

anjec

2010 Annual Report

THE ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSIONS



*On the Front Line:
Local Environmental Action in Challenging Times
theme of the 2010 Environmental Congress*

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Although this year presented some economic and political challenges, ANJEC was able to accomplish much in 2010. We have continued our comprehensive training and assistance program for the dedicated volunteers who advise their municipal governments, helping them to conserve resources, curb pollution and improve quality of life for local residents.

Our programs support the efforts of environmental commissions across the state, who are the eyes, ears and voices for the environment at the local level. In confirmation of ANJEC's fulfilling its mission of aid to commissions, one commission chair wrote in his annual report to his town "ANJEC is the lifeline for our commission."

While we concentrated our programs of support for local officials, ANJEC also helped to protect environmental resources throughout New Jersey, often working cooperatively with many other environmental organizations in the state. Protecting the environment takes action by all levels of government, and ANJEC also worked with state government and regional agencies to ensure that their actions continue New Jersey's legacy of strict environmental protection.

We are pleased to share this year's achievements of with you. We welcome your suggestions for activities, programs and other ways that ANJEC can help commissions, other local officials and residents to improve New Jersey's environment.

Handwritten signature of Sandy Batty.

Sandy Batty
Executive Director

- The monthly average of ANJEC website visitors for 2010 was 13,717, a 17 percent increase over 2009 results.
- With funding from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, ANJEC awarded 18 municipalities and one county Smart Growth grants totaling \$135,000 and provided all the grantee towns with technical assistance so they could complete projects that serve as models for towns throughout NJ.
- A total of nearly 1,000 people attended ANJEC's Environmental Congress, 12 workshops, six Road Shows and nine webinars.
- We updated, published and distributed three of our popular Resource Papers:
 - "Protecting Our Streams,"
 - "State Programs Affecting Land Use," and
 - "Site Plan and Subdivision Review"
- We started distributing an online version of the *ANJEC Report*, and now over 2,000 people download each issue, in addition to nearly 3,000 readers who receive the paper copy.
- The New Jersey Chapter of the American Planning Association honored ANJEC with its Distinguished Civic Leadership Award. In presenting the award, the APA-NJ President said that ANJEC has advanced sound planning in the public arena.
- The NJ Conservation Foundation dedicated a 4,000-acre preserve in the Forked River Mountains to Candy Ashmun, ANJEC's first executive director and longest-serving member of the Pinelands Commission
- ANJEC continued to coordinate the South Jersey Bayshore Coalition (www.sjbayshore.org), a group of 21 environmental and historic nonprofits working to protect the cultural heritage and environmental integrity of the Delaware Bay watershed.

For 40 years, ANJEC has supported the efforts of environmental commissions, other governmental officials and individuals interested in protecting the environment on the local level. We offer them assistance through our Resource Center, conferences, courses, publications and website.

Resource Center

ANJEC's Resource Center provided hands-on assistance to hundreds of commissioners, other local officials and residents. We answered questions on a variety of land use and environmental topics, including open space, solar power, tree protection and protecting sensitive natural features like slopes, wetlands, floodplains, and managing stormwater. Many requests also centered around municipal operations, such as how to get an ordinance passed or the powers and duties of a commission. A common topic was how to compile an environmental resource inventory (ERI), which we answered based on our considerable practical experience and our expansive collection of sample inventories, in paper and digital formats.

To help commissions host green fairs and environmental events, ANJEC has developed eight different traveling displays that commissions can borrow. Each display has an accompanying brochure and handouts for commissions to photocopy. Displays were in constant use during the spring and fall, prime times for educational events.

ANJEC Report

Nearly 3,000 environmental commissioners, municipal officials and environmentalists receive the printed version of ANJEC's quarterly magazine, and over 2,000 more download each issue from our web site. The *ANJEC Report* is unique in New Jersey, as it offers in-depth articles on local and statewide environmental issues and regular columns highlighting land use planning, commission achievements, the urban environment, clean energy, Resource Center tips and practical ideas for commissions. In 2010 we introduced the option of receiving the *ANJEC Report* electronically, which reduces printing and postage costs, shaves our carbon footprint and gets the issue to our readers at least two weeks sooner than the copies sent by regular mail.

Publications

We updated three of our popular Resource Papers that had been out of print. These concise documents cover specific topics involved in local environmental protection. We published and mailed the revised "Protecting Our Streams" and "State Programs Affecting Land Use" papers to all member commissions and all planning boards. "Site Plan and Subdivision Review" was revised and reprinted, ready for mailing in 2011.

ANJEC Website

Our website, www.anjec.org, offers online answers to people's questions, giving practical information on a wide range of local environmental issues that users can explore in depth. The monthly average of website visitors for 2010 was 13,717, a 17.5% increase over 2009 results, with December bringing in the highest traffic count of about 16,000 visits. Many people visit multiple pages and download ANJEC's helpful publications. Popular web pages included those on environmental commissions, open space preservation, water protection and conservation easements.

In 2010 ANJEC launched its Facebook page, which we update continually with information about our organization and commission activities. If you are a member of Facebook, find us by searching for "ANJEC" and hit the "like" button!

Environmental Congress

On the Front Line - Local Environmental Action in Challenging Times was the title for this year's Environmental Congress. It focused on local tools and resources needed as new State policy and the economic condition threaten to weaken environmental protection in New Jersey. Over 200 people attended the all-day conference, held in October at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft. The keynote speaker was Christopher Daggett, former NJDEP Commissioner and current CEO of the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. NJDEP Commissioner Bob Martin also addressed the group, explaining his priorities and initiatives as the new commissioner of the NJDEP.

Two break-out sessions offered nine workshops on topics including consideration of state regulations during development review, large-scale solar arrays, greening sites, fine-tuning planning and zoning, sustainable master plans, leadership during trying times, and a legislative roundup. Twenty-six nonprofit organizations cospon-

sored the conference, bringing exhibits and displays. Seven commissions and three nonprofits received Environmental Achievement Awards at the Environmental Congress.

Workshops

ANJEC held 12 workshops, six Road Shows and nine webinars during the year, training a total of nearly 1,000 people from around the state. Our annual Commissioners Introductory Training Course held in Vineland, Morristown and Lawrence Twp. had a total of 100 people attending. The presentations covered commission powers and responsibilities, environmental resource inventories, master plans, ordinances, and site plan review. All sessions received positive feedback, with evaluations having such comments as: "Helpful in giving us tools to work in our favor;" "Helpful to review plans and have tactics for working with developers;" and "A good reminder of what we should be doing."

ANJEC also held nine workshops on topics of interest during the year. Subjects covered Highlands conformance, promoting energy conservation and cutting municipal energy bills, and mapping the natural resources of the South Jersey Bayshore. Two South Jersey Networking Events gave environmental commission members a chance to share information, knowledge and concerns.

ANJEC also presented six Road Shows, for which commissions chose the date, location and topics to be covered. Presentations covered effective commission operations, sustainable communities, site plan review, open space preservation and stewardship, and "Selling Energy Conservation in Your Town." A total of 118 people attended, including members of environmental commissions, town councils, planning and zoning boards, open space committees, and the public.

Webinars

Webinars – where participants heard a lecture by telephone and simultaneously viewed the online slide presentation – allow commissioners to receive ANJEC training without leaving home, or generating greenhouse gasses. Often participants put us on speaker phone, so their whole commission could hear the presentation. We held nine webinars in 2010, with a total of 250 people participating. Two series of webinars built sequentially in content: the commissioners' training series and the series of five on creating sustainable

sustainable communities - covering sustainable sites, ordinances, open space planning, implementing a grant project and getting businesses on board. Recordings of webinars are on our website so members can access them at their convenience. We also hosted a webinar on the NJ Board of Public Utilities' energy conservation programs.

In addition, ANJEC made presentations at other environmental and planning organizations' conferences, including the NJ Conservation Foundation Land Conservation Rally, the New Jersey Future Redevelopment Forum, the Raritan River Collaborative Conference and the New Jersey Environmental Federation. ANJEC also presented a session for the Rutgers Environmental Stewards course at four locations around the state.



Environmental Commissioners accepting 2010 Environmental Achievement Awards

With foundation support, ANJEC develops and administers special projects that address current issues affecting environmental commissions throughout the state.

Smart Growth Grants

Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation

ANJEC awarded to 18 municipalities and one county grants totaling \$135,000 in 2010. ANJEC works with the grantee towns to compose grant agreements, attend project meetings and give technical assistance as the projects progress. This year, we created a Smart Growth Planning Grants webpage on the ANJEC website, which includes the list of grants awarded since 2002, the application blank and some case studies www.anjec.org/SmartGrowthGrants.htm

2010 Projects:

Municipality	County	Grant project
Bernardsville	Somerset	Subwatershed study/plan
Denville	Morris	Ordinances
Edison	Middlesex	Environmental resources inventory
Flemington	Hunterdon	Sustainability element
Greenwich Twp	Warren	Open space & recreation plan
Hamilton Twp	Mercer	Environmental resources inventory & conservation element
Highland Park	Middlesex	Environmental resources inventory
Highlands Borough	Monmouth	Bike/pedestrian route
Hopatcong Borough	Sussex	Open space & recreation plan
Long Branch City	Monmouth	Environmental resources inventory
Madison	Morris	Environmental resources inventory
Mendham Borough	Morris	Trails plan
Montville Twp	Morris	Open space & recreation plan
Morristown	Morris	Environmental resources inventory, open space & recreation plan updates
Passaic County	Passaic	Morris canal study
Peapack-Gladstone	Somerset	Environmental resources inventory
Pompton Lakes	Passaic	Open space & recreation plan
Ramsey	Bergen	Environmental resources inventory
West Milford	Passaic	Trails plan

Sustainable Communities

The Fund for New Jersey

ANJEC supported the sustainability efforts of environmental commissioners and municipal officials through the *ANJEC Report*, website postings, workshops, webinars and traveling displays. The *ANJEC Report* column, the "Green Team Times," provided helpful information and resources for sustainable land use. We regularly updated our Sustainable Communities Guide, one of the most popular sections of our website, incorporating municipal case studies, information, resources and tools to help commissions.

We also worked with Sustainable Jersey as it fine-tuned its tool kits and developed new ones. ANJEC participated in working groups on land use and transportation; natural resources; green building and cumulative risk assessment.

Energy

NJ Board of Public Utilities

As the final task in our energy education grant from NJBPU, we distributed to all commissions in the state a CD of the educational and promotional materials developed under the project. The information on the CD is also on our website. We also distributed at our Commissioners Course and annual Congress the EQ Challenge game created under the grant and we designed a new energy display for loan to environmental commissions.

ANJEC offered other assistance to municipalities to help them reduce energy use and production of Greenhouse Gases. We co-sponsored a series of five *Community Outreach Trainings* to inform commissioners about the NJBPU's programs on energy conservation, and a workshop with NJ Natural Gas about programs to help towns promote energy conservation and cut their own energy bills. In addition, "Clean Energy Corner," a new column in the *ANJEC Report*, and updates on our website offered current information on programs and actions that commissions can take.

ANJEC continued to be active on statewide energy issues, including raising concerns over the budget reductions for the Clean Energy Program, opposing legislation exempting solar collectors from impervious cover restrictions and attending two stakeholder sessions on the revision of Energy Master Plan.

ANJEC also was busy with requests from municipalities concerning many applications for large solar "farms" involving thousands of acres of agricultural lands.

Though we support solar on rooftops, developed land and brownfields, we have concerns with solar development on farms due to the loss of the State's prime, contiguous agricultural lands; increased stormwater runoff, and decreased local food supply. ANJEC worked with several commissions and residents to address local environmental impacts and concerns related to applications in Upper Deerfield, Pilesgrove, Fairfield, Mannington, Alloway, Pittsgrove, Pemberton and Upper Pittsgrove Townships.

South Jersey

William Penn Foundation

ANJEC has continued to coordinate the South Jersey Bayshore Coalition (www.sjbayshore.org), a group of 21 environmental and historic nonprofits working to protect the cultural heritage and environmental integrity of the Delaware Bay watershed. In 2010, to foster appreciation and regional stewardship of the Bayshore region, the Coalition worked on several ecotourism projects - sponsoring the Bayshore Heritage Byway, creating a traveling display showing local scenes and activities, and participating in many ecotourism festivals and exhibits.

The Coalition also worked for good land use planning, focusing in particular in Millville where a major development threatened the ecological integrity of Union Lake, one of the largest manmade lakes in the state. The members also worked to help Cumberland County develop its Open Space Plan and maps. Among the other Coalition initiatives were declaration of the Bayshore as a National Heritage Area, solar applications on farmland, Delaware River deepening, the proposed regional sewerage treatment plant in Deepwater, and the Coastal Heritage Trail.

In August, the Coalition had a special sail on the *Meerwald* with Congressman LoBiondo and his staff members. Every member organization had an opportunity to speak to the Congressman about their concerns.

In addition, ANJEC's southern staff worked closely with environmental commissions to help them preserve open space, protect endangered species, review site plans, develop environmental resource inventories, and make recommendations for master plans. They also encouraged several towns without commissions to start ones, by giving them information on the benefits of having a commission. The staff conducted a workshop giving participants hands-on

practice using GIS to map the natural resources of the South Jersey Bayshore, and organized two South Jersey Networking Events for commissions. The first, in Upper Deerfield, had a presentation on large commercial solar projects, and the second, in Pittsgrove Twp., covered establishing and protecting greenways. The events were well received with an average attendance of over 30 people at each.

Highlands Protection

Victoria Foundation

ANJEC continued to monitor the actions of the Highlands Council, attending every Council and committee meeting, reviewing municipal submissions and delivering comments as needed. By year end, two-thirds of the Highlands municipalities had submitted Petitions for Plan Conformance. The Highlands Council began reviewing the petitions, granted conformance status to eight towns and one county by year end.

ANJEC helped environmental commissioners and other local officials with conformance and other issues. ANJEC sent periodic email alerts to our list of about 700 Highlands municipal officials on pressing issues of concern. ANJEC also continued to update the Highlands section of its website, including new information for local officials and links to the Highlands Council website and other sites that offer assistance.

ANJEC has been monitoring other issues before the Highlands Council that affect regional protection of natural resources. Highlands Project Director Dave Peifer analyzed several detailed redevelopment proposals and made comments as needed. He also testified on plans for energy transmission through the Highlands, including the upgrade of the Susquehanna-Roseland Power Line, the JCP&L substation in Tewksbury, and the Tennessee Gas Pipeline.

ANJEC also worked closely with the NJ Highlands Coalition, taking on leadership roles in the organization and supporting its efforts for further preservation of the region. In addition, ANJEC acted as fiscal agent for the *Highlands News*, administering its grant from the Dodge Foundation so it could continue to send daily emails with news capsules on Highlands subjects.

Urban Project

The Fund for New Jersey

During the year, we continued work on our Cumulative Risk educational trainings and Environmental Justice Toolkit. The toolkit explains the cumulative impacts of pollution sources and how municipal governments can document local environmental effects, exposures, public health effects, sensitive populations, and socioeconomic status. ANJEC worked with the NJ Environmental Justice Alliance to draft a cumulative impacts ordinance to accompany the toolkit. As a member of the NJDEP Environmental Justice Advisory Council, ANJEC Urban Project Director Kerry Butch participated in meetings that alerted NJDEP to EJ issues it needed to address.

ANJEC supported the environmental efforts of commissions in several NJ cities. Of particular note, we provided information and made presentations in support of Paterson's establishment of an environmental commission by ordinance, passed on October 12th. In addition, we assisted commissions in Asbury Park, Long Branch, Newark, and Red Bank.

The "ANJEC in the City" column in each issue of the *ANJEC Report* covered urban topics, including decreasing diesel emissions from trucks, dealing with potential contamination at Fort Monmouth, cumulative impacts, and Newark's parks. We also compiled and distributed the monthly electronic newsletter, *Green City Gazette*, giving information on upcoming events, news items, and web links for further information.

Environmental Summit

ANJEC coordinates the monthly meetings of the Environmental Summit where over 30 NJ environmental organizations exchange ideas and learn from each other. The Summit is an example of ANJEC's ability to create and maintain coalitions of organizations that come together to resolve conflicts and provide a joint approach to difficult problems. Due to the flood of new legislation, proposed amendments to existing laws, and "stakeholder" sessions held by the NJDEP, the Summit experienced record attendance. Discussions covered a range of subjects, from renewable energy issues and wastewater management planning to local land use controls and affordable housing. We also invited NJDEP Commissioner Bob Martin to a meeting to outline his priorities for the NJDEP, and State Senator Bob Smith, chair of the Senate Environment Committee, to talk about his legislative initiatives for the Barnegat Bay.

Water Resources Protection***Environmental Endowment for New Jersey***

Through testimony and letters, email alerts to commissioners, and coordination of environmental organizations, ANJEC worked to promote strong State water regulations on stormwater, wetlands and wastewater management. ANJEC gave comments to the NJDEP and the legislature on water protection issues, including Wastewater Management Plans, permitting of solar panels in wetlands, and NJDEP's monitoring of municipal stormwater management plans.

We also helped commissions and other local officials protect water resources by ensuring implementation of State regulations in their communities. We revised, published and distributed our Resource Paper "State Programs Affecting Land Use," which explains the environmental laws and rules that commissions should be aware of when reviewing development proposals.

We reviewed environmentally protective ordinances in our database looking for strong ordinances that towns can enact to complement state environmental programs. These include ones on tree protection, steep slope protection, useable area, soil movement, stream corridors, and aquifer recharge. We have added additional effective ordinances to our data base that has over 1,000 ordinances available to email to commissions.

ANJEC Project Director Abbie Fair, an authority on water issues throughout the state, retired from ANJEC in October 2010 after over 20 years with the organization. She will be sorely missed at ANJEC, environmental commissioners and other New Jersey environmentalists.

2010 ANJEC Board of Trustees

President: **Chris Allyn**, Lucent Technologies, retired
 Vice-President for Operations: **Nelson Dittmar**, PricewaterhouseCoopers, retired
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Cinny MacGonagle, Retired teacher
Marion McClary, Farleigh Dickinson University
Ashley Pengitore, Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission
Gary Szelc, P.E., Chair, Casey & Keller

2010 ANJEC STAFF

Executive Director - **Sandy Batty**
 Assistant Director - **Kerry Miller**
 Financial Manager - **Karen Buchanan**
 Development Director- **Ann Marchioni**
 Resource Center – **Julie Groth, Michele Gaynor**
 Office Manager – **Elizabeth Ritter**
 Administrative Assistant – **Deborah Tomb**

Project Directors

Coastal Planning – **Jody Carrara**
 Highlands - **David Peifer**
 South Jersey Bayshore – **Cheryl Reardon**
 Sustainability – **Julie Groth**
 Urban Project – **Kerry Butch**
 Water Specialist - **Abigail Fair**

Project Consultant

Environmental Summit - **Candy Ashmun**

VOLUNTEERS

Ann Campbell
Stephen Carroll
Sally Dudley

ORGANIZATION SUPPORT

Individuals, foundations, businesses and organizations all contribute to ANJEC's fundraising efforts. These generous donations help us continue to reach, inform and empower environmentalists throughout New Jersey. Highlights for 2010 include:

Board Support – Responding to a fellow board member's challenge to give, ANJEC Trustees and Advisory Council members gave \$12,000, representing 100% participation from the Trustees.

Activities –

Art Event with Printmaking Center In a unique collaborative, ANJEC and the Printmaking Center of NJ hosted an environmental art auction on the theme "A Reverence for Water." Candy Ashmun, ANJEC's first executive director, was the lead juror for the show, selecting 45 original works for display from a field over 220 submissions. The exhibited works included a range of art from etchings and woodcuts to serigraphs, silkscreenings, handmade paper and photography. We also put pictures of all the art work on the ANJEC web site as a "virtual tour." About 100 people attended the show's opening reception in October and about 50 attended the auction in December to bid on pieces, with 40 percent of the proceeds going to ANJEC.

Meerwald ANJEC also booked Hudson River sailings on the *AJ Meerwald*, the Delaware oyster schooner, in July.

EarthShare New Jersey - ANJEC continued its affiliation with EarthShare New Jersey (www.earthshare.org). This group, which encourages giving through payroll deductions, is growing stronger every year. It's another way to support the environment and raise awareness about environmental issues



Abbie Fair's Retirement Party



Art Auction at Printmaking Council of New Jersey



Memberships

Environmental Commissions
Open Space Committees
Individuals

Government

New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

Organizations

Earth Share New Jersey

Foundations

Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
E.J. Grassmann Trust
Environmental Endowment for NJ
The Fund for New Jersey
Sumner Gerard Foundation
The Gollin Foundation
Hyde & Watson Foundation
Leavens Foundation
The William Penn Foundation
Mary Reinhart Stackhouse Foundation
Victoria Foundation
Robert L. & Jane B. Wallace Foundation
Johanette Wallerstein Institute

Corporate Donors

Bristol-Myers Squibb Company	New Jersey Natural Gas
Church & Dwight Corporation	Niagra Conservation
Investors Savings Bank	Peapack Gladstone Bank
Johnson & Johnson, Inc.	PSEG Service Corporation
New Jersey American Water	Wakefern Food Corporation

Professional Business Members

Amy S. Greene Associates	Environmental Liability Management
Banisch Associates	NJ Clean Energy Program
Bartlett Tree Experts	Hatch Mott MacDonald
Biostar Associates	Heyer, Gruel & Associates
Casey & Keller	K Hudasko Zoning and Planning Consultants
Capitol Roofing	Omni Environmental
The Doggett Corp.	Princeton Hydro, LLC
Ecological Solutions	RTP Environmental Associates
Eco Systems	Szaferman, Lakind, Blumstein, Watter, Blader
Environmental Compliance	Thonet Associates

FINANCIAL REPORT

2010 Support & Revenue

Project grants	\$516,935	72%
Membership	75,205	10%
Educational activities	31,980	4%
Publications	2,635	<1%
Contributions	80,127	11%
Interest	12,437	2%
Board designated investment return	2,460	<1%
Other	1,296	<1%
Total Revenue	\$723,075	100%

2010 Expenses

Program services		
Training & assistance	\$395,637	53%
Publications development	65,410	9%
Research	86,501	12%
Env'l group coordination	67,499	9%
Support services		
Management	93,903	13%
Fund Raising	32,946	4%
Total Functional Expenses	\$741,896	100%
Operating loss	\$ 18,821	
Investment gain	\$ 35,869	
Increase in net assets	<u>\$ 17,048</u>	

The complete audited Financial Statement is available upon request.

ANJEC's MISSION

To achieve responsible and sustainable use of New Jersey's natural resources through leadership, education, and support of environmental commissions and other local boards, public officials, environmental organizations and concerned citizens.



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