4 million, hybrids. However, last year EV sales were around 2.8% of global car sales, and although there were 20,300 EV passenger vehicle sales by 2030, this varied widely (18% to 48% of total sales), sales clearly are expected to grow rapidly. Before the pandemic, US residents drove an average of 13,476 miles a year, with New Jersey drivers averaging 8,300 miles, according to federal highways. The national daily average, therefore, is just 37 miles, which means that for many drivers EVs are a suitable option, since they get an average of 230 miles per charge.

Prospective EV owners should not be concerned about running out of electrons on long road trips. Consumer Reports estimated the average EV owner can charge at home 92% of the time and would need charging stations just six times a year. EVs also help reduce air pollution. 

Meanwhile, several states have act- ed to ban the sale of gasoline–powered vehicles by 2040. New York, Massachusetts, and California. The NJ Department of Environmental Protection has recom- mended we do likewise.

Understanding the Problem

So, what’s the problem? As usual, it’s us. We’re not buying the right vehicles. The average gas mileage of combus- tion sedans grew from 25.3 mpg in 2009 to 30.9 mpg in 2019—a 22% increase. That’s somewhat impressive—about half of the Obama administration’s tar- get of 54.5 mpg by 2025. However, when you include the current sales of popular gas-powered vehicles, it’s much less impressive. In 2020, average gas mileage was just 19.1 mpg (22.4 mpg vs 24.9 mpg, respectively).

About 10 years ago, California State Sen- ators outsold the gas–thirstier SUVs by two to one; but by 2019, the now luxuri- ous SUVs were outselling sedans two to one, offsetting the fuel improvements of both combustion sedans and EVs. In ef- fect, sales of SUVs and trucks are slowing the average gas mileage.

BE THE TIGER

continued from page 2
carbon monoxide, and water vapor, which leads to mold. Heat pumps with programmable thermostats, elec- tric water heaters, electric stoves, and other appliances are readily available and constitute economical substitutes. These clean energy products are eligi- ble for state rebates and federal incen- tives. Be the Tiger. Replace your house- hold methane and oil burners now! Resources

Incentives for home energy improvements: https://bit.ly/3JzZBP5
Renewable energy progress: https://bit.ly/3v0J7LN

How to Identify Your Group (by county)

SKYLANDS GROUP (Sussex and Northern Warren counties)
Webpage: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/skylaynd
Facebook: www.facebook.com/SkylandsNJ/SC
ExCom members are elected to serve 2-year terms, term-expiry date in parentheses

Executive Committee and other officers (ExCom members elected to serve 2-year terms, term-expiry date in parentheses)

Chair (12/31/22) Greg Gorman ggorman07419@gmail.com
Vice Chair (12/31/23) Susan Williams SusanWilliamsNJ@gmail.com
Treasurer (12/31/23) Norene Haberski norenehaberski2@gmail.com
ExCom at large (12/31/23) Celeste Martin CelesteMartin63@gmail.com, Dwayne West DwayneWest3981@gmail.com
Conservation Chair (12/31/23) Joanne Morgan JoanneMorgan@gmail.com
Outings Chair (12/31/23) Dave Alcock DaveAlcock212@gmail.com
Earth Chair (12/31/23) Jill Aquino JillAquino@gmail.com
Political Co-Chairs (12/31/23) Joanne Morgan JoanneMorgan@gmail.com, Jill Aquino JillAquino@gmail.com
Co-Publicity Chairs (12/31/23) Joanne Morgan JoanneMorgan@gmail.com
Recycling/Zero Waste Chair (12/31/23) Joanne Morgan JoanneMorgan@gmail.com
Chair Webmaster (12/31/23) Jill Aquino JillAquino@gmail.com
Membership Chair (12/31/23) Chris Dunbar ChrisDunbar58@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (and other OFFICERS) (ExCom members elected to serve 2 – year terms, term – expiry date in parentheses)
Chair (12/31/23) Jonathan Wall jonwall@jonwall.com
Vice Chair (12/31/23) Greg Gorman ggorman07419@gmail.com
Secretary (12/31/23) Joanne Morgan JoanneMorgan@gmail.com
ExCom at large (12/31/23) Norene Haberski norenehaberski2@gmail.com, Dwayne West DwayneWest3981@gmail.com
Conservation Chair (12/31/23) Celeste Martin CelesteMartin63@gmail.com, Dwayne West DwayneWest3981@gmail.com
Outings Chair (12/31/23) Dave Alcock DaveAlcock212@gmail.com
Earth Chair (12/31/23) Jill Aquino JillAquino@gmail.com
Political Co-Chairs (12/31/23) Joanne Morgan JoanneMorgan@gmail.com, Jill Aquino JillAquino@gmail.com
Co-Publicity Chairs (12/31/23) Joanne Morgan JoanneMorgan@gmail.com, Jill Aquino JillAquino@gmail.com
Recycling/Zero Waste Chair (12/31/23) Joanne Morgan JoanneMorgan@gmail.com
Chair Webmaster (12/31/23) Chris Dunbar ChrisDunbar58@gmail.com
Membership Chair (12/31/23) Chris Dunbar ChrisDunbar58@gmail.com

From Around the State

Skylands Group: Sussex and Northern Warren
Hudsoneton Warren Group: Hudsonton and 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.

HUNTERDON WARREN GROUP (Huntingdon and Southern Warren counties)
Webpage: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/hunterdonwarren
Meetup: www.meetup.com/njhunterdonwarren/ Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/sierraclub.hunterdonwarren/
ExCom members are elected to serve 2-year terms, term-expiry date in parentheses

Chair Jonathan Wall jonwall@jonwall.com
Vice Chair Celeste Martin CelesteMartin63@gmail.com
Secretary Dwayne West DwayneWest3981@gmail.com
ExCom at large Joanne Morgan JoanneMorgan@gmail.com, Dwayne West DwayneWest3981@gmail.com
Conservation Chair Celeste Martin CelesteMartin63@gmail.com, Dwayne West DwayneWest3981@gmail.com
Outings Chair Dave Alcock DaveAlcock212@gmail.com
Earth Chair Jill Aquino JillAquino@gmail.com
Political Co-Chairs Joanne Morgan JoanneMorgan@gmail.com, Jill Aquino JillAquino@gmail.com
Co-Publicity Chairs Joanne Morgan JoanneMorgan@gmail.com, Jill Aquino JillAquino@gmail.com
Recycling/Zero Waste Chair Joanne Morgan JoanneMorgan@gmail.com
Chair Webmaster Chris Dunbar ChrisDunbar58@gmail.com
Membership Chair Open Position – please contact Greg!

GENERAL MEETINGS (Conducted via Zoom)
The Skylands Group of the NJ Sierra Club serves the environmentally sensitive region of Sussex and Northern Warren Counties in Northwestern New Jersey.

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 outings via town tabling; and field trips to schools to educate 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 address other local, national, and global environmental issues as they arise.

CURRENT CAMPAIGNS: The Skylands Group advocates for the protection of the Mountain State–Wildlife Management Area from logging done under the guise of creating “healthy forests” and opposes the proposed Tennessee Gas Pipeline Compressor station in Wantage.

The Skylands Group supports the Green New Deal, Sunrise Movement, Sierra Club’s Ready for 100 Campaign, and projects to move toward a clean energy economy. The Skylands Group also opposes the Munsonhurst Planned Residential development, which will adversely affect the ecology of a Natural Heritage Priority Site in Franklin Township (Sussex Co.).

These designations are approximate; members are welcome to participate in whichever Group(s) they find convenient.
North Jersey Group (Bergen and Passaic counties)

Webpage: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/north-jersey
Meetup: www.meetup.com/NJNorthJerseyClub/
Facebook: www.facebook.com/northjersey.sierraclub
Twitter: @SierraClub_NJ
Instagram: sierraclub_north_nj

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

Committee Chair
Cinny MacGonagle* cmacgonagle@yahoo.com
Jonathan Wall* jonjwall1@gmail.com
Matthew Avalone* mattavalone@gmail.com
John Kashwick* john.kashwick@newjersey.sierraclub.org
Pat Barnes* pabarnes@comcast.net
John Kashwick* john.kashwick@newjersey.sierraclub.org

Other Committees
- Program Co-Chairs
  - Buddy Jenssen*
buddy.jenssen@gmail.com
  - Ron De Vos rdevos58@outlook.com

- Meeting Co-Chairs
  - Mary Walsh* north.outings.chair@newjersey.sierraclub.org
  - Buddy Jenssen* buddy.jenssen@gmail.com

- Conservation Committee
  - Mary Walsh* north.outings.chair@newjersey.sierraclub.org
  - Judy Green* jgreen4400@gmail.com

- Environmental Justice Chair
  - Shelly Rollins
  - Interim Chair: Matthew Avalone
  - Contact: MatthewAlvalone@verizon.net

- Outreach Chair
  - Ron De Vos rdevos58@outlook.com

- Marketing/Social Media
  - Marie Mannino
  - Contact: marinemannino@yahoo.com

- Conservation Chair
  - Erica Cowper
  - Contact: ecowper@drew.edu

- Diversity/Environmental Justice
  - Sophia Neuenoff
  - Contact: Sophia.N.neuenoff@Sierraclub.org

- Youth Outreach/Inner City Outings
  - Open Position! coppey88@outlook.com

- Committee Co-Chairs
  - Daniel Shirley
  - Shirleylyndel12@gmail.com
  - Bushra Asfar
  - bushra_e_c@hotmail.com
  - Hanna Atlas
  - h.atlas25@gmail.com

- Special Events/Fullfilled
  - Open Position

- Executive Committee
  - Bob Weiss
  - bobweiss967@outlook.com

- *Elected North Jersey Group ExCom Members

- *Group ExCom Member

- *Elected North Jersey Group ExCom Members

- North Jersey Rail lines. Unfortunately, it does not provide a clear directive to develop an alternative energy microgrid.

- Volunteer opportunities with the North Jersey Group may be found on page 13.

GATEWAY GROUP

(Fhillis, Elizabeth, and Essex County, except for Livingston, Millburn and Roselend)

Webpage: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/Gateway- (also accessible from the NJ Chapter website)
Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Gateway-Group-NJ-Sierra- Club/128993638472872

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INTIATIVES: The North Jersey Group is committed to coalition building through outreach and planning with other Sierran Groups and with local and state nonpro-
it organizations. Our collaborative initiatives focus upon (1) encouraging municipal resolutions that support town-level adoption of renewable energy strategies and the environmentally friendly development of affordable housing; (2) opposing gas-fueled plants and the construction of pipelines, transport terminals and the use of tankers and trains to transport Bakken oil, liquid natural gas and other dirty fuels; (3) advocate-
ging for renewable energy sources; (4) opposing commercialization and development of county, state and local parkland and open spaces; (5) advocating for removal (not capping) of contaminated soil on undeveloped public land and the restoration of that land to its natural state; (6) advocating for the cleanup of polluted waterways and for the transition to nonpolluting sources of transport on the Hudson and other NJ/NY waterways; (7) supporting access to affordable health care to address the harm done to the health of residents in environmental justice communities; (8) increasing group diversity; and (9) supporting the efforts of organizations who are “on the ground” in environmental justice communities.

We continue to focus our efforts upon fighting climate change; creating more opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy and appreciate nature; and; combating with coalitions, such as Empower NJ and Don’t Gas the Meadowlands, and with other New Jersey Groups to advocate for renewable energy and a moratorium on fossil fuel use, preserve our waterways, and protect our parklands.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Unless otherwise noted, meetings and outings are free and open to the general public. Events are announced via email and on our social media. Due to COVID-19, we have been forced to cancel our in-person events. We are in process of plan-
ing and/or co-sponsoring virtual and hybrid events for the summer and fall. Please check our Meetup page, Facebook page, or webpages for newly posted meetings and events. Please email our co-chairs or contact one of the committee chairs listed above, if you have suggestions for events or if you would like to be added to our email list.

North Jersey Group committees are seeking volunteers to help us expand our offerings and cultivate new collaborative relationships with other groups and with corporations/businesses who are seeking to develop corporate responsibility programs in our area.

We are seeking volunteers. Please contact the Committee Contacts listed in our vol-
unteer opportunities section if you are interested in joining dedicated people taking meaningful action in Bergen and Passaic Counties and throughout the state.

Volunteer opportunities with the North Jersey Group may be found on page 13.

OFFICERS
Chair
Bill Beren* 973-746-9661 Beneren@verizon.net
Vice-Chair
Open Position!
Conservation Chair
Caroline Kane* 646-961-9003 ckane78@verizon.net
Secretary
Open Position!
Treasurer
Rtarzia6@outlook.com
Program Co-Chairs
Suzanne Trimel* 973-509-9335 susanne.trimel@gmail.com
Steven Yafet 935-273-2276 syafet@gmail.com
Publicity Chair
Amanda Zhong zhong.amanda@yahoo.com
Policy Chair
Claire Ciliotta 973-746-0438 cclil297@gmail.com
Membership Chair
Steven Yafet 935-273-2276 syafet@gmail.com
Newark Issues Chair
Jamie Bruno 973-393-2154 jbbebruno@gmail.com
Environmental Justice Chair
Shelly Rollins 201-443-7004 volunteer4400@gmail.com
Recycling Chair
Open Position!
Passaic Issues Chair
Open Position (see above)
Outings Chair
Steven Yafet (see above)
Webmaster
Christy Morganstein 732-718-4343 christy.medartweb.com
*Group Executive Committee

Please contact our Program Co-Chairs if you have ideas or suggestions for a meeting topic, program, or conservation project.

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

CONSERVATION NEWS
As one of the first acts after the November election, Gov. Phil Murphy approved funds to purchase the rail right-of-way to build the Essex Hudson Greenway along the former Boonton Line tracks between Montclair and Jersey City. He also directed the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission to postpone voting on a contract to begin construc-
tion of a fracked gas power plant at their Newark facility. The plant is now on hold while the Commission reevaluates renewable energy alternatives.

In November, the Gateway Group co-sponsored a rally in Montclair for Climate Action and Climate Justice to coincide with the Global Day for Climate action. We co-
sponsored the rally with Montclair Climate Action and 10 other environmental and good government groups. Although the event was quickly put together in less than a month, we attracted over 100 attendees, who listened to a number of speakers on local and re-
gional climate-related issues.

In December, NJ Transit began soliciting bids for a proposed microgrid serving its North Jersey rail lines. Unfortunately, it does not provide a clear directive to develop an alternative energy microgrid.

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The reconstruction of the Asia exhibit at the Turtle Back Zoo is underway. Drone surveillance of the zoo grounds shows that the zoo is now 52 acres, not the 30 acres claimed by Essex County, and it is not clear whether the Asia exhibit has expanded the zoo’s footprint. Furthermore, some parking areas are included in a new plan funded by Green Acres and county open space money.

Hudson County Group

Webpage: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/hudson-county Email: hudsonsierraclub@gmail.com
Facebook: @HCSierraClub Instagram: @HCSierraClub

OFFICERS
Chair - Pramod Raju - modisone@gmail.com
Secretary, Treasurer - Patricia Hilliard - billiard_patricia@hotmail.com
Conservation Chair - Dave "Ace" Case - accase88@gmail.com
Political Chair - Ricardo Pereira - rh.pereira.1995@gmail.com
Delegate to Chapter - Pramod Raju - modisone@gmail.com
Membership - Pramod Raju - modisone@gmail.com
Outings / Events - Nancy Booth - boothnancy2014@hotmail.com

Meeting Schedule: The Hudson Group will continue to meet remotely for now. Meetings are held four times a year. Members are welcome and encouraged to join the meetings. Contact us at hudsonsierraclub@gmail.com for details.

Upcoming Events: We are planning a number of activities in the near future: nature walks, shoreline cleanups, and public forums. Always check the online calendar for details. Watch your emails!

On Saturday, March 19: We will be doing a Shoreline Cleanup at Lincoln Park West. Always check the online calendar for details. Watch your emails!

Current Campaigns

Environmental Justice: Clean air for Hudson County! Low-income communities and black and brown communities suffer the most from environmental destruction. Health concerns include elevated levels of cancer, asthma, and other respiratory disease from air pollution. Join us to push for electric school buses and trucks to reduce air pollution in Hudson County. We will be doing a presentation soon. Check our online calendar and watch your email!

Liberty State Park: The Liberty State Park Protection Act would end efforts to privatize the park once and for all! We attend and support all rallies called by the Friends of Liberty State Park. As part of our environmental justice campaign, we support the work on the interior of the park which will create 180 acres of wildlife habitat and 50 acres of active recreation for the community.

Skyway Park on the Hackensack River and Essex-Hudson Greenway: The Hudson County Group of the NJ Chapter of the Sierra Club is working to support and expand green spaces in Hudson County. We want to connect existing parks and trails, as part of the Crossroads Campaign to connect greenways across Hudson County. Join us and learn how you can help.

Hudson County Group Goals/Projects for 2022

1. Sustainability/Youth/Education: Sustainability includes recycling, composting, green infrastructure, mass transportation, and renewable energy. We want to create a task force to educate/promote these issues in our schools and municipalities. Let us know if you would like to help build this task force.

2. Political Action: In addition to preparing for upcoming elections in N J, we hope to meet with sympathetic public officials to discuss strategies to show support for a number of environmental bills now in Trenton. These include the Liberty State Park Protection Act, NJ PACT: Protecting Against Climate Threats, Essex Hudson Greenway, and the Clean Energy Equity Act. We will also continue to push Gov. Phil Murphy and the state legislature to oppose fossil fuel infrastructure. We support the efforts of the Don’t Gas The Meadowlands coalition in support of renewable energy for NJ Transit. Let us know if you would like to help to join our campaigns.

4. Communications/Social Media: We have created a team of social media activists who can utilize a number of formats to promote environmental issues and campaigns, as well as email and the Sierra Club website. More traditional press will be included as well. Join us if you’d like to help.

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

Loantaka Group

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

Webpage: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/loantaka/
Facebook: www.facebook.com/LoantakaGroupNJC

OFFICERS
Group Chair - Joanne Pannone - jpannoneyacht@gmail.com
Group Vice Chair - Xiaoqing Du - Du@yahoo.com
Treasurer - Leona Fluck - leona@pinyepaddlers.com
Political Chair - Artez Cetekskia - Vaz2005@gmail.com
Outings - George and Leona Fluck - Leona@pinyepaddlers.com
Programs - Joanne Pannone - jpannoneyacht@gmail.com
Recycling Chair - Kip Cherry - Kipatthesierraclub@gmail.com
Waste Coordinator - Sylvia Kay - sylviaKay222@gmail.com
Trails - Dave Mattek - MattelX2@aol.com

Executive Committee Members
Joanne Pannone, Kip Cherry, Sylvia Kay

Our monthly lecture series will remain virtual. The Central Jersey Group will post any future activities on the webpage, Facebook page, and PineYappers.com. Be patient, stay safe! And don’t stop lobbying for our environment!!

Central Jersey Group

(Mercer County and neighboring towns in adjoining counties)

Webpage: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/central-jersey

OFFICERS
Group Chair - Joanne Pannone - jpannoneyacht@gmail.com
Group Vice Chair - Xiaoqing Du - Du@yahoo.com
Treasurer - Leona Fluck - leona@pinyepaddlers.com
Political Chair - Artez Cetekskia - Vaz2005@gmail.com
Outings - George and Leona Fluck - Leona@pinyepaddlers.com
Programs - Joanne Pannone - jpannoneyacht@gmail.com
Recycling Chair - Kip Cherry - Kipatthesierraclub@gmail.com
Waste Coordinator - Sylvia Kay - sylviaKay222@gmail.com
Trails - Dave Mattek - MattelX2@aol.com

Our monthly lecture is held virtually on Zoom the first Wednesday of the month. We have speakers discussing environmental issues impacting New Jersey. All members are welcome.

Our members are working to protect open space, wildlife habitat, water resources, and clean air. We are lobbying for electric school buses and educational legislation that we will post on our Chapter’s website.

Our meetings are held on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of the month at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. Learn something new and make some new friends. We would welcome the chance to meet you and introduce ourselves, even by Zoom. Please see the schedule below and join us! Instructions for access are posted on our webpage.

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

April 13: Please check the Loantaka webpages.
May 11: Please check the Loantaka webpages.
June 8: Please check the Loantaka webpages.

Activities: The Central Jersey Group is working with concerned citizens and local and state 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 statewide initiatives involving air quality, transportation, and environmental legislation. Volunteers are always welcome. Call Alan at 201-715-7780. Consult our webpages for more information.

Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset counties and surrounding areas)

Webpage: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/raritan-valley
Facebook: www.facebook.com/RaritanGroupNJC
Twitter: www.twitter.com/RaritanSierra

OFFICERS
Group Chair - S. Parvica - spjersey@gmail.com
We encourage you to get involved by attending your town’s planning and zoning board meetings. If you are aware of development proposals in your town that may have a negative environmental impact, please contact us and join our meetings. We are also interested in any environmental news or events affecting Middlesex and Somerset counties and invite you to submit those items as well.

JERSEY SHORE GROUP
(Monmouth County, approximately)

Webpage: www.sierranet.org/new-jersey/Jersey-Shore/
Facebook: www.facebook.com/JerseyShoreNJS/
Instagram: www.instagram.com/sierranet_jerseyshore/?hl=en

OFFICERS

Group Chair
Dennis Anderson
732-970-3427
6 Maple Ave, Matawan NJ 07747

dennisaza@aol.com

Vice Chair
Faith Yeletbaum
732-513-5443
faithie@aol.com

Secretary
John Laurd
732-708-9224
John.Laudar@gmail.com

Treasurer

Policy Co-Chairs
Robin and Harold Zullow
Dzullow@optonline.net

Outings Chair

Member Chair
Wael Kani

Coordination Chair

Program Chair
Mary Reilly
908-731-2466
Mary@reillygreen.com

Climate Chair
Steve Miller
732-671-5970
SteveMiller@Concast.net

Fundraising Chair

Co-Chair
Faith Yeletbaum
732-513-5443
faithie@aol.com

Communications Chair
Wael Kani

Outings Coordinator

Letter-writing Committee
Steve Miller and Stan Greberis

MEMBER MEETINGS

We present Zoom webinars, usually on the fourth Monday of every month at 7 p.m.

Speakers Contact: Mary Reilly, 908-731-2466 or Mary@reillygreen.com

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

OCEAN COUNTY GROUP

Webpage: Meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Ocean-Group

OFFICERS

Acting Chair and Conservation Chair
Margit Meissner-Jackson
syvia1910@yahoo.com

Vice-Chair and Treasurer
Laurie Stone
Laurie53@yahoo.com

Outings and Environmental Education Chair
Terrance Brown
terrybrown@comcast.net

Recording Secretary
Nancy Brown
nancybrown6624@comcast.net

Political Co-Chair

Chair
Margaret Mary Piccolo
gogreenp1@yahoo.com

Group ExCom Members
William Rodgers

Membership Coordinator
Peter Leighton
JPLeighton1@verizon.net

Communications Chair
Joyce Isaza
realyms@comcast.net

Hospitality, Fundraising, Publicity, Webmaster open positions!

ACTIVITIES & ISSUES: Our group is focused on many critical issues. Locally and statewide we are fighting a myriad of overdevelopment problems. 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)

Webpage: www.sierranet.org/new-jersey/west-jersey
Facebook: www.facebook.com/WestJerseySierraClub
Follow us on Twitter @WJSierrablack and Instagram @wjsierrablack
Log on and Like Us!

OFFICERS

Group Chair
Deborah Moore
732-970-3427
6 Maple Ave, Matawan NJ 07747

dennisaza@aol.com

Secretary
Anne Carath
732-239-0802
annecarath@yahoo.com

Treasurer
Lindu Baker
linbud35@yahoo.com

Political Chair

Chair
Fran and Ellen Zinni
efzin4@aol.com

Conservation Chair
Stacey Ayala

Delegate at Large
Aida Ayala

Membership Chair
Mike Brown
732-547-9221
MikeBrown@verizon.net

Communications Chair

Outings Chair
Open position! Call Gina to volunteer: 856-848-8831

Fundraising Chair
Open position! Call Gina to volunteer: 856-848-8831

Smart Growth Chair
Open position! Call Gina to volunteer: 856-848-8831

follow us on twitter @WJSierrablack and Instagram @wjsierrablack
March 23, April 27, May 25, June 22: (fourth Wednesdays), 7 p.m.: Atlantic Audubon Society is a lively member-organization with strong environmental programs and an excellent monthly online newsletter. Membership is free. Meetings (if physical) are in the Galloway Twp Library, 306 E Jimmie Leeds Rd. Website: https://atlanticaudubonsociety.com/

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

Webpage: www.sierrclub.org/new-jersey/sierra-singles

OFFICERS
Interim Co-Chairs
Ron Pate and Jimi Oleksiaz

Outing Position
Open Position!

Conservation Chair
Open Position!

Treasurer
Open Position!

Social Chair
Open Position!

Vice Social Chair
Open Position!

Programs
Open Position!

Publicity
Open Position!

Membership
Open Position!

Nominations
Open Position!

Executive committee members Rozanna Fanelli, Ron Pate, and Jeff Sovelove.

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

PURPOSE: Our purpose is to acquaint single adults with the natural history and beauty of the surrounding 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 a 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 Facebook Group. Anyone may subscribe by going to: https://www.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 the event. Events are listed on the online calendar on the Chapter’s web site: sierrclub.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 p.m., at a variety of restaurants in different locations. Jimi Oleksiaz, 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 beginner’s level of hikes to advanced difficulty. Some of these are listed in the Outings section of this newsletter; others will be announced on our listserv, the Chapter’s online calendar, Facebook and Meetup. Hikes are for anybody who is capable of hiking the distance described. It is up to the person who wants to hike to determine their own ability and limits. All hikers are required to sign a liability waiver.

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER (LGBTQ+) SECTION

Our mission is to support Sierra Club goals, and to promote environmental activism and social equity. We are an inclusive group and all are welcome to join our events.

Webpage: www.sierrclub.org/new-jersey/LGBT

Meetup: www.meetup.com/sierraclub-LGBT

Facebook: www.facebook.com/njlesbians

OFFICERS
Chair
William Parish *  wbp@verizon.net

Secretary
John Kashwick *  John.Kashwick@newjersey.sierraclub.org

Outings Chair
Robert Zitzman *  robertmzi@yahoo.com

Fundraising
Matthew Lang *  matthewlang58@gmail.com

Webmaster/Listmaster
John Kashwick *  John.Kashwick@newjersey.sierraclub.org

(* Section Executive Committee Member)

Please check website for further meetings and events.

SENIOR SECTION / FIFTY-PLUS SECTION

The Senior Section is a chapter-wide special interest section for members over fifty years of age. The mission of this section is to support the Sierra Club’s goals through letter writing, phone calls, and other activities. We work through a list–serve, by which members learn about current environmental issues, how these issues can be supported, and places and events of interest to visit in New Jersey and surrounding states. In the future we hope to appoint members who will be responsible for leading and carrying out efforts related to those issues.

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

Paul Ehrlich is the Vice–Chair (pehrlich-NJ@outlook.com). He–vice–edits the Essays Section of the Sierra Club web site. These essays are written by members of the NJ Sierra Club, and focus on environmental issues, including reports of environment–re-
lately, 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 Aline and Paul for editing and approval and it will be posted on our website.

The Senior Section/Fifty–Plus Section is also accessible online at https://www.sierrclub.org/new-jersey/senior–section

Visit our webpage regularly to find out about activities and events, including hikes, clean–ups, social gatherings, dinner get–togethers, and other functions for members over 50.

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

National Website: www.sso.c.org

New Jersey Inspiring Connections Outdoors: NJ (ICO) provides safe and fun wilderness trips for children and teenagers with limited access to the outdoors. Volunteer leaders collaborate with community partners to facilitate, lead and promote events that will educate and foster a love of nature for the outdoors for youth in New Jersey who may not otherwise have the opportunity or the means. The program works to reduce barriers by providing gear, transportation, trip fees and leaders to create opportunities for NJ students to learn about the environment and join the outdoor community. We welcome inquiries from leaders of schools and other community organizations.

OUTING GROUP COORDINATORS

Chapter Outings Chair: Ellen Blumenkrantz ellen@nj性价比@gmail.com 201-784-8417

Skylands: Dave Alcock, davealcock@gmail.com

Warren: David Flax, dav®flax@gmail.com

Jersey Shore: Co-Chair: Ellen Blumenkrantz ellen@nj性价比@gmail.com

Toms River: Terry Brown, terrybrown@comcast.net

Central Jersey: Janice Sayegh, jsayegh@fulmco.com

Ocean County: Toner Buneau, 848-323-7331

Sierra Club Web Site: 412-353-4165

National Website: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/senior-section

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National Website: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey/senior-section
June 11 (Sat): Sterling Forest Hike, Tuxedo Park (Orange County) 10 a.m., 7 miles in 4 hours over moderately rugged terrain. The cool and clear water of Sterling Lake will cool our feet. There are a visitors center near the lake with restrooms. A changing area will be set up. No pets. Bringing hiking boots, water, and snacks are optional. Pre-registration via the web is required: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey Meeting location will be sent to members who register. Leader: Jim Chiekelese, The Chiekelese Group

June 12 (Sun): Hike Huber Woods Park, Middletown (Monmouth Co.) 3 p.m. We will walk the hickory and oak forest, with occasional distant views of the Navesink River and listen and look for peregrine woodpeckers. The mountain laurel should be in bloom. About 4 miles in about 2 hours, snack on up and downs. Beginners welcome, supportive footwear recommended, bring plenty of water. Register online: hike@HuberWoodsPark.sierraclub.org. Leader John Luward, John.luward@gmail.com will provide meeting place after you register. (SS)

June 18 (Sat): Watchung Reservation Hike, Mountainside (Union Co.) 10 a.m., 6.5 miles, moderate terrain. Bring plenty of water and a snack. Hiking boots recommended. Social distancing and other Covid-19 precautions will be followed. Bring lunch, water, and snacks. Contact leaders to confirm meeting time and details. Co-Leaders: Leona F., leona@pineypaddlers.com, and Joanne P., jpteamudoerock@viking.net (SS)

June 19 (Thu): Bike to the Roebling Museum, Trenton (Mercer Co.) 10 a.m., 4 miles, easy pace. Join us to tour the Roebling Mill. The 7,000 sq ft building now houses five galleries, which can be viewed with binoculars. Bring binoculars, lunch, water, and snacks. Leashed pets are welcome. Rain cancels. Pre-registration is required: group size is limited to 10 participants. Leader: Karen Crosby, karonna@yahoo.com (SS)

June 23 (Mon): NJ Sierra Club Policy Conference, Morris County Monmouth County. The full day conference focuses on the legislative process, with plenary sessions and small group discussion of current issues. Tabling opportunity available. Cecil Brubaker, Cecil.Brubaker@newjersey.sierraclub.org or (609) 799-5839

June 24 (Tue): Hike at Mercer County Park (Mercer Co.) 10 a.m., 4 miles, easy pace. Enjoy a hike in Mercer County Park. Bring lunch, water, and snacks. Bring binoculars. Leashed pets are welcome. Rain cancels. Pre-registration is required: group size is limited to 10 participants. Leader: Karen Crosby, karonna@yahoo.com (SS)

June 25 (Sun): Roebilng Museum Tour and Village Walk (Burlington Co.) 10 a.m. A former gateway to the Roebling Mill, the main gate museum building was once the passage point for thousands of workers entering the steel mill each day. The 7,000 sq ft building now houses five galleries, Investors Bank Media Room, offices, lobby, gift shop, and the Ferdinand Roebilng Iii Archives of the Roebling Museum. Two short documentary films run continuously. The museum admission fee is $7. Option to take the River Line to Roebling Museum parking lot. Social distancing and other Covid-19 precautions will be followed. Bring lunch, water, and snacks. Contact leaders to confirm meeting time and details. Co-Leaders: Leona F., leona@pineypaddlers.com, and Joanne P., jpteamudoerock@viking.net (SS)

June 26 (Wed): Hike at Huber Woods Park (Essex Co.) 8 a.m., 7 miles, moderate terrain. Enjoy a hike in Huber Woods Park, Hiking boots recommended. Social distancing and other Covid-19 precautions will be followed. Bring lunch, water, and snacks. Contact leaders to confirm meeting time and details. Co-Leaders: Leona F., leona@pineypaddlers.com, and Joanne P., jpteamudoerock@viking.net (SS)

June 27 (Thu): Hike at Mercer County Park (Mercer Co.) 10 a.m., 2 miles, easy pace. Enjoy a hike in Mercer County Park. Bring lunch, water, and snacks. Bring binoculars. Leashed pets are welcome. Rain cancels. Pre-registration is required: group size is limited to 10 participants. Leader: Karen Crosby, karonna@yahoo.com (SS)

June 28 (Fri): Hike in New York City, Prospect Park (Brooklyn Co.) 8 a.m., 7 miles, moderate terrain. Enjoy a hike in Prospect Park. Bring lunch, water, and snacks. Contact leaders to confirm meeting time and details. Co-Leaders: Leona F., leona@pineypaddlers.com, and Joanne P., jpteamudoerock@viking.net (SS)

June 29 (Sat): Sterling Forest Hike, Tuxedo Park (Orange County) 10 a.m., 7 miles in 4 hours over moderately rugged terrain. The cool and clear water of Sterling Lake will cool our feet. There are a visitors center near the lake with restrooms. A changing area will be set up. No pets. Bringing hiking boots, water, and snacks are optional. Pre-registration via the web is required: www.sierraclub.org/new-jersey Meeting location will be sent to members who register. Leader: Jim Chiekelese, The Chiekelese Group

Upcoming Meetings

All members are welcome to attend these monthly policy deliberations, held by Zoom video conferencing on second Saturdays. Zoom can be accessed from the monthly Calendar on the Sierra Club's National website. The Conservation Committee meets from 10 a.m. to noon and the Executive Committee meets from 1 to 3 p.m. For meeting link, contact secretary@newjersey.sierraclub.org

Upcoming Meetings: April 9, May 14, June 11, July 9

Chapter Office 609-656-7612 Fax: 609-656-7618
Chapter Director: Anjuli Ramos-Busot anjuli.ramos@sierraclub.org
Chapter Coordinator: Taylor McFarland taylor.mcfarland@sierraclub.org
Communications Coordinator: Megan Steele Megan.Steele@sierraclub.org

Home Solar: Alex Lowen • alexlowen76@gmail.com
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Pamasc River: Jim Tate • jytate@verizon.net
Pinefields: Jamie Prickett • jprickett36@gmail.com
Regional: Joan Zien • joanzien@yahoo.com
Tiger Conservation: Susan Taylor • susan.taylor@gmail.com
Toxics Legal: Leila Marvani • leila.marvani@gmail.com
Watershed: Faith Telebaum • faith@sierraclub.org
Wildlands: John Kashwick • John.Kashwick@newjersey.sierraclub.org
Zero Waste and Recycling: Kyle Keenan • kyle.keenan@sierraclub.org

Please circulate this newsletter with a nonmember friend and ask them to join our leadership team (see page 8).
Opinion: Why Does Nature Feel So Natural to Us?

By George Moffatt

Why are Sierrans, other environmentalists, and most of humanity so concerned about protecting nature? There may be as many reasons as there are thoughtful people, but why do we have this feeling at all?

We love to see how many years—always—the Old Testament urges. If we ask the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you; or the bushes of the Earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea declare to you.” The mystic and preacher Saint Francis of Assisi has written, “Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Earth our Mother who sustains and governs us.” And the metaphysics of Islam teach about hima, conservation of land, opat, the many signs of God, and akhlaq, or stetwoods of the world.

These are just a few examples of what is called biophilia—our innate need to connect with nature and the many creatures of the Earth.

Secular, current-day appreciation for biophilic environments includes mental states: serenity, contemplation, appreciation, fondness, otherworldliness, humility, and thankfulness.

For many decades, the connection between environmental reverence and sense of connectedness with nature have been the subject of a wide range of disciplines, including evolutionary psychology, education, medicine, anthropology, and even workplace design, all part of the growing study of biophilia.

The basis for this study grew from a theory that maintains our affinity for nature is genetic, an affective part of us that can be traced back to the prehistoric evolution of our species. Other human traits, such as why we hunt and are aggressive, have also been linked to our genetic makeup, but not without controversy.

The term biophilia was first used in 1973 by the psychologist and sociologist Edward O. Wilson in his book “Biophilia.” Or so the hypothesis goes.

We know that our appreciation of nature has been a human trait for eons, and, in theory, restoring our biophilic connection with nature is a driving factor in the modern environmental movement, whether we accept its prehistoric origins or not. Or so the hypothesis goes.

But, yes, even committed nature lovers can occasionally be adversely affected by nature, a condition called biophobia. An interesting phenomenon, but an interesting one. The hypothesis includes encouraging direct experience and encouraging others to experience the natural world.

The Committee uses social media to expand participation, as the group calls on our Facebook page, is alive and vital. The term was popularized by the naturalist Edward O. Wilson, who over eons to become part of our genetic makeup because of our relationships to nonhuman species. Because our connection to nature maintains that it evolved as any Sierrian or other environmentalist would tell you, or those who have had an experience of an environment in the modern environmental movement, whether we accept its prehistoric origins or not. Of course, it makes us wonder why we are so connected to nature.

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