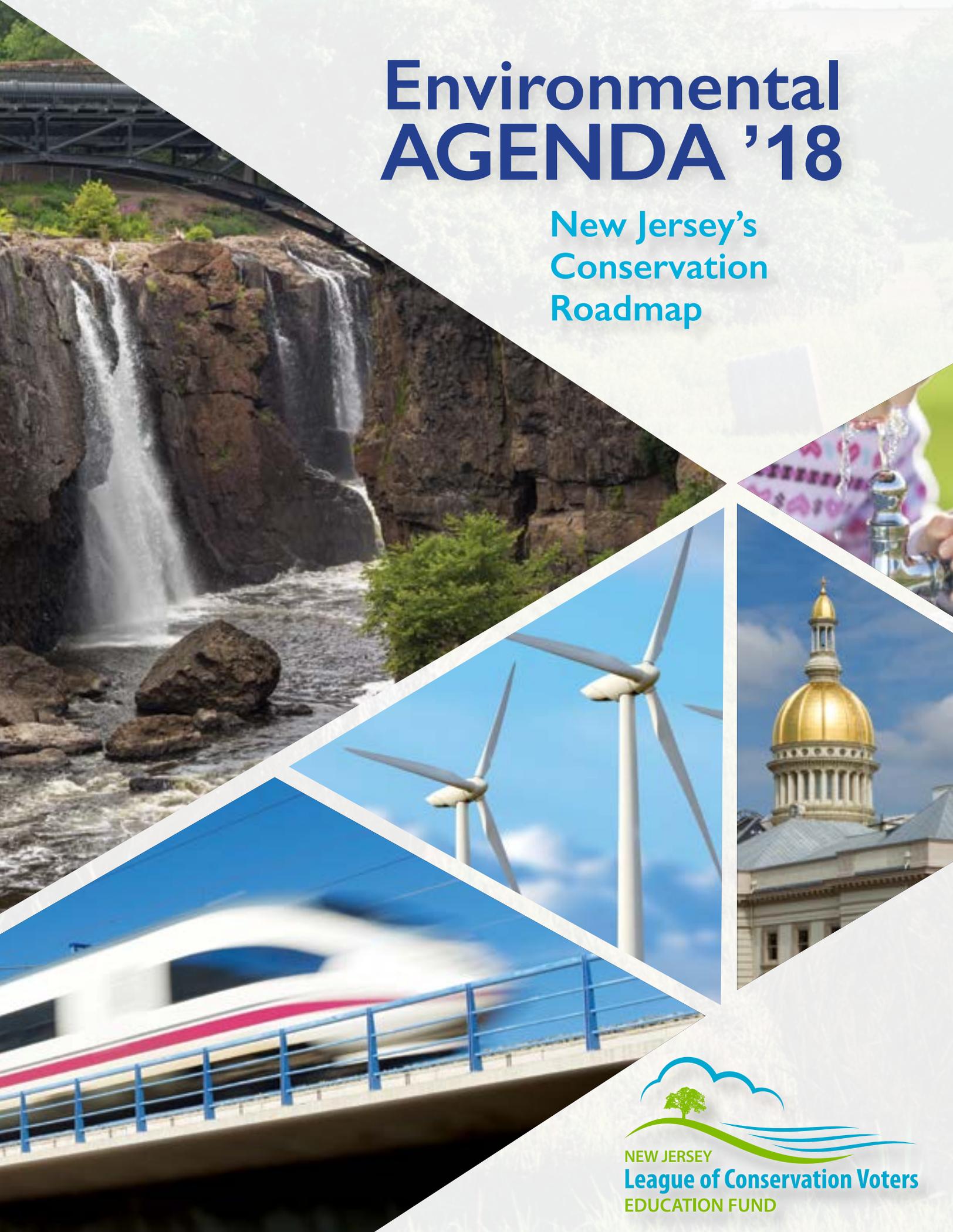


Environmental AGENDA '18

New Jersey's
Conservation
Roadmap





“Plans to protect air and water,
wilderness and wildlife,
are in fact plans to protect man.”
Stewart L. Udall

New Jersey League of Conservation Voters Education Fund

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Introduction

The New Jersey League of Conservation Voters Education Fund (New Jersey LCV Education Fund) is pleased to present *Environmental Agenda '18: New Jersey's Conservation Roadmap*. This report contains goals and expert recommendations to address top environmental challenges and ensure a greener Garden State.

New Jersey's incoming governor has been given a tremendous opportunity to reset the state's environmental agenda and reclaim a national leadership role in protecting our environment. With an anti-environmentalist in the White House, states such as New Jersey can no longer rely on the federal government to prioritize protecting our clean drinking water from contamination, our air quality from pollution and greenhouse gases, and our lands from cancer-causing toxins. As residents of America's most densely populated state, we are putting our faith and trust in New Jersey's new governor to lead us on a path to achieving 100 percent clean energy by 2050, to limit development in areas that would compromise clean drinking water, to modernize our transportation system, and to ensure environmental justice. We urge the new governor to prioritize conserving our environment by creating good green jobs with family sustaining wages and benefits.

New Jersey LCV Education Fund worked collaboratively with nearly 30 environmental partners to develop *Agenda '18* as a roadmap to help the new administration navigate environmental challenges from water quality and coastal flooding to how the state Department of Environmental Protection can most efficiently manage our environment and protect our natural resources. The contributions of experts in environmental policy, advocacy, public administration and science helped frame the issues most important to the health and prosperity of New Jersey's families and businesses. *Agenda '18* is the result of their expertise and discussions, and we are grateful for their contributions to this important effort.

The New Jersey LCV Education Fund is a non-partisan 501(c)(3) organization that does not endorse or support any candidate. We educate people about the serious environmental challenges facing New Jersey.

New Jerseyans have repeatedly demonstrated their commitment to preserving and protecting our natural resources and quality of life for generations to come. The New Jersey LCV Education Fund looks forward to working with the new administration to accomplish the reforms outlined in *Agenda '18*. Together, with our partners and the public, we will ensure New Jersey makes up for ground lost in recent years, protects our families and businesses from efforts in Washington D.C. to weaken critical protections, and makes New Jersey a leader in environmental protection once again.

Yours in conservation,



Ed Potosnak
Executive Director
New Jersey LCV Education Fund



Seth Levin
Campaign Manager
Green in '17, New Jersey LCV Education Fund



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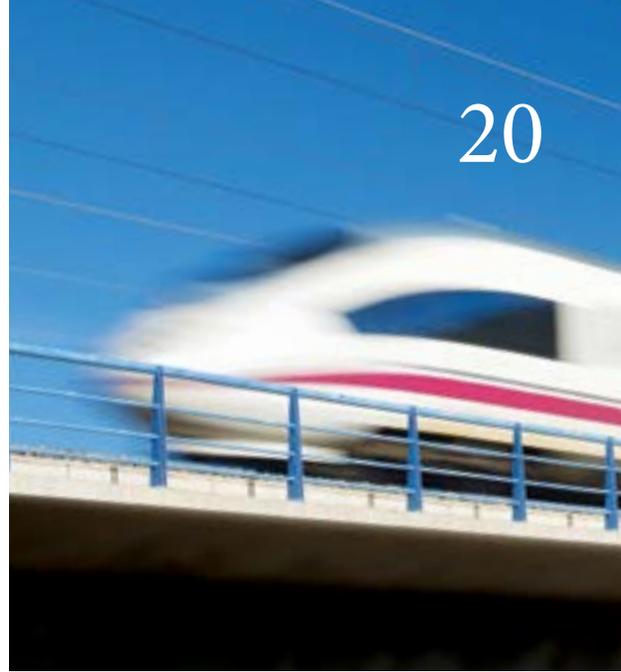
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Clean Water

“When the well’s dry,
we know the worth of water.”
Benjamin Franklin

Clean water is essential to the citizens, environment and economy of New Jersey. Studies by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the U.S. Geological Survey and others show critical deficiencies in water supplies and quality. Further, New Jersey is not meeting federal or state standards, failing to implement green infrastructure practices, overpumping aquifers and surface waters, causing saltwater intrusion, polluting rivers and estuaries, and is using water unsustainably. Fortunately, with well-established regulatory reforms, incentives and financing programs, New Jersey’s water issues can be addressed.

The outgoing administration rolled back critical clean water protections, seriously jeopardizing water quality and quantity in New Jersey, while failing to address key deficiencies in the state’s water supply and water quality protection programs. Among the safeguards weakened were the Flood Hazard Act rules, the Fresh Water Wetlands rules, Water Quality Management Planning rules, groundwater standards, Water Allocation rules and Highland’s septic density standards. These rollbacks compromise pollution standards and encourage inappropriate development.

In addition, proposed draft municipal separate storm sewer systems permits should be strengthened, surface water quality standards should be improved and combined sewer overflow permits issued by the DEP must be enforced to protect public health.

Maintaining clean water in the state’s rivers, lakes, streams, bays and estuaries is also vitally important to the quality of life and economy in New Jersey. Currently, there is only one watershed — Flat Brook — that marginally meets all federal surface water quality standards. Water bodies that do not meet the

standards of the Clean Water Act are considered impaired. States are required to address this by using Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) which determine how much pollution a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards. The TMDL implementation plan specifies how to achieve this by identifying what pollutants must be reduced and from what sources. Ideally, pollution limits are then incorporated into permits and enforced by the DEP.

Another critical tool — antidegradation designations — establish important protections (such as limiting discharges and development) for water bodies that currently meet or exceed water quality standards.

The DEP confirms that there is an increasing concentration of many pollutants and a statewide negative trend toward impaired conditions in surface waters, especially a trend toward the degradation of non-impaired waters. It is crucial that this be reversed.

Drinking water is another area that requires action. Many water systems in New Jersey have exceeded federal Safe Drinking Water Act standards for lead, including those serving schools and medical centers. Lead in housing and soils also remains a concern as well because there is no safe level of lead exposure.

Water supply plan updates are imperative. The New Jersey Water Supply Management Act requires the State Water Supply Plan to be updated at least every five years. The last update was in 1996. The outgoing administration proposed a plan that projects significant water supply deficits in half of New Jersey’s watershed management areas; however, it consists of existing and antiquated data and lacks the components needed to guide state water supply operations and to identify solutions.

Recommendations

- ▶ Reverse rollbacks and adopt stronger protections for clean water

- ▶ Remedy surface water quality issues
- ▶ Address lead in drinking water
- ▶ Protect water supply

FIRST 100 DAYS

- Reverse rollbacks
- Oppose the adoption of the 2017 draft state Water Supply Plan. Direct the DEP to update, revise and re-propose

- Prevent the adoption of proposed Freshwater Wetlands Rules

FIRST YEAR

- Direct DEP to revise, propose and adopt stronger protections for clean water to ensure state standards safeguard New Jersey's water from federal and former state rollbacks
- Revise Water Allocation Rules and Water Quality Management Plans to ensure New Jersey has adequate safe drinking water
- Require that water quality plans, rules and standards address current and future impacts of climate change
- Restore Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) requirements that municipal zoning be consistent with these Plans
- Prepare and adopt TMDL plans for all impaired unaddressed water bodies
- Integrate Surface Water Quality standards and TMDL plans with permitting programs

- Improve Surface Water Quality standards, including for tidal waters
- Develop meaningful policy options that address both water quality and quantity and include protections for aquatic life and resources
- Coordinate a chapter of the Water Supply Plan with the state Climatologist on climate's impact on New Jersey's water supply
- Ensure that Water Quality Management Plans are consistent with the state Water Supply Plan
- Expand and strengthen antidegradation designations of water bodies
- Update data and develop population and demand projections to address water supply for at least two generations (40 years) ahead

FIRST TERM

- Adopt the state Water Supply Plan
- Adopt and implement revised water regulations, standards and plans
- Increase lead testing of drinking water especially among vulnerable populations
- Revise state Board of Education lead testing requirements to include every school and childcare center and publicly disclose reports
- Implement all TMDLs and enforce permit conditions that support existing TMDLs

- Develop a capital program to remove lead from drinking water and from housing, schools and soil
- Double New Jersey's Environmental Infrastructure Trust budget for principal forgiveness loans for replacement of drinking water infrastructure contaminated by lead to \$60 million per year, raise the cap per project to \$3 million and revise program requirements so funding goes to communities most in need
- Increase education and outreach from NJDEP and New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) on the dangers of lead poisoning, how to address and minimize lead in drinking water, and what funding is available to mitigate lead



Climate Change

“We are the first generation to be able to end poverty and the last generation that can take steps to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.”

Ban Ki-moon,
Secretary-General, United Nations

Climate change is caused primarily by increased Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions in the atmosphere which trap energy and elevate temperatures. In New Jersey the largest source of GHG is transportation, generating about 41 percent of total emissions according to 2012 EPA data. The second largest source is electric generation from fossil fuels, contributing about 19 percent of emissions.

New Jersey was formerly part of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), the first mandatory market-based program in the United States to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. RGGI is a cooperative effort among nine Eastern states to cap and reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from the power sector. In 2011 the Governor withdrew New Jersey from the RGGI. Consequently, New Jersey no longer receives revenue from the sale of pollution allowances required in participating states, and the state's power plants are no longer governed by a statewide limit on the amount of carbon pollution production. The foregone proceeds are estimated at \$279 million from 2012 to 2017 with the total reaching \$489 million by 2020.

New Jersey would benefit from joining the RGGI and implementing the Global Warming Response Act (GWRA). GWRA mandates the reduction of statewide GHG to 1990 levels by 2020 with a further reduction of 80 percent below 2006 emission levels no later than 2050. There is no plan to meet the 2050 targets. New Jersey's in-state emissions from the electricity sector have been escalating over the past three years driven primarily by emissions from gas-fired electric plants.

Recommendations

- ▶ Rein in greenhouse gas emissions
- ▶ Combat global warming

FIRST 100 DAYS

- Rejoin the RGGI with additional protections for Environmental Justice (EJ) and low-income communities
- Join and take leadership in the U.S. Climate Alliance to demonstrate New Jersey's commitment to meeting Paris Climate Accord goals

FIRST YEAR

- Implement the Global Warming Response Act
- Develop targets and strategies by sector through a comprehensive Climate Action Plan that meets the goal of 100 percent clean energy by 2050, achieves 2050 GWRA targets and integrates actions across the energy and transportation and other sectors, and ensures coastal and community resiliency
- Adopt the GHG emissions monitoring and reporting regulations required by GWRA and ensure biennial reporting and progress tracking
- Sign and implement the Zero Emissions Vehicle Memorandum of Understanding as a first step to address the transportation sector

FIRST TERM

- Institute mandatory emissions reductions for GHG and co-pollutants at regulated polluting facilities located in EJ communities that bear disproportionate health impact burdens
- Ensure that at least 40 percent of the funds dedicated for beneficial uses (such as bill assistance and energy efficiency incentives) are targeted for EJ communities
- Ensure that RGGI revenues are used for intended purposes and not diverted to the general fund



Open Space

The Delaware and Raritan Canal
State Park in Princeton

“Nature is not a place
to visit. It is home.”
Gary Snyder

Open space and parks are essential to quality of life in New Jersey and are a major contributor to the \$42 billion tourism industry. Open space preservation protects water resources, cultivates biodiversity and fulfills the recreational needs of citizens.

All New Jersey residents should have easy access to parks and open space. However, many of New Jersey’s urban areas are shamefully short of parkland. Parks strengthen communities and make neighborhoods more attractive places in which to live. DEP budget cuts have stifled operations and impaired maintenance. One ongoing problem is that the Division of Parks is

required to relinquish gate and lease receipts to the state which should ideally be reinvested back into the upkeep of parkland.

Planning resources, inventories and assessments for restoration and stewardship of parks and natural resource lands such as forests, open space and natural areas are also insufficient. What’s more, implementation legislation guiding the expenditures of the dedicated Corporate Business Tax (CBT) open space funds sunsets in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019. Support is needed for municipal, state and county open space, farmland, park and historic preservation and stewardship investments.

Recommendations

- ▶ Support open space and protect natural resources

- ▶ Provide adequate funding for land preservation, parks and staff

FIRST 100 DAYS

- Increase funding for Green Acres staff in the next budget

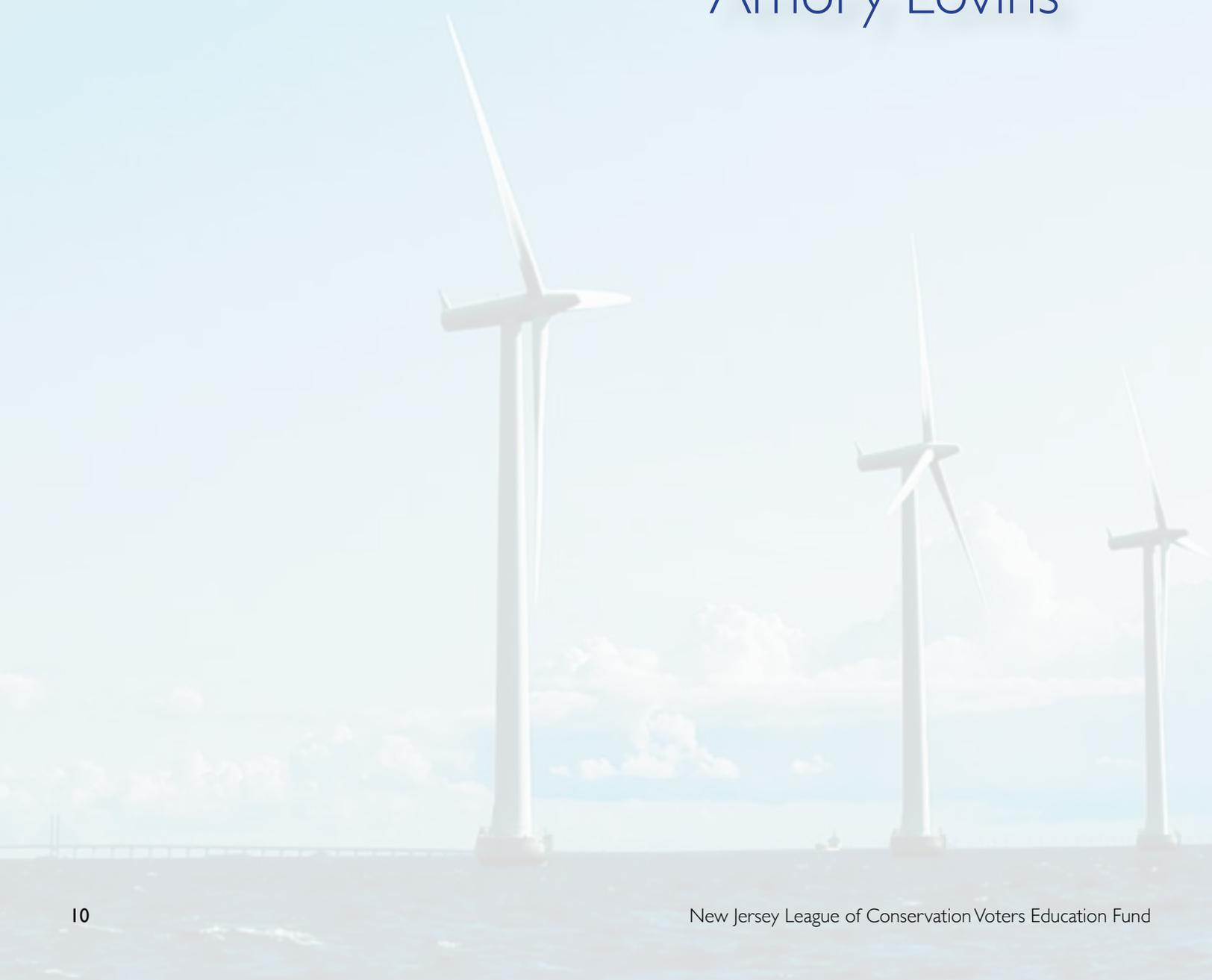
FIRST YEAR

- Support implementation legislation to guide the expenditure of future CBT funds after 2019 in a reliable, transparent method to eliminate the reliance on fund allocation through the annual appropriations process
- Protect existing parks and create new urban parks by securing budgets and funding for maintenance and program staff at the Division of Parks and Forestry
- Pursue the re-adoption of Green Acres rules that address urban areas
- End the revenue-draining practice of relinquishing “excess receipts” to the state
- Allow nonprofits to apply for funding for park improvements and development to expand beyond urban aid communities

FIRST TERM

- Establish state parks in cities like Trenton, Newark and Camden
- Protect and direct Natural Resource Damages funds to earmarked communities for the creation of urban and other parks
- Disallow privatization and commercialization of parks
- Identify robust stewardship funding for planning, inventories and assessments for natural resources as well as operations and maintenance for all lands including preserved land that protects water, forests, parks, wildlife management areas, natural areas, protected habitat and blue acres lands
- Increase funding for Divisions of Parks and Forestry and Fish and Wildlife, including the Natural Heritage Program, Natural Areas Program and Natural Lands Trust where disproportionate cuts have curtailed operations, maintenance and stewardship

“Fire made us human, fossil fuels made us modern, but now we need a new fire that makes us safe, secure, healthy and durable.”
Amory Lovins



The Clean Energy Fund is one of six programs financed by the societal benefits charge (SBC) established by the Electric Discount and Energy Competition Act. Most of the money is generated by large users of energy. Intended uses include support for the Clean Energy Program to fund clean energy investments and energy efficiency. Unfortunately, more than \$1.5 billion in Clean Energy Funds have been diverted to help balance the state budget. This expropriation hurts New Jersey's efforts to switch to cleaner fuels to produce electricity and eliminate dependency on fossil fuels. All told, clean energy in New Jersey starts with protecting the Clean Energy Fund.

Attaining 100 percent clean energy by 2050 also requires planning, planning and more planning. New Jersey's Energy Master Plan acknowledges a mandate to reduce GHG emissions by 2050 while it encourages the use and expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure. Indeed, the state's blueprint for energy is due for an overhaul. Pipelines, compressor stations and gas-fired power plants are being built without needs analyses. This infrastructure sprawl can cause irreparable damage and contributes to increased greenhouse gas emissions — exacerbating adverse health effects for New Jersey residents — and crowds the market for renewable energy.

One obvious path for clean energy is to harness offshore wind. Because of its geographical location on the East Coast, New Jersey represents a viable and productive hub for the offshore wind industry. More than a decade ago, New Jersey was poised to become a leader in offshore wind, and even in the early days of the outgoing administration it looked as though New Jersey would establish itself as the first state in the nation to move forward. Disappointingly, the landmark 2010 Offshore Wind Economic Development Act has seen almost no progress since its passage.



Recommendations

- ▶ Stop diverting funds from the clean energy fund
- ▶ Revise the state energy master plan
- ▶ Require New Jersey to reach 100 percent clean renewable energy as soon as possible and no later than 2050
- ▶ Establish offshore wind

FIRST 100 DAYS

- Begin process of revising Energy Master Plan
- Stop diverting Clean Energy Fund money immediately
- Work with state Treasury and New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to allocate funds as intended for financing renewable energy and energy conservation programs
- Ensure that all planning for the next fiscal year budget allocates Clean Energy Fund money for its intended uses
- Support a constitutional amendment to prevent future diversions
- Disallow approval of new fossil fuel infrastructure projects such as pipelines, compressor stations and power plants until there is a revised Energy Master Plan
- Prioritize the repair and replacement of 6,000 miles of aging gas distribution lines to improve energy efficiency and safety using advanced leak detection and quantification methods
- Update the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to reach 100 percent clean renewable energy from Class I renewables by no later than 2050 with strong short- and intermediate-term targets, including a benchmark for 50 percent renewable energy by 2030
- Increase specific requirements in the RPS for offshore wind to a minimum of 3,000 megawatts by 2025 and between 4,000-5,000 megawatts by 2030
- Maximize the growth of solar
- Establish an offshore wind program, including an off-shore wind renewable energy credit program through BPU that gives certainty to offshore wind developers and allows for securement of financing for turbines



FIRST YEAR

- Develop a new Energy Master Plan that emphasizes energy efficiency and a transition to 100 percent clean Class I renewable energy derived from solar or wind power and other renewable sources
- Ensure that the Energy Master Plan runs through 2030, prioritizes emission reductions in Environmental Justice (EJ) communities and puts the state on a pathway to meet, if not exceed, the 2050 emission reduction targets under the GWRA with specific emission reduction targets by sector and a benchmark of 50 percent renewable energy by 2030 with the ultimate goal of being fossil fuel free by no later than 2050
- Direct the BPU and DEP to require proposed energy infrastructure projects be consistent with this plan
- Rely upon Class I renewables and disallow options into the RPS law such as garbage incinerators, nuclear, large-scale hydroelectric or options that continue reliance on fossil fuels like carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) or gas power plants
- Use BPU's existing statutory authority to adopt an energy efficiency portfolio standard and require a 30 percent reduction below 2015 levels for electric and natural gas usage by 2030 with clear and measurable interim benchmarks and support for conservation programs
- Prioritize energy efficiency programs for low income and communities of color
- Require BPU to fully evaluate the state's full potential for offshore wind, including capacity, preliminary siting scenarios and economic analyses for offshore wind that includes the social cost for carbon
- Ensure BPU RFPs allow phased implementation, require the use of domestic materials and other labor agreements to allow for local workforce training and benefits for NJ labor
- Conduct comprehensive ocean planning or marine spatial planning to address potential issues including navigational conflicts and impact on habitat, fish, birds and wildlife

FIRST TERM

- Implement the Energy Master Plan
- Implement robust energy efficiency programs that reduce the demand for energy while creating jobs in local communities
- Establish a grid modernization stakeholder process and develop a measurable, time-specific plan that requires electricity service providers to submit grid modernization plans that include voltage optimization, advanced metering infrastructure, customer access to data and strong metrics
- Report progress to reduce energy waste, spur innovation and accelerate market penetration of clean energy technologies
- Prioritize the creation of a regional hub for turbine manufacturing that could serve as a location for domestic component manufacturing, assembly and delivery to the region via cargo ship at a deep-water port, reducing GHG from transportation and benefitting local economies



Coast and Ocean

“How inappropriate to call this planet Earth when it is clearly Ocean.”

Arthur C. Clarke

Climate change — particularly sea level rise, ocean warming and acidification — will significantly challenge New Jersey’s coastal waters and shoreline. Inadequate planning, management and land use policies have increased the vulnerability of coastal ecosystems, communities and local economies dependent upon a clean ocean.

Responding to climate change addresses longstanding problems such as water pollution, wildlife habitat destruction and lack of public access. The next administration must aggressively reform the current approach, anticipate and plan regionally for climate impacts and develop new approaches to manage land uses at all levels of government, as well as encourage and leverage private sector investment. Fortunately, New Jersey’s outstanding academia, research and conservation organizations have already laid the groundwork.

The incoming administration must be vigilant about protecting New Jersey’s revitalized coast and shore. In the late 1980s, the waters off the Jersey Shore were the ocean dumping capital of the world. Sewage, medical waste and garbage washed upon New Jersey beaches and caused hundreds of closures each summer. Thanks to the hard work of thousands, the ocean is now dumpsite free and beach closures are a rarer occurrence. The Jersey Shore is now a premier vacation destination and coastal tourism generates more than \$22 billion annually. However, no laws protect the coast and shore from the many potentially harmful liquefied natural gas industry proposals and federal proposals for oil and gas development.

**A scene from Barnegate
Lighthouse State Park**

Recommendations

- ▶ Protect New Jersey's coast through regional climate awareness management and policies

- ▶ Protect offshore ocean resources

FIRST 100 DAYS

- Launch a Coastal Resiliency Initiative and convene New Jersey's expert climate change researchers and policy leaders to make a top-ten list of actions that strengthen New Jersey's coastal management programs and reduce vulnerability of both natural landscapes and communities in light of climate change and sea level rise

- Oppose harmful industrialization such as fossil fuel exploration or development, industrial activities, seismic testing and other activities that increase pollution or threaten marine life

FIRST YEAR

- Adopt regulations that consider sea level rise in state decision making — particularly for publicly funded infrastructure — using tools such as Flood Mapper and the Coastal Vulnerability Index
- Increase Blue Acres land acquisition opportunities to reduce future vulnerability, to avoid repetitive losses and associated public costs, and create open space opportunities supporting the coastal tourism economy
- Revise the Shore Protection Master Plan to reduce rising sea level vulnerability and to increase resiliency in order to guide public investments in a manner that takes climate change into account
- Direct the DEP to use its current authority under the Tidal Wetlands Act to:
 - ▶ Increase buffer zones and setbacks from tidal marshes and waterways
 - ▶ Prioritize the use of natural approaches to coastal erosion control and hazard reduction
 - ▶ Enhance the current policies on allowable development on coastal dunes to strengthen the protection of these natural barriers to storm impacts

- Strengthen public access rules, enhance water resource protection programs and reject current Coastal Area Facility Review Act "CAFRA" and Flood Hazard Rule changes proposed by the outgoing administration
- Develop a regional Dredge Material Management Plan so channels are maintained and material is used beneficially. Accelerate research concerning the use of dredged materials to restore coastal wetlands and living shorelines
- Call for legislation to protect ecological marine resources such as prohibiting ocean dumping and pollution sources, protecting natural habitat areas and blocking harmful industrialization
- Use the current regional ocean planning process to protect fish, birds and other marine life habitats during all life cycles; prime fishing areas; marine mammal birthing, nursing, and migratory paths; and ecologically rich areas through aggressive implementation of the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Action Plan



Government

“Let us never forget that government is ourselves and not an alien power over us.” Franklin D. Roosevelt

The outgoing administration has prioritized economic development at the expense of the public and the environment. If long-term economic vitality and prosperity are goals to be achieved in New Jersey, environmental quality, public health and safety and support for the state’s most vulnerable communities must take precedence.

Over the course of the outgoing administration, the use of planning has fallen by the wayside. The State Development and Redevelopment Plan provides the framework yet has not been updated for 16 years. Therefore, many land use decisions are currently based on obsolete information. As the most densely populated state in the country, New Jersey will likely be fully developed by the year 2050. A blueprint must be followed to navigate the course to New Jersey’s bright future.

The New Jersey Statehouse



Recommendations

- ▶ Strengthen commissions, councils, committees
- ▶ Take action to plan for an environmentally-sound future
- ▶ Articulate environmental priorities

FIRST 100 DAYS

- Incorporate key environmental issues in the Governor's inaugural and budget addresses articulating priorities for the new administration and include:
 - ▶ Achieving 100 percent clean energy
 - ▶ Safeguarding clean drinking water
 - ▶ Prioritizing open space
- Reinvigorate the State Planning Commission by issuing an Executive order that directs it to update the draft State Plan and include smart growth goals and targets
- Create a Cabinet-level committee with representation across state agencies to coordinate and update policies to reduce lead exposure in housing, water and soils
- Issue an Executive order affirming the administration's commitment to EJ principles and protection of vulnerable communities
- Reconstitute the EJ Advisory Committee and appoint appropriate members of the EJ community to the committee
- Replace chairpersons of the New Jersey Highlands Council and New Jersey Pinelands Commission with existing members, consistent with criteria in "First Year" below

FIRST YEAR

- Release updated draft State Plan
- Outline priorities and charge the Commission to issue an updated draft State Plan which should include smart growth goals and targets
- Strengthen the Highlands Council and Pinelands Commission with appointees who support the goals and objectives of the Pinelands and Highlands acts and who will prioritize the capacity-based planning initiatives of the Pinelands Comprehensive Plan and the Highlands Regional Master Plan
- Utilize the expertise and experience of appropriate nonprofit organizations when appointing members to the respective planning agencies
- Instruct the DEP Commissioner to adopt a policy of assessing cumulative impacts and include that information in the decision-making process for permits
- Implement lead-reduction policies of cabinet-level committee
- Integrate science into permitting decisions
- Direct the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to set a deadline for zero emissions at seaports, rail and airport complexes
- Convene an EJ stakeholder group to provide input on how to accomplish this as well as other environmental improvements at these facilities



“We don’t have a society if we destroy the environment.”

Margaret Mead

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), a government agency, plays the critical role of managing the state’s environment, protecting natural resources and enforcing regulations and permits. Over the past eight years, the outgoing administration has advanced policies that undermine these protections. During the same period, the budget has decreased. Funding for the DEP comes from several sources including the General Fund, permit application fees, fines, leases and the federal government.

Fifteen years ago the DEP had roughly 4,000 employees. Since then, staffing levels have plummeted to 2,800 and those remaining suffer from low morale. Staff cuts have reduced enforcement, inspections, compliance actions and penalties and fines as much as 50 percent and greater in many programs.

Critical offices like Environmental Justice (EJ) are understaffed and under supported causing increased pollution-related health risks for communities. In these communities DEP cuts have eroded the protection of natural resources, increased waiting periods for permits, reduced transparency and have impacted enforcement actions. Parks and recreation projects are backlogged, fisheries have shut down and individuals and businesses face unnecessary waits. Facility inspections have decreased significantly and many industries go years without being inspected causing permit violations.

**A misty morning at Turkey Swamp Park —
part of the Monmouth County Park system**

Recommendations

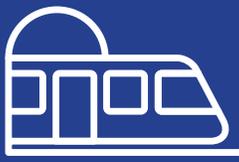
- ▶ Reverse negative trends
- ▶ Address environmental justice issues

FIRST YEAR

- Revitalize, fully fund and staff the Office of Environmental Justice (EJ) and name an Assistant Commissioner for EJ
- Create a multi-lingual hotline to address complaints and locate an inspector within EJ communities to provide a rapid response
- Ensure violations have bearing on a facility's future permits and renewals

FIRST TERM

- Reverse funding and staffing trends
- Modernize the agency to make it more transparent and predictable
- Reverse trends of cuts to state appropriations and the increased reliance on federal funding — current state appropriations are \$313 million, down from \$327 million in 2017
- Increase staffing levels to 3,200 including filling existing vacancies and vacancies created by attrition, and ensure succession planning occurs when staff retire
- Ensure growth of resources is distributed equitably between the stewardship and management of natural resources and the permitting and enforcement sides of DEP
- Focus on hiring, retaining or promoting key qualified staff with an emphasis on leaders who support using full state- and federal-delegated authority as well as enforcing law, regulations, decisions, fines and violations
- Ensure polluters pay by preventing low settlements for fines and Natural Resource Damages (NRDs) such as the Exxon Bayway settlement
- Reinvigorate the NRD program by investigating and filing new claims. Ensure these funds go to impacted communities to restore resources and compensate residents
- Enforce permits, including fully enforcing the state's authority under the Clean Water Act in reviewing permits for proposed pipelines and compressor stations
- Dedicate revenue from enforcement actions to the Department and to the environment rather than to the General Fund
- Encourage Supplemental Environmental Projects to help the Department in achieving its mission of protecting New Jersey's natural resources



Infrastructure

As the climate changes, local governments must prepare for greater wet weather events. Managing large volumes of stormwater will be an ongoing challenge.

Green infrastructure is a cost-effective solution to reduce combined sewer overflows which can impact public health; and flooding which threatens public safety and the economy. While green infrastructure offers multi-use benefits, it lacks a dedicated revenue stream. One idea is a fee on impervious property surface — such as rooftops, parking lots and driveways — that cause rainfall to run off into combined sewers, stormwater drains and local waterways.

New Jersey's water systems must be addressed. According to the latest EPA Needs Surveys, New Jersey's drinking water and wastewater systems require infrastructure investments of at least \$8 billion and \$17.5 billion, respectively, over the next 20 years to meet the water quality and public health goals of the Clean Water Act.

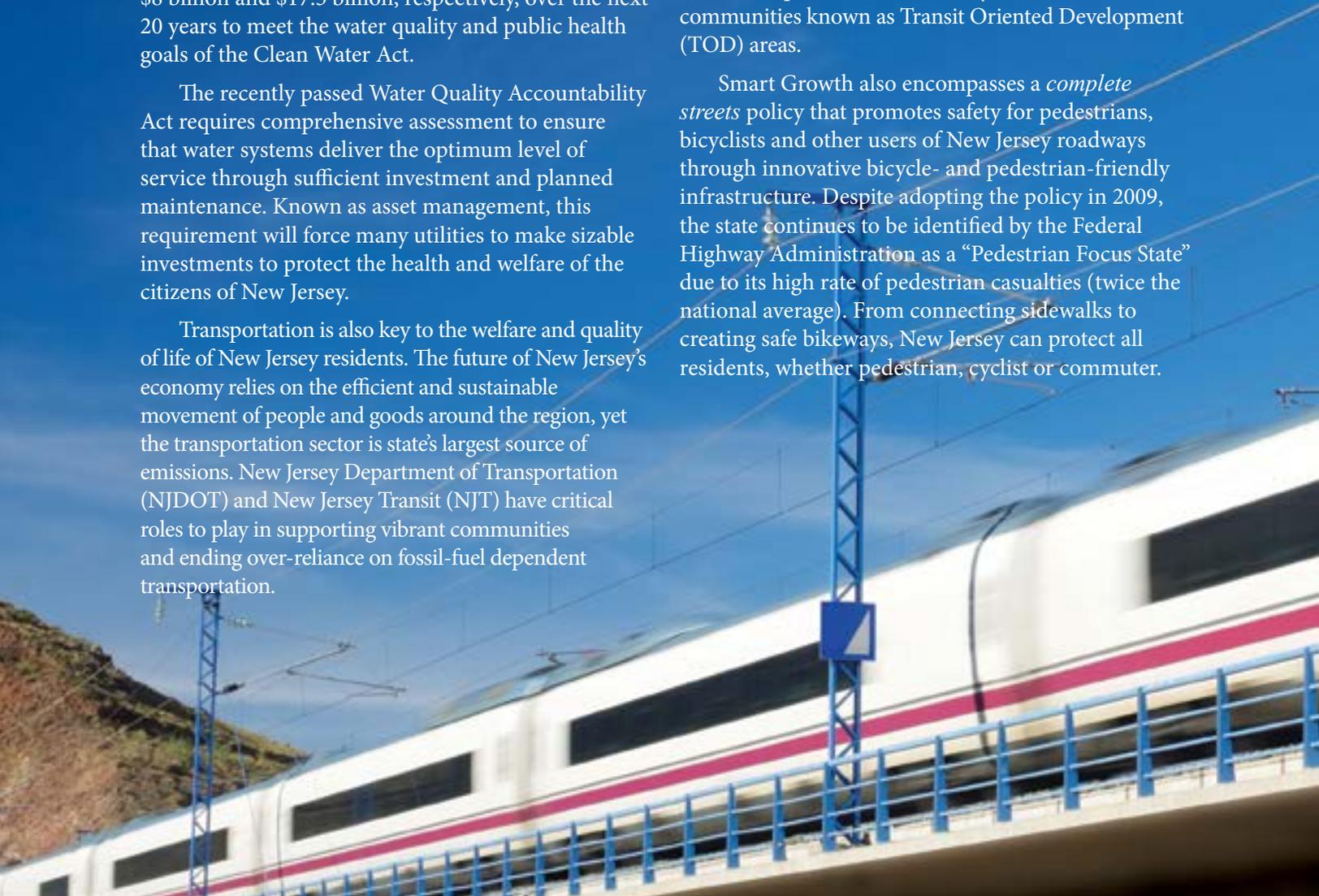
The recently passed Water Quality Accountability Act requires comprehensive assessment to ensure that water systems deliver the optimum level of service through sufficient investment and planned maintenance. Known as asset management, this requirement will force many utilities to make sizable investments to protect the health and welfare of the citizens of New Jersey.

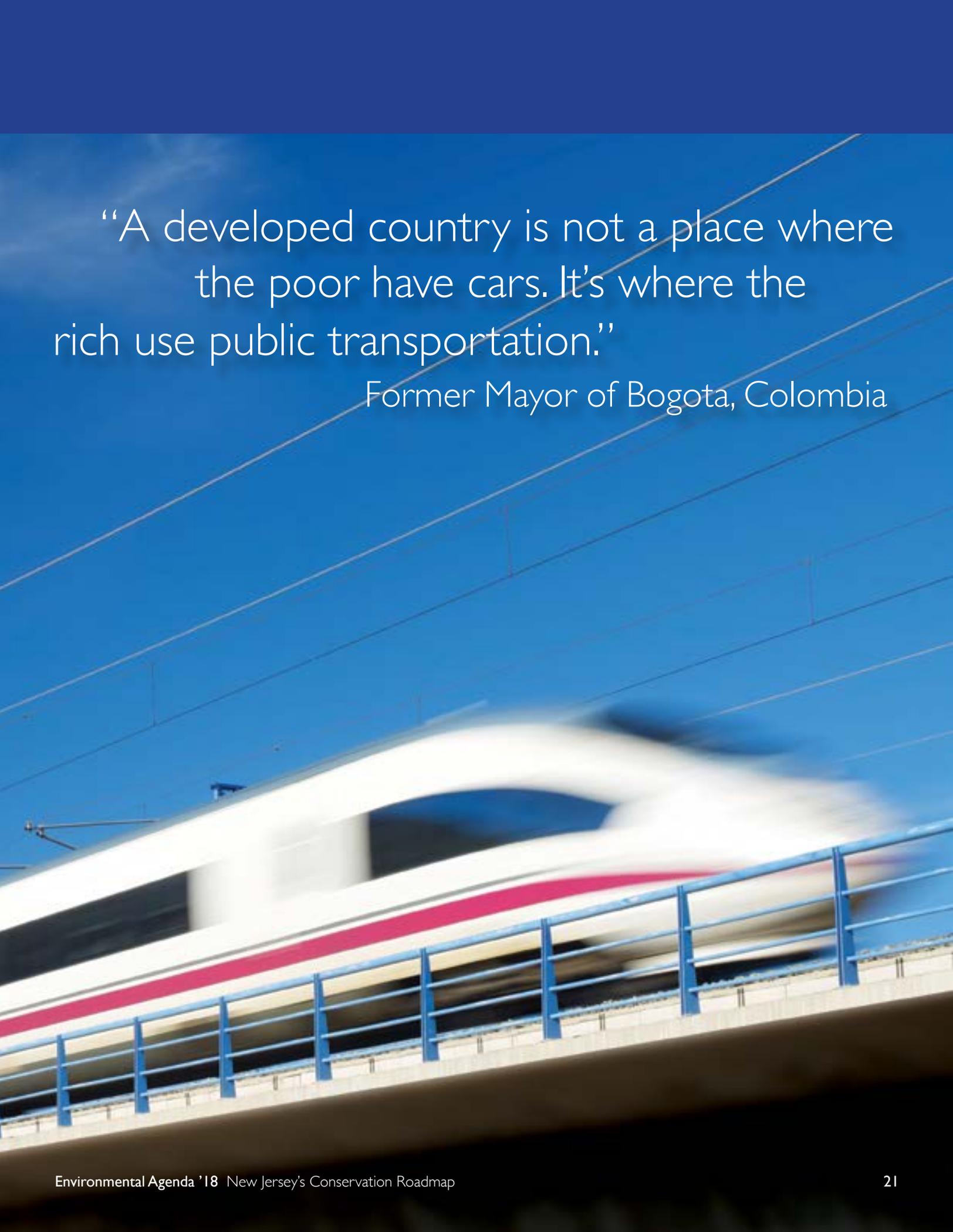
Transportation is also key to the welfare and quality of life of New Jersey residents. The future of New Jersey's economy relies on the efficient and sustainable movement of people and goods around the region, yet the transportation sector is state's largest source of emissions. New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) and New Jersey Transit (NJT) have critical roles to play in supporting vibrant communities and ending over-reliance on fossil-fuel dependent transportation.

At the same time, NJT's operating budget is substantially underfunded. As a result, NJT has relied on capital-to-operating transfers, roughly \$500 million annually, to fill the gap. This practice stifles NJT's ability to engage in long-term planning and meet its capital needs. NJT needs a reliable, dedicated funding source for operating needs.

Train and transport centers will be the new hub. National studies reveal that about one-quarter of housing demand in the near future will be for residences within a half mile of train stations. Prioritizing Smart Growth land-use decisions that steer development to these places in and near existing communities will be key. A comprehensive approach to land use should provide technical and financial assistance to municipalities that redevelop around rail stations while prioritizing green infrastructure, green streets and parks to create healthy, walkable, vibrant communities known as Transit Oriented Development (TOD) areas.

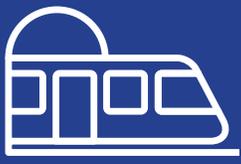
Smart Growth also encompasses a *complete streets* policy that promotes safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and other users of New Jersey roadways through innovative bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure. Despite adopting the policy in 2009, the state continues to be identified by the Federal Highway Administration as a "Pedestrian Focus State" due to its high rate of pedestrian casualties (twice the national average). From connecting sidewalks to creating safe bikeways, New Jersey can protect all residents, whether pedestrian, cyclist or commuter.





“A developed country is not a place where
the poor have cars. It’s where the
rich use public transportation.”

Former Mayor of Bogota, Colombia



○ Recommendations

- ▶ Allow stormwater utilities and subsequent user fee collection to reduce flooding
- ▶ Work with the legislature on asset management requirements for wastewater, drinking water and stormwater systems
- ▶ Increase the budget for public transportation, set performance goals, and increase budgets for planning, operations and capital
- ▶ Prioritize smart growth, green infrastructure, green streets, parks, municipal assistance and redevelopment around train stations
- ▶ Incorporate bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in NJDOT capital projects

FIRST 100 DAYS

- Work with agencies on Water Quality Accountability Act implementation
- Work with legislature to give DEP authority to require asset management of owner/operators of wastewater systems

FIRST YEAR

- Work with the Legislature to authorize the establishment of stormwater utilities and/or stormwater fees on a voluntary basis across the state
- Address equity issues in fee allocation, including consideration of income or property value — similar to the city of Philadelphia model — that includes hardship exemptions to and/or grants to low-income households, seniors and other households reliant on fixed incomes
- Provide technical assistance as necessary for municipalities
- Advocate for federal funds, with priority on funding implementation of asset management plans
- Increase funding to the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust fund
- Expand 100 percent principal forgiveness and interest-free loan programs to small communities for asset management to comply with the Water Quality Accountability Act and any other subsequent asset management and implementation requirements
- Encourage NJDOT to make complete streets implementation a priority
- Create a data-driven prioritization process to invest limited tax dollars in transportation projects with the highest merit
- Use a scoring system (similar to that in the state of Virginia) to evaluate infrastructure projects based on potential benefits such as congestion relief, economic development and environmental impact

FIRST TERM

- Direct NJT's mission: "Improving access to more destinations for more people"
- Increase funding to NJ Transit and identify dedicated sources for its operating budget
- Set performance goals that measure safety and reliability of trains and buses, as well as environmental goals for reducing emissions and improving accessibility to mass transit, especially for low-income populations
- Plan for the future of transportation in the state, including developing infrastructure to support electric vehicles, incorporating climate risk into decision making and planning, and exploring car-sharing opportunities that will reduce the large transportation carbon footprint
- Ensure the Transportation Trust Fund is financed sustainably to minimize an over-reliance on long-term debt for short-term improvements
- Establish a TOD specialty area within NJ Transit that works proactively with developers and municipalities to redevelop sites around train stations, and coordinates with NJDOT
- Reinvigorate the Office of Smart Growth and ensure that it coordinates efforts with state agencies and works with cities and towns to achieve smart growth and redevelopment priorities

“If we have concluded that we are being asked to take senseless and frightening risks, then we should no longer accept the counsel of those who tell us that we must fill our world with poisonous chemicals...”

Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*

The New Jersey Worker and Community Right to Know Act (1983) and the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act of 1986 were developed to protect public health and the environment by ensuring that communities and workers are informed about the toxic chemicals being released into the air, land and water.

The New Jersey Worker and Community Right to Know Act states “the proliferation of hazardous substances in the environment poses a growing threat to the public health, safety, and welfare...and that individuals have an inherent right to know the full range of risks they face so that they can make reasoned decisions and take informed action concerning their employment and their living conditions.”

The federal Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) guarantees the legal right of citizens to review emergency response plans (ERPs). These plans must be developed and updated annually by all counties and municipalities.

Even though New Jersey has more than 3,000 facilities that use hazardous chemicals, the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) has failed to meet its legal obligation to ensure public access to ERPs.

Recommendations

- ▶ Improve emergency response plans
- ▶ Expand the further development of local emergency planning committees

FIRST 100 DAYS

- Instruct the State Emergency Response Commission, as required by EPCRA, to make ERPs for all local emergency planning committees (LEPCs) available to the public and implement and expand required notification procedures

FIRST YEAR

- Ensure that emergency response plans are accessible in English, as well as the primary languages spoken within LEPC districts, available online and written in a manner that instructs the community how to prepare and respond as may be required in an emergency

FIRST TERM

- Issue an Executive order changing the designation of the Emergency Planning Districts, reconstituting and supporting the further development of LEPCs in accordance with, or exceeding, current federal guidelines and ensure community participation with an emphasis on Environmental Justice (EJ) community advocates
- Utilize either the Hazard Mitigation Plan model that requires counties to submit a comprehensive plan to the state (and municipalities to submit information to the county) or consider creating regional areas, as was done by the Homeland Security Urban Area Security Initiative
- Require municipalities with large quantities of hazardous substances, TCPA facilities or densely populated areas to continue as designated emergency planning districts



Acknowledgements

The New Jersey League of Conservation Voters Education Fund (New Jersey LCV Education Fund) would like to thank the nearly 30 partner organizations that contributed to the creation of *Environmental Agenda '18: New Jersey's Conservation Roadmap*. We also thank Lisa J. Plevin for her expertise and guidance in managing this project on behalf of New Jersey LCV Education Fund.

As with any collaborative effort, many views were expressed during the writing of *Environmental Agenda '18*. It is important to note that the perspectives presented herein solely reflect those of New Jersey League of Conservation Voters Education Fund.

New Jersey LCV Education Fund greatly appreciates each organization's contributions and valued expertise shared in this effort as well as the immeasurable commitment put forward to protecting New Jersey's environment.

We would like to thank the following organizations for their participation:

The American Littoral Society

Leaders in coastal conservation since 1961, the American Littoral Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, promotes the study and conservation of marine life and habitat, protects the coast from harm and empowers others to do the same through educational programs, advocacy efforts involving government from local to national, and boots-on-the-sand conservation/restoration projects. Visit www.littoralsociety.org.



Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC)

ANJEC strives to achieve responsible and sustainable use of New Jersey's natural resources and to protect environmental health. ANJEC is a statewide organization that provides leadership, education and support for environmental commissions, and other local boards and public officials. ANJEC partners with other organizations to advocate for strong state and regional environmental policy. Visit www.anjec.org.



Clean Ocean Action (COA)

COA is a broad-based coalition of over 100 organizations dedicated to protecting the marine environment and New Jersey's multi-billion dollar "clean ocean economy." Since 1984 COA has successfully improved marine water

quality using research, education and citizen action to implement environmentally sound solutions to reduce pollution; and garners local, state and federal support to strengthen laws. Visit www.cleanoceanaction.org.



ClimateMama

ClimateMama educates and informs families about the realities of the climate crisis and provides advice and best practices to inspire and empower individual and collective climate action. "Tell the truth, actions speak louder than words and don't be afraid" is the organization's motto. Join ClimateMama in building the path forward to a healthy, renewable and sustainable present and future. Visit www.climate mama.com.



Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)

EDF, a leading international nonprofit organization, creates transformational solutions for the most serious environmental problems. EDF links science, economics, law and innovative private-sector partnerships. Visit www.edf.org or connect on Twitter, Facebook or Energy Exchange blog.



GreenFaith

GreenFaith is an interfaith environmental organization that educates, inspires, equips and organizes diverse faith communities for environmental action. Through work in the U.S., Latin America and India, GreenFaith trains religious leaders for environmental initiatives, organizes and coordinates activist campaigns and supports GreenFaith Circles where people of faith come together locally to put their beliefs into action for the Earth. Visit www.greenfaith.org.



Hackensack Riverkeeper

Hackensack Riverkeeper works to protect, preserve and restore the Hackensack River and its watershed for the benefit of the people and the wildlife that depend upon it. Founded in 1997 by Captain Bill Sheehan, the organization employs a fourfold strategy of: environmental advocacy, education, litigation as well as active conservation to fulfill its mission. Visit www.hackensackriverkeeper.org.



Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC)



Developed in 1969, ICC engages and empowers individuals, families and groups to work together to create just, vibrant, sustainable

communities. ICC operates through a unique combination of direct services for 1,000 people daily creating community building and justice initiatives, including leading the development of Newark's first Riverfront Park. Visit www.ironbound.cc.org.

Isles, Inc.

Founded in 1981, Isles, Inc. is a community development and environmental organization with a mission to foster self-reliant families and healthy, sustainable communities. The organization revitalizes communities, builds wealth, educates and trains, and creates healthy homes and spaces. Beyond its central New Jersey base, Isles, Inc. works to influence policy and helps others build healthy, self-help approaches. Visit www.isles.org.



Moms Clean Air Force

Moms Clean Air Force is a community of more than one million moms — and dads — working together to combat air pollution and to bring to the forefront the urgent crisis of changing climate. Visit www.momscleanairforce.org/state-of-new-jersey/



Monmouth Conservation Foundation (MCF)

MCF is a nonprofit land trust dedicated to saving open space, creating parks, preserving farmland, protecting wildlife and safeguarding waterways. MCF received accreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission in 2014 and has collaboratively preserved more than 22,500 acres of open space and farmland throughout Monmouth County. Visit www.monmouthconservation.org.



New Jersey Audubon



New Jersey Audubon is a privately supported, nonprofit statewide-membership organization. Founded in 1897 and one of the oldest independent Audubon societies in the country, New Jersey Audubon fosters environmental awareness and a conservation ethic, protects New Jersey's birds, mammals, other animals and plants —

especially endangered and threatened species — and promotes preservation of New Jersey's valuable natural habitats. Visit www.njaudubon.org.

The NJ Clean Cities Coalition

The NJ Clean Cities Coalition is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit formally designated by the U.S. Department of Energy as one of 90 coalitions nationally. It is the only New Jersey statewide entity dedicated to the establishment of public/private partnerships for the reduction of petroleum in transportation and the advancement of alternative transportation fuels and advanced vehicle technologies. Visit www.njcleancities.org.





Acknowledgements

New Jersey Conservation Foundation

Since 1960, New Jersey Conservation Foundation has protected more than 125,000 acres of farms, forests, open space and urban parks from the Highlands to the Pine Barrens. The foundation protects threatened natural areas and farmland through land acquisition and stewardship, promotes strong New Jersey land use policies and forges partnerships to help safeguard water and other natural resources. Visit www.njconservation.org.



New Jersey Future

New Jersey Future is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that promotes sensible growth, redevelopment and infrastructure investments. Its mission is to foster vibrant cities and towns, protect natural lands and waterways, enhance transportation choices, provide access to safe, affordable and aging-friendly neighborhoods and to fuel a strong economy. The organization does this through original research, innovative policy development, coalition-building, advocacy and hands-on strategic assistance. Visit <http://www.njfuture.org>.



New Jersey Highlands Coalition

Approximately 6.2 million people and a large segment of New Jersey's industry depend upon the abundant, clean water supplied by the Highlands. The mission of the New Jersey Highlands Coalition is to represent its 100 member organizations in a common goal of protecting the Highlands' water and other natural and cultural resources from the risks of ever-increasing development pressure. Visit www.njhighlandscoalition.org.



**NEW JERSEY
HIGHLANDS
COALITION**

NJ Work Environment Council (WEC)

WEC is a coalition of labor, community and environmental organizations working together for safe, secure jobs and a healthy, sustainable environment. WEC links workers, communities and environmentalists through training, grassroots organizing and public policy campaigns to promote dialogue, collaboration and joint action. WEC helped found Jersey Renews to develop consensus on state-based approaches to the climate crisis. Visit www.njwec.org.



NY/NJ Baykeeper

NY/NJ Baykeeper is the citizen guardian of the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary. Since 1989, NY/NJ Baykeeper has worked to protect, preserve and restore the environment of the most urban estuary on Earth – benefiting its natural and human communities. Visit www.nynjbaykeeper.org.



New York-New Jersey Trail Conference

New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a volunteer-powered organization that builds, maintains and protects public trails. Together with partners, the Trail Conference strives to ensure that trails and natural areas are sustainable and accessible for all to enjoy for generations to come. Over 150 federal, state, county, municipal and private parks rely on the Trail Conference for maintenance of trail systems. Visit www.nynjtc.org.



Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA)

PPA is dedicated to preserving the New Jersey Pinelands' natural and historic resources through public education, citizen engagement and advocacy. Recent initiatives include the Save the Source campaign about the critical and vulnerable Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer, opposing unlawful and unwise natural gas transmission line development through Pinelands conservation areas and promoting good stewardship of the region's unique public lands. Visit www.pinelandsalliance.org.



Raritan Headwaters Association (RHA)

RHA's mission is to protect water in streams, rivers and homes. The association engages more than 3,500 citizen scientists and volunteers to safeguard clean water and natural habitats. RHA is known as a leader in environmental education, advocacy and outreach; and for water quality monitoring, ecological research, habitat restoration, land preservation and stewardship. Visit www.raritanheadwaters.org.



ReThink Energy NJ

ReThink Energy NJ aims to inform New Jersey citizens about the need for reduced use of fossil fuels and pipelines that threaten preserved lands, water, environment, public health and communities. The group's goal is a swift transition to clean, renewable energy. ReThink Energy NJ is supported by New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association and Pinelands Preservation Alliance. Visit rethinkenergynj.org.



Save Barnegat Bay

Save Barnegat Bay seeks to restore and protect Barnegat Bay and its ecosystem. The group advances its mission by being a strong and independent voice for the Bay throughout the watershed, including all of Ocean County and part of Monmouth County through effective educational programs and targeted advocacy campaigns that engage over 3,500 supporters. Visit www.savebarnegatbay.org.



Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association

The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association works to keep water clean, safe and healthy. Since 1949, the Watershed Association has protected central New Jersey's water and natural environment through conservation, advocacy, science and education. The organization is headquartered at the LEED-Platinum Watershed Center for Environmental Advocacy on the 950-acre Watershed Reserve in Hopewell Township. Visit www.thewatershed.org.



The Land Conservancy of New Jersey

The Land Conservancy of New Jersey is an accredited nonprofit land trust permanently protecting New Jersey's open space land and water resources. The organization accomplishes its mission through three program areas: land preservation, stewardship and education. The conservancy has preserved 24,000 acres of land, has provided \$225,000 in scholarships to 52 students and has restored a 16-lot housing development to native forest. Visit www.tlc-nj.org.



Tri-State Transportation Campaign

For over 20 years, Tri-State Transportation Campaign has been working to build a more balanced, transit-friendly and equitable transportation system in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.



THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

The Trust for Public Land

The Trust for Public Land creates parks and protects land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come. Millions of people live near a Trust for Public Land park, garden or natural area, and millions more visit these sites every year. Visit www.tpl.org.

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About Us

New Jersey League of Conservation Voters Education Fund

The New Jersey League of Conservation Voters Education Fund is a non-partisan, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to protecting New Jersey's precious natural resources by elevating the importance of environmental issues in public discourse and increasing the efficacy of the entire environmental community. We accomplish our goals by:

- Providing environmental organizations with technical assistance, research and coalition leadership for greater unity and focus;
- Educating, engaging and mobilizing people with objective and accurate information about critical environmental issues in the state; and
- Advocating sound policymaking that safeguards the health of New Jersey residents and protects the water, air and land throughout our state.

Since 2012, the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters Education Fund has been active in multiple successful campaigns, including the fight to pass the 2014 ballot measure to establish permanent constitutional dedication for open space preservation. In 2016, the Education Fund's leadership efforts also led to the successful passage of implementation language that secures stable funding for open space, park, farmland and historic preservation projects across the state. Also in 2016, the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters Education Fund successfully led an effort with our partners to amend the New Jersey constitution to dedicate monies from polluters to restore the environment.

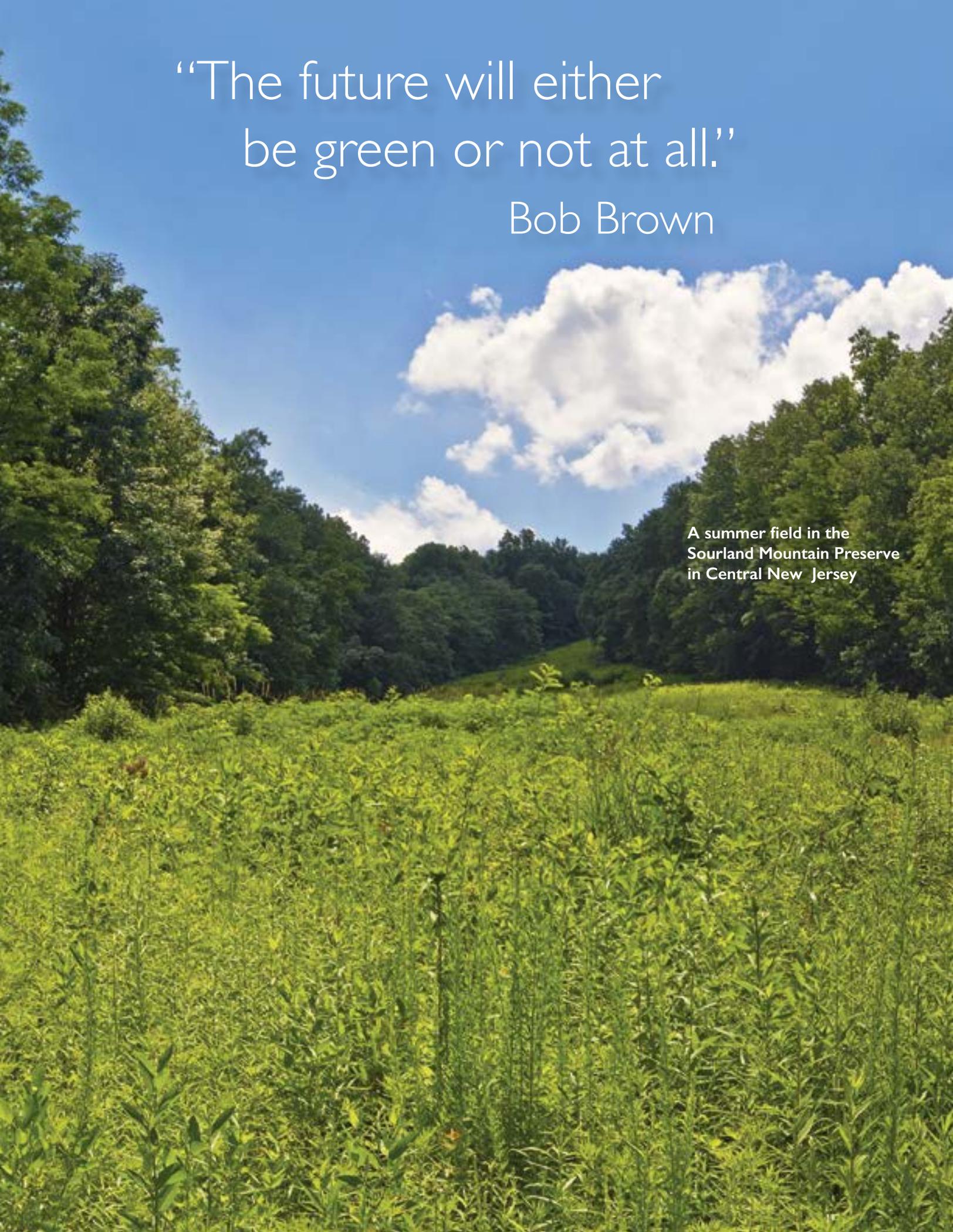
For more information visit: www.njlcvef.org



“The future will either
be green or not at all.”

Bob Brown

A summer field in the
Sourland Mountain Preserve
in Central New Jersey





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