



**Fiscal Year 2021 Program Report**  
Thanks for making it all possible

# From the director

*Every day, the news delivers more dire warnings about the state of our natural world.*

*Fewer than 400 Right whales remain in the North Atlantic. Fewer than 80 Southern Resident orcas survive in Puget Sound. Nearly 99 percent of western monarch butterflies have disappeared. Climate change is accelerating this loss of wildlife and threatening human life as well.*

*It would be naive to downplay the scale of these problems and heartless not to mourn the losses. But it would be irresponsible to conclude that there's nothing we can do—especially when solutions are all around us.*

*Our country has all of the clean, renewable power we need if we choose to use it. We can accelerate the transition to electric vehicles. U.S. corporations can reduce their use of plastic pollution and their sale of pollinator-killing pesticides. And on and on.*

*Environment New Jersey and our national network of 29 state environmental groups made progress on all of these issues and more in the past year. None of these problems are completely solved—not even close. But we keep chipping away, breaking down big problems and making them a little more manageable. Incremental change that leads to concrete results is our stock-in-trade because success, one step at a time, is how we build confidence in—and demand for—the changes that are still to come.*

*Our action and progress—all of which is made possible by your support—also provide fuel for hope. Not a passive hope, like that of spectators rooting for their team. Our hope is action-oriented, results-oriented, a hope that serves, as an ally once said, “as a hammer that we use in case of emergency to break the glass, sound the alarm and spring into action.”*

*We're reminded every day about the emergency our natural world faces. And every day, together with you and all of our friends, supporters and allies, we pick up that hammer.*

*Thanks for making it all possible.*



Doug O'Malley  
State Director



# Clean, Green & Renewable Energy

We envision a healthier world powered by clean, renewable energy. With support from Environment New Jersey's members, our national network bolstered our nation's chances at harnessing our vast renewable energy potential. From our rooftops to our coasts, we keep taking steps toward a future powered by 100% clean energy.

## Report: After years of advancement in clean technology, it's clear that 'We Have The Power'

JUNE 16, 2021: It's time for America to move beyond fossil fuels, and fortunately, we have the power to realize our clean, renewable energy potential.

That was the finding of the 2021 edition of our national partner Environment America Research & Policy Center's "We Have The Power" report, released in June. According to the report, America has the technical potential to meet all its electricity needs many times over with wind and solar energy.

"To a visitor from an earlier century, America in 2021 would be unimaginably advanced in all ways but one: We still rely on dirty and dangerous fossil fuels to meet our energy needs," said Susan Rakov, chair of Environment America Research & Policy Center's Clean Energy program.

"But it doesn't have to be that way. This report shows that between the sunshine and the wind, we have the potential to run our society on clean energy, today and in the future."

## New Jersey set to receive historic offshore wind investment

JAN. 15, 2021: On the site of a remediated BP oil refinery, New Jersey is set to build a historic offshore wind factory.

Last December, Gov. Phil Murphy announced that New Jersey is set to receive a \$250 million investment in offshore wind manufacturing—the largest offshore wind investment in American history. Two companies, Ørsted and EEW, will build an offshore wind equipment facility along the Delaware River that will help deliver offshore wind energy to 500,000 New Jersey homes.

"New Jersey has established itself as a leader in offshore wind time and again, with the country's largest offshore wind project, a sizable commitment to building 7,500 megawatts of offshore wind by 2035, and the development of the New Jersey Wind Port," said Environment New Jersey Research & Policy Center Clean Energy Advocate Hayley Berliner. "These investments will speed our transition to a clean, renewable energy future."

Environment New Jersey Research & Policy Center will continue working to help the Garden State set a national standard for clean energy.



*Environment New Jersey Research & Policy Center State Director Doug O'Malley joined legislators and supporters for an Offshore Wind for America telepress conference.*



*Clockwise from top: In 2018, Environment New Jersey advocates demonstrated their support for a polystyrene ban; Staff talk to supporters about our work to save the bees.*



## Conservation

Across New Jersey, our wildlife and wild places need protection. This year, as bee populations dropped at alarming rates and our plastic waste crisis worsened, tens of thousands of supporters like you took part in campaigns to protect wildlife and the places we love.

### **N.J. Assembly environment committee advanced a bill to restrict bee-killing pesticides**

**JUNE 12, 2021:** In New Jersey, state lawmakers have taken the first step toward giving our pollinators the protection they need.

In October 2020, the New Jersey Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee passed legislation to classify neonicotinoids, known as “neonics,” as restricted-use pesticides, which would limit their use in residential areas such as gardens and lawns. Neonics are known to kill or severely impair bees—so this summer, Environment New Jersey canvassers began going door to door to win this bee-saving legislation.

“Restricting neonics in key pollinator areas such as our lawns and golf courses is a vital step in creating a more habitable environment for bees,” said Doug O’Malley, state director of Environment New Jersey. “We applaud the Assembly Environment Committee and prime sponsor Assemblymember Clinton Calabrese for working to pass this legislation.”

Our canvassers spoke to New Jerseyans across the state, generating thousands of petitions in support of saving the bees.

### **Gov. Murphy signed the nation’s strongest single-use plastics ban into law**

**NOV. 4, 2020:** New Jersey made history in tackling the plastic crisis.

On Nov. 4, Gov. Phil Murphy signed into law the strongest single-use plastics ban in the nation. Set to go into effect in early 2022, the law bans single-use plastic bags and polystyrene foam, restricts plastic straw usage to an on-request basis only, and phases out paper bags at larger grocery stores. The law builds on the work of 55 Garden State municipalities that already have passed and implemented single-use plastic restrictions.

“Plastic and polystyrene items we use for 15 minutes should not end up in our environment and communities for countless generations,” said Doug O’Malley, state director of Environment New Jersey. “We are thrilled that New Jersey can be a national leader in protecting wildlife by reducing single-use waste.”



*Clockwise from top: In January 2021, our national network's supporters shared their electric vehicle (EV) stories in a series of EV testimonial videos; Our national Destination: Zero Carbon Campaign Director Morgan Folger calls for pro-electric vehicle policies in New Jersey.*



# Global Warming Solutions

The climate crisis is here, now. For years, Environment New Jersey has advanced concrete ideas for reducing global warming pollution. This year, we moved forward two critical measures, one that tackles our nation's No. 1 source of global warming pollution and another that moves us closer to a future free of fossil fuels.

## Back on course: Biden administration moved to allow states to set stronger vehicle emissions standards

MAY 7, 2021: For nearly 50 years, federal law allowed California to set stronger clean car standards and more than a dozen other states to follow California's lead—until the previous administration tried to revoke their authority.

On April 26, the Biden administration started the process of undoing this action—checking off one of the “First things to fix” called for by Environment New Jersey in a series of 20 recommendations shared with the Biden team before they took office.

“Thank you President Biden, for taking this first step,” said Morgan Folger, director of our national network's Destination: Zero Carbon campaign. “Now it's time to reaffirm that states can and should lead the way for clean air and cleaner cars.”

Vehicle tailpipes are a major source of climate-changing, health-harming air pollution. A report from our research partners showed that in 2018, 108 million Americans lived in areas that experienced more than 100 days of degraded air quality.

## As Congress reached spending deal, climate and energy advocates notched key wins

JAN. 4, 2021: In December, Congress passed a major energy bill that prioritized clean energy over dirty fossil fuel options as part of the omnibus package to fund the federal government.

The measures, passed with bipartisan support, included big boosts in funding for renewable energy and energy efficiency programs; the phase-out of a class of potent greenhouse gasses called hydrofluorocarbons; funding to get the dirtiest diesel vehicles off our roads; money for clean energy research; and much more.

“This energy bill marks an American inflection point between our dirty energy past and our clean energy future,” said Johanna Neumann, senior director of our national Campaign for 100% Renewable Energy. “With the potential to do even more, we look forward to working with Congress in the new year to continue the drive toward a nation powered by clean, renewable energy.”

The bill was signed into law on Dec. 27.

**This energy bill marks an American inflection point between our dirty energy past and our clean energy future.**

*Johanna Neumann  
Senior Director, Campaign for  
100% Renewable Energy*



*Clockwise from top: Clean Water for America Campaign Director John Rumpler, before giving testimony to Congress on funding needed to keep our waters clean in February 2020; A fracking ban kept the Delaware River Watershed—and drinking water for millions—safe.*



# Clean Water & Air

Keeping on the path to cleaner air and water requires constant vigilance—including making sure that we reinstate bedrock environmental protections that we lost under the Trump administration. Below, you'll find a report on our national network's campaign to restore our nation's strongest clean water protections and a victory for our water right here in New Jersey.

## Fracking banned in the Delaware River watershed

**MARCH 7, 2021:** For 15 million people, drinking water will stay fracking-free.

On Feb. 25, the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) finalized a decision to ban fracking within the Delaware River watershed. For more than a decade, Environment New Jersey has presented the DRBC with documentation of fracking threats to clean water. Environment New Jersey Research & Policy Center also rallied thousands to support the fracking ban, which will protect the wildlife and the water where people swim, fish, play and source drinking water. The DRBC listened.

“This is a great day for the Delaware River and our precious drinking water, and we thank Gov. Phil Murphy, who called for this action more than two years ago,” said Doug O’Malley, Environment New Jersey Research & Policy Center state director.

“We look forward to working with the DRBC on whatever further steps are needed to protect the Delaware from all drilling-related activities.”

## Endangered streams, wetlands moved closer to regaining federal protection

**JUNE 25, 2021:** Polluters have been quick to take advantage of the Dirty Water Rule, which weakened protections for our nation's waterways. But these protections could be on their way back.

On June 9, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it would take steps toward repealing and replacing the Trump administration's “Navigable Waters Protection Rule.” This rule stripped Clean Water Act protections from thousands of streams and wetlands, and allowed companies to win rulings stating that no protections applied to more than 750 waterways.

“Repealing and replacing the Dirty Water Rule is a vital step for America's rivers, lakes and bays—and for the drinking water of millions of Americans,” said John Rumpler, senior attorney and clean water program director for our national research partner, Environment America Research & Policy Center.

Environment America Research & Policy Center now calls on the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to strengthen waterway protections.



Environment New Jersey  
104 Bayard Street, 6th Floor  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
(609) 392-5151

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## Our staff (partial list)

**Doug O'Malley**  
State Director

**Haley Berliner**  
Associate

**Lisa Frank**  
Executive Director, Washington  
Legislative Office

**Allison Cairo**  
Vice President and National Field  
Director

**John Rumpler**  
Senior Director, Clean Water for  
America Campaign and Senior  
Attorney

**Johanna Neumann**  
Senior Director, Campaign for  
100% Renewable Energy

**Steve Blackledge**  
Senior Director, Conservation Campaign

**Bronte Payne**  
Director, Go Solar Campaign

**Kelsey Lamp**  
Director, Campaign to Protect Our  
Oceans

**Emma Searson**  
Director, Campaign for 100%  
Renewable Energy

**Morgan Folger**  
Director, Destination: Zero Carbon  
Campaign

**Susan Rakov**  
Director, Research & Reports

**Josh Kratka**  
Senior Attorney, National  
Environmental Law Center

**Doug Casler**  
Director of Outreach and Civic  
Engagement

**Marcia Eldridge**  
Deputy Director, Digital

**Katrina Riley**  
Deputy Editor

**Amy Floyd**  
Senior Director, Grants

**Ruthie Seroussi**  
Development Director