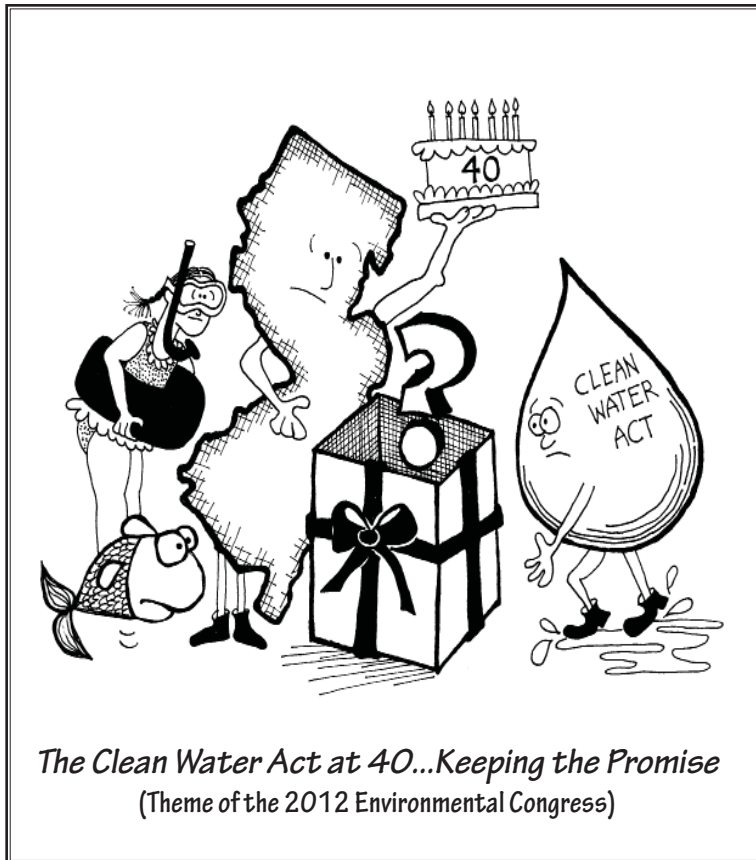




Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions

2012 Annual Report



Dear Friends and Supporters,

A week after ANJEC's Environmental Congress, Hurricane Sandy struck New Jersey. This became a defining event of 2012, and its effects will be felt far into the future as we contemplate and plan for climate change, sea level rise and increased flood events.

ANJEC responded to the storm in the same way we have worked on issues throughout our 43 year history. Staff members became better informed, attending meetings and conferences, participating in online discussions and doing in-depth research. We accepted invitations from FEMA to be part of their long-term planning efforts regarding natural and cultural resources in NJ, and from DEP to participate in a small group discussion about the response to Hurricane Sandy. And ANJEC signed on with 15 other environmental organizations to a letter to Congress saying that recovery and rebuilding funds should come with the provision that the state should rebuild smarter, so we can withstand future storms.

At the same time, ANJEC continued to help environmental commissions throughout the state with training, information, and technical assistance on a wide range of local environmental issues. In 2012, we launched the organization's Strategic Planning process. The first key steps were getting feedback from commissions, funders, peer organizations and board members. We had an on-line survey for environmental commissioners followed by three focus groups of commission members in Gloucester, Mercer, and Bergen Counties. This feedback will be key in completing our Strategic Plan in 2013.

We thank the foundations, businesses and individuals who have supported ANJEC's efforts and made this year's significant accomplishments possible. And we continue to be inspired by the efforts and dedication of environmental commissions throughout the state who have worked diligently to improve the environment of their communities.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Sandy Batty'.

Sandy Batty
Executive Director

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2012

- Governor Jim Florio opened ANJEC's 39th Environmental Congress, "The Clean Water Act at 40: Keeping the Promise," sharing his insights in a keynote speech on the evolution of public policy for water. The program also included a report on NJDEP's water regulations and policies, nine workshops, presentation of environmental achievement awards, and a networking reception where we were joined by Congressman Rush Holt.
- ANJEC workshops, Road Shows, conference calls, webinars and courses trained nearly 800 people.
- ANJEC published a white paper, "Solar Siting and Sustainable Land Use," which we sent to all mayors and environmental commission chairmen, and placed on the ANJEC website.
- ANJEC revamped our website to make it more inviting and easier to navigate, adding new features including a slide show of commission activities and a "Hot Topics" box for breaking news and major announcements.
- ANJEC awarded pass-through grants totaling \$120,000 to 23 municipalities for land use planning projects that protect the environment. The projects included Environmental Resource Inventories (ERIs), open space plans, a vernal pool survey, a conservation easement inventory, a bike/pedestrian plan, and ordinance updates for green building.
- Through its coordination of the South Jersey Bayshore Coalition, ANJEC and other Coalition members drafted and submitted extensive comments on the Salem and Cumberland County Water Quality Management Plans, recommending limiting the extension of sewers into areas that contain critical habitat for endangered species and/or lack sufficient water supply.
- ANJEC commented on issues before the Highlands Council that affect regional protection of natural resources, including redevelopment proposals, plans for energy transmission, and the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife Division's proposals for developments in the Highlands.
- Under a US EPA grant, ANJEC worked with the Leonia and Red Bank Environmental Commissions to develop educational campaigns aimed at reducing transportation-related emissions. We shared their materials with commissions throughout the state.
- To increase stewardship of the Lower Raritan River, we compiled and distributed information about the river - its access points, historical sites, recreational potential and stewardship. ANJEC worked with river town environmental commissions to place signage for access points, created an educational display with brochures, and developed an information-packed website www.VisitLowerRaritan.org.

PRIMARY SERVICES

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

Resource Center

ANJEC's Resource Center provided personal assistance to hundreds of commissioners, other local officials and interested individuals, answering inquiries based on our staff's years of experience and our expansive collection of sample inventories and plans, in paper and digital formats. The most popular topics were how to compile an environmental resource inventory (ERI), and how to develop open space and trails plans. We responded to questions on a variety of other topics, including open space stewardship, solar power, tree protection, stormwater management, recycling and protecting sensitive natural features like streams, wetlands, floodplains and wildlife habitat. Many commissioners also asked for copies of environmental ordinances from our collection of over 1000 electronic files. Many people wanted more information on environmental commissions and municipal operations, such as how to get an ordinance passed or the powers and duties of a commission. Our Resource Center lent displays on a variety of environmental topics to environmental commissions for them to use at events and festivals.

ANJEC Report

Nearly 3,000 environmental commissioners, municipal officials and environmentalists receive ANJEC's quarterly magazine, and over 2,000 more download each issue from our website. The *ANJEC Report* offers in-depth articles on local and state environmental issues and regular columns highlighting land use planning, commission achievements, the urban environment, Resource Center tips and practical ideas for commissions. ANJEC staff members author the majority of the articles, using their expertise, research and experience dealing with local environmental commissions. In 2012, the winter issue gave a wrap-up of ANJEC's Environmental Congress and the spring issue celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, with many articles on various aspects of water protection.

Publications

ANJEC published a white paper "Solar Siting and Sustainable Land Use," which recommended that solar development should occur on previously developed sites and buildings, so that farms and forested areas could be protected. The paper includes master plan language, ordinance provisions and factors to consider during site plan review of solar proposals. It also summarizes recent State legislation governing solar development. We sent the white paper to all mayors and environmental

commission chairmen, and placed it on the ANJEC website for free downloading. In addition, ANJEC continued to publish monthly issues of the *Green City Gazette*, our email newsletter sent to urban environmental commissions.

Environmental Congress

ANJEC's 39th Environmental Congress, "The Clean Water Act at 40: Keeping the Promise," was held Saturday, October 20th at Middlesex County College, Edison. Governor Jim Florio opened the day sharing his insights on the evolution of public policy for water protection. Michele Siekerka, NJDEP Assistant Commissioner for Water Resources Management, explained the Department's water regulations and policies. Staff members organized workshops on the topics of waterfront access, commission success stories, living shorelines, recycling, open space, green infrastructure, wastewater planning, extreme weather, and reducing vehicle emissions. Congressman Rush Holt joined participants for a networking reception at the end of the day. Eight environmental commissions and four nonprofit organizations received Environmental Achievement Awards for outstanding projects they had completed in the past year. We also presented the biennial Lechner Scholarship to Karin LaGreca, a student at Ramapo College and member of the Mahwah Environmental Commission. On the evaluation forms for the Environmental Congress, participants gave high marks to the program and its speakers.

ANJEC Website and Social Media

ANJEC revamped our website to make it more inviting and easier to navigate. We added new features including a continuous slide show of commission activities and a "Hot Topics" box for breaking news and major announcements. The site now has two menus, one across the top that offers information about ANJEC and environmental commissions, and one on the left margin listing resources and services for commissions. The new design has increased use of the website, with the number of visits dramatically higher than in 2011. Many people visit multiple pages and download ANJEC's helpful publications. Popular web pages included those on workshop materials, issues of the *ANJEC Report*, upcoming events, and the resource papers.

We had daily posts on the ANJEC Facebook page giving information about our organization and commission activities. We also used Twitter, sending Tweets regularly, and as a result our following grew steadily throughout the year. We ended 2012 with well over 300 Twitter followers, and 307 friends on Facebook, and have frequent comments on our posts.

2012 Environmental Congress "The Clean Water Act at 40...Keeping the Promise"



Workshops

ANJEC held workshops, Road Shows, conference calls and webinars, and presented at other organizations' events, training a total of nearly 800 people from around the state. Our annual Environmental Commissioner introductory training course, held in Metuchen, Evesham and Denville, trained 96 new commissioners. The presentations covered commission powers and responsibilities, environmental resource inventories, land use planning and site plan review. All sessions received positive feedback from participants.

ANJEC held six other workshops on the topics of solar energy, state water regulations, development in the Highlands and protecting wildlife habitat. A South Jersey networking session gave updates on tree management and mining regulation, and participants had a chance to discuss their projects and local issues.

ANJEC also presented four Road Shows, for which commissions chose the date, location and subject matter. Presentations covered effective commission operations, sustainable communities, site plan review, open space preservation and stewardship, and energy conservation. A total of 118 people attended, including members of environmental commissions, town councils, planning and zoning boards, open space committees, and the public.

We hosted two webinars covering state regulations and reducing vehicle emissions. Webinars and recordings of the webinars on our website enable commissioners to access ANJEC training without having to travel. We also introduced a conference call series "Issues on Call," where an expert covered late-breaking environmental issues and then callers asked questions. The calls covered the topics of the NJ State Plan and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

In addition, ANJEC made presentations at other environmental and planning organizations' conferences, including the Land Conservation Rally and the Sustainable Raritan Conference. ANJEC staff also made presentations at the Rutgers Environmental Stewards courses in Atlantic, Somerset and Warren Counties.

PROGRAMS

With foundation grant support, ANJEC is able to develop and administer special projects that address current issues affecting environmental commissions throughout the state.

Sustainable Land Use Grants

Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation

In 2012, ANJEC awarded \$120,000 in pass-through grants to 23 municipalities for land use planning projects that protect the environment. ANJEC staff attended project meetings and provided technical assistance as the projects progressed. The towns' projects included new or updated municipal Environmental Resource Inventories (ERIs), conservation easement inventories and landowner outreach, open space plans and updates, a bike pedestrian plan, and other initiatives involving standards, checklists and ordinance updates for green building. The ANJEC website www.anjec.org/SmartGrowthGrants.htm includes the list of grants awarded since 2002, and case studies of model projects.

The completed projects from the past eleven years of the Sustainable Land Use Grants program are producing positive results as commissions use the information in environmental resource inventories, open space plans and master plans to protect natural features in their towns. Some projects have been singled out for special recognition. For example, the Passaic County Department of Planning and Economic Development's plan for a passive recreational trail along the former Morris Canal right-of-way received a Smart Growth Award from New Jersey Future. The County website now features an interactive webmap that allows residents to see the color-coded completion status along the greenway. The Woodstown-Pilesgrove Joint Environmental Commission completed a Critical Habitat Survey and Training project, which educated local officials and residents in the two towns. Recognizing the effort, the Natural Lands Trust provided funding for further work to survey freshwater mussels.

South Jersey

William Penn Foundation

ANJEC continued to coordinate meetings of South Jersey Bayshore Coalition (www.sjbayshore.org). The group of 21 environmental and historic nonprofits works to protect the cultural heritage and environmental integrity of the Delaware Bay watershed. In 2012, the Coalition worked on several ecotourism projects to foster appreciation and stewardship of the region. They sponsored the Bayshore Heritage Byway, coordinating eight meetings about the Corridor Management Plan (CMP) for representatives of towns along the Byway. ANJEC also participated in many ecotourism festivals and exhibits held by the Coalition organizations.

The Coalition worked for good land use planning, talking with Cumberland County and City officials in Millville, where a proposal for a major development threatened Union Lake, one of the largest manmade lakes in the state. They held a press conference on preserving the Lake and found two active bald eagle nests there, significant because NJDEP regulations require an 800-foot buffer around nests.

ANJEC worked with other Coalition members to limit the extension of sewers into areas that contain critical habitat for endangered species and/or lack sufficient water supply. The Coalition submitted extensive comments at the Salem and Cumberland County hearings on their Water Quality Management Plans.

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 and ordinances. They concentrated on water supply issues in Millville, Middle and Lower Townships. The staff also organized a networking event for commissions with presentations on the benefits of trees and the impacts of sand mining, and held workshops on solar development and wildlife habitat.

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. ANJEC developed and submitted a list of Issues of Concern with recommendations on open space diversions, lack of an energy plan, lack of coordination between the Council and water consumers, Exemption Authority delegation, need for sub-regional planning, and local issues.

ANJEC helped environmental commissioners and other local officials with Conformance and other issues, including the Highlands web-based mapping tool and municipal assumption of exemption determinations. We sent email alerts to 700 Highlands municipal officials and held two Highlands workshops - "Economic Development Opportunities in the Highlands" and "Utility Scale Solar" - and three road shows in the region.

ANJEC has been monitoring other issues before the Highlands Council that affect regional protection of natural resources. Highlands Project Director Dave Peifer analyzed and submitted comments on several detailed development proposals. He testified on plans for energy transmission through the Highlands, including the upgrade of the Susquehanna-Roseland Power Line and the Tennessee Gas Pipeline. Dave advised affected communities about the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife Division's proposals for an indoor-outdoor archery park and a boat ramp and parking expansion at Split Rock Reservoir.

ANJEC also worked closely with the NJ Highlands Coalition, taking on leadership roles and supporting its efforts for greater protection of the region. ANJEC prepared a fact sheet summarizing the process of Highlands land preservation, giving information on the issue of governmental "takings" of private property. We posted the fact sheet on the ANJEC website.

Reducing Vehicle Emissions EPA Environmental Education Grant

ANJEC worked with two environmental commissions – Leonia and Red Bank -- to develop educational campaigns aimed at reducing transportation-related emissions. The products developed were shared with commissions throughout the state through a workshop, webinar, *ANJEC Report* article and information on our website. We also created a game for commissions to use at fairs and a series of six press release templates on various aspects of emission reduction.

Leonia's campaign "Get out of your car – Walk Leonia!" created a poster, flyer, display, and a walking map to show how fast and easy it is to get around town on foot. Red Bank's campaign "Red(uce) Bank" included a Carpool World web page for residents to calculate how many vehicle miles and pounds of CO2 they save by carpooling. They also developed a display and accompanying brochure with a tear-off anti-idling pledge form, email tips and reminders.

Lower Raritan Access Project NY/NJ Harbor Estuary Program

To increase stewardship of the Lower Raritan River, this project compiled and distributed information for local officials and residents about the river - its access points, historical sites, recreational potential and caring for the Raritan.

ANJEC worked with environmental commissions in Highland Park, New Brunswick, Piscataway and Raritan Borough to develop and place signage showing access points along the river, and Middlesex County installed an additional sign panel in Donaldson Park.

ANJEC created an educational display about the river, with accompanying brochures for commissions to use. Six watershed towns used the displays at Earth Day events and festivals. In addition, Franklin Township (Somerset Co.) and East Brunswick Environmental Commissions requested poster sets and printed brochures, as did the Middlesex County Improvement Authority and Woodbridge River Watch.

ANJEC also developed an information-packed website www.VisitLowerRaritan.org which features an interactive map and gives information on recreation opportunities, environmental and historic features, river events and organizations working in the

watershed. It contains links to other documents, studies about the River, and the outreach materials developed under this project.

State Plan

Victoria Foundation

In 2012, the State Planning Commission (SPC) had eight public hearings on its 40-page draft *State Strategic Plan*. The SPC also released an "Advance Notice of Rules" containing "Priority Investment Area Criteria" that define the areas for growth and preservation as required by the State Planning Act. ANJEC informed commissioners about the contents of the draft Plan through a teleconference call, email alerts and talking points posted on our website. ANJEC staff and several commissioners attended at the various hearings and spoke on environmental issues related to the State Plan.

On November 9th the State Planning Commission released the final draft of the Plan and scheduled adoption for four days later. ANJEC filed comments by email and in testimony at the meeting, and recommended postponing adoption to give people more time to respond to the draft. The Commission voted to table the adoption, saying that the Plan needed to consider coastal planning in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. No new date has been set for adoption.

Solar Development on Farmland

The Bunbury Company

ANJEC's educational program on large-scale development of solar installations on farmland helped environmental commissioners and other local officials plan for and regulate solar proposals. We held two workshops for environmental commissioners, one in the Highlands and one in Atlantic County, and organized a workshop for the Land Conservation Rally and a talk at the Bayshore Discovery Project in Bivalve. We also published a white paper "Solar Siting and Sustainable Land Use," distributing it to environmental commissions and mayors statewide, and posting it on the ANJEC website. The *Trenton Times* mentioned the paper in an editorial and Sandy Batty's letter to the editor of the *Star Ledger* also referenced it. In addition, the Director's column in the fall *ANJEC Report* covered "Planning for Solar Development," emphasizing that large solar developments should be located on impervious surfaces like roofs, parking lots and brownfields rather than on fertile farmland. ANJEC has continued to help local officials and town planners when they receive major applications for solar development, providing information and sample solar ordinances.

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 regulations on stormwater, wetlands and wastewater management. We submitted comments to the NJDEP and the Legislature on water protection laws and regulations, including Wastewater Management Plans, flood hazard areas, stream encroachment, and stormwater management.

We also helped commissions and other local officials protect water resources by ensuring implementation of State regulations in their communities. We held a workshop, "Regulatory Tools to Protect the Water in Your Community," which was repeated as a webinar for those who couldn't make the presentation. We reviewed environmentally protective ordinances, 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. Our staff added additional ordinances to our data base that now has over 1,000 ordinances available to email to commissions.

ANJEC cosponsored a Rahway Mayor's Council meeting on stormwater management and green infrastructure. Executive Director Sandy Batty spoke on NJ's stormwater regulations and staff from the Rutgers Environmental Extension spoke on green infrastructure. The presentations were well received by the audience of nearly 50 local officials and municipal professionals. ANJEC's Environmental Congress in October featured a workshop session called "Green Infrastructure, Getting There from Here". Over 30 commissioners attended the workshop and people stayed beyond the closing time to ask questions and listen to more information. All presentations from the Environmental Congress workshops are posted on our website.

Environmental Summit

ANJEC coordinated 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. Discussing new legislation, proposed amendments to existing laws, and "stakeholder" sessions held by the NJDEP, the Summit experienced record attendance. Meeting topics included flood hazard areas, water quality management planning, open space funding, the response to Hurricane Sandy, and TMDLs for phosphorous and nitrogen. At several meetings, ANJEC invited outside speakers to address the Summit. In June, the group met with Judith Enck, EPA Region 2 Administrator, to confer on areas where the federal government could help enforce environmental measures in New Jersey.

State Policy

ANJEC worked on other issues of state policy. We joined 28 environmental and labor groups to file a suit against the NJDEP Waiver Rule, which went into effect on August 1, 2012. The groups also worked with legislators on a Resolution stating that the Waiver Rule was inconsistent with legislative intent. The Assembly passed the Resolution but the Senate never scheduled a vote on it.

ANJEC participated with other environmental organizations in planning Lobby Day in Trenton, centered on the issues of hydrofracking and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. ANJEC also worked with other organizations to try to get the legislature to amend the proposed Permit Extension Act to exclude the Highlands preservation area.

2012 ANJEC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President: **Nelson Dittmar**, PricewaterhouseCoopers, retired
Vice-President for Operations: **Nancy Tindall**, Financial Services Consultant
Vice-President for Development: **Ray Cywinski**, United Water New Jersey
Secretary: **Marian Glenn**, Seton Hall University
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Immediate Past President: **Chris Allyn**, Lucent Technologies, retired

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Cinny MacGonagle, Retired teacher
Marion McClary, Farleigh Dickinson University
Karen Riede, Retired nurse
Ashley Slagle, Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission
Gary Szelc, P.E., Casey & Keller

2012 ANJEC STAFF

Executive Director - **Sandy Batty**
Assistant Director - **Kerry Miller**
Financial Manager - **Karen Buchanan**
Development Director - **Karin Ruppel, Chrissie Larson**
Resource Center - **Michele Gaynor, Nandini Checko**
Office Manager - **Elizabeth Ritter**
Administrative Assistant - **Deborah Tomb**

Project Directors

Coastal Planning - **Jody Carrara**
Highlands - **David Peifer**
South Jersey Bayshore - **Cheryl Reardon**
Sustainable Communities - **Julie Groth**

Project Consultants

Environmental Summit - **Candy Ashmun**

Volunteers

Ann Campbell
Stephen Carroll
Ann Marchioni

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 2012 include:

Board Support – Responding to a fellow board member's challenge to give, ANJEC Trustees and Advisory Council members gave over \$14,000, representing 100% participation from the Trustees. The Trustees earmarked part of their gift for our Strategic Plan consultant.

Events – ANJEC held a Wine Tasting and Silent Auction at Hopewell Valley Vineyards in May, attended by over 50 friends of ANJEC. United Water New Jersey and Peapack Gladstone Bank were corporate sponsors for the event.

ANJEC also booked Hudson River sailings on the AJ Meerwald, New Jersey's official Tall Ship, out of Alpine, NJ in July. ANJEC received a portion of the ticket price as a donation.

Earth Share New Jersey - ANJEC continued its affiliation with Earth Share New Jersey. 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.

2012 Support & Revenue

Project grants	\$504,794	73%
Membership	73,635	11%
Educational activities	27,790	4%
Publications	582	<1%
Contributions	65,395	1%
Special events	6,703	9%
Interest	8,924	1%
Board designated investment return	2,500	<1%
Other	<u>1,438</u>	<u><1%</u>
Total	\$691,761	100%

2012 Expenses

Program	\$512,503	75%
Env'l Group Coordination	50,313	7%
Management & General	85,971	13%
Fundraising	<u>33,593</u>	<u>5%</u>
Total	\$682,380	100%

Operating income	\$10,621
Investment income	\$26,021
Increase in net assets	\$36,642

SOURCES OF SUPPORT

Memberships

Environmental Commissions
Individuals

Organizations

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Comm.
Earth Share New Jersey

Foundations

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

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Peapack Gladstone Bank
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Princeton Hydro, LLC
RTP Environmental Associates
Rutgers Cooperative Extension
Sun Farm
Szaferman, Lakind, Blumstein, Watter, Blader
Trinity Solar
Thonet Associates
Whole Earth Center

Government

NJ Board of Public Utilities – Smart Buildings
NJ Clean Energy Program
NY/NJ Harbor Estuary Program
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

ANJEC Mission Statement

The mission of the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions is to achieve responsible and sustainable use of New Jersey's natural resources and protection of environmental health. We are a statewide organization that provides leadership, education, and support for environmental commissions and other local boards and public officials, and partners with other organizations to advocate for strong state and regional environmental policy.



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