**IN-PERSON WORKSHOP SESSIONS – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13th**

**Workshop Session 1 – 10:30 a.m.**

**A 2050 vision for land protection and urban greening in NJ**

*One (1) NJ Community Forestry CEU Available*

*One point five (1.5) CMFO, CCFO, CPWM, RMC, and QPA CEUs Available*

As a national leader in land preservation, New Jersey has already preserved one-third of the state's land area. A new report lays out a vision for preserving 50% of the state by 2050 while making a major commitment to greening the state's urban areas over the same timeframe.

Speakers:

Michele Byers, former Executive Director, NJ Conservation Foundation

Tom Gilbert, Co-Executive Director, NJ Conservation Foundation

**New Jersey's New Inland Flood Hazard Protection Rules**

*One point five (1.5) CMFO, CCFO, CPWM, RMC, and QPA CEUs Available*

Hear all the details on the new Inland Flood Hazard Protection rules and regulations. Presenter from NJDEP will present to help answer questions and explain the requirements and actions required of municipalities.

Speaker: Michael Sheehan, Environmental Engineer, NJDEP, Division of Watershed Protection and Restoration, Bureau of Flood Hazard and Stormwater Engineering

**Navigating NJ’s Policy Landscape: Flood Policy & Open Space Funding Updates and Resilience Strategies**

*One point five (1.5) CMFO, CCFO, CPWM, RMC, and QPA CEUs Available*

Join us for an informative session on the latest New Jersey Flood Policy Updates. Our expert speakers will dive into critical topics such as Flood Defense strategies, Stormwater Utilities, and the NJ Keep It Green Initiative. Discover how new policies affect your community and gain valuable insights to navigate the evolving landscape of flood management and resilience. Don't miss this opportunity to stay ahead of the curve in flood policy awareness.

Speakers:

Ed Potosnak, Executive Director, NJ League of Conservation Voters

Lindsey Sigmund, Program Manager, NJ Future

**Addressing Water Quality Locally in a System Designed for Polluters**

*One point five (1.5) CMFO, CCFO, CPWM, RMC, and QPA CEUs Available*

Over 50 years after the passage of the Clean Water Act, New Jersey waterways remain staggeringly impaired (95% of NJ rivers and streams according to one report released in 2022) with even more hidden dangers not yet fully understood. Learn about some of the many contributors to the increased contamination of our source waters and what actions local governments and environmental commissions can take now to take back control of this precious resource.

Speakers:

Laura Norkute, Director of Water Quality and Environmental Compliance, New Jersey American Water

Jim Waltman, Executive Director, The Watershed Institute

**Hydrogen on the Renewable Energy Horizon**

*One point five (1.5) CMFO, CCFO, CPWM, RMC, and QPA CEUs Available*

Clean Hydrogen energy has the potential to help NJ meet renewable energy goals and reduce greenhouse gases. Join us for this workshop that will provide an overview of clean hydrogen technology and the path ahead for making it available as a renewable energy source in New Jersey.

Speaker:

Lathrop Craig, Senior Vice President & Chief Commercial Officer PSEG

**Workshop Session 2 – 11:45 a.m.**

**Warehouse Sprawl has arrived in New Jersey!**

*One point five (1.5) CMFO, CCFO, CPWM, RMC, and QPA CEUs Available*

Across our state, there has been a surge in warehouse proposals. Sprawl in the form of warehouses and other harmful activities are popping up in places that can’t handle the impact: undeveloped farmland, communities that already suffer terrible air pollution, and places that will make flooding worse.

Learn about resources for local officials and local volunteers to help control sprawl. Hear about grass roots projects around the state that can be effective in the process of preventing harmful development activities in your community.

Speakers: Colleen McGurk, AICP/PP, Senior Planner, Office of Planning Advocacy, NJ Business Action Center

Jason Howell, Public Lands Advocate, Pinelands Preservation Alliance

**How Environmental Leaders Can help Restore Biodiversity**

*One (1) NJ Community Forestry CEU Available*

Our planet is suffering from a biodiversity crisis: we are losing butterflies, bees, and birds at an unprecedented rate. As commissioners, you are in an important position to help! Learn about native plants, invasive species, and public pollinator gardens, as well as ordinances to promote native plants or limit polluting gas-powered leaf blowers. Learn how to encourage Volunteer Stewardship Teams to care for local parks through invasive species management and restoration. The talk will include guidance on how to create and implement concise stewardship plans.

Speakers:

Deb Ellis, Leader, Essex Co. Chapter, Native Plant Society of NJ

Michael Van Clef, Program Director, New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team

**Land Conversations: Underrepresented Voices, Indigenous Perspectives**

Tyrese "Bright Flower" Gould Jacinto will share her Indigenous perspectives on the value and importance of connections with land for cultural heritage and fostering a deeper understanding of injustices faced by Indigenous communities in cooperation with her non-profit, Native American Advancement Corp (NAAC), NJ Green Acres, NJ Conservation Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and Open Space Institute. Ty "Bright Flower" will share her experience working to secure 63 acres of land preserved this year to meet the needs of the NAAC.

Speaker:

Tyrese "Bright Flower" Gould Jacinto, President and CEO, Native American Advancement Corp.

Tammy Sands, Moderator, ANJEC Board of Trustees

**Climate Mapping - A Hands-On Computer Lab Training**

*One point five (1.5) CMFO, CCFO, CPWM, RMC, and QPA CEUs Available*

Hear about Rutgers University’s Climate Resource Center’s tools for Municipalities. The tools include NJ FloodMapper, NJ HazAdapt, and Climate Snapshots. This hands-on training will be an introduction to the platforms that communities can use to help plan for climate change vulnerability and increase resiliency.

Speakers:

Ashlyn Spector, Unit Manager at Rutgers University Bloustein School of Public Policy and Planning

Jonathan DeLura, Graduate Student/Research Assistant, Climate ADAPT, Rutgers University–Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy

**Land Use Tools for Environmental Commissions**

*One (1) NJ Community Forestry CEU Available*

*One point five (1.5) CMFO, CCFO, CPWM, RMC, and QPA CEUs Available*

Learn about a variety of model ordinances your municipality can use to protect natural resources in your community. Examples will include tree, riparian buffers, steep slope and other land use ordinances. These are critical tools in reviewing site plans and providing impactful feedback. We will also discuss stormwater ordinances to prevent flooding and other protect our water resources.

Speaker: Christopher C. Obropta, Ph.D., P.E. Extension Specialist in Water Resources, Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

**Workshop Session 3 – 3:00 p.m.**

**The new MS4 permit is here.  Are you ready?**

*One (1) NJ Community Forestry CEU Available*

*One point five (1.5) CMFO, CCFO, CPWM, RMC, and QPA CEUs Available*

As of January 1, 2023, all New Jersey municipalities are “Tier A” for the purposes of MS4 (Municipal Separate Stormwater System) permits.  The new Tier A MS4 permits require all municipalities to implement actions that will reduce polluted stormwater runoff and support improved water quality. This includes requirements for developing a watershed improvement plan, prohibition of herbicide application near waterways, adoption of a tree protection ordinance, inspection and maintenance of storm drains/catch basins, stormwater infrastructure, and enhanced public outreach and education.  Find out what you need to know from a NJPDES (New Jersey Pollution Discharge Elimination Discharge) expert at NJDEP.

Speakers:

Dan Kuti, Supervisor of the Municipal Stormwater Permitting Unit, NJDEP

Gabryella Pulsinelli, Environmental Specialist 2, NJDEP

**Striving Towards Zero Waste in NJ through Reducing Consumption**

*One point five (1.5) CMFO, CCFO, CPWM, RMC, and QPA CEUs Available*

What do food waste, recycling and plastics have in common? All these materials end up downstream. What upstream, local solutions can help reduce this waste? Join us for a discussion on the importance of education, current and pending legislation, and examples of community engagement. We'll discuss the benefits of the Recycled Content Law, the future of reducing plastic with the Packaging Reduction Bill, opportunities for food waste/donation, the importance of data metrics and the unveiling of Sustainable Jersey's new Waste Task Force Initiatives. Please come ready with your questions and projects!

Speakers:

Gary Sondermeyer, Vice President of Operations, Bayshore Recycling

N.Dini Checko, Project Director, ANJEC

**Access to Solar Through the Community Solar Energy Program**

*One point five (1.5) CMFO, CCFO, CPWM, RMC, and QPA CEUs Available*

Community Solar allows all NJ residents to have affordable access to renewable energy. After a successful two-year pilot program, the NJ Board of Public Utilities voted in August to establish a permanent program. Learn about how Community Solar works, ways to access a project, and how you can work with your municipality to increase access to residents in your community.

Speakers:

Tracey Woods, Energy Program Manager, Sustainable Jersey

Sawyer Morgan PhD, Research Scientist, Division of Clean Energy, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

**Improving Your Community with the Farmland Preservation and Green Acres Programs**

*One point five (1.5) CMFO, CCFO, CPWM, RMC, and QPA CEUs Available*

As New Jersey – the nation’s most densely populated state – continues to grow and develop, community leaders, environmental commissions, and land trusts are increasingly concerned about the loss of open space and productive farmland. These resources are important since they provide natural areas and quality parks close to where residents live and work and support local agricultural production. Does your community have a current Open Space & Recreation Plan and Farmland Preservation Plan? Do you know where and how to apply for funding assistance? Learn about land conservation concepts and how the state’s Green Acres Program, Urban Parks Program, and Farmland Preservation Program can help.

Speakers:

Andrew Szwak, Mid-Atlantic Program Manager, Land Trust Alliance

Cecile Murphy, Local & Nonprofit Assistance Bureau Chief, NJDEP Green Acres Program

Cindy Roberts, Outreach and Training Coordinator, State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC)

**VIRTUAL SESSIONS**

**Tuesday, Oct 17 7PM Virtual Webinar:**

**Tackling Climate Change in NJ’s Urbanized Coastal Communities**

*One point five (1.5) CMFO, CCFO, CPWM, RMC, and QPA CEUs Available*

In response to increasing sea level rise and more severe storm events affecting NJ’s highly urbanized coastal regions, the coastal team at Kean University are researching three major issues: 1) shoreline erosion and shore protection; 2) water quality assessment and chemical-biological interactions; and 3) social-environmental inequities in climate adaptation and urban redevelopment initiatives. Their team will present findings and case studies of several coastal towns, highlighting the importance of integrating scientific knowledge, social equity, and policy to comprehensively tackle NJ’s coastal issues.

Speakers:

*Jun Cheng*, Ph.D. Assistant Professor at Kean University - Department of Environmental and Sustainability Sciences

*Shuting Liu*, Ph.D, Assistant Professor at Kean University - Department of Environmental and Sustainability Sciences

*Gailia Shokry*, Ph.D, Postdoctoral fellow in Environmental & Sustainability Sciences at Kean University

**WEDNESAY, OCTOBER 18 NOON:**

**Collaborative Land Conservation** **& Stewardship**

*One point five (1.5) CMFO, CCFO, CPWM, RMC, and QPA CEUs Available*

Successful partnerships are critical to preserving, stewarding, and making open spaces in NJ more accessible. Join us to learn more about how successful collaboration between land trusts, municipalities, and community partners leads to land protection and greater access in New Jersey. We will share inspiring examples of collaborative conservation and provide information on how environmental commissions can play an important role in fostering partnerships that lead to successful land conservation.

Speakers:

Mara Tippett, Associate Director, Raritan Headwaters

Sean Kane-Holland, Nature and Disability Advocate, Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Jennifer Coffey, Executive Director, ANJEC

**Wednesday, October 18, 7 pm:**

**We’re going to need a bigger boat: funding stormwater management in the age of increasing, intense rainfall**

*One point five (1.5) CMFO, CCFO, CPWM, RMC, and QPA CEUs Available*

Do you have stormwater challenges in your town? Does it seem like the challenges are only becoming greater? Over 2,000 communities across the country have established stormwater utilities as a tool to help with water quality compliance, flood mitigation, and to manage and maintain stormwater infrastructure.

This session will highlight how your community can explore available options, starting with analyzing how you are meeting your present challenges, the benefits of enacting a stormwater utility; and the impact this could have on your municipal budget and stormwater control practices.

Speakers:

Elizabeth Treadway, Senior Vice President WSP USA

Andrew Nowick, Mayor, Lambertville

**Thursday, October 19, 7pm:**

**PR-omoting Greenery: Mastering Environmental Policy Communications**

*One point five (1.5) CMFO, CCFO, CPWM, RMC, and QPA CEUs Available*

Want to reach wider audiences, engage with your community, and raise awareness on crucial environmental policies? Discover the power of Virtual Environmental Policy Communications in this insightful session. Our expert speaker will explore effective strategies for amplifying your environmental message by engaging the press, utilizing social media, and harnessing digital tools to drive positive change.

Speaker: Sunni Vargas, Campaign Manager, NJ League of Conservation Voters