



2024 Workshop Schedule & Descriptions

*****Continuing Education Credits (CEUs/CECs) are listed below each workshop.**
*****In addition to those listed below there are five (5) credits available for Certified Floodplain Managers, for the Environmental Congress as a whole.**

1st Morning Session 10:30-11:30am

Citizen Scientist Opportunities for Environmental Commissions & Volunteers

Learn about programs and tools for citizen science data collection. The MyCoast NJ app is a tool that communities all across NJ can use to track flood events, share flood stories, monitor shorelines, and access local tidal information. Also, Harmful Algal Blooms are popping up in NJ all through the year and damaging waterways and injuring animals/plants and people! Hear about tools and resources to track and report these events and contribute to the crowd sourcing of information.

Devon Haines, Environmental Specialist, Bureau of Climate Resilience Planning, Coastal Management Office, NJDEP.

Amanda Archer, Coastal Training Program Coordinator, Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve

Fred Lubnow, Ph.D. Senior Technical Director of Ecological Services, Princeton Hydro

***DCA/Muni Govt Services: CMFOs: 1.0 Office Management & Ancillary Subjects, CCFOs: 1.0 Office Management & Ancillary Subjects, CPWMs:1.0 Government, RMCs:1.0 Professional Development, QPAs 1.0 Office Admin/General Duties**

Navigating NJ PACT & MS4: Mastering Municipal Ordinances for Compliance and Innovation

Developing strong environmental municipal ordinances is essential for protecting natural resources and ensuring compliance with state regulations. This session will explore essential municipal ordinances needed for addressing the NJPACT Rules, Stormwater Management Rules, the MS4 Permit and more. Ways to exceed state model ordinances will also be addressed.

Michael Pisauro, Policy Director, The Watershed Institute

Russell Furnari, Legislative Committee, NJ Native Plant Society

***One Clean Communities Council CEU**

***One NJUCF CEU**

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Busting Myths and Building Solutions: The Truth About Recycling, Microplastics, and Plastic Waste Reduction

Join us for an engaging workshop that addresses common misconceptions about the value of

recycling, explores the emerging issue of microplastics in construction dust, and highlights ordinances that support plastics reduction. Burlington County is home to the oldest recycling center and our speaker will offer insights into why plastics recycling is so complicated. Learn about the growing "Skip-the-Stuff" ordinances, which are gaining momentum across the state as they benefit businesses, customers, and the environment alike. This ordinance makes take out order accessories such as utensils upon request only. Also, hear from our speaker about the nation's first Clean Construction Dust ordinance.

Jesse Nicieza, CRP, Recycling Program Assistant, Burlington County Recycling Office

Brian Thompson, Monmouth Beach Environmental Commissioner, Beyond Plastics National Advisory Board Member

***One Clean Communities Council CEU**

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Protecting Your Drinking Water Quality: New Rules and Solutions for PFAS

Emerging contaminants like PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) pose a significant threat to water quality due to their persistence in the environment and potential health impacts. With New Jersey's water systems facing increasing challenges from these contaminants, understanding regulatory frameworks and remediation techniques is crucial for safeguarding public health and the environment. Learn about the new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rules on PFAS and innovative remediation strategies. Dr. Lauren Weinrich from American Water will delve into the latest EPA regulations surrounding PFAS, highlighting their significance and impact on water quality in New Jersey. Dr. Paul Hatzinger from the Biotechnology Development and Applications Group will then explore cutting-edge PFAS remediation strategies and ongoing research efforts.

Paul Hatzinger, PhD, Director, Biotechnology Development and Applications Group

Lauren A. Weinrich, Principal Scientist, Research & Development, American Water

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2nd Morning Session: 11:45am-12:45pm

Pathways to Adventure: Creating Bike Trails for a Greener Future

Come join our experts who are paving (and unpaving) the way for robust biking and walking trail networks in northern and southern New Jersey. Find out more about the Greenway going from Jersey City out to Montclair, and the ambitious Camden to the Cape project which will one day allow people to bike from Philadelphia all the way to Atlantic City.

Maggie McCann, Administrator, Office of Urban State Parks & Initiatives, NJDEP

Shawn Megill Legendre, Manager, Regional Trails Program, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

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Restoring New Jersey's Landscape: How environmental commissions can tackle invasives and drive the change to ecologically sound landscaping.

Environmental commissions can help to locally address invasive species, archaic landscaping practices, and drive the ecological change we need in our communities. Hear from Mike Van Clef of the Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space, leaders in the battle against invasive species in New Jersey, about the extent of our state's problem and the steps we can take to turn the tide. You will also hear from Richard McCoy, owner and founder of Richard A. McCoy Horticultural Services, about how environmental commissions can drive the necessary transformation in the landscaping industry to mutually beneficial, scientifically informed practices that help address climate change, stormwater runoff, and water quality while also restoring beautiful native habitat for all of New Jersey's residents.

Michael Van Clef, Director, Invasive Species Strike Team

Richard McCoy, Owner/Founder, Richard A. McCoy Horticultural Services

***One NJUCF CEU**

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NJ's Latest Environmental Policy Updates: Flooding and Open Spaces

Explore the latest in environmental policy, including open space funding successes, advocacy strategies, and updates on NJPACT and stormwater regulations. Stay informed on critical changes and their impact on our communities and the environment.

Allison McLeod, Senior Policy Director of NJLCV

Vince Mazzei, NJ State Floodplain Administrator

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Exploring New Jersey's Offshore Wind Projects

Join us for a panel discussion featuring experts from the three leading offshore wind projects in New Jersey: Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind Project 1, Attentive Energy Two, and Leading Light Wind. This workshop will provide an overview of each project, including their locations, development timelines, regulatory processes, and other key information. Panelists will discuss the challenges and opportunities faced during the development and operation of these large-scale renewable energy projects and provide an opportunity for questions from the audience.

Michael Porto, Senior Director, External Engagement, Offshore Development, Invenergy

Karen Imas, Senior External Affairs Manager, Offshore Wind US – Attentive Energy

Crystal Pruitt, External Affairs Lead, Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind

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Power to the future -- EVs and the Energy Master Plan

Reduction of carbon emissions drives NJ's bold climate action goal of achieving 100% clean energy by 2050. Find out how electric vehicles are helping to ensure NJ's clean energy future and learn about the state's strategic vision, outlined in the EMP, emphasizing sustainability, economic growth and environmental protection.

Pamela Frank, CEO, ChargEVC

Henry Gajda, NJBPU Deputy Chief of Staff

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Afternoon Session: 2:45pm-3:45pm

Stormwater Projects in NJ: Successes & Reporting Techniques Moving Forward

Hear about the green infrastructure projects in New Jersey and how cleaning the water throughout the state will continue to contribute to a healthier environment. Learn how to measure the success of your green infrastructure installation(s) using citizen science tools like iNaturalist and low cost water quality monitoring techniques

Dr. Chris Obropta, PE., Director Rutgers Water Resources Program

Stephen Elliott, Water Outreach Specialist, Pinelands Preservation Alliance

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Managing and Maintaining a Successful Environmental Commission

How to plan and set your goals and keep them. Learn successful recruitment strategies to tap into and encourage the most knowledgeable and passionate volunteers. It is essential that Environmental Commissions are accessible and known in their respective communities. Community outreach and engagement, including social media, programs, events, and resources, is the pathway for Environmental Commissions to create awareness regarding the purpose of ECs and to build local environmental culture. This workshop is an exploration into successful outreach and engagement strategies being utilized currently by the Pitman EC and Brick EC.

Francesca Mundrick, Community Outreach Commissioner, Pitman Environmental Commission

Tony Kono, Chair, Brick Environmental Commission

****One NJUCF CEU***

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Blueprint for Progress: Reimagining Municipal Zoning for a Thriving Community

Come learn how to review your municipal zoning so you can provide feedback through the Master Plan revision process. Discover how to review your zoning through the lens of land use planning. Our experts will show you how environmental commissions can provide meaningful impact on zoning issues that could help prevent warehouse overdevelopment and other environmentally related impacts.

Paul Gleitz, PP/AICP, Supervisor, Land Preservation and Planning, Monmouth County Park System

Leah Furey Bruder, PP/AICP, Principal Planner, LFB Land Planning

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