



ANJEC REPORT

Local Environment Matters

WINTER 2018

Inside:

The oysters are coming back to Raritan Bay!

Apply now: ANJEC open space stewardship grants

Addressing global trends locally



Director's Report

Putting NJ back on track

New Jersey is on a fast track to correcting the environmental degradation of the past eight years. Twenty-eight of the most active and prominent nonprofits in New Jersey, whose missions are to protect and restore our shared natural environment, banded together to developed Environmental Agenda '18, New Jersey's Conservation Roadmap, which was delivered to Governor Murphy and his transition team.

Our new Governor has hit the ground running. Within three weeks of his inauguration, Murphy signed a number of executive orders and declared his intention to file lawsuits to protect the water we drink, the air we breathe, and the food we eat.

On Feb 2, Governor Murphy's Attorney General signed on to a multi-state letter opposing federal expansion of offshore

drilling. This is a move to resist President Trump's proposal to open up all the coasts of the United States to offshore oil and gas drilling. Seismic blasting to map deposits for such drilling would harm marine mammals. Spills would threaten not only coastal habitats, but also businesses along New Jersey's 130 coastal miles, including our \$37 billion tourism industry and our \$4.5 billion fisheries and shellfish industry that employs thousands in New Jersey. ANJEC is asking municipalities throughout the State to pass a resolution opposing offshore oil and gas drilling. The resolution can be found at ANJEC.org

On Jan 31, Governor Murphy signed an executive order promoting offshore wind energy. Our Governor has campaigned on and endorsed the Environmental Agenda '18

EPA budget Update

Follow the money. In the onslaught of rapidly changing national news, it's easy to forget that President Trump has proposed a greater than 30 percent cut to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) budget. As of publication, Congress passed and Trump signed a two year budget agreement that included a spending bill that will keep the government open through the end of March. A long-term spending bill is needed to continue operations beyond that point.

The long-term spending bill is where we could see reductions in the EPA's budget that could translate into significant reductions in funds typically passed through to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to assist with pollution prevention initiatives, monitoring swimming beaches, cleaning up toxic sites and more.

ANJEC will keep you up to date regarding the federal spending bill and suggest actions for municipalities and individuals to engage with federal representatives. To sign up for our action alerts and twice monthly ANJECNews updates, email info@anjec.org.

goal of achieving 100 percent renewable energy for New Jersey by 2050. Offshore wind energy takes advantage of a clean, renewable energy source. Offshore wind may be an incompatible use with oil and gas drilling, so siting offshore wind locations quickly could help to protect our shoreline.

On Jan 29, Governor Murphy signed an executive order directing New Jersey to reenter the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), enabling New Jersey to partner with neighboring states to fight climate change by reducing greenhouse gases through a regional carbon cap program. New Jersey' Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and Board of Public Utilities will begin talks with other RGGI states to determine how New Jersey can best reenter the program.

Strengthening State rules that govern regular business, such as protection of stream buffers and wetlands, and incorporating the most recent and robust flood data into those rules, will take longer. ANJEC is committed to working with the Murphy Administration, nonprofit col-

leagues and municipalities to go beyond unwinding the rollbacks from the Christie administration and advancing environmental protections to restore our natural resources. New Jersey is facing real threats to our environment (and therefore public health, safety, and economy) from climate change and the Trump administration.

That's why we helped to develop Environmental Agenda '18, New Jersey's Conservation Roadmap (available at anjec.org). The Agenda outlines priority actions for the Murphy Administration for the first 100 days, first year, and first term to:

- protect and restore clean water;
- fight climate change;
- protect open spaces;
- enhance reliance on renewable energy;
- protect our coast and ocean;
- improve good governance and a high functioning NJDEP;
- restore key infrastructure;
- clean up toxic sites,
- plan for emergency spills, and
- provide relief to overburdened communities.

ANJEC is providing resources and advice to municipal officials to both support local needs and advance these State goals. We look forward to continuing to work with you!



Jennifer M. Coffey
Executive Director



Library Subscription \$18.00
ISSN 1538-0742

ANJEC REPORT

Local Environment Matters

Vol. 38 / No. 1

WINTER 2018

565 MUNICIPALITIES

ONE ENVIRONMENT

Executive Director Jennifer M. Coffey
Editor Julie Lange Groth

The Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions is a private, non-profit educational organization serving environmental commission and open space committee members, concerned individuals, non-profits, and local officials. ANJEC's programs aim to promote the public interest in natural resource preservation, sustainable development and reclamation and support environmental commissions and open space committees working with citizens and other non-profit organizations.

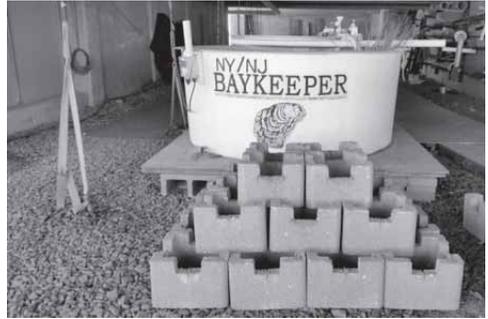
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On the cover: *Higbee Beach path – coastal habitats are threatened by federal expansion of offshore drilling. (see page 30)*

Photo by W Blanchard

In this issue:

- 2 Director's Report
- 4 NY/NJ Baykeeper's oyster reef naturally reproduces baby oysters in Raritan Bay
- 6 Acting Locally
- 9 Global trends and local responses
- 11 Building effectiveness through strong relationships
- 13 Local Action Toolkits now available
- 14 How promoting eco-labeled products is good for both the environment and business
- 17 New general stormwater permits challenge New Jersey municipalities
- 20 Remembering lives well lived
- 21 Steps to healthy waters in Upper Deerfield
- 23 What We're Reading: *Drawdown*
- 24 Make the most of spring festivals
- 25 ANJEC 2018 Open Space Grant Program
- 26 Lechner Scholarship
- 27 Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions
- 28 ANJEC people 2018
- 29 Your town can help move New Jersey toward an EV-friendly future
- 30 Standing against offshore drilling



Oyster castles provide a hard surface where oysters can attach.

NY/NJ Baykeeper's oyster reef naturally reproduces baby oysters in Raritan Bay

By **Debbie Mans**, Former Executive Director & Baykeeper, NY/NJ Baykeeper, current NJDEP Deputy Commissioner

NY/NJ Baykeeper's Restoration Program scientists discovered the natural growth of baby oysters, biologically known as spat, while monitoring the oyster restoration site at Naval Weapons Station Earle in Raritan Bay this past fall. Natural recruitment has been observed at the site for the first time, which means that the adult oysters on the reef are spawning and the larvae are settling back on the reef. This is the first step in a self-sustaining reef.

The NY-NJ Harbor Estuary was once home to millions of acres of oyster beds. However, due to rampant development, overharvesting and pollution, the metro-area oyster is now functionally extinct. NY/NJ Baykeeper has been working to restore the oyster population for the benefits they provide the surrounding communities, which include cleaner water, increased habitat, and shoreline stability.

“From a biological perspective, this initial discovery of spat is fantastic news, signifying the health of our oyster reef and Raritan Bay,” said Meredith Comi, Restoration Program Director, NY/NJ Baykeeper. “With our continued urban shoreline habitat restoration efforts, we expect to see additional recruitment and reproduction. As a bi-state restoration leader, we are thankful for the Navy’s unique assistance in providing a continued commitment to a safer and cleaner NY-NJ Harbor.”

NY/NJ Baykeeper and partners installed a first of its kind urban living shoreline last year at Naval Weapons Station Earle in



Oysters spat

Monmouth County. The 0.9-acre living shoreline consists of an artificial reef using live oysters and concrete structures, known as oyster castles, which provide the necessary hard surface on which oysters can attach and grow. The project is working to protect the Navy’s critical infrastructure, as well surrounding communities, against future storm surges.

“After Hurricane Sandy, it became critical to address shoreline erosion and improve coastal resiliency. The project will provide important data to determine how a living shoreline can fortify the nearby shoreline, improve water quality, and create

aquatic habitat in our urban watershed and, hopefully, replicate this technique elsewhere in the estuary.

For more information on the program, please visit www.njnybaykeeper.org and follow us @NYNJBaykeeper. Baykeeper may be reached at 732-888-9870. 🍀

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Acting Locally



By **Michele Gaynor**, ANJEC Resource Center;
Jule Girman, Hopatcong Environmental Commission;
and **Cheryl Reardon**, ANJEC Project Director

Lake Hopatcong trail becomes a reality

The Lake Hopatcong Foundation (LHF) envisioned a 40-mile trail encircling Lake Hopatcong and traversing each of the four municipalities on the lake. That vision is becoming a reality thanks to the dedication of LHF staff and support from environmental and trails organizations and dedicated volunteers. The Lake Hopatcong Trail also became a challenging Eagle Scout undertaking funded by an ANJEC Stewardship Grant awarded to the Hopatcong Environmental Commission.

A grant from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Recreational Trails Grant Program helped to complete the first nine-mile section of this trail through the Borough of Hopatcong. Dennis Briede of The Land Conservancy of New Jersey completed GPS mapping and flagging of all the trails. Trail blazing, maintenance and invasive species training workshops were conducted by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference. Volunteers, scouts, and members of the Hopatcong Environmental Commission (EC) cleared the trails.

Cliff Lundin, well-known environmentalist and former Mayor of Hopatcong, also had a vision. Lundin wanted to create access trails or “spurs” from various neighborhoods in Hopatcong that would give residents convenient access to Lake Hopatcong. To accomplish this, the Hopatcong Environmental Commission applied for and was awarded an ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grant for blazes and signage for these neighborhood spurs. Eagle Scout Matthew

Karpiak of Hopatcong Troop 88 took on the trail as a project. With the help of other volunteers and fellow scouts, Karpiak created and erected the signs and blazed some spur trails.

The ANJEC grant provided funding for 13 parking and access signs, which Karpiak and his team of scouts created, assembled and erected under the tutelage of Tony Cretella at Custom Sign Source in Roxbury. Cretella generously donated his time to train the scouts on sign building and provided workspace. The Hopatcong Public Works Department also provided expertise and sign posts.

The first phase of the trail runs from the Morris Canal Towpath at Hopatcong State Park through preserved land. Several miles of the Lake Hopatcong Trail align with both the Highlands Trail and the Tri-Municipal Trail. The completed segment makes its way through borough woods to the border of Jefferson Township, where the second phase of the trail will begin.

In September the collaborators held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the first section of the trail, followed by a short hike on the new walkway. The next phase will follow soon. The LHF and Hopatcong EC continue to partner to recruit and train volunteers as trail maintainers.

— *Jule Girman*

Madison composting

When the Madison Environmental Commission decided to plan a composter bin drive, they were hoping to receive at least 25 orders for Earth Machine Composters. They were more than thrilled when 54 orders were placed. Priced at \$99 retail, the EC sold the composters for just \$55. Delivery was free for an order of more than 25 units.

While the EC has held composter bin drives in the past, they added to the promotion mix this time by posting widely on social media and reaching out to surrounding towns.

Backyard composting is a great way to reduce greenhouse gases by diverting waste from landfills, which produce methane emissions. Good compost can reduce the amount of water consumed by plants and also decreases the amount of chemicals and fertilizers needed.

More communities are looking to large scale composting of food waste to reduce the amount of trash they send to landfills. For example, San Francisco is working toward fulfilling a pledge of zero waste



Madison Environmental Commission demonstrating the Earth Machine composter

entering landfills by 2020. In Portland, ME, Garbage to Garden is a popular curbside compost service that offers urban dwellers, schools and commercial businesses a convenient way to recycle food scraps, including meat, dairy and bones that can be used to renew their local soil. See Garbage to Garden <https://garbagetogarden.org/>.

A compelling reason for businesses and institutions to compost is that it saves money by cutting back on landfill fees. In 2011, Middlebury College in Vermont saved \$100,000 on landfill fees by composting 90 percent of food waste generated on campus. The 370 tons of food Middlebury composted translated into a savings of \$270 per ton of waste.

If your EC is interested in doing a composter drive and would like more information about the Earth Machine, contact Jeff Brown at 201-452-4636.

For help and more details on how to do a compost bin drive, contact Ellen Kranfuss, jackelco@optonline.net. — Michele Gaynor

Belmar's solution to plastic pollution

Belmar wants to make reusable shopping bags not just trendy, but the norm. Councilman Tom Brennan presented a plan to local businesses in the Borough's central shopping districts. Instead of an outright ban on single-use plastic bags, the councilman asked store owners to consider handing out free reusable bags. Merchants were overwhelmingly on board with this idea.

All students in the county were invited to participate in a contest to design the bags to help create widespread awareness. Over 100 students submitted logo designs. The bags display the winning design, the shape of a black and green turtle with the slogan "I'm the solution to plastic pollution".

Stores offered the reusable totes free of charge. The EC's budget covered the expense of purchasing 2000 bags made of recycled plastic. They were available in time for the holiday shopping season. With the help of



A Belmar student's winning logo design

Belmar Business Partnership members, Councilman Brennan distributed the bags and merchants were happy to offer them to customers. Business owners have noticed customers returning with their reusable bags.

It's estimated that the US goes through 100 billion plastic shopping bags annually. Approximately 12 million barrels of oil are required to make that amount of plastic bags.

But consumers are getting the message about the harm caused by disposable bags. Recent data from a coastal litter clean up in California showed plastic bag litter dropped by 72 percent compared to 2010 data. In one California county officials reported finding 433 bags last year compared to 4357 in 2010.

Legislation also appears to help the cause. Chicago, Seattle, and Austin, TX, have all enacted bag bans, and between 2015 and 2016, lawmakers proposed at least 77 state-level plastic bag bills.

— Michele Gaynor

Reducing waste through creative collaboration

Little Silver resident Jennifer Borenus and other members of the grassroots Single Use Reduction Effort (SURE) Committee are passionate about sharing the message of protecting the environment and the importance of recycling and reducing single

use bottles and bags. Partnering with the Little Silver Environmental Commission (EC), they reached out to Red Bank Regional (RBR) Visual & Performing Arts Academy teacher Claudia O'Connor to raise student awareness and involvement in a branding campaign.

Their collaboration resulted in a logo design competition in which four RBR art students' logo design creations were posted on the campaign's Facebook page and also displayed at the Little Silver Kitchen Tour.

Contest winners were announced at the November Little Silver Environmental Commission Meeting. Borenus said, "All four designs received great accolades and many people couldn't believe the art was created by high school students. The logo designed by Sophie Navarro (a junior from Little Silver) was chosen to brand the campaign. The submission by Katherine Smith (a junior from Spring Lake) was chosen as a runner-up, with Kathy Trevino and Morgan McIntyre (both seniors from Little Silver) receiving honorable mentions.

Sophie's logo design will be printed on SURE brochures and Facebook page as well as reusable cloth bags that the Little Silver EC is giving out to residents.

RBR's Visual & Performing studio art program is styled on the model of an advertising company serving the art needs of a business client.

Borenus has also collaborated with the RBR Student Environmental Club. Student members Jay Izzo and Paul Schoening, both of Little Silver, created a Public Service Announcement to further the campaign's awareness.

RBR also installed water refilling stations throughout the school building to discourage students' use of plastic water bottles. Borenus hopes to introduce that concept to the local elementary schools too. She is also collaborating with Clean Ocean Action and would like it to spread to other New Jersey towns.

For more information on SURE, please email Jenniferborenus@gmail.com or visit the SURE Facebook page at: [WeAreSureLS](https://www.facebook.com/WeAreSureLS).

— Cheryl Reardon

Global trends and local responses

By Sheila Baker Gujral, ANJEC Resource Center

You've heard it before. "Think globally. Act locally." We all live in one atmosphere, on one planet. We breathe the same air, drink the same water. What we do here has an effect on the other side of the globe and vice versa. Here are some global trends that are impacting us at home.

Recycling – There is no "away"

China has been the biggest international destination for recyclable materials since the 1980s. The US exports about a third of its recycling, with half of that going to China (Scrap and waste is our sixth largest export to China).

In 2013, the Chinese imports of recyclable material were subject to increased inspections to discourage the importation of contaminated material in "Operation Green Fence." In March 2017, "Operation Green Sword" increased inspections of imported recyclables and tightened standards, reducing the acceptable amount of contamination from 2 percent to 0.5 percent. Brent Bell, in charge of recycling for Waste Management, says that his company currently receives materials with an average 16-17 percent contamination level and reducing it to acceptable levels for exports is a big challenge.

In July 2017, China informed the World Trade Organization that it will stop accepting shipments of recycled plastic and other "foreign waste," specifying 24 types of waste which will no longer be accepted, from household plastic waste to recycled textiles and unsorted paper.

The impact of China's actions was felt almost immediately on the West Coast. Some recycling firms in Oregon and Washington State have already stopped

accepting plastic recyclables, as they have nowhere to send them. In order to process the glut of recycled plastic waste, US recycling firms will have to upgrade their facilities or find other foreign markets. This means an increase in municipal costs which will be passed along to the taxpayers.

Tiffanie Nyzio of Giordano Companies, a recycling company in Newark, says the firm is investing about \$5 million in new equipment to deal with the new stringent contamination limits.

What to do? We thought we'd solved the problem by sending our plastic recycling overseas for processing, but it is now our problem to solve again. The residents of Boise, ID, found themselves in a predicament since China is their main export market for plastic recyclables. They teamed up with Renewology, a company that reverses the process by which oil becomes plastic, converting it to low sulfur diesel fuel.

Whether pursuing innovative solutions, finding new export markets, incinerating for energy recovery, ramping up education to increase the percentage of material recycled, or focusing on reducing consumption of single use plastics in the first place, we need to re-address our situation vis-à-vis recycling.

Slowing down fast fashion...

At the same time that China is halting imports of some recyclable materials, the governments of the East African Community (EAC), comprised of Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Burundi and Uganda, are planning to ban the importation of secondhand clothing by 2019. The average American throws out 70 pounds of textile waste each year, and only about 20

percent of it gets sold in secondhand stores in the US. The rest goes overseas and countries from the EAC to India to Eastern Europe are finding that it is undercutting their own domestic textile industries.

...and driving in the clean lane

Electric vehicles are coming, and they are coming in force. China, France, Norway, India, and others have all made strong commitments to electrify their motor vehicles. Volvo Cars announced that starting in 2019, all new models will be either hybrid or all electric. GM plans to offer 20 electric models by 2023. (CEO Mary Barra says the company will sell over a million electric vehicles a year by 2026.)



Electric car on display at Philadelphia Auto Show

Many other automakers are gearing themselves up to meet the increasing demand for electric vehicles. Global electric car sales were up 63 percent in the third quarter of 2017. Despite the rhetoric about embracing old fossil fuel technology, the marketplace is responding to the realities of diminishing resources and greenhouse gas emissions and gearing up for an electric vehicle revolution.

What to do locally

How can we respond to these trends locally? We can reexamine our recycling policies, procedures and education to make sure we are providing the best product to send to the recycled materials market. According to Myles Cohen, president of Pratt Industries (a recycled packaging firm),

“Contamination devalues good recyclables and adds unnecessary additional processing costs, energy costs, and resource costs. We can educate our residents and businesses about the best recycling practices.”

Brent Bell, Vice President of Recycling Operations at Waste Management, says, “We really need to wage a war on contamination.” Another thing to consider is whether we should focus on disincentivizing use of plastic through measures such as bans, fees or return deposit programs. Longport and Teaneck have already enacted plastic bag bills and other municipalities have expressed an interest in doing the same.

“The biggest problem is food waste,” says Nyzio. Giordano Companies are increasing their efforts to communicate what is acceptable to municipalities.

ANJEC and ChargeVC can help get your municipality ready for the shift to electric vehicles. ANJEC has two sample resolutions and a model pledge that environmental commissions and other local boards can use to support electric vehicle facilitation in New Jersey. ChargeVC is developing and promoting programs and policies that encourage electric vehicles to be adopted faster. “In addition to ChargeVC membership, your community can play a leadership role in helping to make New Jersey more EV-friendly through local education and outreach and by installing charging stations at municipal facilities, schools, places of worship, workplaces, and other key locations,” says ANJEC Executive Director Jennifer M. Coffey.

At the end of the day, we need to act locally. We need to focus on consumption reduction – of single use plastics, of fast fashion and of fossil fuels.

As Governor Phil Murphy said in his inaugural address, “New Jersey once was a national model for protecting the environment and growing an economy fueled by innovation and ideas.... We can once again be the state that leads the nation in progressive policies and puts common sense and our residents first in line.” 🍎

Insights from ECs

Building effectiveness through strong relationships

By Julie Lange Groth, ANJEC Report Editor

The success of an Environmental Commission (EC) depends on the good will and support of many others in the community. Commissions need the backing of local officials to facilitate and fund their projects. Local schools, businesses and organizations can help ECs gain influence and build consensus on environmental issues while providing manpower and resources to accomplish more with less. Getting the general public engaged and involved is pivotal to creating a healthy, sustainable community. This vibrant web of connections enables EC to accomplish their important work.

Relationships with municipal officials

Steve Sangle, the longtime chair of West Milford Environmental Commission, cultivates strong ties with members of

town government, including other boards and committees.

"Throughout the year, if we become involved in a special project or if there are environmental issues affecting the community, we communicate with the governing body and administration to address any concerns they may have," says Steve.

"We also meet periodically with the Township Administrator as well as other local officials, to discuss potential and ongoing grant opportunities, as well as issues that may develop with current projects. This process seems to reduce the amount of conflicts before they become major issues."

When undertaking a project, Steve says he also tries to consider the interests of other constituencies, including those interested in recreation, historical sites or the needs of businesses. For example, an

important consideration when reviewing properties for possible open space acquisition is the value of revenue from real estate taxes to fund the Township's needs.



*Phearless Phragmites
Fighters from the
Millstone Elementary School
Community Problem Solvers
team.*



Students in Verona designed posters to encourage the public to end unnecessary vehicle idling.

“We recommend properties which serve both the residents’ needs as well as those that protect the environment, while taking into consideration the economic impact and possible loss of tax dollars,” Steve explains.

Alliances with other groups

By involving organizations, schools and other groups, ECs can multiply the impact of their efforts. In honor of its 25th year, The Washington Township (Gloucester) Environmental Commission partnered with several local entities to celebrate Earth Month with more than a month’s worth of environmental educational programming.

Working with the Open Space Advisory Committee, schools, the public library and other community groups and local experts, they assembled a robust menu of events that included a gardening class, an art competition, community garden planting, a display of the Environmental Resource Inventory, a rain barrel workshop, a reforestation project, a build-a-birdhouse workshop, tree planting lessons, a workshop on creating backyard habitats, stream and lake sampling, and an owl presentation. Instead of one day of activities in the park, they had a robust month full of workshops and classes to teach the community how to be better stewards of the land.

Millstone Township Environmental Commission found a way to enlist a cadre of school children while providing a meaningful learning experience. With the EC’s help, area students took on the tough job of eradicating a patch of invasive

Phragmites near a first-aid station. Students spent an entire school year learning about the harm Phragmites do to the environment. They then educated town council members and informed scout troops about the problems caused by this common reed. Students also distributed special cleanup kits to help clean seeds off clothes and stop the plant from spreading.

Engaging the public

Verona Environmental Commission has found a wide variety of ways to engage with people in the community face-to-face, including the Verona Green Fair, the local Fair in the Square, Volunteers Night, the New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign, and annual cleanups at Grove Park, the West Essex Trail and the Peckman River.

But, according to EC Chair Gloria Machnowski, “Involving the public is no longer limited to distributing information. It’s about inviting residents to provide feedback and listening. Social media is great for that, as long as you remember to interact with empathy and respect. It is about making it easier and convenient for people to support good initiatives. It is also a great tool to empower people within your community to become environmental leaders themselves.”

The EC has had its own website since 2009, and joined social media several years ago, expanding its opportunities to communicate with residents.

“We post our meeting minutes, town events and local environmental news. We provide helpful information to town residents and free publicity for town-sponsored initiatives.”

It all adds up

In Caldwell, EC Chair Ann Marchioni has developed many productive relationships over the years that have helped the Commission earn accolades and grant funds. She offers these tips:

- Think of projects that can involve students – contests, gardens etc. School ecology clubs are a good place to start.

- Reach out to the local service clubs, such as the Kiwanis and Rotary.
- Don't be afraid of rejection. Just spreading awareness of the EC and its work is important in itself.
- When purchasing materials, don't be afraid to ask for a donation of goods or a discount.
- Your library is probably looking for programs and would be happy to show a film or host an informative program.
- Keep everyone you can think of up to date with your activities, especially the town council and say thank you a lot. In short, knock on a lot of doors and some will open. 🍀

Thanks to ANJEC member communities

We are grateful to the thousands of volunteers serving as local officials in more than 260 municipalities and counties that are members of ANJEC. These dedicated people - from municipal and regional environmental commissions and green teams to open space committees, planning boards and governing bodies - dedicate their time and efforts to assure a clean environment and high quality of life in their communities throughout our State. Thank you! 🍀

Local Action Toolkits now available

Has your environmental commission or green team identified some issues you want to work on in the coming year, but don't know how to get started? The ANJEC Resource Center has prepared a set of tools and information that may help you get out of the starting gate with a bang.

Climate Action Toolkit - Includes dozens of helpful resources, such as:

- How to do a community carbon footprint
- Model resolution for a municipal greenhouse gas audit
- Resource paper on siting solar installations in NJ
- Guidance for creating Plug-In Electric Vehicle (PEV) friendly ordinances
- Information on stream corridor protection
- Model water conservation ordinance and how to develop one



Plastic Pollution Toolkit - Articles, reports and sample ordinances including:

- Sample municipal ordinances for balloon release ban (Atlantic City) and plastic bag reduction (Longport)
- Lambertville's food waste collection ordinance
- Lots of articles, tips and other information

Templates for basic environmental commission annual reports and budgets

To get these tools, please contact the ANJEC Resource Center at info@anjec.org or visit our website at www.anjec.org. 🍀

Make a difference: How promoting eco- labeled products is good for both the environment and business

By **Richard Lawton**, Executive Director,
New Jersey Sustainable Business Council

The economy versus the environment. It's a familiar framing of complex issues that depicts an ongoing tug-of-war between businesses and environmental activists, with government accused of being the intrusive referee, favoring one side or the other. But while such a binary depiction may be appealing in its simplicity, it obscures and distorts a much more complex dynamic between economic, social and environmental interests and considerations that can't be captured in 140 characters or less.

Fortunately, there are a growing number of businesses that are breaking free of this outmoded 20th century tug-of-war between an unnecessary and false choice. Instead of struggling to overpower the other side in courtrooms, or trying to win them over by "greenwashing," they see opportunity in the midst of social, environmental and economic tension from which innovative products are being designed to meet a growing consumer demand for items that are effective, safe and affordable.

Without any way to validate the claims that businesses make about the safety and relative greenness of their products, however, consumers can become confused. Our innate aversion to risk acts as an impediment to switching from a known product to a new one that claims to be superior.

It's all about choices

How can consumers discern the difference between just good marketing and a genuinely good product?

Over time, many public and private organizations throughout the world have advanced the use of eco-labels to fill this need. In the simplest sense, it is hoped that eco-labels can assist consumers in making more informed personal and business buying decisions. It is also hoped that sovereign consumer choice and enlightened institutional purchasing can be leveraged to give producers of comparatively environmentally friendly products a competitive advantage over products that are less environmentally friendly, and also encourage shifts in investment and innovation towards verifiable greener products.

While eco-labels are not a panacea to resolve all environmental challenges, they can contribute to the creation of opportunities for economic and environmental success.

Informed decision: Enter third-party eco-labels

Green Seal and ECOLOGO are lifecycle-based environmental certifications based on rigorous scientific testing that indicate that a product and its ingredients meet specific environmental performance standards.

The US Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA's) Safer Choice program is the federal voluntary labeling program that epitomizes effective collaboration between the government and the private sector. It sends a signal to consumers that products certified under the program meet a higher, safer standard for consumers and the environment, while performing as expected and being comparably cost effective.

Safer Choice identifies the requirements products and their ingredients must meet to earn the Safer Choice label, including:

- criteria for safer chemical ingredients and
- requirements for: performance; packaging; pH; and VOCs.

Significant efforts are made by EPA and manufacturers to achieve full ingredient disclosure and to participate in audits to maintain authenticity and also to encourage continuous improvement in green chemistry innovation.

Hundreds of businesses nationwide, like Earth Friendly Products (a New Jersey Sustainable Business Council business member), with a facility in Piscataway, are partners in the Safer Choice program. More than 2000 products are qualified to carry the logo, which lends an impartial and science-based credibility that helps to overcome the inertia of habitual purchasing habits.

And it's not just individual consumers whose desire for safe products is fueling a growing market. Municipalities and businesses are also looking to integrate sustainability factors into their procurement decisions for a host of reasons:

- to reduce long-term costs;
- to create enhanced community or workplace health, safety and pride,
- to reduce potential liabilities, insurance incentives.

- to address increasing pressure from external stakeholders and the growing availability of vendors that offer greener products.

More than just a label – A catalyst for constructive change

The benefits of eco-labels have the potential to go beyond the functional value of the labeled products. Safer Choice is a concrete example of the good that can come from a more constructive relationship between business and government when focused on serving the overlapping needs of shareholders, customers and general public welfare.

Safer Choice proves that we don't have to choose between a thriving economy and a clean, safe environment. Rather, Safer Choice demonstrates that we can choose a different way of doing business that can generate a profit in socially and responsible ways, while rewarding leading innovation and product design.

How can you help to green businesses through a local eco-label campaign?

Academic arguments for change can often be too abstract to connect at an emotional level.

And doing the necessary research to understand all of the arcane science behind safe chemicals is too time-consuming. Eco-labels make theory and arcane details unnecessary; instead, they offer pragmatic shortcuts for those who wish to switch from more toxic to safer chemical products.

For those change agents who are working within their communities or organizations for a more sustainable and resilient future, promoting eco-label products represents a



powerful and tangible step in the right direction that can help cultivate a reorientation toward more sustainable business practices.

In his book *The Tipping Point*, author Malcolm Gladwell reveals how products and trends can go from relative obscurity to broad adoption almost overnight. Three different types of change agents are critical in this process:

- Mavens are good at research, and have deep knowledge that people can rely on as credible sources of information.
- Connectors have extensive networks and are good at connecting the right types of people and organizations for actualizing common interests.
- Salespeople are skilled persuaders that can turn data into the kinds of compelling stories that help people see new possibilities and encourage them to act on them.

ANJEC depends on our business members to help pay for the cost of printing the *ANJEC Report*. Please let them know that you saw their ad here. Remember, however, that ANJEC does not necessarily endorse any of these firms.

Visit DVRPC's online Planning Assistance Center for information on funding opportunities, educational programs, and planning services designed to help local governments and citizens protect our natural environment.

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www.dvrpc.org/Planning

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Resources

If you want to start a campaign to promote green chemistry innovation and Safer Choice products, contact the ANJEC Resource Center at info@anjec.org for more detailed information on the (a) effectiveness of eco-labels, (b) major campaign questions for Safer Choice, (c) support checklist to promote partnership, and (d) other change management/cultural change resources. Armed with these insights, you can show local businesses that being green and profitable can go hand-in-hand. 🍀

Richard Lawton can be reached at 646.234.9216.

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New general stormwater permits challenge New Jersey municipalities

By David Peifer, ANJEC Highlands Project Director

Environmental Commissions should be aware of new New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) permits that became effective on January 1. The permits, known as Ms₄ permits¹, regulate how a municipality must manage its stormwater systems. The permits direct local governments in implementing water management powers delegated to the states under the *Federal Clean Water Act*. The new permits are in response to the US Environmental Protection Agency's "Stormwater Phase II Final Rule." Although there are no specific tasks assigned to environmental commissions, the permits contain important requirements that are ideally suited for action by commissions.

What type of permit does your town have?

Municipal permits fall into one of two types: Tier A and Tier B. Tier A Permits cover municipalities with extensive systems, while Tier B permits apply to municipalities with smaller systems. Your municipality's Tier assignment can be checked at: www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/pdf/

¹ The name, Ms₄ is shorthand for "municipal separate storm sewer systems."

[MS₄_municipal_tier_list.pdf](#) or by viewing the map available at: www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/images/mun-tierA-assignments1.jpg.

Most New Jersey municipalities are assigned to Tier A, while Tier B municipalities are concentrated in the northwestern part of the State, along the Delaware Bay Shore, and in the Pinelands. If your town also has areas served by a combined sewer system (CSS) that mixes sanitary wastewater with stormwater, you already have a separate permit dealing with them. It is possible that communities with both types of systems will have both permits.

The new permit document

Your municipality should already have received its permit and you should try to review it. However, if you have difficulty getting access, samples of the new Tier A and Tier B permits are provided on the DEP website at:

- Tier A – www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/pdf/tier_a_Full_Permit_No_ReponsetoComments.pdf
- Tier B – www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/tier_b.htm

Since no specific guidance document is currently available (as of this printing), it is wise to read the sample permit and the Crosswalk Document (www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/pdf/tier_a_crosswalk_2009-2018.pdf) that compares the previous 2009 permits to the

Volunteers planting a raingarden in Pilesgrove to help manage stormwater runoff

new 2018 permits. At 71 pages, the sample provided may look daunting, but much of the content includes definitions and attachments that you will find useful.



What's new for municipalities?

The short answer is “a lot!” The new permits, are issued as General Permits under the *New Jersey Pollution Discharge Elimination System* (NJPDES rules, N.J.A.C. 7:14A). They incorporate provisions of the Stormwater Management Rule (N.J.A.C. 7:8) and affect municipal actions under the *Municipal Land Use Law*. They cover:

- recordkeeping and reporting
- public participation
- stormwater management planning
- review of stormwater management plans submitted by applicants
- preparation, updating and incorporation of Municipal Stormwater Management Plans into Municipal Master Plans
- passage and periodic updating of municipal stormwater ordinances
- training of municipal professionals, application reviewers, DPW workers
- education of the public.

In all, the permits require a more organized institutional commitment to stormwater management at the municipal level.

Some specific concerns for commissions

The permit contains a number of important requirements that municipalities should be concerned about. A few of the issues are discussed below, but you should make it a point to read the actual permit and supporting DEP information for a

more complete understanding.

Planning and ordinances

The permits require the preparation of a *Municipal Stormwater Management Plan* and incorporating this plan as a required part of the *Master Plan* (40:55D, Article 14). Commissions should not only be aware of their town's *Plan* contents but should also be involved in periodic reviews as part of the municipality's normal *Master Plan* review process. The *Stormwater Management Plan* must now include a *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan* (SPPP). The *SPPP* helps identify possible pollution sources and best management practices to address problems. (www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/auto_sppp.htm)

As part of this process, municipalities must also designate a Municipal Stormwater Program Coordinator, responsible for implementing the plans, recordkeeping and reporting to the DEP. Municipalities will have to submit an annual report and certification to the DEP and keep all records used to demonstrate compliance with permit conditions. Municipalities must also pass and implement a stormwater management ordinance that meets or exceeds the requirements of the Stormwater Management Rule (N.J.A.C. 7:8) and that is periodically updated. A model ordinance is provided by the DEP at: www.nj.gov/dep/wqmp/docs/sw_ordinance.pdf.

Commissions should review their local ordinance for compliance, but should also keep in mind that municipalities may pass more protective local ordinances. For example, the DEP rule applies only to “major development” that disturbs 1 or more acre, but some municipalities have reduced this trigger threshold.

There is also a requirement for adopting a suite of related communitywide ordinances, also considered minimum standards, dealing with pet waste, wildlife feeding, litter control, improper waste disposal, containerized yard waste and private storm drain inlet retrofitting. Many municipalities have such ordinances, but commissions should become familiar with them and inquire about implementation and enforcement. In addition, towns must adopt an illicit connection ordinance that prohibits the connection or inflow from non-stormwater sources into the stormwater system.

Training and education

Training members of municipal boards and the governing body is urgent. The permit requires that municipal officials who review and approve stormwater management plan applications during site plan review and those involved in post construction review and compliance complete the “Asking the Right Questions in Stormwater Review” training e-tool by July 1, 2018. New members must do so within six months. This E-Tool is a computer-based interactive tool, developed jointly by Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program, DEP and ANJEC. It’s available online at www.nj.gov/dep/stormwater/training.htm. Commissions should take a leadership role in seeing that these trainings take place in a meaningful way, by workshop or presentation to members of the environmental commission, planning board, and governing body.

Public education

Municipalities are now required to engage in public education about stormwater on a continuing basis, a task

ideal for environmental commissions. Each calendar year, the municipality must earn 12 “points” for education drawn from at least three of the categories described in Attachment B of the permit including: General Public Outreach, Targeted Audience Outreach, School/Youth Education and Activities, Watershed Regional Collaboration, and Community Involvement Activities. These requirements contain multiple opportunities for commissions to educate about stormwater issues and should be explored as commission activities and as partnering opportunities with environmental organizations and academic institutions.

Storm drain inlet marking

Although the DEP stormwater rule requires new catch basin inlets to have the words “Dump No Waste. Drains to Stream” cast into the metal; there are many storm drains out there that predate this requirement. Marking these with attached tags or stenciling is a permit requirement and an ideal commission activity that can involve school groups or other youth groups. Detailed instructions on how to carry out this activity can be found at: www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/pdf/Storm%20Drain%20Labeling%20Guidelines%20Manual.pdf

Outfall and facility mapping and evaluation

One of the most important permit requirements is the mapping of stormwater outfalls and facilities, evaluating their conditions and checking for illicit connections. Technology in the form of cell phones, tablets, GPS units and specific software has made this formerly daunting task much easier. Commissions can help with the inventory and collection of data and should include the results in the Environmental Resource Inventory. An excellent PowerPoint presentation detailing the entire process is available at: www.water.rutgers.edu/PVSC/3_Inventory%20and%20Assessment%20of%20Stormwater%20Infrastructure-09222017.pdf

Remembering lives well lived

Peter Craig

Dr. Peter Craig died on Nov. 25, 2017, at age 87, having contributed to the world in many meaningful ways, and having lived a full, rich life. Peter wore many hats, walked many paths, served many causes and created many fond memories.

Early in his career, Peter was a faculty member of veterinary colleges at the University of Pennsylvania and Cornell University, and then a scientist who retired from Mobil Oil after 15 years. He was very active in his retirement, working as a ski instructor at Camelback, serving on the Holland Township Rescue Squad, chairing the Holland Township Planning Board, and belonging to various historical commissions and societies around Hunterdon County. He was a board member of the Hunterdon Land Trust and the Hunterdon County Library. In his leisure, Peter was an avid skier, sailor, fisherman, photographer, and small aircraft pilot.

At ANJEC, we'll remember him sitting at his desk in the ANJEC Resource Center working as a weekly volunteer, and later sitting through countless Board meetings as an ANJEC trustee and Advisory Board member. We'll remember him lugging around heavy cameras and photography equipment to capture many, many ANJEC events on film. We'll remember a man with a very generous spirit and an unflagging zest for life. And we'll miss him. 🍓



Peter Craig and wife Suzanne Smith laden with silent auction goodies after an ANJEC fundraiser



Governor Brendan Byrne (NJ Governor 1974 to 1982)

Not many people get a forest named after them. But not many people can claim to have saved a precious and fragile ecosystem of more than a million acres from being developed as a giant jetport. As New Jersey's Governor in 1979, Brendan Byrne made protection of New Jersey's Pine Barrens a priority and helped pass the most innovative land protection law in the nation. To him, the *Pinelands Protection Act* was his greatest legacy to the State he once governed.

Today, the Pinelands National Reserve stands as the largest surviving open space on the eastern seaboard between the northern forests of Maine and the Florida Everglades.

Gov. Byrne also presided over the legalization of casino gambling and the construction of the Meadowlands Sports Complex and he established the State's first income tax, which tanked his approval rating at the time. When he was a prosecutor in Essex County during the Newark riots in 1967, he famously became known as "the man who couldn't be bought."

Gov. Byrne died in January at the age of 93 as the State's oldest living governor. In 2002, then Gov. James E. McGreevey renamed a corner of the Pinelands known as Lebanon State Forest in honor of Byrne. We think he more than deserved it. 🍓

Steps to healthy waters in Upper Deerfield

By Jody Carrara, ANJEC Project Director

Upper Deerfield Township in Cumberland County New Jersey is currently addressing the Township's desire for clean waterways in two important ways: They are installing green infrastructure and they are teaching residents about New Jersey's comprehensive *Fertilizer Law*. Let's explore both progressive endeavors in a bit more detail.

In 2015, Upper Deerfield partnered with ANJEC, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation and Rutgers Water Resources Program to address the need for green infrastructure projects in the Township. Rutgers completed an Impervious Cover Assessment and Impervious Cover Reduction Action Plan and in 2016 a rain garden was installed at the municipal building. Being adjacent to a stream, the location was an excellent choice for nonstructural stormwater remediation. The green infrastructure project comprises 2,500 square feet of bioswale and a native plant garden. The garden collects rain water from 19,070 square feet of parking lot and filters 470,700 gallons of water per year.

The engineering of this project is a delight

to see during a rainstorm! It prevents oil, trash, and other pollutants from entering the stream. Remediating stormwater is an excellent start for cleaning local waterways.

Addressing overuse of fertilizer

Upper Deerfield is also creating an educational brochure for landowners about New Jersey's *Fertilizer Law*, one of the most comprehensive in the nation. Its goal is to help to reduce pollutants in stormwater before it flows to our streams. Excess nutrients spread on gardens and lawns are carried to the nearest water body during a rain storm. These pollutants deplete the water of oxygen, impacting the ecosystems and fisheries.

Many homeowners, like farmers, now routinely test their soil to determine which nutrients need to be supplemented. Soil testing and plant diagnostic services are provided by Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. (<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/services/>) Testing can

Volunteers planting a rain garden in Upper Deerfield



reduce fertilizer use and the cost to maintain a lawn or garden while protecting our water quality and aquatic ecosystems.

Because pollution from lawns had seriously polluted surface water in New Jersey's back bays, lakes and streams, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Rutgers University and others formed "Healthy Lawns, Healthy Waters" in 2009. This working group coordinates to collect and develop educational material and plans to clean up our waterways by reducing the fertilizer loads in stormwater. The result of this collaboration was the passage of New Jersey's *Fertilizer Law* in phases, beginning in 2011. www.nj.gov/dep/healthylawnshealthywater/

New Jersey's Fertilizer Law

Here's a brief synopsis of New Jersey's *Fertilizer Law*.

Phase I

Beginning in early 2011, several public education resources were developed that addressed fertilizer information and preferred fertilizer practices.

Phase II

Effective in January 2012, all professional fertilizer applicators and lawn care providers were required to undergo training and become certified through the NJ Agricultural Experiment Station at Rutgers University. By law, homeowners cannot apply fertilizer after November 15 and before March 1 in any calendar year. Commercial Fertilizer Applicators must complete late fall nitrogen or phosphorus fertilization by December 1 and then fertilizer containing nitrogen or phosphorus cannot be applied again until March 1. All other materials, such as products containing potassium, lime and composts, are still legal to apply during the blackout dates. To learn more, go to the <http://profact.rutgers.edu/Pages/default.aspx>

Phase III

Effective January 2013, all fertilizer products sold in New Jersey for turf had to contain at least 20 percent slow-release nitrogen and zero percent phosphorus

unless a soil test demonstrates a need to add phosphorus.

Enforcement of this law is the responsibility of municipalities, counties, local soil conservation districts and the local health departments. Some highlights of the law, which directs enforcement to the local governments, (New Jersey Act, P.L. 2010, c. 112 (C.58:10A-64) are:

- A professional fertilizer applicator, who violates the New Jersey *Fertilizer Law*, is subject to a civil penalty of \$500 for the first offense and up to \$1,000 for the second and subsequent offense. If the violation continues, each day during which it continues shall constitute an additional, separate and distinct offense. The Superior Court and the municipal court shall have jurisdiction
- Any person, other than a professional fertilizer applicator or person who sells fertilizer at retail, who violates this act, or any rule or regulation adopted pursuant thereto, may be subject to a penalty, as established by municipal ordinance

A concerted effort is underway to clean up waterways all over the State. The NJ *Fertilizer Law* is one part of the solution. The fine work of Upper Deerfield shows that a multifaceted approach can be successful over time.

The municipality also adopted a stream buffer ordinance in 2010, installed a green infrastructure project in 2016 and conducts continuing education on native vegetation and fertilizer impacts.

Environmental Commissions can follow Upper Deerfield's example by recommending ordinances, partnering to install rain gardens and educating the public. Healthy waters can be the result of many different factors including an active environmental commission. 🍀

What We're Reading



Review by S. T. Carroll, ANJEC Volunteer

***Drawdown*: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming**

In his review of *Drawdown*, Joel Makower wrote: "At minimum, *Drawdown* is likely the most hopeful thing you'll ever read about our ability to take on global warming." At a time when we seem to have reached a point of federal immobility on the climate change front, a hopeful book is what we need.

Drawdown, The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming, edited by Paul Hawken, describes 80 solutions (procedures that already exist) and 20 concepts or ideas ("coming attractions") that the *Drawdown* Team considers to have the greatest potential to reduce emissions or sequester carbon from the atmosphere. For each solution, the book calculates the estimated savings in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and the amount of money needed to purchase, install and operate it over 30 years.

Drawdown measures savings in greenhouse gases in terms of gigatons (1 billion tons) of CO₂. For the 80 solutions described in this book, the combined total savings of CO₂ is 1051 gigatons. For perspective, (and this is a hopeful part) consider that annual emissions of CO₂ have averaged 36 gigatons globally in recent years. The projected emissions savings from the solutions are comfortably in excess of annual emissions. In addition, the total cost for the solutions would be \$27 billion but savings would be \$73 billion, a net gain of \$46 billion.

The solutions range from a high of 89.74 gigatons in emissions reductions to less than 1 gigaton. There are several surprises in the rankings. Solar farms rank only 8th at 37 gigatons while the only land transport solution to make the top 30 is number 26, electric vehicles at 10.8 gigatons. The top four solutions were refrigeration management (89.7 gt), onshore wind turbines (84.6 gt), reduced food waste (70.5 gt) and plant-rich diet (66.1).

The plant-rich diet

section contains my favorite quote from the book: "If cattle were their own nation, they would be the world's third largest emitter of greenhouse gases."

My second favorite quote is from Paul Hawken's closing words, which can serve as a recommendation to read the book:

"As researchers, we were and remain astonished at the impact individual solutions can have, especially as they relate to both the production and consumption of food. What we choose to eat, and the methods employed to grow it, rank with energy as the top causes and cures of global warming. Individual responsibility and opportunity do not stop there: they include how we manage our homes, how we transport ourselves, what we purchase, and more." 🍀



Make the most of spring festivals

By Lyle Landon, ANJEC Development Director

Now is the perfect time to plan an environmental event for your town. Many environmental commissions (ECs) hold an event on or around Earth Day or Arbor Day, which in 2018 are on April 22 and April 27 respectively. Hosting or participating in a fair or festival can help you engage with your community in a neighborly, interesting way and provides an opportunity to educate the public about how your community is becoming greener and building resiliency. You can learn more about residents' concerns and recruit volunteers for EC projects.

Most such events are held on weekends at a central location, such as a school or park. Families are often looking for fun and educational things to do, especially outdoors. Using interactive displays and games, refreshments and entertainment will help attract a larger audience.

Remember that ANJEC has seven prize wheels and games available for loan on topics ranging from Cutting Your Carbon Footprint to Habitat Protection. Have you ever considered inviting your town's science teachers to create an Eco game or display, with all entries to be showcased at the event? This is a great way to increase awareness of your EC as a resource and partner with large segments of the population. Here are some tips shared by towns that have successful environmental fairs:

- Brick Township works with their Sustainable Committee and the Township Recreation Department, and popular booths include those from Rutgers



Jersey City Environmental Commission puts the ANJEC game wheel to good use to engage visitors to a festival booth.

Master Gardeners, Jenkinson's Aquarium and other nonprofits.

- Glen Ridge Environmental Committee hosts an Eco and Art Fair, and features music by their high school students.
- Blairstown's Genesis Farms celebrates local agriculture with healthy food, hayrides, plant walks and cooking demonstrations.
- Montclair EC hosts an Arbor Day event that includes a Tree Scavenger Hunt and sapling giveaway.
- Livingston's Eco-Fair at their Senior/Community Center featured a Rot Squad demonstration about backyard composting as a way to help reduce the amount of trash going to landfills.
- Washington Borough celebrates the spring opening of their farmers' market with children's activities, a petting zoo and a butterfly release.

We'd like to hear from you about your town's successful spring events. Email us at info@anjec.org. 🍀

Funding Announcement ANJEC 2018 Open Space Grant Program

By Elizabeth Ritter, ANJEC Deputy Director

For the fifth consecutive year, ANJEC is pleased to announce the continuation of the ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grants funded in part by the Sandy Batty Grant Fund.

One-year grants of up to \$1500 will be available to environmental commissions in New Jersey whose applications are accepted in 2018. Application materials are now available on the ANJEC website. ANJEC expects to award approximately 15 grants in 2018.

Completed grant applications are due no later than Friday, April 13, at 4:30 PM. Successful applicants will be notified by May 11, 2018.

Suitable projects include, but are not limited to:

- pollinator gardens
- trail building, signage, maintenance
- printed or online guides, maps, inventories of open space, trails
- open space or trails assessments, plans, maps

- multi-town plans to link open space or trails
- conservation easement inventory, monitoring, outreach, education
- management of invasive species
- habitat enhancement on open lands
- restoration or maintenance of riparian areas within preserved public open space
- educational stormwater management projects on preserved public open space.

The 2018 program objectives and application requirements are the same as for the 2017 grants. No cash match is required.

To read the 2018 guidelines and view examples of projects funded in previous grant rounds, visit ANJEC's grant page at www.anjec.org/EnvCommissionGrantPrograms.htm.

*Ribbon cutting
at new trail in
Jackson
Township
funded by an
ANJEC grant*



Lechner Scholarship for a student in the environmental field

ANJEC will award a \$1200 scholarship to a New Jersey college student entering his/her junior or senior year. The scholarship is granted to encourage qualified students to pursue a career in a field related to environmental protection.

The Lechner Scholarship Fund is a living memorial to Hermia Lechner in recognition of her many years of dedicated service and contributions to the preservation of open space and natural resources in New Jersey.

An eligible student must:

- be a New Jersey resident;
- attend an accredited New Jersey four-year college or university;
- be entering his/her junior or senior year in the fall of 2018;
- be majoring in natural resources, parks and recreation, environmental law, environmental sciences, or a related field;

- have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better;
- have demonstrated an activist role in the preservation of open space, wildlife or water resources in NJ; and
- submit a completed Lechner Scholarship Application to ANJEC by **Friday, May 4, 2018**. (application and information at www.anjec.org)

The Lechner Scholarship will be awarded by June 1, 2018. The winner will be recognized at ANJEC's annual Environmental Congress on Oct. 12, 2018. 🍓

*2016 Lechner
Scholarship winner,
Amy Hsieh*



ANJEC Film Lending Library

ANJEC has the following films available to lend to your environmental commission, school or green team for public screenings:

- **Bag It! Is Your Life Too Plastic?** – An investigation into plastic and its effect on our waterways
- **Poisoned Waters** – This film shows the kinds of pollution now contaminating America's waterways
- **Highlands Rediscovered** – Explore the history of this heavily-forested NJ region
- **King Corn** – Addresses questions about how we eat and how we farm.
- **Groundswell Rising** – An inspiring film about the power of community organizing to protecting our children's air & water
- **Flow – How Did a Handful of Corporations Steal Our Water?** – An award-winning documentary
- **Kilowatt Ours – A Plan to Re-Energize America** – Solutions to the great energy problems of our day
- **Turning the Tide** – A documentary about the Hackensack Meadowlands.

Get more details or request a film by contacting ANJEC at info@anjec.org or calling 973-539-7547.

Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions

Saturday, March 10

9:00 AM to 1:30 PM

Tatum Park, Holland Activity Center
206 Holland Road, Middletown

Saturday, March 17

9:00 AM to 1:30 PM

Roxbury Community Center
72 Eyland Avenue, Roxbury

Saturday, March 24

9:00 AM to 1:30 PM

Washington Twp. Municipal Building
(Gloucester County)
523 Egg Harbor Road, Sewell

Learn how to be an effective member of a municipal environmental commission. ANJEC's 2018 program is newly updated and will include breakout sessions for experienced and new environmental commissioners. More hands-on training and networking opportunity also planned.

Agenda includes:

- Responsibilities and powers of an environmental commission
- Funding opportunities for environmental commissions
- Site plan review
- Creating/updating an ERI
- The Municipal Master Plan and the Environmental Commission's role
- Reviewing and updating municipal environmental ordinances

Registration details:

Participation fee: \$45 *No charge for ANJEC members*

To register: Email info@anjec.org with date of training, name and affiliation or call 973-539-7547.

Not available these dates?

Request an ANJEC Road Show. Contact ANJEC for details.

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Lead the charge!

Your town can help move New Jersey toward an EV-friendly future

ANJEC is a proud partner of **ChargEVC**, a nonprofit organization working to provide leadership, resources, research and advocacy to advance electric vehicle programs and policies in New Jersey.

Associate membership in **ChargEVC** is now being offered to municipalities, environmental commissions, green teams, and other local groups who want to be at the vanguard of this important movement. Individuals can also become members. Benefits of membership include:

- alerts about available funding and promotional programs for EV charging infrastructure;
- a **Municipal Guide**, which outlines template resolutions, model ordinances, and other helpful content to assist municipalities;
- a weekly summary of media reporting on developments in the EV field;
- access to the EV studies and plans developed by **ChargEVC**;
- updates on the electric vehicle market in New Jersey;
- advocacy opportunities at the State level for programs and policies.

Municipal membership dues are \$100 annually and membership for individuals costs \$50. Find more information at www.chargevc.org/how-to-join/. 

For more information
contact ANJEC at (973) 539-7547



EarthShare
New Jersey



ANJEC is proud to be a member of Earth Share New Jersey.



Got an idea for the **ANJEC Report**?

The **ANJEC Report** welcomes submissions or suggestions from our readers.

- Is there a topic or issue you'd like us to write about?
 - Have you recently completed a project that would be of interest to other local environmentalists?
 - Would you like to author an article in your area of expertise?
- If so, please let us hear from you. Your input is valuable. Just email the editor at jlange@anjec.org.

Standing against offshore drilling

On Valentine's Day in Hamilton, NJ, ANJEC, Clean Ocean Action, and many other nonprofits held their own public hearing in the same facility as the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management public meeting on President Trump's proposal to

drill for oil and gas off the Jersey shore and the entire eastern seaboard. Hundreds attended in opposition to the drilling. Thank you to Governor Phil Murphy and First lady Tammy Murphy, Senator Bob Menendez, Senator Cory Booker, Congressman Frank Pallone Jr., Congressman Chris Smith, State Senator Linda Greenstein, Assemblywoman Nancy Pinkin, and Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker for joining us in person and via video from around State and Washington DC. We are all united in opposition to drilling off the Jersey Shore. 🍀





ANJEC's Dave Peifer talks about ERIs at an ANJEC training for environmental commissioners.

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New ANJEC resource paper Septic Systems, Clean Water and Your Municipality



Our newest resource paper offers 16 pages of helpful information for environmental commissions about caring for septic systems in your town, including:

- Why municipalities should care about septic systems
- Recognizing the warning signs of septic system failure
- Taking action: The 5 levels of protection
- Sample ordinances from NJ towns
- Septic system owner education references
- And much more!

This is the only publication available that addresses septic system management for municipalities. It's available for download from the ANJEC website at www.ANJEC.org/pdfs/SepticSystemMgt.pdf



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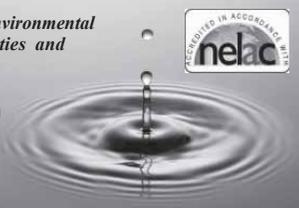
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