

Inside:

- **Congratulations, Environmental Achievement Award winners!**
- **LaTourette:
The power of shared resolve**
- **What your town needs to know
about WIPs**
- **Renewable energy – what's next?**



ANJEC
*Executive
Director*
Jennifer Coffey
Photo by Taylor McFarland

Director's Report

Congratulations to Governor-elect Mikie Sherrill, newly and re-elected members of the New Jersey Assembly, and municipal officials across the great State of New Jersey! We are looking forward to working with our new Governor, State and local officials to create healthier communities by protecting and restoring our shared environment.

But first...there's lame duck. The period between the day after the election until newly elected officials are sworn in on January 20, 2026, is known as the lame duck session. This is a weird and wonderful time when previously stalled bills can move quickly through the legislative process. ANJEC has identified a list of lame duck priorities and we need your help calling and emailing Governor Murphy and various legislators ASAP. After January 20, all pending legislation expires and needs to start over. So, it's go time!

Look on our website (<https://anjec.org/action-alerts/>) for sample emails and calls that we hope you'll use to help move these bills forward.

ANJEC lame duck priorities – 2025-26

1. **New Jersey Protecting Against Climate Threats Resilient Environment and Landscapes (NJPACT REAL) Rules:** Creates more resilient communities by strengthening land use planning and regulation to incorporate climate change/flooding impacts.
2. **Clean Energy Act (S237/A140):** Establishes New Jersey 100 percent clean energy standard by 2035.

3. **Food Waste Reduction Law (S2426/A2090):** Requires county solid waste management plans to reduce food waste.
4. **Skip the Stuff Act (S3195/A5157):** Prohibits providing single-use utensils and condiments except upon request, for food takeout and delivery.
5. **Open Space Conservation Tax Incentive Act (S3287/A197):** Allows income tax deduction for sale of property for conservation purposes.

ANJEC is also working with other organizations to support a roster of appointments to various committees and commissions, including the Pinelands Commission and the New Jersey Highlands Council.

It is critical for the public health, safety and welfare of NJ residents and businesses that we not only finish the Murphy Administration and this Legislative session with laws that support environmental and community health but also that Governor-elect Sherrill and the Legislature take environmental policies seriously. That's why ANJEC has partnered with the New Jersey LCV Education Fund (NJLCV EF) to identify and outline the key environmental challenges and policies our next Governor and class of Legislators should pursue.


Enviro Fix in '26

Enviro Fix in '26, is a comprehensive and nonpartisan environmental agenda designed to set the priorities for our State's next governor. This bold agenda highlights a series of next steps that will protect NJ's clean air, drinking water and existing

natural resources – while lowering costs for working families and creating jobs for union workers. Enviro Fix in '26 brings together environmental, public health, faith and local community advocates to lay out key environmental and health issues facing New Jersey in 2026 and beyond.

Enviro Fix in '26 focuses on six key goals: building and modernizing a clean energy future; safeguarding NJ families and businesses from climate change and investing in resilient communities; ensuring that all New Jerseyans are able to breathe clean air; preserving open spaces and expanding access to parks; expanding public transportation with clean and reliable options so everyone can get around, regardless of their ZIP code; and safeguarding our statewide clean water resources. Learn more at <https://www.njlcvef.org/fix-in-26/hub/>


Jennifer M. Coffey (she/her)
Executive Director



ANJECREPORT

Local Environment Matters

Library Subscription

\$18.00

ISSN 1538-0742

Vol. 46 / No. 1

WINTER 2026

564 MUNICIPALITIES ONE ENVIRONMENT

Executive Director Jennifer M. Coffey

Editor Julie Lange Groth

The mission of ANJEC is to promote local action to protect and restore New Jersey's natural resources and to ensure healthy communities for today and the future. ANJEC advances its mission by engaging in equitable and inclusive practices through leadership, partnerships, education, advocacy for strong public policy, and in support of environmental commissions, public officials, and communities throughout New Jersey.

The REPORT welcomes articles and photographs but is not responsible for loss or damage. Opinions expressed by guest authors do not necessarily reflect ANJEC policy. Articles may be reprinted with permission and credit. Please address correspondence to ANJEC REPORT, PO Box 157, Mendham, NJ 07945; tel: 973-539-7547. E-mail: info@ANJEC.org. Website: www.anjec.org.

In this issue:

2 Director's Report

4 MS4 watershed improvement plans

6 Surprising story of renewables – and what's next

8 Acting Locally

Special section:
2025 ANJEC
Environmental Congress

11 Resolve: The strength that carries NJ forward

14 Stormwater utility goes live

16 2025 Environmental Achievement Awards

20 The Faces of the ANJEC Environmental Congress

24 ANJEC's 2025 Candace McKee Ashmun Environmental Legacy Award: Ted Chase

25 Landmark PFAS settlements in NJ

26 Connecting our landscapes with wildlife in mind

28 Atlantic sturgeon in lower Delaware River face extinction


30 Remember to renew ANJEC Membership for 2026

31 Remembering Ralph Tolomeo

32 ANJEC receives 2025 Governor's Environmental Excellence award

39 2026 Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions Training

On the cover: *Island Beach State Park dunes*
Photo by Dwight Hiscano

 SUSTAINABLY PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

ANJEC REPORT – Winter 2026 3

MS₄ watershed improvement plans:

Blueprints for environmental restoration and resiliency

By Dr. Stephen Souza, Clean Water Consulting, LLC

The acronym MS₄ pops up routinely when discussing flood control, stormwater management and climate change resiliency. You may still be asking though, what is MS₄ and how does that affect my community? MS₄ stands for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System; the physical means by which stormwater runoff is collected, concentrated, conveyed and managed before being discharged to an aquatic receiving system.

In 1999, Phase II of the federal *Clean Water Act* called for the proper management of stormwater runoff to reduce flooding, decrease nonpoint source (NPS) pollution and improve the ecological integrity of the nation's surface waters and wetlands. Each state was directed to adopt policies and regulations consistent with and supportive of the federal MS₄ requirements.

Since 2004, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has mandated municipal compliance with MS₄ requirements via the provisions set forth in the New Jersey Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) general permits authorizing stormwater discharges. Initially the NJPDES permits for municipalities focused mostly on cataloging and mapping their stormwater collection system and its major outfalls. MS₄ compliance has expanded since 2004, to include the adoption and promotion of green infrastructure practices aimed at

lessening the flooding and water quality impacts caused by both existing and new development.

Important dates for municipalities

The most recent update to NJ's MS₄ requirements and associated NJPDES MS₄ permits was promulgated in 2023. A key component of the updated municipal permit is the watershed improvement plan (WIP) to be submitted to DEP by December 1, 2027. The WIP is based on two other documents, the watershed inventory report (WIR), due January 1, 2026, and the watershed assessment report (WAR), due January 1, 2027. Think of the WIR as a detailed assessment of a municipality's entire public stormwater collection and management system (not just the outfalls). The WIR must also identify, locate and categorize any scoured stream segments that have become eroded due to the discharge of stormwater runoff.

Think of the WAR as a detailed list of all the MS₄ projects needed to minimize flooding, improve water quality and correct stream scouring and other storm-related environmental impacts. The WIP is based upon the information and data contained in the WIR and WAR. Think of the WIP as the blueprint for how the impairments identified in the WAR will be scheduled, funded and implemented. Specifically, the WIP is meant to help municipalities:

- decrease, control and/or eliminate flooding;
- improve the water quality of all waterways, but especially impaired waterbodies (i.e. those identified in the State's 303(d) report); and
- meet established total maximum daily load goals.

This may seem like a lot to ask but, in reality, MS4 compliance helps communities become less flood prone and more resilient to projected climate change-induced environmental perturbations.

Remember the four Rs

Achieving MS4 compliance through implementation of the Watershed Improvement Plan is facilitated by applying the "Four R's" of proper stormwater management:

- **reduce** flooding and nonpoint source pollutants;
- **retrofit** existing stormwater systems using green infrastructure practices to decrease runoff volume, remove particulate and dissolved pollutants, and recharge precipitation;
- **repair** impaired ecosystems by removing structures from floodplains and floodways, reconnecting streams to their floodplains and repairing eroded streams as well as degraded riparian corridors, wetlands and wetland buffers; and
- **restore** ecological services (the societal benefits) and ecological functions (the

natural benefits) of floodplains, riparian areas, wetlands and waterways, including lakes and reservoirs.

Because flooding, water quality and ecosystem impacts are not defined or limited by municipal boundaries, WIPs should ideally be regional in context. Thus, municipalities located within a given watershed should work together in the development and implementation of the WIP. It should also be noted that the DEP requires the public to be engaged, informed and involved in the preparation of the WIR, WAR and WIP.

This is a perfect opportunity for municipal environmental commissions (ECs). Quite often ECs already know where flooding, water quality impairments and environmental issues exist and have a good understanding of the community's needs, so ECs should be active participants throughout the MS4 process, especially during preparation of the WIP. ANJEC has already created various materials to help environmental commissions navigate and achieve MS4 compliance: <https://anjec.org/stormwater-management/>.

In conclusion, MS4 compliance is intended to not only correct flooding problems but also help reduce water quality impairments and restore riparian, wetland and aquatic environments. The cumulative results of these efforts are safer communities, healthier waterways and more climate resilient ecosystems. 💧

Green infrastructure practices, like this newly planted rain garden at the Alice Paul Institute in Mount Laurel Township, decrease runoff volume, remove particulates and dissolved pollutants, and recharge precipitation.

Photo by Stephen Elliott



The surprising story of renewables – and what's next for NJ

By **Doug O'Malley**, Director, Environment New Jersey

As 2025 comes to an end, the mantra has become incessant from Washington: clean, renewable energy is out, and dirty fossil fuels are back. This is not only messaging from the Trump Administration – the large tax bill passed by Congress and signed by President Trump rolled back Biden-era tax incentives for wind and solar installations, electric vehicles (EVs) and other renewable energy products. And the effort starting on his first day in office has put a target on offshore wind developers and stalled progress for wind projects off the Jersey Shore.

The fallout is shown by International Energy Agency's analysis that clean energy demand in the next five years will be nearly 50 percent less than a year ago. But this hides an unshakable fact – even with the attacks on clean, renewable energy, it keeps growing across the country and in NJ.

Renewables make up 91 percent of new capacity added to the US grid in the first half of 2025. In March, clean energy sources generated over half of the US electricity for the

first time on record, driven by record highs in solar and wind power.

New Jersey is no exception. We generate 166 percent more solar power than we did in 2014, according to Environment America's Renewables on the Rise report (<https://environmentamerica.org/center/resources/renewables-on-the-rise-4/>). This increase means we can power nearly 300,000 more homes with clean energy. And battery storage, while still small, is increasingly becoming part of our energy mix. EVs, which can provide critical grid resiliency, continue to expand in NJ, with more than 250,000 electric vehicles on the roads by this summer.

The irony is that clean energy is growing while also being cheaper to install than traditional fossil fuels. In a highly charged political environment around our skyrocketing utility bills, the truth is that our regional electric grid is vulnerable because

Renewable energy comprises about 91 percent of new capacity added to the US grid.

Photos on pages 6 and 7 by Pixabay.





ongoing EV incentives that allow drivers to receive up to \$4,000 to buy new EVs.

All these programs allow towns or their residents to expand clean energy, reduce their energy use, green their transportation

clean energy projects are waiting to be hooked into the regional PJM electric grid. The NJ Board of Public Utilities says there are 77 stalled clean energy projects in NJ alone.

So what clean energy projects are getting onto the grid? Community solar has ramped up and hopefully we will see similar growth for energy storage, which provides a critical repository for renewable energy until it's needed. In August, Gov. Murphy signed legislation to expand community solar to nearly a half million more NJ residents, which will provide lower bills for households that couldn't otherwise install solar. The Governor also signed legislation to ramp up large-scale energy storage projects to generate 2,000 megawatts by 2030.

What towns can do

Most of the progress for NJ can be traced to the funding provided for the last 25 years through the Clean Energy Fund and for the last six years through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. These programs allow for the much-needed expansion of energy storage and projects that save townships money (<https://njcleanenergy.com/>), like the Energy Savings Improvement Program for energy efficiency for buildings, the Clean School Bus program that provides grants to towns for electric school buses, the Comfort Partners weatherization program for low-income homeowners, and the

– and save money in the process. Towns can also explore community aggregation to allow clean energy to be the default option for all town residents for energy, and to promote community solar options for guaranteed rate savings.

During the lame duck session, there is still a chance for the NJ Legislature to act on pending bills making solar permitting smarter and faster and setting stronger carveouts for solar and energy storage production. The proposed legislation also establishes a 100 percent clean electricity standard with more production in-state while restricting fossil fuel generation and air and climate pollutants.

NJ historically has been a leader in clean energy, but we are not immune to national trends. Economic uncertainty and punitive federal policies are putting increased pressure on clean energy companies. In this environment, State policies and funding are more important than ever and towns should take advantage of these programs and advocate that these funds are not raided to fill other budget holes. We are well into the clean energy transition – but we clearly control the shape and speed it will take. 🌊

More information

- NJ Clean Energy Program – www.njcleanenergy.com/
- New legislation to address regional energy cost crisis – www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562025/approved/20250822a.shtml

Acting Locally



By **Stephen Elliott**, ANJEC South Jersey Project Specialist;
Jennie Aylward, ANJEC volunteer; **Michele Gaynor**, ANJEC Resource Center

Jersey towns voice support for the Green Amendment

Across New Jersey, local governments are taking action to strengthen residents' rights to a clean and healthy environment. In recent months, Camden County, Bordentown, Cherry Hill and Oaklyn have each passed resolutions supporting the New Jersey Green Amendment (ACR119, SCR43 SCA (1R)), which would add environmental rights to the State Constitution.

The proposed amendment would recognize that every person has a constitutional right to clean air, pure water and a healthy environment. By elevating environmental protection to the same level as civil liberties, the amendment would empower New Jerseyans and local communities while also requiring government agencies to consider long-term ecological impacts in their decisions.

On the Bordentown Township website, Mayor Eric Holliday emphasized the local importance of environmental stewardship, saying, *"Clean water, breathable air, thriving ecosystems and beautiful natural spaces are part of what makes our community special."*

Cherry Hill Mayor David Fleisher echoed that sentiment during a council meeting, noting, *"Council and I are also pleased to support the proposed Green Amendment to the New Jersey Constitution, which will provide our residents additional constitutional rights to clean water, air and a healthy environment."*

At an August 2025 meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners, Camden County Commissioner Jeffrey Nash

spoke in favor of the amendment, stating, *"I think it is one of the most important initiatives that we can do environmentally. It sends a powerful message to government and residents that we will support clean air and clean water for generations going forward."*

By passing these resolutions, local leaders are sending a unified message to the State Legislature: environmental health is fundamental to public well-being. As more towns join the movement, New Jersey's Green Amendment continues to gain momentum, community by community, resolution by resolution.

– Stephen Elliott

Thanks to ANJEC member communities

We are grateful to the thousands of volunteers serving as local officials in more than 300 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, governing bodies, shade tree commissions and zoning boards – dedicate their time and efforts to assure a clean environment and high quality of life in their communities throughout our State. Thank you! 💧

From string trimmers to solar batteries, borrowing promotes sustainability in Princeton

Following years of advocacy to move the Princeton community away from gas-powered lawn equipment, the nonprofit organization Sustainable Princeton launched a lending library in 2024 to make battery-powered landscaping equipment and other sustainable home items more accessible to residents.

"This is really helping us to share resources, so that people reduce the items that they buy," said Lisa Nicolaison, a Sustainable Princeton Project Manager who runs the library. "It also builds resiliency, because people can borrow these items for free, like batteries, if the power goes out."

Growing strong

The library's collection has grown to include over 100 sustainability-focused items. In addition to the landscaping tools that were the cornerstone, patrons can borrow cooking equipment, power tools, reusable party supplies and more.

Nicolaison has advised other organizations on how to start their own "libraries of things." Factors to consider include the lending policies, the process for tracking items (Sustainable Princeton uses an application called myTurn), storage space and staffing. And now that the program is over a year old, a new consideration has popped up – wear and tear on the inventory.

Challenges of success

"Folks might borrow items, and then something is wrong, so we have to troubleshoot and find replacement pieces or repair.

It hasn't happened too often, and I would say mostly everyone has been very good with the items," Nicolaison said. But "...that is something we're experiencing now that we're a year into the program, and we're trying to think about making sure we have the funding for repair."

The library had made 492 loans of items to its 154 members as of October 22. Membership is free, and open to all Princeton residents and people employed by any nonprofit organization in Princeton.

– Jennie Aylward



Steven DelVecchio borrowed the popular chainsaw from Sustainable Princeton's lending library.

Photo by Becca Goldman

Revitalizing Mickleton Park

Located in East Greenwich Township, Mickleton Park was overtaken by invasive species, but it has recently become a gathering place for residents, visitors, garden clubs, environmental organizations and conservation groups.

The Environmental Commission (EC) led an effort to restore the park by making it a more usable and natural space and establishing it as a center for environmental learning. It originally comprised just over 10 acres and much of it was overrun with nonnative plant species. A multi-faceted project to rehabilitate and rejuvenate the park started in 2021 with the establishment of a pollinator garden and information kiosk. The garden, with over 60 varieties of native plants, is now the centerpiece of the EC's work. The kiosk displays rotating posters on environmental issues and has a supply of pamphlets for visitors. A nearby area serves as a native plant nursery where plants are cared for until they can be used to replace the invasive species.

Mickleton Park outdoor reading room

Courtesy of East Greenwich Township

Several high-maintenance areas have been replaced with low-usage grass and tree coverings surrounded by "soft landing" areas where native plantings are placed under regionally appropriate trees. Oaks are universally the key species to support moths and butterflies across the US. Soft landings provide shelter and habitat for life cycle stages of moths, butterflies and other beneficial insects. An auspicious addition to this space was a sapling from NJ's historic Salem Oak. The Oak's descendent is now thriving in Mickleton Park.

In 2024, almost seven acres were added to the park. Here the EC and Green Team created on an outdoor reading room (pictured). The 18 x 12-ft. gazebo contains a large library box with over 100 books for children to read while in the park. It offers a quiet place for kids to learn more about the natural world.

Ecological restoration continues in other areas of this park through collaboration by the Environmental Commission and Green Team and with help from the Public Works Department. They are able to sustain these ongoing projects with considerable planning, innumerable volunteer hours and grants from organizations like ANJEC, Sustainable Jersey and native plant and conservation groups.

— Michele Gaynor



Resolve: The strength that carries NJ forward

LaTourette reflects on DEP's progress and the power of shared resolve

By N. Dini Checko, ANJEC Resource Center

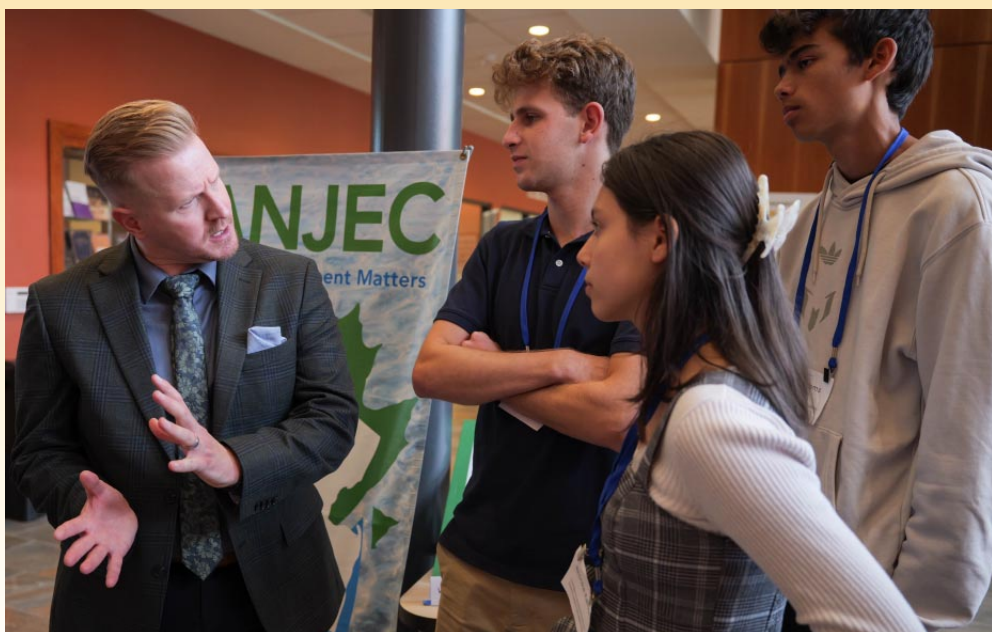
A favorite and frequent headliner at ANJEC's Environmental Congress throughout his tenure with Governor Murphy's administration, NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Shawn LaTourette is known for his passion, clarity and authenticity. He has inspired audiences with his understanding of New Jersey's environmental challenges and his determination to turn those challenges into progress. As he concludes his service under

Governor Murphy, he reflected proudly on the administration's many environmental accomplishments and shared a message centered on one powerful idea: resolve.

He said that resolve – defined as a firm determination to do something – has been the driving force behind DEP's work. It's

DEP
Commissioner
Shawn
LaTourette takes
a question from
the audience
Photos by Mattie
Cameron Rosen





DEP Commissioner Shawn LaTourette chats with attendees at the ANJEC Environmental Congress

Photos by Mattie Cameron Rosen

what turns good intentions into measurable progress, what transforms challenges into opportunities, and what fuels the belief that together we can leave this State better than we found it.

Here are some highlights of the Commissioner's tenure at DEP

1. Leading the nation on clean water standards

NJ continues to lead the nation with strong drinking water and clean water safety standards. The State was first to adopt regulations addressing PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), known as "forever chemicals." These actions have earned NJ national recognition for protecting public health through proactive policy, investment and innovation.

2. Holding polluters accountable

Under LaTourette's leadership, DEP secured a record-breaking \$2 billion environmental settlement – the largest ever achieved by a single state. The responsible companies agreed to fully remediate contamination at four industrial sites and pay \$875 million in natural resource damages (page 25). The funds will restore land, water and ecosys-

tems while supporting projects such as drinking water treatment and community abatement efforts.

3. Investing in water infrastructure

NJ is slated to receive \$168 million through the federal Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) grant. These funds will upgrade drinking water and wastewater systems in small, underserved and disadvantaged communities, ensuring clean, safe and reliable water for generations to come.

4. Safeguarding the State's water future

The 2024 update to NJ's Water Supply Plan confirmed that under normal conditions, water availability is stable – but long-term sustainability requires constant vigilance. LaTourette emphasized that climate change, aging infrastructure and emerging contaminants remain ongoing challenges. Stewardship, innovation and legislation must continue to reinforce one another to ensure every community has the water it needs to thrive.

5. Progress on combined sewer overflow (CSO) controls

For decades, combined sewer overflows

have threatened water quality and community health in urban areas. By the end of 2025, every CSO control plan in NJ will be approved. With a \$3 billion investment over 20 years, these plans will deliver cleaner waterways, greener neighborhoods and more resilient cities.

6. Robust Blue Acres Program

As storms grow stronger and flooding more frequent, NJ's Blue Acres Program continues to help families move out of harm's way. Especially with federal funding rollbacks for disaster relief, NJ is fortunate to have unique and dedicated support through NJ's Corporate Business Tax.

7. Building green spaces and partnerships

The Essex-Hudson Greenway – a nine-mile open space corridor and the State's first new park in two generations – is a powerful example of collaborative success. Partnering with Operation Grow Inc. and DEP's Greenway Pop-Up Garden, the initiative connects urban agriculture, youth leadership and community renewal – proof that environmental action and social connection go hand in hand.

8. Growing future environmental leaders

LaTourette expressed special pride in DEP's Youth Inclusion Initiative, launched in 2021 with 25 participants. By 2026, 100 young people will have graduated from the program, ready to carry forward NJ's environmental legacy. "They are our future resolve in motion," he said.


Reflecting on his tenure, LaTourette noted that every milestone shares a common thread: "Our resolve to leave this place better than we found it." He reminded attendees that environmental progress doesn't happen overnight, but through small, steady actions taken together. "Start with one thing," he urged. "Every little bit counts, whether you build one rain garden or electrify a fleet."

He added that NJ residents "...have been incredibly successful at getting hard things done," but the path forward requires sustained resolve, both individual and collective.

What can environmental commissions do?

LaTourette reaffirmed DEP's partnership with local leaders: "DEP stands with you always, asking communities how you want it to be and how you want us to work with you."

- Green Acres program: The 2026 funding round for land acquisition, park development and stewardship projects is now open through February 2026.
- New Jersey Funding One Stop Shop: This interactive tool connects communities with federal, state, local and utility funding for projects that cut emissions, save energy and improve air quality.
- Water conservation: Even though NJ is a water-rich state, this precious resource is finite. ECs can help spread awareness through initiatives like "Every Drop Counts," encouraging residents to conserve water. (dep.nj.gov/conserve-water/toolkit/)

Looking back on eight years of service, LaTourette offered a final reflection that captures the spirit of his work: "How well we prepare is a reflection of how we care for each other. Our resolve is our strength – it's what carries NJ forward." 



DEP Commissioner Shawn LaTourette with ANJEC Executive Director Jennifer Coffey

Photos by Mattie Cameron Rosen

Stormwater utility goes live

Raritan shares their experience with the new stormwater utility fee

By **Sheila Baker Gujral**, ANJEC Resource Center Director

Raritan Township is one of four NJ municipalities that have adopted a stormwater utility to fund much-needed stormwater management activities. (The other towns are New Brunswick, Maplewood and Carlstadt.) There has been a lot of talk about the benefits of stormwater utilities, but very little about the practical experience of implementing a stormwater utility in NJ. Recently, environmental commissioners had a chance to hear from Raritan officials about how their stormwater utility fee rollout has gone so far.

“Watershed Wisdom: Strategies for Sustainable Stormwater Systems” was presented at ANJEC’s 2025 Environmental Congress. The workshop opened with Dr. Chris Obropta from Rutgers Water Resources sharing the myriad ways that communities can improve the flow of stormwater through best management practices and green infrastructure solutions. Municipal officials with real world experience then addressed the perennial question of how to fund them.

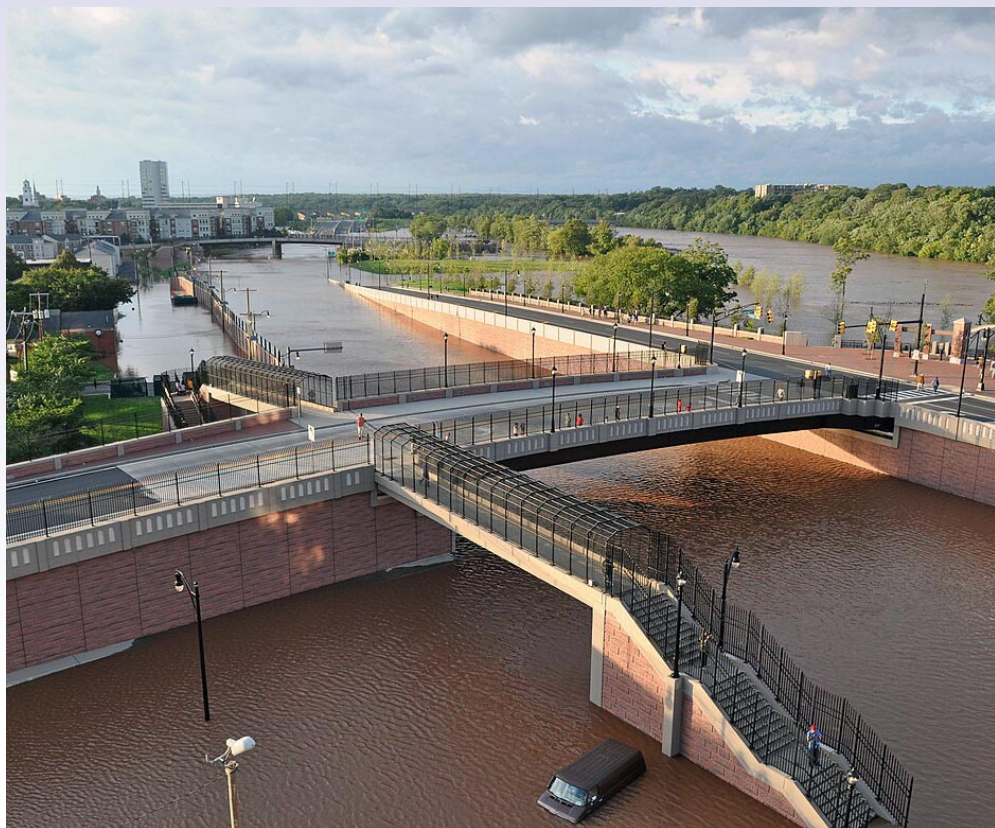
Raritan Township Administrator and former Councilwoman Karen Gilbert and John Tully, the municipality’s Supervisor of Stormwater Utility and Supervisor of Engineering & Information Technology, spoke at length about the process of forming a stormwater utility and the participation and reaction by the residents.

In brief, a stormwater utility is a mechanism that collects fees to fund stormwater management services, such as flood control and water quality protection. The fees are usually based on the amount of impervious cover on a property; the only exceptions are for agriculture and horticulture.

The Raritan Twp. experience

Raritan received a grant from NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to conduct a stormwater utility feasibility study that got the whole process jumpstarted. This was the springboard for both Raritan and Maplewood. Having the necessary information about their stormwater management system and a potential fee structure before moving forward with a discussion and decision was crucial. A critical motivating factor was the loss of life suffered by both towns during Hurricane Ida – Raritan lost six residents and Maplewood lost one.

Tully pointed out another key motivation: “We chose the utility option because we wanted it to be a fair and equitable assessment.” The fee is spread out among all entities in the municipality that are contributing to stormwater runoff – even organizations that receive municipal services yet don’t pay taxes, such as schools, hospitals, etc. All properties are subject to a fee for their contribution toward stormwater runoff.



The Raritan River in New Brunswick on August 28, 2011, after it flooded during Hurricane Irene.

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons


Another important factor that applies to many municipalities is that Raritan Twp. realized they needed funding to comply with the requirements of the MS4 Permit. Once they had the feasibility study in hand, they held a series of public engagement sessions to solicit feedback. They spent thousands of dollars on mailings and other outreach so that each resident was notified and would have the opportunity to discuss the new fee and share their viewpoints. They held three separate public engagement sessions, but only 22 people showed up out of a population exceeding 23,000. Why?

Tully and Gilbert said the mailers weren't taken seriously. When people (who spoke up about the fee after the fact) realized they had been informed ahead of time and invited to contribute to the process in a public engagement session, they said, "We

thought it (the mailer) was a joke." Despite an unfortunate turnout, officials took the input that they had.

Maplewood Environmental Advisory Committee Chair Bob McCoy mentioned that the experience in his town "...was much gentler than yours." He pointed out that the billing for their stormwater utility fee was added to the sewer bills, so it was not a new billing experience for their residents, just an additional line item. As Tully mentioned in his presentation, "The technical part was easy. The political part gets sticky." He also mentioned that the hardest part of the process was "dealing with the keyboard warriors" – those who missed the outreach presentations but found ample information on the Township website.

As with all stormwater utility fees, Raritan will have a credit program whereby

a resident or business can reduce the stormwater utility fee they owe by installing green infrastructure or otherwise reduce the impervious cover on their lot. The Township is now able to plan for considerable stormwater management tasks, and they know that they have a reliable, equitable, dedicated stream of funding to address the challenges. 

Resources:

- Tier A MS4 Stormwater Permit, NJ DEP: <https://tinyurl.com/yzz2436fd>
- Stormwater Utility Resource Center: <https://stormwaterutilities.njfuture.org/>
- MS4 Tier A Deliverables Timeline: <https://tinyurl.com/5cnkuhcs>
- Understanding the New MS4 Permit: <https://tinyurl.com/tkycc6dj>
- Stormwater Utilities Can Facilitate Green Infrastructure: <https://tinyurl.com/2ceew35h>

Special Section:

2025 ANJEC Environmental Congress

2025 Environmental Achievement Awards

Photos by **Mattie Cameron Rosen**

Environmental Commission (EC) Awards

Brick Township EC and Mayor Lisa Crate *Pick-up Brick*

“Building a cleaner tomorrow for Brick, one cleanup at a time,” is the tagline for Brick’s year-round anti-litter campaign called “Pick-up Brick,” led by the office of Mayor Lisa Crate. A collaboration of the EC and Green Team, the campaign’s two pillars are: education – promoting best practices to reduce litter; and action – to organize 15+ clean-ups per year. Mayor Crate has expanded the program to include local parks and also to focus on the hundreds of acres of preserved land that are difficult to maintain for parks and recreation staff.

Franklin Township EC *Strategic Planning for Energy Efficiency and Conservation* Franklin’s Community Energy Plan is a

parent document to a Micromobility Study that began in the Township in 2023. Both the Plan and study have focused on energy efficiency and conservation measures to improve the environment and overall community health. In 2020, the Township made a commitment to focus on an underserved community in the northeastern section of the town, and both the Plan and study incorporate this area. These projects demonstrate Franklin Township’s commitment and dedication to energy and natural resources conservation, learning about and addressing the needs of the entire community, and continued strategic planning.

Hainesport Township EC and Committeewoman Anna Evans *Environmental Resource Inventory* Hainesport’s Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) was almost 24 years old when the EC, along with the town’s Green Team, embarked on the project of updating it with support of Committeewoman Anna Evans. The 160-page document was developed with NJ-GeoWeb and NJ Map



The Hainesport Environmental Commission received an Environmental Achievement Award for their new ERI.

online tools and is accessible within the EC section of the Township’s website. Thanks to volunteers, the Township paid nearly nothing.

Madison Borough EC Neighborhood Pollinator Conversations

Members of the Madison EC decided that education wouldn’t be enough to convince residents in suburban NJ to adapt their front yards to include pollinator habitats.

pollinator habitats with native plants by inviting their neighbors to a talk. Six events have been held so far reaching about 120 community members; they were held in advance of the Great Swamp Watershed Association’s native plant sale, enabling guests to purchase after learning the basics.

Madison Borough EC won an achievement award for their neighborhood pollinator conversations.



Princeton EC

Green Development Checklist

Princeton launched its first Green Development Checklist in 2013 whereby developers would answer questions pertaining to environmental protection with either “yes” or “no,” but were not required to explain why. Ten years later, a task force of three EC members worked to update and improve the checklist to more accurately reflect the sustainably goals most important to the municipality and EC by adding “why” or “why not” to each question. After the revised checklist was adopted, the task force created accompanying documents to further educate developers by explaining why each item on the checklist is important to environmental protection

Roxbury Township EC

Black River Park and the Raritan Woods and Waterways Grant

Black River Park has long been treasured in Roxbury Township for its hiking trails and pond. In 2024 the commission became aware of an available opportunity called the Raritan Woods and Waterways Grant offered to restore the natural buffers along the North and South Branches of the Raritan River and their tributaries, including where Black River Pond is located. The grant was awarded in 2024 and plantings were installed in 2025 by a volunteer coalition of EC, Rotary Club and community members, as well as township officials.

Nonprofit Achievement Awards

Beyond Plastics New Jersey
Skip the Stuff Campaign

Beyond Plastics New Jersey is the local chapter of the national Beyond Plastics, a grassroots environmental team focused on

Friends for the Abbott Marshlands received an award in the nonprofit category for a project to rotect and provide access to the Abbott Marshlands



the reduction of single-use plastics through education and legislative change at the state and local levels. One priority initiative is the "Skip the Stuff" campaign, where plastic cutlery and condiment packages are only provided to customers upon request. This approach saves establishments money and reduces single-use waste. Beyond Plastics New Jersey, along with Clean Water Action, engaged ECs, Green Teams and youth to promote the efforts via a toolkit and case study. Twenty-five local Skip the Stuff ordinances have passed in NJ.

East Brunswick Township: Public Library, Friends of the EC and Sustainability Task Force

WeCycle and Recycling the Unrecyclable

The Public Library and the Friends of the EC in East Brunswick hosted a two-part lecture series presented by NJ Department of Environmental Protection staff, entitled "WeCycle," in the spring of 2025. It addressed proper waste disposal at home, the Recycle Coach app and the history and innovation of recycling. The lecture series demonstrated that community partners can tackle pressing local environmental challenges and help build a more informed, eco-conscious community. The Sustainability Task Force, a subcommittee of the East Brunswick EC, also coined an initiative called "Recycling the Unrecyclable." To reduce landfill waste, the Task Force has expanded options for recycling at the Township's recycling center by providing labeled collection bins for items that are not collected curbside.

Friends for the Abbott Marshlands

Protecting and Providing Access to the Abbott Marshlands

The Friends for the Abbott Marshlands (FFAM), community volunteers and seasonal interns have spent many months

improving seven trails in the 3,000-acre Abbott Marshlands, a New Jersey Natural Heritage Priority Site. FFAM rerouted two sections of trails totaling more than 700 feet that were significantly eroded from stormwater runoff and installed five boardwalks, four sets of steps and a raised earthen walkway. They also replaced two seven-foot boardwalks that were decaying and frequently flooded. These projects have improved the sustainability and accessibility of the trails by reducing the grade to lessen erosion and by addressing standing water along trails.

Honorable Mention

Hamilton Township EC:

Wing Haven Flower Meadow

Completed in 2025, the meadow is one of the latest endeavors installed by the EC, located in a large grassy field near the Township's public library and recycling facility. As the area is frequented by birds, two birdhouses are located nearby and are the reason for the meadow's naming.

Paramus EC:

Plastic Bag Ban

Under Tony Landa's leadership, the EC passed Paramus' local Plastic Bag Ban in 2020, laying the foundation and passion for the Commission's effectiveness today.

Sustainable Ringwood and Ringwood Green Team: Building Environmental Health and Resilience through Sustainable Landscaping

Ringwood's native plant demonstration garden near the public library educates residents on the benefits of native plants and composting through a series of presentations and activities under the Sustainable Landscaping initiative.

Stillwater Township EC: The 40-Year Surface Water Quality Report

Published in 2025, this report is a detailed
(Continued on page 22)

Faces of the 2025 ANJEC Env



Environmental Congress



2025 Environmental Achievement Awards

(Continued from page 19)

statistical analysis of key water quality indicators from multiple testing sites and offers a roadmap for future stewardship of the Township’s waterways.

The Unbridled Heroes Project (UHP): Saving Schedler

Led by CEO and dedicated conservationist Amy McCambridge, UHP advocated for saving Ringwood’s historic Schedler property from being clear-cut for an artificial turf field, and it now remains a mature forest and critical wildlife corridor.

2025 MUNICIPAL LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Neill Clark, Mayor, Sparta Township

Mayor Neill Clark has been very supportive of the Sparta EC, most notably improving

and expanding the trails system in and around the township. Clark appointed knowledgeable community members to form a “Trails Committee” to plan and organize. The Committee has used a \$2,000 grant from Sustainable Jersey for signage on the newest trail in the Sparta Glen and they are currently working on a trail that will connect Station Park to the Middle School as well as interconnecting some of the rail trails within Sussex County.

Hillary Goldberg, Council Member, Teaneck Township

Liaison to the Teaneck EC and Parks and Recreation Board, Council Member Hillary Goldberg is a champion of environmental advocacy. Goldberg has tirelessly researched and secured funds for a large-scale stormwater system for the Township, helped launch the current pilot composting program, is an advocate for pedestrian safety, and is working towards a noise ordinance restricting gas-powered leaf blowers. Goldberg is now actively working to preserve a large plot of land by the Hackensack River as open space.



Christoph Hesterbrink, Councilman, Leonia Borough

Councilman Christoph Hesterbrink has been a dedicated environmental steward and leader in Leonia for over two decades, consistently advancing the Borough’s vision of becoming a sustainable, resilient and “green” community. Hesterbrink served almost

Neill Clark, Mayor of Sparta Twp. accepts the Municipal Leadership Award from ANJEC Executive Director Jennifer Coffey.

Glen Ridge Mayor Debbie Mans (center) was recognized with a Municipal Leadership Award.



10 years on the EC, seven as Chair, before being elected to the Town Council in 2022. His work has included stormwater mitigation, protection of shade trees, eradicating invasive species, advocating for green-friendly zoning requirements, supporting bike lanes and electric vehicles, and a partial ban on gas leaf blowers. Hesterbrink's environmental work epitomizes how municipal officials can transform sustainability principles into real, lasting community impact.

Debbie Mans, Mayor, Glen Ridge Borough

Prior to becoming mayor, Debbie Mans was a member of the Glen Ridge Environmental Advisory Committee and, once elected to the Borough Council, was the liaison to the Committee. Mans has involved herself in many environmental initiatives, including the newly passed ordinance prohibiting gas leaf blowers from mid-May to mid-October, obtaining grant funds to study and address stormwater issues and development of a community compost dropoff location. For the last two years she has taken the National Wildlife Federation's "Mayors'

Monarch Pledge" to encourage and create pollinator gardens in the Borough.

Jannette Ramos, Councilwoman 4th Ward, Camden

Councilwoman Jannette Ramos has been instrumental in the "Camden Strong" initiative which tackles blight in the City of Camden. Specifically, Ramos has spearheaded the bulk waste initiative, which aims to safely and properly dispose of large items and tires with the goal of cleanliness and safety in the City. With promotional support from local nonprofits and businesses, Ramos has achieved maximum participation in disposal events. Each event has seen long lines with an average of eight to 10 tons removed. 🌱

2025 ANJEC Environmental Congress

ANJEC's 2025 Candace McKee Ashmun Environmental Legacy Award: Theodore (Ted) Chase

Ted Chase, who has served on the Franklin Twp. (Somerset) Environmental Commission since 1996, also served on the Council for more than a decade, where he earned the reputation as the governing body's Environmental Warrior. Chase also contributed his expertise on the Township's Planning and Zoning Boards for many years, consistently championing environmental protection. An inspiration to his community and all environmentalists around the State, Chase has exhibited tireless dedication and commitment to protecting NJ's natural resources. He truly embodies the character and strength of the award's namesake, Candace McKee Ashmun.

ANJEC's first executive director Candace Ashmun served a leadership role at ANJEC for over 40 years. She steadfastly supported ANJEC's goal of achieving responsible and sustainable use of the State's natural resources. Her dedication and expertise



*Candace McKee Ashmun Legacy Award winner
Theodore Chase with ANJEC Executive
Director Jennifer Coffey.*

Photo by Mattie Cameron Rosen

empowered ANJEC to provide leadership, education and support for environmental commissions and other local officials advocating for strong environmental protection and restoration. A tireless champion for NJ's environment, Candy was a longstanding, founding member of the New Jersey Pinelands Commission and a mentor to generations of environmental advocates and stewards. 🌊



*In honor of
ANJEC's Founder and
First Executive Director*

Candace McKee Ashmun Memorial Fund

ANJEC established the Candace McKee Ashmun Memorial Fund in her honor to support the **ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grant Program**. The annual program provides small grants to help environmental commissioners carry out local stewardship projects.



ANJEC.ORG/DONATE

To donate, use the QR code or mail a check to ANJEC, PO Box 157, Mendham NJ 07945.



By **Julie Lange Groth**, *ANJEC Report* Editor
and **Randi Rothmel, PhD**, ANJEC Project Director

Landmark PFAS settlements in NJ

The State of New Jersey reached a settlement in August valued at over \$2 billion to remedy long-standing contamination stemming from PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), also known as “forever chemicals,” as well as other pollutants originating from four Dupont-connected industrial sites. It is the largest environmental settlement ever achieved by a single state.

The affected sites are:

- Pompton Lakes Works, in Pompton Lakes and Wanaque;
- the Parlin site in Sayreville;
- the Repauno site in Greenwich Township; and
- the Chambers Works in Pennsville and Carney’s Point.

PFAS are synthetic chemicals that have been manufactured in the US since the 1940s. They are used to make a variety of household, consumer and industrial products. PFAS are classified as likely carcinogens; studies show that exposure to the chemicals may cause kidney, liver and testicular cancer, as well as autoimmune and endocrine disorders in adults. PFAS have also been linked to developmental issues affecting fetuses during pregnancy and infants who breastfeed.

“This landmark settlement will advance NJ’s nation-leading PFAS abatement efforts, improve drinking water quality and restore injured natural resources,” said Shawn LaTourette, Commissioner of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).



The Repauno site began as a DuPont explosives and chemicals facility. Courtesy Office of NJ Attorney General

This is the third major victory in PFAS-related litigation matters announced by the Attorney General in just over two years. In May, DEP reached a proposed settlement with 3M that will compensate the citizens of NJ with up to \$450 million for injuries to natural resources; to fund projects to address PFAS contamination of drinking water supplies and other environmental media across NJ; to reimburse DEP and other arms of the State for costs incurred to investigate and prosecute claims based on PFAS contamination; for consumer impacts; and for penalties and punitive damages.

In 2023, Solvay Specialty Polymers in West Deptford and co-defendant Arkema Inc. agreed to spend more than \$400 million to compensate the public for PFAS contamination.

— Julie Lange Groth

Connecting our landscapes with wildlife in mind

New Jersey's fauna, flora and wild places face a variety of challenges and threats. Through targeted conservation actions along with careful stewardship, we can

successfully address those issues. In 2025, the State undertook the second comprehensive review of its *Wildlife Action Plan* (SWAP). New Jersey Fish and Wildlife engaged over 100 conservation professionals and technical stakeholders across the State to review and revise the list of Species of Greatest Conservation Need and their habitats, identifying the priority threats in each region and creating actions to address those threats. In 2025 the SWAP focused on prioritizing both the threats facing NJ's species and habitats as well as the most important conservation actions needed to address them. More information about the SWAP can be found at <https://dep.nj.gov/swap/about/>

Lack of connectivity is one threat to wildlife as habitats are increasingly fragmented by roads and development. Landmark legislation signed last June requires the DEP and the NJ Department of Transportation (DOT) to establish a *Wildlife Corridor Action Plan* (WCAP) – this is a major step forward. The WCAP will include recommendations for wildlife-friendly transportation projects, and the bill provides \$90,000 in funding to support those efforts. By mandating a coordinated approach to identify and protect natural corridors, the State is investing in a

*Intense land-use damages the marshy habitat of the bog turtle (*Glyptemys muhlenbergii*).*

Courtesy of NJ DEP



Eastern Tiger Salamander

Photo by Kristen Meistrell



resilient landscape that supports communities, both human and wild.

“With the impacts of global climate change, animals struggle to find the natural resources they need to survive as they venture to traverse roadways for food and water,” said Senator Bob Smith, Chairman of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee. “This will help them to freely roam in search of food, water or shelter, without endangering themselves or drivers.”

Why the WCAP is important

- Nationwide, wildlife-vehicle collisions cost over \$8 billion annually. Wildlife crossings pay for themselves quickly in costs saved for emergency and medical assistance, property damage and loss of animals.
- One in five native species in the US is at risk of extinction and many species that are not protected by law are decreasing in numbers because of human encroachment, so habitat connectivity is critical.
- Over 100 million Americans spent \$150 billion on wildlife-related recreation in 2016 alone and, when managed well, recreation can assist with wildlife conservation.

Key components of the bill

New Jersey bills S3618 / A4926 will improve habitat connectivity and public safety in several ways by requiring the following:

- **study:** The bill requires a study to be conducted to identify wildlife corridors, wildlife-vehicle collision hotspots and barriers to wildlife movement along these corridors.

- **prioritization:** The WCAP must include criteria for prioritizing crossing projects that promote motor vehicle driver safety and wildlife connectivity.
- **building on existing State resources:** The bill allows for incorporation of relevant State databases and existing conservation strategies, including those from the 2025 SWAP and DEP’s “Connecting Habitats Across New Jersey” project (<https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/conservation/connecting-habitat-across-new-jersey-chanj/>).
- **future impacts:** The bill requires the consideration of wildlife corridor impacts in future road transportation projects, including strategies to mitigate these impacts.
- **coordinated action:** The WCAP will be spearheaded by the DEP and DOT with support from other State agencies, independent authorities and federal agencies, as well as conservation, environment and wildlife groups.

With this legislation, New Jersey has joined a growing list of states taking action on wildlife crossings and corridors to ensure better connectivity for wildlife and safer roads for people.

– Randi Rothmel



Atlantic sturgeon in lower Delaware River face extinction

By Cheryl Reardon, ANJEC Project Director

Earning the title “Dinosaur of the Delaware,” the Atlantic sturgeon has navigated the lower reaches of the Delaware River for millions of years. The Lenni Lenape, an indigenous people of the Delaware River Valley, consumed sturgeon as a valuable food source. The historical importance of sturgeon is documented for various Native Americans tribes, especially during their spring migrations when they moved into freshwater rivers to spawn.

The Delaware River was the caviar capital of the world in the late 19th century, when sturgeon was abundant and the river supported a booming global export of prized caviar. By 1871, there was even a little South Jersey town named Caviar with a rail line called the Central Railroad of New

Jersey bringing the delicacy to markets in Newark and New York City. The town of Caviar faded as overfishing and a variety of other assaults decimated sturgeon populations.

Now, with fewer than 250 spawning adults left, this iconic fish is dangerously close to extinction. Of the 10 northeast rivers that once hosted sturgeon spawning runs, only three still do: the Delaware, Hudson and Kennebec.

What’s killing the sturgeon?

Dredging projects have taken their toll on the species. Widespread pollution from industrial runoff and wastewater discharges stripped oxygen from the water and damaged spawning grounds. Climate

Atlantic sturgeon

Photo by Wrangel





Purple Dead Nettle
Photo by Wrangel

Walk on the wild side

Walking tours can help members of your community appreciate the local flora and fauna in a more personal way and understand the importance of protecting habitats. Consider asking local experts to guide trail walks, garden tours or birdwatching experiences. You could even host a wild edibles adventure focused on backyard foraging. Purslane, garlic mustard, purple dead nettle, dandelions and violets are just a few examples. Here's a good resource for potential speakers: <https://eattheplanet.org/foraging-tours-and-classes-in-new-jersey/>.

change is adding a deadly twist, warming river temperatures and making it even harder for water to hold the oxygen these fish need. Flowing freshwater has also been reduced by drought, which allows salty ocean water to push further upriver, shrinking the sturgeon's spawning habitat.

The Delaware River population is genetically unique and, even though sturgeon venture far into the Atlantic Ocean as adults, they always return to the river to spawn. Losing this special population weakens the resilience of the Atlantic sturgeon's population along the entire East Coast, reducing genetic diversity essential to long term survival

"They're literally getting slammed from all sides, at every level of their life cycle," says Maya van Rossum, founder of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and 30-year advocate for the river's Atlantic sturgeon. The Atlantic sturgeon is now listed as endangered under the *Federal Endangered Species Act*, but this designation alone will not save them. Limiting the unintended bycatch of sturgeon during commercial fishing, curbing destructive dredging projects and raising oxygen levels in the river are important to the sturgeon's survival. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network has advocated for years to raise oxygen

standards and reduce pollution, even petitioning the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to enforce stricter limits. In July 2025, a federal judge signed off on the Delaware Riverkeeper Network's Joint Motion for Stipulated Judgment in its petition to the EPA. This judicial order created a legally binding deadline for EPA to finalize water quality standards for the Delaware Estuary by September 22, 2025. Hopefully the EPA will act quickly and forcefully enough to keep the Atlantic sturgeon from falling over the edge into extinction. Avoiding the worst effects of a warming planet is essential to saving the sturgeon and the other wonderful creatures that dwell in the Delaware River – and that will require a major shift in national policy. You can join the fight! Visit dinointhedelaware.org to see alerts about when and how to participate in public decision-making. Please also visit <https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/conservation/atlantic-sturgeon-conservation/> to report a sturgeon sighting in NJ. 🐟

Remember to renew ANJEC Membership for 2026

By **Georgia Madiba**, ANJEC Membership Manager

As a member of ANJEC, your environmental commission (EC) joins a statewide network of local groups who work to protect NJ's natural resources and ensure that the environment has a strong voice in local government. Education is at the core of ANJEC membership; members are empowered with in-person and online training that provides strategies to address current environmental challenges, plus resources and toolkits to successfully complete environmental projects, guides to advance local policies based on best practices, and updates on statewide policy.

Membership benefits

- free training, workshops and webinars on timely environmental topics
- expertise and toolkits from ANJEC's Resource Center staff
- access to sample ordinances, plans, resource papers and manuals
- subscription to the *ANJEC Report*, a quarterly environmental magazine, and the ANJEC News, a bi-weekly e-newsletter
- opportunities to network with other environmental groups
- a selection of portable games, displays and handouts to use at fairs and events



ANJEC Membership Information & Forms
anjec.org/memberships

- discount registration for ANJEC's annual Environmental Congress.

Visit anjec.org/memberships to renew membership. Submit the invoice to your municipal office and please remember to send a current list of EC members to ANJEC. For questions, please email gmadiba@anjec.org.

Insider Tip: remember to include membership in your EC's 2026 budget.

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.



Remembering Ralph Tolomeo

Ralph Tolomeo served the people of Bordentown City on the Environmental Commission for 20 years, retiring only recently as Chairman. After practicing law in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Ralph joined the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office (BCPO) as an Assistant Prosecutor in 1970. He spent the next 12 years there, also serving in leadership positions as First

Assistant and Acting Prosecutor. He later served as a NJ State Administrative Law Judge for 12 years.

Ralph passed away at home in September and will be missed by many. 💧

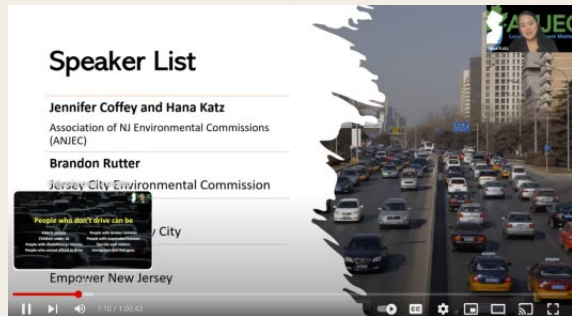


Visit the ANJEC YouTube channel

Now with over 150 training videos!

You can find recordings of our webinars, workshops and trainings from the past three years, including Environmental Congress presentations, on ANJEC's YouTube channel, ANJEC Views. This is your opportunity to:

- View presentations you may have missed;
 - Provide training for new environmental commission members; or
 - Share valuable content with municipal officials.
- Find it all at ANJEC Views at YouTube.com. 💧



Promote local trails

Walking/biking trails benefit your town in many ways. They offer valuable ecosystem services by reducing vehicle emissions, preserving natural habitats, managing stormwater, filtering pollutants in runoff, sequestering carbon, and more. Let residents know by sponsoring trail walks, providing informative signage and encouraging local officials to expand your trail system.

Find out more at <https://njbwc.org/>.



We won!

ANJEC has received the 2025 Governor's Environmental Excellence award

With the help of partners over the past 10 years, ANJEC has installed 35 green infrastructure projects managing 3.1 million gallons of previously unmanaged stormwater runoff annually in communities across NJ. These projects reduce pollutants by 1,200 lbs.

Rain gardens and other projects been installed locally at municipal buildings, schools, libraries, museums, places of worship, and parks located in Vineland, Phillipsburg, Gibbsboro, Mount Laurel, Mount Holly, Upper Pittsgrove, Sicklerville, Upper Deerfield, Woodstown and Pilesgrove engaging 1181 volunteers.

Thanks to our partners in this project: local municipalities, ECs, Rutgers Water Resources Center, Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA), American Littoral Society (ALS), South Jersey Land and Water Trust (SJLWT).



From top: Vineland Public Library, rain garden at Alice Paul Center, planting at Phillipsburg, and at left, Garrison Woodstown.

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.

THINK FORWARD

BRIGHTER Energy Future
BIGGER Savings Opportunities

Energy Efficiency
Incentives
Available!



New Jersey's Clean Energy Program offers incentives, programs, and services that help save energy, money, and the environment.

- Large Energy Users Program
- New Construction & Gut Rehab
- FREE Local Government Energy Audit
- Combined Heat & Power and Fuel Cell



866-NJSMART | www.NJCleanEnergy.com

The environmentally-conscious choice for safe, responsible, and efficient concrete washout!



Lower Total Cost Alternative
100% Compliant
EPA Recommended
Reclaimed Concrete is Recycled

roger@concretewashoutnjny.com
www.concretewashoutnjny.com
973-942-3131



Kratzer Environmental Services

www.kratzerenv.com

Environmental Resource Inventories
Natural Resource Inventories
GIS Maps
Data Analysis & Management
Vernal Pool Surveys

19 Hill Road
Frenchtown, NJ 08825
908-996-2576

Deborah J. Kratzer
President
kratzerenv@gmail.com



Engineers
Scientists
Planners
Designers



www.vhb.com

Delivering innovative, sustainable, and future-ready solutions to New Jersey

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.

LOCAL EXPERTS. SCIENTIFIC SOLUTIONS.

DAVEY
Resource Group



Davey Resource Group is rooted in decades of experience in the natural world providing resourceful services and innovative solutions.

908-788-9676 | drgnj@davey.com

GlennInsurance.com



Absecon Office
Phone: 609.641.3000
Toll Free: 1.888.OK GLENN
Fax: 609.641.2355

Malaga Office
Phone: 856.692.4500
Toll Free: 1.888.OK GLENN
Fax: 856.692.7079

500 East Absecon Blvd. • Absecon, NJ 08201
333 Dutch Mill Rd. • Malaga, NJ 08328



**NJ
NO
PLASTICS**

Single-use
plastics are
banned!



BAYSHORE
Family of Companies

Innovative Recycling Solutions


 Residential &
Commercial
Recycling Services


 Single & Dual
Stream
Recycling


 Construction &
Soil Management

Woodbridge, NJ | 732-738-6000
www.bayshorerecycling.com

**NO JINGLES
OR MASCOTS**
JUST GREAT INSURANCE

HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOUR
COVERAGE WITH NJM.

NJM Insurance Group
is proud to support

ANJEC

NJM Insurance Group
AUTO. PROPERTY. BUSINESS.

njm.com | 1-800-232-6600

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.



Here's where everyday energy efficiency meets long-term sustainability.

In the PSE&G Saverhood, we're helping customers across New Jersey make smarter energy choices and live more comfortably.

We're proud to support ANJEC's ongoing mission to serve environmental commissions, individuals, and state and local agencies in preserving natural resources and promoting sustainability. That's because we know a commitment to a shared cleaner and greener future always starts in our communities.

It's why we're looking ahead with major infrastructure modernization investments to make the cities and towns we share with you even better, healthier places to live and work. That's how neighbors can help neighbors, both now and well into the future.

To learn more, visit pseg.com/HomeEnergy

WELCOME TO THE
SAVERHOOD



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.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

COMES NATURALLY

As stewards of the earth's most precious natural resource, we know the importance of protecting our environment. All living things need water to survive. By investing in water conservation education, innovative treatment and delivery technologies, and source water protection programs, we are working to make a difference for our communities and our world. Learn more at newjerseyamwater.com. Be sure to check out our tips on how to use water wisely, because every drop counts!



NEW JERSEY
AMERICAN WATER

WE KEEP LIFE FLOWING®

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.



Delivering a **Clean Energy** Future

We're committed to powering a cleaner and brighter future for our customers and communities and are working to bring the next generation of energy services to New Jersey, while helping the state achieve its environmental goals.

atlanticcityelectric.com



© Atlantic City Electric Company, 2022

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.



Delivering Clean Water Every Day

Since 1869, we've been providing superior water quality and reliable service to residents and businesses across New Jersey.

Veolia is investing in infrastructure, technology and strict safety standards – improvements that will serve our communities for generations to come.

Learn more at: veolianorthamerica.com



2026 Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions Training

Join ANJEC staff and other experts at our annual training in a hybrid format.

Virtual Ssessions:

Tuesday, March 24th to Thursday, March 26th, 2026

Topics include:

- Environmental Commission Powers & Responsibilities
- Land Use Planning
- Advocacy Tools for Environmental Commissions and Local Officials
- Community Engagement and Marketing for Environmental Commissions

In-Person Session

Environmental Commission Success Strategies

Saturday, May 2, 2026

9:00 to 11:30 am

Cherry Blossom Center

Branch Brook Park, Newark

Join ANJEC staff and guests for our in-person session of our annual Environmental Commission Training

Topics include:

- Organizing and running a successful commission
- Hands-on training on site plan/development plan review
- Roundtables on current topics

Registration details coming soon – check anjec.org for updates.



Spring 2026: Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions (page 39)