



# 2021 Legislative & Policy Agenda



## Clean Energy for New Jersey

For years, New Jersey was a clean energy leader. Now, under the Murphy Administration, there is a renewed focus on moving New Jersey to an energy future powered by 100% clean energy by 2050 through the State Energy Master Plan. The Murphy Administration has made aggressive moves to make New Jersey a leader on offshore wind, energy storage and community solar. To move New Jersey ultimately to a future of 100% clean, renewable energy, Environment New Jersey supports:

- Updating the State Energy Master Plan to include the latest climate science and that New Jersey is able to reach its goal of 100% clean energy through 100% renewable sources like wind & solar.
- Finally ending all of the raids of New Jersey's Clean Energy Fund, which totaled more than \$100 million in the FY21 Murphy Administration budget.
- As we enter our 2<sup>nd</sup> year rejoining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), dedicate the \$90 million in auction revenues for their intended goal of reducing diesel emissions by electrifying transportation, primarily trucks in our cities, and reducing carbon pollution overall.
- Move forward on the full 2400-megawatt solicitations to build offshore wind projects off the Jersey Shore through BPU's Offshore Wind Renewable Energy Credits program.
- Continue rolling out the second phase of community solar projects through the BPU to allow communities, especially cities with low-to-moderate income residents, to expand solar power.
- Passing a C-PACE (Property Assessments for Clean Energy) legislation for commercial projects to allow businesses to use financing tied to the property to finance clean energy improvements.

## Restore the Jersey Shore

For far too long, the Jersey Shore and our waterways have been plagued by pollution. The devastation of Superstorm Sandy highlighted the region's need to protect our Shore and its natural areas that reduce flooding and filter pollution. To restore the Shore and our waterways, Environment New Jersey supports:

- Implementing the ban on single use plastic products, including plastic bags, polystyrene containers and plastic straws on demand by May 2022 by ramping up resident education and outreach to ensure that we choose the wildlife of the Jersey Shore over plastic waste.
- Pass plastics recycled content legislation that would mandate increasing amounts of recycled content to be used in existing plastics products over the next decade.
- Reverse Christie-era rollbacks for flood and coastal development protections that allowed increased development in our Shore communities through the NJDEP NJPACT climate rules.
- Reverse the EPA Clean Water Act rollbacks of Waters of the United States so we can fully protect all waterways in New Jersey, including seasonal streams that flow to the Jersey Shore.
- Requiring any upgrades to the Shore's antiquated sewer and storm water infrastructure to halt direct discharges of untreated, polluted runoff into our coastal waters.
- Implementing Category One buffer zones of 300 feet immediately surrounding our pristine rivers and streams to filter out pollution and absorb floodwaters to protect downstream communities.
- Implementing a comprehensive clean-up plan for Barnegat Bay using the full power of the Clean



Water Act to reduce the run-off pollutants to the Bay that are choking the jewel of the Shore.

- Introduction of a comprehensive bottle bill to place deposits on drink containers to reduce litter at the Shore, produce a clean recycling stream and provide funding for environmental initiatives.

## Garden State, Not the Fossil Fuel State

New Jersey's waterways and lands have suffered from a legacy of industrial pollution. Now that we've made progress to clean them up, we must protect our waterways and our natural lands from the web of natural gas pipelines and proposed power plants that threaten every corner of our state. These pipelines and power plants endanger our waterways, preserved open space and wetlands and double down on fossil fuel carbon pollution. Environment New Jersey supports:

- Install a new Executive Director of the Pinelands Commission and move forward on Gov. Murphy's nominations for new Commissioners who will commit to upholding the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan, which restricts proposed pipelines like the South Jersey Gas and New Jersey Natural Gas pipelines through the Pinelands National Reserve.
- Propose and adopt climate regulations through NJDEP's NJ Protecting Against Climate Threats (NJPACT) regulations that would restrict carbon emissions from power plants that would force the retirement of all existing gas plants within the next decade.
- Ensure the Request For Qualification process by NJ Transit on their resiliency project, Transitgrid, allows for bidders for a clean, renewable energy option as opposed to a gas plant.
- Advocate for the NJDEP denial of environmental permits for LNG train transport and delivery at the proposed Gibbstown Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) export plant along the Delaware River.

- Urging the Delaware River Basin Commission to strengthen their proposed regulations to install a complete ban on fracking and fracking waste in the Delaware River watershed, issue a comprehensive review and seven public hearings to review the PennEast Pipeline and hold the gas pipeline to the strictest possible environmental standards for impacts to watershed waterways.
- Deny NJDEP environmental permits, including water permits, for the proposed PennEast pipeline in Mercer and Hunterdon Counties.
- Banning the dirty gas drilling process known as fracking in New Jersey.
- Prohibiting the transportation and processing of harmful gas drilling waste in New Jersey.

## Preserving New Jersey's Natural Heritage

New Jersey's forests, wetlands, beaches, family farms and other special places are what put the "Garden" into the "Garden State." Environment New Jersey supports policies to protect and preserve these special outdoor places from overdevelopment and pollution, including:

- Ensure constitutionally dedicated funds for open space increase current capital funding for state parks, urban areas receive open space funding commiserate to the demographics of the state, and acquisition and capital repairs are prioritized over stewardship.
- Increase funding for the state's Department of Environmental Protection.
- Ensure adequate state funding from the newly fully funded federal Land & Water Conservation Fund and the National Park Service to protect our natural lands and state and national parks.
- Protecting New Jersey's public lands and state forests from logging.



## Get the Lead Out

Lead is a potent neurotoxin that affects how our children develop, learn, and behave. Yet across New Jersey, testing is showing lead in the drinking water in our homes, schools and hospitals. Our children's drinking water is at risk wherever we have faucets, fountains, or plumbing made with lead. Environment New Jersey supports policies that get the lead out of our water, especially in school and early childcare environments, to protect our children by:

- Removing lead service lines, the largest single source of lead in water, via the passage of legislation to fully fund replacements of lead service lines across New Jersey
- Installing NSF-certified filters on faucets or fountains used for drinking or cooking at school.
- Testing water regularly, fully and properly, and public access to all data and remediation steps.
- Immediate shut-off of outlets where water contains more lead than one part per billion, as per the recommendation of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

## Clean Transportation

Electric vehicles will transform our electric grid, reduce air pollution and carbon emissions, and break our transportation system from its oil addiction. Environment New Jersey supports initiatives to rapidly expand our electric vehicle charging infrastructure throughout the state, spend VW settlement money on electrification measures for public transit vehicles, charging stations and port electrification.

- Electrify New Jersey's busiest roadways, including the NJ Turnpike, Garden State Parkway and Atlantic City Expressway, with fast charging all-model public electric charging stations.

- Fully fund the \$30 million consumer EV rebates of up to \$5,000 for the purchase of electric vehicles at the point of sale to expand usage and meet our EV mandates.
- Implement NJ Transit electric bus pilots in Camden, Newark and beyond as a way to meet the EV bill state mandate of 10% of NJ Transit bus purchases being electric by 2024.
- Fully fund NJ Transit through a dedicated source of state funding.
- Propose and adopt NJDEP California Advanced Clean Truck regulations, heavy-duty engine and vehicle omnibus regulations, increased inspections and electrify cargo handling equipment to create mandates to electrify our medium and heavy-duty diesel truck fleets, through NJPACT.
- Fully fund electric truck voucher programs administered by NJEDA through the quarterly RGGI auction revenue for all types of medium and heavy duty diesel truck fleets, including port trucks.
- Promote public/private partnerships to install electric vehicle charging stations in downtowns of cities and towns across New Jersey.
- Adopt the regional model rule to meet the Transportation & Climate Initiative (TCI) low carbon transportation goals and adopt and implement the policy for New Jersey and for the region.

## No Bees, No Food

Millions of bees are dying off, with alarming consequences for our environment and our food supply. Bees pollinate 71 of the 100 plants that provide 90% of our food, including apples, avocados, strawberries, and watermelons. It's urgent we protect our bees.

- Declare a moratorium on bee-killing pesticides like neonics and chlorpyrifos for both agricultural and nonagricultural uses.