

Workshop Descriptions

Morning Session

MOVING FORWARD ON ENERGY IN NEW JERSEY – Auditorium

Municipalities can be key players in the new landscape for renewable and carbon-free energy. New Jersey's draft Energy Master Plan outlines a path forward to achieving Governor Murphy's goal of 100 percent clean energy by 2050. Community solar allows one solar installation to serve many customers, making it a desirable option for those whose rooftops are not well-suited for solar, including for renters and multifamily residents who cannot install solar. Wind energy provides 100 percent clean renewable energy, and NJ recently awarded a project bid for the largest offshore wind project in the nation. This session will provide an overview of the draft Energy Master Plan and discuss the multiple roles that municipalities can play in promoting clean energy projects.

- Hannah Thonet, Bureau Chief for Policy, Office of Clean Energy, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
- Amanda Nesheiwat, Environmental Director, Recycling Coordinator, Town of Secaucus
- Amber Hewett, Campaign Manager, Offshore Wind Energy, National Wildlife Federation
- Moderator: Nancy Quirk, Energy Program Manager, Sustainability Institute, The College of New Jersey

RAMPING UP FOR AN EV FUTURE IN YOUR TOWN – Room 116

Electric vehicles (EVs) are quickly multiplying in New Jersey, but we still have a long way to go to address our largest source of global warming emissions and air pollution -- cars, trucks, buses and heavy-duty vehicles. Putting more EV charging stations on our roads and in our downtowns will help us go the distance. Learn how NJ is charging ahead to electrify our transportation sector, how communities are moving forward with EV fleets and charging infrastructure, and what resources are available to help get it done.

- Pam Frank, Vice President, Gabel Associates
- Christine Symington, Program Director, Sustainable Princeton
- Scott Fisher, Vice-President, Greenlots
- Moderator: Doug O'Malley, Director, Environment NJ

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATE – Room 117

What's been going on in Trenton lately? How is the Murphy Administration and the Legislature making sure New Jersey's natural resources are protected for years to come? And how can you make a difference? Learn the latest news on the status of State rules and laws that affect your municipality; topics will include stormwater rules, greenhouse gas emissions, clean energy, and plastic pollution.

- Elliott Ruga, Policy & Communications Director, New Jersey Highlands Coalition
- Michael Pisauro, Policy Director, The Watershed Institute
- Alex Ambrose, Policy Associate, ANJEC

URBAN GARDENING/FARMING – Room 122

Urban residents are becoming more interested in gardening and farming as a way to supplement their diets and build community. In some low-income communities, farming has become a way to provide fresh produce that can be hard to find and also expensive. In urban NJ there are programs that help to end this predicament by turning unused space and lots into a food source. This workshop will highlight urban farms and gardens in Northern and Central New Jersey. Hear insights into their process and accomplishments, including some of the challenges they faced and how these types of projects can be implemented in any community.

- Gary Terzano, Chair, Hackensack Environmental Commission
- Karen Rutberg, Urban Farm Manager, Greater Newark Conservancy
- Meredith Taylor, Rutgers School of Environmental & Biological Sciences

OPEN SPACE PROGRAMS FOR 2020 AND BEYOND: Achieving Success Together – Room 123

Hear from Caldwell Environmental Commission (EC) regarding the ECs role in managing and supporting an open space program in a small community. Highlighting the community successes of the Caldwell environmental program including their pollinator stations, gardens, and pocket parks. The Land Conservancy will detail what a municipal open space plan is and how it can help inspire, motivate and accelerate a community's open space preservation program. Success stories from Caldwell and throughout the state will be shared. NJDEP Green Acres staff will discuss ROSIs and land stewardship and what Green Acres requires.

- Ann Marchioni, Co-Chair, Caldwell Borough Environmental Commission
- Barbara Heskins Davis, Vice-President of Programs, The Land Conservancy of NJ
- Nancy Lawrence, Green Acres Compliance Officer, Bureau of Legal Services and Stewardship, NJDEP

Workshop Descriptions Continued

Morning Session Continued

ENGAGE YOUR TOWN TO GO PLASTIC-FREE – Room 213

Get ready to learn and be inspired to make your town plastic-free. Learn from municipal champions about creating regional alliances. Hear how to connect with township government and local businesses along with other engagement strategies.

- Bruce Harris, Mayor, Chatham Borough
- Elizabeth Peer, Chair, Lambertville Environmental Commission
- Jessica Romeo, Chatham Township Environmental Commission

NATIVE PLANTS, INVASIVE PLANTS & POLLINATORS – Room 216

Discover which native plants are best and why, and when to plant and cultivate them. Learn how to identify, remove and prevent new invasive species from invading. For five years ANJEC has awarded Open Space Stewardship grants, with many resulting in creative pollinator gardens. Hear from an Environmental Commission how they made their pollinator garden successful, and created buzz!

- Deb Ellis, Essex County Chapter Founder, Native Plant Society of New Jersey and Master Gardener
- Michael Van Clef, Program Director, New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team and Stewardship Director, Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space
- Jenine Tankoos, Manalapan Environmental Commission

Afternoon Session

PROTECTING NJ COASTAL ZONES & COMMUNITIES FROM SEA LEVEL RISE – Room 116

Coastal zones in New Jersey are highly developed and heavily populated while also being vulnerable to sea level rise. Learn new and innovative natural methods that allow natural revegetation and living shorelines to provide protection. Workshop will discuss:

- Identifying areas appropriate for natural dune establishment that can improve resilience and minimize costs associated with engineering dunes;
- Considerations for living shorelines and examples of current projects including their goals, associated monitoring efforts and results.
- Ryan Rebozo Ph.D., Director of Conservation Science, Pinelands Preservation Alliance
- Joshua Moody, Ph.D., Restoration Programs Manager, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary

CREATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT – Room 117

Join us to learn about creative ways to manage stormwater in your municipality, including green stormwater infrastructure, stormwater utilities and a rain garden rebate program.

- Jaclyn Rhoads, Assistant Executive Director, Pinelands Preservation Alliance
- Christopher Obropta, Ph.D., P.E., Director, Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program
- Dan Bachalis, Hammonton Environmental Commission

SUSTAINABLE HOUSING FOR ALL: Build it like the future depends on it – Room 122

As New Jersey becomes ever more urban, housing options that are both affordable and sustainable need to be addressed to meet ambitious goals for greenhouse gas reduction. Our panelists will discuss sustainable building practices such as passive housing, address available green financing programs, and present green design case studies for low-income housing projects.

- Heidi Fichtenbaum, Senior Project Manager, Fairleigh Dickinson University; Princeton Environmental Commission
- Pam DeLosSantos, Assistant Director of Technical Services, New Jersey Housing & Mortgage Finance Agency
- Lauren Zullo, Director of Environmental Impact, Johnathan Rose Companies

WHY THE 2020 CENSUS MATTERS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSIONS – Room 123

The 2020 Census plays a key role in environmental justice issues, determining the distribution of \$23 billion annually in Newark, political representation in Congress, and producing planning data that help identify and target environmentally vulnerable communities. Programs ranging from hazardous waste management to water pollution control to beach monitoring depend on accurate Census counts to be distributed fairly across the United States. Please join local advocates and the U.S. Census Bureau to learn about how local environmental commissions can play a critical role in ensuring that their community has a fair count and fair voice in the 2020 Census.

- Peter Chen, Policy Counsel, Advocates for Children of New Jersey
- Jeff Behler, Director, New York Regional Office, U.S. Census Bureau

Workshop Descriptions Continued

Afternoon Session Continued

RECYCLING IN NJ: Status and Future Possibilities – Room 213

Recycling programs in NJ and around the country are in a state of crisis. Find out what measures are needed to address the crisis to insure that recyclable materials are getting recycled and staying out of landfills. Hear from MUA staff on how to ensure compliance with recycling rules in your municipality as well as tools and programs that can work to reduce plastic pollution and support recycling. Also, hear how an Environmental Commission has created a community wide campaign to reduce contamination in the recycling stream.

- Gary Sondermeyer, Vice President of Operations, Bayshore Family of Companies
- Amy Cook-Menzel, Communications Manager, Atlantic County MUA
- Terri and Dave Chiddenton, Waterford Environmental Commission

TOOLS FOR NJ HIGHLANDS REGION ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSIONERS – Room 217

Interactive Mapping and Grant Funding in Northwest New Jersey – Computer Lab

The New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council provides tools and funding to support a regional planning approach to land use and natural resource management. Environmental Commissioners can use the Council's free, online interactive map to explore a wide range of natural and built features of the Highlands Region (portions of Bergen, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren Counties).

This session will provide an overview of how to use this tool to gather data, create maps, and produce parcel-based resource reports. Participants will learn about Highlands Council planning grants available to municipalities and counties. Environmental commissioners can serve as vital conduits to municipal officials, educating them about the wide variety of planning grants available, including planning for stormwater management, master plan updates, redevelopment, lake management, land preservation, historic preservation, and much more.

- Lisa Plevin, Executive Director, New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council; Parsippany-Troy Hills Environmental Commission
- Keri Green, Science Manager, New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council
- James Humphries, Director of Planning and Science, New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council



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ANJEC and volunteer Environmental Commissioners.**



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